

A portrait of an elderly man with short, dark hair, wearing gold-rimmed glasses, a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie with a small floral pattern. He is seated at a table with a red cloth. The background consists of light-colored vertical blinds.

RAMESH PAI
The Man & His Mission

A Tribute on the 75th Birthday

RAMESH PAI
The Man & His Mission

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ERRATA

Despite great care, some errors, mainly of spelling, have crept in on account of tight schedule. While the following Errata lists the substantive errors, we seek the indulgence of the reader in respect of the others.

-Editor

Page No.	Line No.	What Appears	What Should Be
3	11	Vidyahiraj	Vidyadhiraj
15	3	much	music
29	13	brother-in-law	brothers-in-law
31	27	about	only
40	13	throns	thorns
41	17	growing	grew
49	18	viel	veil
49	last	files	flies
64	3	mae	mav
65	22	expect	respect
71	8	later	late
82	last	that	than
83	17	April	August
97	10	afternoon	afternoon meals
99	6	on	my
100	10	when	then
143	5	car	care
145	3	2nd	22nd
164	16 & 25	had	has
170	30	Shantaji	Shantiji
172	8	Shantabehen	Shantibehen
174	2	from	for
179	5	therefor	therefore
182	16	his	our
201	4 & 17	form	from
233	8	is	His
247	18	conscious	conscientious
248	21	sued	used
251	16	and	are
313	4	perceiverance	perseverance

FOREWORD

This compendium is a successor to the book **Ramesh Pai-An Assessment** brought out by the friends of Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai to celebrate his 70th birthday but which was actually released in October 1995. The **Assessment** was meant to help Ramesh Pai chart out the course of the autumn of his life.

Ramesh Pai completes 75 years on October 22, 1999 and the friends thought that an update of the earlier book was called for as “even 5 years in the life of a restless visionary can be extraordinarily productive.” It was also decided that the new book should be a biography with a difference – as a cluster of thumb-nail sketches. Thus was born the present book: **Ramesh Pai-the Man and His Mission**.

In the present volume we have retained, in original, the contributions received for the first volume. Added are impressions from a few more friends and admirers. The most significant addition is a section on Mrs. Shanti Pai, who has shared marital bliss with Ramesh Pai for 50 years.

A wag said: “Behind every successful man stands a woman and behind her, the wife.” So it is with Ramesh Pai. Behind this successful man stands Parvati and behind Parvati, Shanti. Lest naughty conclusions be drawn, I hasten to add that Parvati is the maiden name of Shanti. Vis-à-vis Ramesh, Shanti has always been self-effacing. But without her sharing the enormous burden which Ramesh carried for well over 50 years, the output from him would have been decidedly less and lesser. Her role was particu-

larly significant when Ramesh was the victim of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. At such times Shanti was what the poet said:

“When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou!”

To me, the editorial task was a pleasure. In my long years in the IAS and thereafter as a Corporate Advisor, I have had the privilege of working with many eminent public figures and intellectuals. If I am asked to list the 5 best of such people, Ramesh will easily find a place in the list. I have known him intimately for well over 15 years; but familiarity has not bred even an iota of contempt (definitely not in me).

My pleasant task as editor was made easy by ready responses from a number of friends and admirers of Ramesh Pai. The biographical sketches of the contributors shows that the appeal of Ramesh Pai is universal – he casts his spell on the uncommon man as much as on the common man.

A project of this nature is necessarily a collective effort. While it is not possible for me to thank each and everyone who participated in the project, I should mention the special efforts made by Mr. A.S. Pai who prepared a biographical note on Ramesh Pai; Mrs. Nirmala Pai who wrote a lucid note on Shanti Pai and Mr. R.C. Murti who attended to the bulk of the editorial tasks. I only had to take the bow!

9.9.99
Hyderabad

Y. V. PAI



Swami Ranganathananda
Ramakrishna Math, Dist. Howrah, West Bengal

I have known Sri Ramesh Pai and his wife, Smt. Shanti, for many years, and I stayed with them in Manipal more than once. Also a few weeks ago, we met each other when they were here. I have seen him as a man of very wide interests, very active, and efficient. And, he has achieved much by way of human welfare. Shanti and Ramesh Pai have been an inseparable pair.

I convey to them my love and blessings on the occasion of Ramesh's 75th birthday, and I wish them a happy and peaceful life till they attain the Vedic age limit of 100 years—*Satayur vai purusah*, as Shankaracharya puts it: *Tavadhi purusasya paramayuh nirupitam* – 'That long, verily, has been determined to be the length of human life.'

Accept my love and blessings—you and your friends.



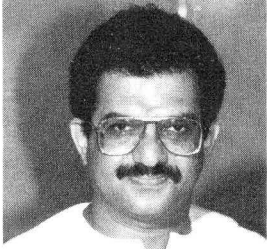
Shree Samasthan Gokarn
Partagali Jeevottam Mutt, Goa

Blessings to our Most Beloved Disciple.

The family of Pais of Manipal has produced some of the finest talents of the country. Ramesh Pai is a stalwart among them. He inherited intelligence, devotion to duty and modesty from his family, but has come into eminence by his own right. He is conscious of his social duties and has unshakable faith in Kuldevtas and Gurupeethas. Impressed by his selfless services, our Mutt honoured him by presenting “Vidyahiraj Award” for the year 1992.

Ramesh Pai has dedicated his life to his mission. Younger generations should emulate his example so that the noble Sarswat traditions remain uninterrupted.

We send our blessings to Ramesh Pai for his perpetual well being and are pleased to send mantrakshata with prayers at the feet of Shree Veer Vittal.



D. Veerendra Heggade
Dharmasthala, Karnataka

I am happy to note that Sri. T. Ramesh Pai has completed 75 years of eventful life. It is befitting that you have planned to bring out a book RAMESH PAI – THE MAN & HIS MISSION to commemorate this happy occasion.

He is definitely one of the most illustrious person of our Dakshina Kannada District nurtured by the great personality Dr. T.M.A. Pai.

Sri. Ramesh Pai is a unique personality with creative and visionary outlook. He is a great observer of the Society around him. He is also observer of the situations and the events in the country. But, he is not one of those to observe and forget. As a tradition of his family , he always thinks of the solution to the demanding situations. He cannot just accept and tolerate injustice, waste and inefficiency. That is where the greatness lies. Mr. Ramesh Pai is always ready with a practical proposal to the need of the time. This has not only helped the Institutions and the

Society around him but also, all the Institutions and individuals coming into contact with him.

His mere presence can give solace.

I have been greatly benefited by his company during my meetings with him. We tried a course “Home Management for Happy Living” for the students of our women’s College at Mysore. During one of our meetings, he made a reference to the need of educating Girl students with Indian culture, heritage and ability to live as a good daughter, wife and mother in the present context of the society.

We have tried it in our S.D.M. Women’s College at Mysore, with 50 hours course specially designed. 99% of the students referred to it as a useful programme on the final evaluation.

This is only an example to show how he observes the need for such Education which can give peace and success in family life.

I wish him many more years of active life.

I pray Lord Manjunatha Swamy to bless him and his wife for long, happy and healthy life to serve the Society.



Swami Satchidananda
Anandashram, Kanhangad, Kerala

It was about eight years ago that I first met Sri Ramesh Pai when he came to inaugurate the Rotary School for the mentally handicapped children. The few hours spent with him at the Rotary School and later in Anandashram drew me closer to him because of his charming personality and his dedicated work embracing various fields like Education, Finance, Medical Care, Community Service, etc. How he was able to give his attention, time, energy and knowledge, which these activities demanded, and how he could travel so much and shoulder such heavy responsibilities, is a wonder. I had occasion to meet him a few more times during the past years and each visit made us more intimate.

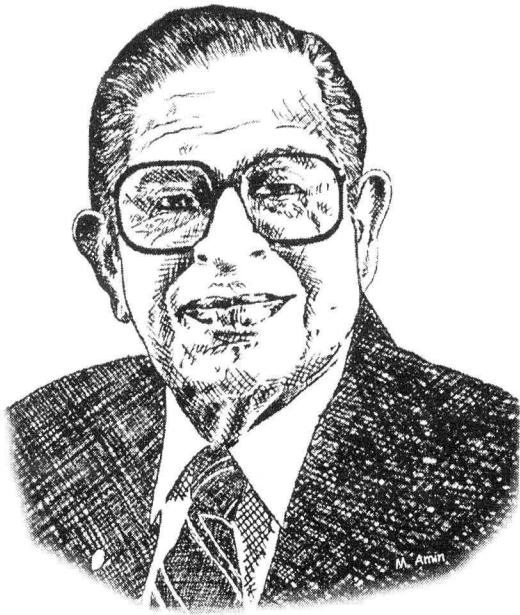
Sri. Ramesh Pai not only started many new ventures in different fields and introduced various development schemes, but also saw to it that they were successfully implemented to become firm foundation for

further developments. The sphere of his activities spread all over the world. Thus he became an instrument of God to provide employment to innumerable persons which meant livelihood for so many families.

Persons like Sri. Ramesh Pai who are blessed by God with devotion, capacity, hardworking nature, love and care for others more than for themselves and who engage themselves in dedicated service are really a boon to humanity.

May the all-merciful Lord keep Sri. Ramesh Pai in good health for many more years and grant him eternal happiness.

OM SRI RAM JAI RAM JAI JAI RAM



RAMESH PAI OF MANIPAL THE UNASSUMING COLOSSUS

A. S. PAI

Mr. A.S. Pai is a freelance journalist based at Hyderabad. Currently, he is also reviewer of books for Deccan Chronicle.

Locale of this narrative is the tranquil environs of Manipal, the cute little town atop a plateau nestling between the azure Arabian sea and the bottle green Western Ghats, in the vicinity of Agumbe and Udupi, sixty odd kilometers from Mangalore. Some seven decades ago this place had only the awesome beauty of a barren hamlet devoid of any bustling human activity and haunted by lurking wild leopards behind the dark curtain of nights. Then an idea, that had only been a dream, began to shape itself into a reality, massive in conception and masterly in execution. And, the place underwent a spectacular transformation virtually beyond imagination, beyond recognition.

The maze of buildings perched on the higher altitudes yield a grandstand view. They house a variety of institutions: primary and secondary schools, medical and engineering colleges, colleges of dentistry and pharmacy, nursery and catering, managements and law, arts and cultures-studies and so much more that it can today be rightly called a melting pot, a crucible, of education. Is that all? Nay, it is also a beehive of multi-dimensional endeavours linked with commerce, finance and vocations. A burns centre and a health club, for instance, rubbing shoulders with a printing press, banks and diverse other institutions; a kaleido-

scopic transformation indeed! The wizard entrepreneurs and social benefactors who founded, nursed and operated these institutions for the welfare of the people hail from an illustrious Pai family of which Tonse Ramesh U. Pai, the successor of panchromatic pantheon of personalities, is presently the septuagenarian patriarch.

Two famous biographers have researched and written books on this family which give insights into its origin and evolution as well as the story of their endeavours and contributions for the betterment of Manipal and the country at large: first is THE PAIS OF MANIPAL by Selden Menefee, an American professor and writer and the second THE INNOVATIVE BANKER by veteran journalist M V Kamath, a former Editor of the Illustrated Weekly of India and author of biographies on many colourful personalities of the country. The first book mentioned revolves primarily around Dr. T.M.A. Pai and the second focuses on T.A.Pai. A fullfledged biography of Ramesh Pai is yet to be written.

Both these authors have traced out the historic background of this famous family, the descendants of vedic-time Gowda Saraswat Brahmins who had lost their moorings and become migrants after the river Saraswati became extinct. They could trace out the roots of this Pai family to Ranga Pai, son of Manja Pai, a prominent businessman of village 'Tonse' who came and settled in Brahmavar, one of the one hundred and fifty-eight villages in Udupi taluq, late in the nineteenth century. Brahmavar is on one bank of Suvarna river while on the opposite bank is Kallianpur. Ranga Pai held about 20 acres of fertile paddy lands and spawned a dense joint family with some fifty members of three generations living in a capacious two-storied house. One of Ranga Pai's sons, Mukunda Pai, migrated to Cochin

in 1916 to become the manager of a temple. Of Ranga Pai's seven sons and three daughters, the seventh son Anantha married Yashoda Baliga of Kallianpur and became prominent after the birth of four sons and a daughter, everyone of whom proved to be a gem or a genius annexing glory to the family. The first son Purushotham or P A Pai started a shop selling cutlery, stationery and books at Udupi and gradually got involved in Congress movement for achieving independence for the country. In his own way he helped the weavers to start a Co-operative society in 1939 which came to be known as the Udupi Weavers Co-Operative Production and Sale Society. His younger brother, Upendra, worked in tandem with his elder brother, like two riding the same bicycle with two sets of pedals. It was Upendra's interest and commitment for the cause of handloom weavers that led to the formation of the joint stock company called the Canara Industrial and Banking Syndicate Limited. Like Purushotham, Upendra too was inspired by Gandhiji and his freedom movement. Gandhiji had advocated abolishing conventional schools and establishing 'national schools': Upendra took initiative, set up one such school in Udupi and became its Secretary. Upendra built some seventy-five houses for the community and has had the distinction of employing a Chinese Carpenter! He built a cinema hall by name Ramakrishna Theatre and published a film monthly called Chitrakala.

Upendra was Ramesh Pai's father and Parvathi, daughter of Mulki Gopalakrishna Kudva, his mother. His elder brother T.A Pai who later brought many laurels for his family and the country, was born on 17 January, 1922 while Ramesh was born on 22 October, 1924. Then followed the birth of four daughters and two more sons to Upendra. Upendra's younger brother Madhava (T M A Pai) was destined to be the greatest scion of this clan synonymous to

Akbar of the Mughal dynasty. He was endowed with creative imagination and a foresight to perceive a future teeming with opportunities and he had also the readiness and presence of mind to seize every tide of opportunity at the floods. When Dr. T M A Pai was studying at St. Aloysius College for graduate study, the Hindu Higher Ele. School at Kallianpur where he had his primary education was going to be closed because of financial difficulties. He gave up his education went about with the begging bowl even to Bombay, collected about Rs. 5000/- paid off mortgage debt on the school building and worked as teacher/manager for one year without any salary during which period he also wrote text books on mathematics for 6th, 7th and 8th standards and then joined the Madras Medical College for his medical studies to become a doctor. He was soon to become renowned as Dr. T M A Pai, the true backbone of Pai family glory. The fourth son, Raghunath, carved out a career for himself in insurance and also edited a journal, HUMAN AFFAIRS, for more than a decade. The only daughter of Anantha and Yashoda by name Marthi born after two abortions had an unhappy marriage; she had no children and she died in 1956.

This is the backdrop and cluster amidst which Ramesh Pai was born. When his life of crawling, toddling, sprinting and playing was completed Ramesh did his schooling alongside his elder brother. Not only did he resemble T A Pai in appearance so that they came to be considered as twins, but he also did cherish great love and admiration for him. Ramesh was ever willing to co-operate and collaborate with T A Pai in all his ambitions, aspirations and endeavours. Thus, when the school put on a play in which T A Pai acted the role of Krishnadevaraya, Ramesh appeared and acted on the stage as the son of Tenali Ramakrishna. Similarly, when T A Pai joined the music class, Ramesh Pai too

joined it although he preferred to practise a different instrument, namely, violin; he had virtually not much taste for much but he was doing it just for the sake of giving company to his elder brother. M V Kamath tells about this brotherly co-operation in his book: "Anant (T A Pai) provided the ideas and often Ramesh was the faithful executor. The two worked in tandem on projects of mutual interest, Ramesh giving his time and attention to his elder brother though not without a murmur of protest if he thought Anant was on the wrong track". Once, when he came to know that T A Pai was clandestinely smoking beedis, he confidentially reported the matter to his mother and got him admonitions. The phrase 'working in tandem' fits like a cliché for this family: that motto held the family bonded together and that unity became its strength. Ramesh Pai's leadership qualities were recognized by his scout teacher when he was in the school and he used to be put in charge of controlling the crowds in Krishna Temple. Ramesh passed his S S L C in first class and was rearing an ambition to go in for an engineering career. At that crucial juncture he had to undergo an operation and by the time he was healed and he came from Bombay it was too late and the admissions were already closed. Crestfallen, he returned to Manipal. Noticing a cloud of despair on his face his uncle T M A said. 'Why don't you become my secretary?' Dr T M A Pai had started his medical practice at Udupi in 1925 when Ramesh was just one year old. After ten years of practice there he moved to Manipal. He was as much a financial prodigy as he was a medical stalwart and he became more and more involved with the work of Canara Industrial and Banking Syndicate in combination with his medical practice. Dr Pai's small deposit idea named 'Pigmy Plan' was taking banking to the grass root levels and he was mobilising even the smallest savings of

just 12 paise per day (two annas of those days) from workers and fisherwomen. This populist and down to earth approach not only impressed but also increased the bank's clientele by leaps and bounds and its branches started proliferating and spreading over even to the neighboring states of Madras, Kerala and Andhra. In 1939 Dr Pai became the Managing Director of the Syndicate Bank. When he asked Ramesh Pai to become his Secretary he had just pioneered the establishment of Academy of General Education with the avowed objective of primarily making available technical and commercial education which included a melange of disciplines ranging from agriculture and marketing to farming and bee-keeping, types of engineering, cinema projection to nursing and mid-wifery, wireless telegraphy to journalism, advertisement to office management and music to typewriting. After drawing up a complete blueprint of this grand project he invited a group of leading citizens from Udupi and the surrounding areas to meet in his home in Manipal on September 18, 1942. Prolonged and protracted deliberations later, Dr Pai's recommendations were enthusiastically adopted and the Academy was eventually founded. Easier said than done: although there was a governing body of 31 members it was Ramesh Pai who handled the day-to-day affairs of the Academy right from its inception. Ramesh set up his first office one the verandah of Dr Pai's house. He not only handled the correspondence and accounts but also solicited membership. The handful of membership in 1942 rose to 12,000 by 1967. Ramesh was ever ready to lobby the world on behalf of the Academy. It took six years after the formation of the Academy to start the first educational institution, the Manipal Secondary School. Then came the real acid test: starting of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College, Udupi. It was with great strain that finance

could be arranged. Finally it materialised and started functioning in June 1949. There was another hitch: among the first batch of 97 students, 10 were girls. The Madras University authorities remonstrated that girl students should not have been allowed to register and it also warned that the girl students should not be enrolled in future. Dr. T M A Pai discussed the matter with Ramesh Pai who was a member of the Madras University senate. "What is this?" he mused. "Why should girls not be given as much opportunity to attend college as boys? Why should we have to get special permission in advance from the University to admit a girl student?" After this discussion Ramesh Pai made an appeal against this ruling which was responded to by the University with an unconvincing alibi that the age between 16 and 18 was a dangerous period for the morals of the young girls! Ramesh Pai was determined to take up the cudgels on behalf of girl students because he, like his uncle, believed not in the subjugation but in the education and empowerment of women. Soon a women's committee headed by Mrs. P S Acharya was formed and the women campaigned from door to door. They called upon any girl to come forward and to fight the issue in the court of law. Miss Shanta Shenoy came forward and filed a writ in the Madras High Court. When Justice Subbarao of Madras High Court gave a verdict in favour of Shantha, the University of Madras when filed an appeal to the Division Bench. Since Ramesh thought it is a long drawn legal battle which may entail lot of financial expenses, he sent Shantha's appeal to the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice President of India Dr. Radhakrishnan, and Health Minister Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. Ultimately, it was Smt. Indira Gandhi who was responsible in making the Prime Minister write to the Governor of Madras, Shri Sriprakasha, to intervene with the university who gave his historic deci-

sion that girls may be admitted till separate Womens College came up.

The founding of the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal posed another kind of problem. After a ding-dong tussle for acquiring vast acres of land required, Dr Pai applied to Karnataka University for affiliation. The University sent a Commission headed by B N Datar for a field inspection. Finding the hilltop quite barren Datar jocularly remarked: "Except for Dr Pai's enthusiasm there is nothing here for us to see". Finally the Commission Chairman enjoined that atleast the Anatomy Block should be completed within six months. There was resource crunch. The Academy decided not to employ any contractor with a view to reducing the costs. Menefee states in his book as to how the construction went on: "The entire Pai family was rallied daily to the work of breaking 'Jelly' (granite) stones for making concrete. The doctor, his wife, his brothers, children, nephews and nieces were all given hammers and put to work. Highschool children were recruited to the task for 45 minutes of their lunch period". For a while even Ramesh was not convinced: "I thought it was rather silly at first. How could breaking of few stones build a college?" but then he saw the sagacity of his uncle; he realised that this community effort is having a great psychological impact on the workers. They produced atleast 20 percent more than they normally would have. On top of it, the people of Manipal got a feeling that they had a personal stake in the college, a sense of belonging.

When his uncle Purushotham Pai died in 1942 Ramesh was asked to take charge of that business as well. At the outset he knew nothing about it and he had to learn from the scratch about bleaching, dyeing, weaving and other aspects of the Handloom industry. So he went to Bombay

and spent three weeks in the laboratory of the Imperial Chemical Industries. In due course he became fully involved with that trade and even became the President of the Handloom Owner's Associations at Udupi. In 1953 he was selected as a delegate to the South East Asia, particularly to Japan, which afforded him his first opportunity to go abroad, that too, in the company of the top industrialists of the country. These opportunities have greatly helped in shaping Ramesh Pai's life. In the meantime, more and more institutions came to be set up: Kasturba Maternity Centre, Manipal, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Mady Primary School, Nehru Memorial Library, Manipal, Manipal Engineering College, Udupi Law College, Academy School of Music and Fine Arts and School of Crafts. One of the things happening at that time was the indoor tussle between Dr T M A Pai and T A Pai in regard to the affairs of the Syndicate Bank of which T A Pai was director. On such occasions T A Pai would not only threaten but also send in his resignation. Later T M A would discuss the matter with Ramesh Pai on whom he had faith and then Ramesh would bring about a rapprochement. The Pais charge a capitation fee for admission to the professional courses and many quarters levelled criticisms against the Academy on that score. Ramesh had this to say in defence thereof: "It is obvious the government cannot provide education for all. Private effort can meet the gap. Why then should not parents, who can afford it, share the cost of providing education to their children particularly when higher education is an investment?"

Once an American by name Harry Plissner came to know of the Manipal institutions; the year was 1958. He wrote to Manipal offering his help in sending books and magazines for the college libraries. Plissner was organising in

the U S A what was called 'friendship through magazines'. Towards the end of the year Plissner shipped 5 tons of books and the 58 year old Floridian was invited to come to India which he did with his wife at his own expense. Plissner was given a warm welcome and made an honorary Fellow of the Academy of General Education in a colourful ceremony held at Manipal. After a few months when Dr. T M A Pai made his foreign tour as member of the delegation of the doctors of the visiting hospitals and medical colleges in Europe, Mr. Harry Plissner came to know of his trip and wrote to Ramesh suggesting that both of them could come to USA for a month where both he and his wife would give their entire time and look after them. The Pais landed in New York and Plissner and his wife were there at the airport to receive them. Accompanied by Plissner, the Pais subsequently flew to Miami. Selden Menefee describes what transpired: "They (Dr. Pai and Ramesh Pai) were dumbfounded when they were met at the airport by the Mayor's Cadillac and escorted by mounted traffic policemen into Miami beach where the tallest building was flashing an electric sign with moving letter saying welcome to India's Dr Pai. The Mayor gave Dr. Pai and Ramesh Pai "the key to the city" and held a television interview with them in his office. Plissner and the Miami Civic League had arranged a dinner reception with 350 people attending that evening, and the Delano Hotel Miami, hosted the pair for week. It was an experience that they never forgot.

When his brother T.A.Pai was slowly making his debut in politics Ramesh had no time for it as he was fully engrossed in the management of Manipal institutions. T.A.Pai first became the youngest member of the Madras Legislative Assembly and served it from 1952 to 1957 while Ramesh Pai spent most of his mornings working without pay as

Secretary of the Academy of General Education.

Ramesh Pai married Shanti, third daughter of B Vaikunta Baliga, a leading lawyer of Mangalore Bar who became Minister of Law and Labour of Mysore Government and became the Speaker of Karnataka Legislature for three terms. They have two sons and two daughters and his matrimonial life has been tranquil and fulfilling. Ramesh Pai's first son Sudhakar is an engineer and second son, Shantaram, a doctor. His two daughters, Shobha and Sheela are married and well settled abroad. Ramesh Pai and his family live in their cosy house at Manipal which was named as CHITRAKALA, the name of the film monthly magazine which his father Upendra used to edit and publish.

Ramesh Pai grew in stature and expertise even as the Manipal Academy grew from strength to strength. While the policies were carefully thought out by Dr. T.M.A Pai, the task of implementing these were on the shoulders of Ramesh Pai. Together they were instrumental in establishing some 45 centres of learning right from kindergarten to professional colleges. Ramesh Pai personally attended to most of the public relations work of the Academy. He always responded warmly to the descending droves of visitors and took them around the institutions and sights of Manipal which occupied a big chunk of his working day which commenced early morning at eight and extended to late in the night. Yet the busy schedule never vexed him nor he felt exhausted when he finally hit home. He is a man ever willing to go all out to achieve the goals of his life. His phlegmatic temperament and impassive style have helped him weather many a storm, which buffeted him in the organisation. The fact that he has been slightly less talked about than Dr. T.M.A Pai or T.A Pai has not posed any handicap for him in steering the Ship of Manipal.

Ramesh Pai was Dr. T.M.A.Pai's anointed heir. During the General Body Meeting of the Academy held on 30 June, 1978 Dr. T.M.A Pai paid compliments to his nephew in following words: "He (Ramesh Pai) has been the one man who has been always trying to see in and out of the working of these institutions. We only discuss policy matters and I say Okay and the rest of the things are done by him. If anybody comes and asks me, I will say I do not know, Mr. Ramesh Pai knows everything. That is the depth of confidence I have reposed in him and I have not been sorry for it. Generally you will find in any institution one man toiling and toiling. In the lamp it is the wick that is shedding light. If the wick is not there whatever may be the amount of oil you put, there will be no light. So Mr. Ramesh Pai has been the wick and all of you have been putting oil and the wick has been shedding light. I am very happy for publicly thanking him for all the toil that he has been doing".

Not only in Manipal and Udupi but they also set up educational and other institutions in remoter locations such as Mangalore, Karkala, Perdur, Kallianpur, Kundapur, Mulki, Alevoor, Moodubidri, Sringeri and Agumbe. Incidentally, all these educational institutions are among the best in the country and have earned a reputation for their uniqueness. Ramesh's competence alone marks him out as a leader, infact a marvel of efficiency and proficiency, yet he never sought limelight and conceded all the glory to his elders and knew that he was engaged in the task of translating the dreams enshrined in the Manipal institutions. But being a realist he adopted down-to-earth plans while implementing the policy decisions. Prof. K.S. Haridas Bhatt states in the booklet RAMESH PAI OF MANIPAL that the "present size and tempo of Manipal's growth are attributed to Ramesh Pai's sagacity and wisdom in the

matter”.

It was Ramesh Pai who enabled his elder brother T.A.Pai to take up prestigious assignments in the government” “Don’t worry, I am there to look after these babies. Go and do the work of the government with peace of mind” he seemed to reassure. During 1964 and 1965 T.A.Pai was asked to organize the Food Corporation of India and in 1970 he was appointed Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Between 1972 and 1973 he served as India’s Railway Minister. Subsequently till 1977 he held other portfolios.

When the Indira Gandhi government nationalised 14 scheduled banks in 1969, Syndicate Bank was one of them. As a compensation to the stock holders of Syndicate Bank the government had paid Rs. 36 million in bonds redeemable at par after 30 years carrying 5½ percent interest. They had two options: either they could keep those bonds at a relatively low rate of interest or they could sell them and pay high capital gains taxes to the government. Both these options were disadvantageous but a wayout was soon found. Let me quote Selden Menfee again: “With typical Pai shrewdness and insight Dr T M A Pai and his nephew T Ramesh U Pai offered the stockholders a third wayout.... They proposed to the shareholders that they keep their organisation intact but change its name and functions to concentrate on industrial development”. It was thus that Ramesh Pai became the Founder Chairman of the Industrial Credit and Development Syndicate. One of the new company’s first acts was to invest in the modern office building, five storeys high, called ‘Syndicate House’. Ramesh Pai built up the ICDS Limited working for the first 12 years without getting any remuneration and the next 10 years as the managing director and made it one of

the outstanding, non-banking financial companies during which period he was responsible in building up one of the finest shopping-cum-office complexes known as 'Manipal Centre' at Bangalore.

In 1959, when Ramesh was in Europe he realised that entire automobile seat cushioning was made of rubberised coir by importing curled coir from Sri Lanka. He was keen to adopt this technology since that would create lot of rural employment, particularly in the states like Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh where there were no retting facilities. This process was used in Kerala to convert their green husk into coir for manufacture of coir mattress and matting. Ramesh established a factory at Arsikere for extraction of fibre and to manufacture curled coir and the rubberised coir factory at Bangalore became one of the biggest such factories getting a market share of mattresses of over seventy percent.

Not only that he has been the fulcrum of the family but he played several other social roles. His association with the Rotary Movement spans over thirty-five years. When Dr. Pai was the District Governor elect, he went to the US for the second time in his life and Ramesh Pai accompanied him. They attended the Rotary Convention at Toronto, Canada and the International Assembly at Lake Placid, New York. Ramesh Pai had established the Udupi Rotary Club at a time when South Kanara had only one club in Mangalore. He served Rotary in various capacities leading to his unanimous election as Governor of the District 317 in 1969. Consequent to redistricting he also took charge as the first Governor of the District 318 in July 1970. His awareness of the community needs prompted him to gear up the Rotary movement for service to the people. He concentrated on rural areas 'where organised

efforts in rural shortcomings were absent'. By sponsoring ten clubs in rural and semi urban centres, he strengthened the membership base in his district. His campaign for Family Planning and Nutrition in rural parts of South Kanara district is legendary. He had seen how mal-nutrition was playing havoc on the lives of children and was convinced that India's children cannot eternally depend on the charities of CARE and UNICEF and so he founded the Milk Co-Operative Union at Manipal which enabled rural families to own milch cattle. Today it operates in about 50 villages and supplies wholesome milk of over 14,000 liters per day. Rotary International appointed Ramesh Pai to R.I.Extension Committee for a period of three years in 1978. Ramesh Pai has been the guiding spirit behind numerous eye camps and dental camps conducted in South and North Kanara districts. Udupi Rotary's dental care campaign covered 10,000 school children.

When Ramesh was to undergo a bye-pass surgery in Houston, the previous day he went round the campus of the University of Houston. There he saw a beautiful building, "Hilton College of Hotel Management". He visited that institution and found that they had a 50-room teaching hotel. Ramesh thought why not start a similar college of hotel management at Manipal with the "Valley View" as a teaching hotel? He met the President of the University of Houston and got their guidance and offer of support. He invited one of the retired professors in Hotel Management who stayed at Manipal for 3 months and prepared a complete blue print for the first college in the country leading to degree in hotel management and the famous Welcom Group offered to join hands providing the experts to fill up the various teaching posts. That was how the Welcom Group Graduate School of Hotel Administration came into

existence. Today, it has gained a great reputation as one of the best colleges in the country in this field.

When Ramesh Pai was elected as the Director nominee of Rotary International for 1992-94 the magazine CONCORD brought out a special issue. Some of his personality traits were mentioned there: "a large heart, indomitable will, an incisive mind, feet like springs, steadfastness in speech, resolution in the eyes". Justice V R Krishna Iyer former Judge of the Supreme Court offered eulogies to him: "Your great dedication to the humanitarian services finds its finest hour when opportunities offer themselves for doing good overflowing the country and expanding into wider portions of the geography. Where human service is, there Ramesh is!"

One cannot perhaps list out all the credentials, awards and recognitions Ramesh Pai received from time to time because they were numerous but the prestigious presidential award like 'Padma' which both his uncle and elder brother received has so far eluded him. One reason could be because such awards have been discontinued for the time being by the government. He has been honoured with membership of Senates of Madras and Mangalore Universities, Syndicate of Mysore University and now he is a member of the Court of Goa University. He is the President of Udupi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of All India Manufacturer's Organisation. He had been Vice Chairman of the Coir Board, Cochin. In spite of his multifarious activities in India he also found time to tour abroad as a member of various official delegations. To mention some of them, he went to the U K, U S A and Japan as a member of the Productivity Team of the Government of India. As an Industrial delegate of the All India Manufacturers' Association he visited South East Asia

and Japan. As Vice Chairman of the Indian Coir Board he led a delegation to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan. He was a member of Indian delegation to Italy. He visited Russia and many East European Countries under the auspices of Indo-Soviet Cultural Society. He has also covered other countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and United Arab Emirates.

Those who have moved very closely with Ramesh Pai might have come across some of his favourite apophthegms but no one has kept a record. Aphorisms and apophthegms are the butter of concentrated wisdom a successful man can pass on like a torch from generation to generation. He himself believed in the philosophy behind Tippu Sultan's inscription on the Kannambadi Dam in Mysore: "It is for me to begin and for Allah to end". On these lines Ramesh Pai says "Some of the projects contemplated would not have reached completion but you must conceive, make a beginning and go ahead to the best extent possible" a constant self renewal enables institutions to survive and respond to changing challenges. His advice in this regard is: "There is nothing which cannot be improved upon. Try, if it does not work drop it. If it works, adopt it". Ramesh Pai believes in delegation of responsibility " "Once we have picked up a man and given him the responsibility, we did not wish to do any more backseat driving as long as he was able to produce the result". Commenting on the Academy's role he once said that it has all along been that of a catalyst: "The Academy never wanted to run these institutions by itself. Many people think that the Academy is running all the institutions. No. Academy only created these institutions, built infrastructure, handed it over to the community and acted as a sort of consultant. And Academy gave initially the money, when they did not have, advanced some interest-free loans which later on they were to repay..." The con-

cept of education according to Ramesh Pai is to impart skill and knowledge to enhance a person's productivity and income so that education eradicates poverty much faster.

One of the greatest influences in Ramesh Pai's life had been his grand mother, Yashoda Baliga. She had become a widow at a very young age. She could not continue to stay at her paternal Baliga home as its fortunes dwindled and she was compelled to fend for herself and bring up her four sons and daughter who were all knicker-clad kids. Yet heroically she held the family together thereby teaching the younger generation of the Pai family the great lesson of courage. One of her aphorisms is remembered and respected even today like a preamble to their code of life: "The future is full of surprises. Our part is to try to be a hero in every situation that arises. We are judged by this. So be good and face each problem as best as you can". It was this message that prompted Dr. T.M.A Pai to start so many ventures which succeeded; it was this message that took T.A.Pai to towering heights of glory in the Government of India and it was this very message which spurred Ramesh Pai on to pursue the wheels of development.



MEMORIES OF A BYGONE AGE

VIMALA R. PAI

Mrs. Vimala R.. Pai is wife of Mr. T R A Pai, youngest brother of Ramesh Pai's father Upendra Ananth Pai.

Once upon a time there lived a young mother. She had four sons and one daughter. She had to bring them up almost single-handed as she lost her husband when her youngest was about seven months old. She herself was 30 years then. Her name was Yashoda Bai.

A woman of great grit and gumption was Yashoda Bai. Even when her husband, Tonse Ananth Pai was living, hers had been a difficult lot. Ananth Pai was a pious saintly man, too good for this world. When his father's property was being divided, Ananth Pai refused a share. Instead he offered to stay with and work for each of his six brothers in rotation.

Poor Yashoda ! Imagine her having to live and slave in the houses of her brother-in-law for their daily bread and, that too, with a brood of kids when she could just well have a place of her own and be totally independent. But Yashoda with her robust mind in robust body put up with every adversity.

Yashoda served her father-in-law in his last days with single-minded devotion. The old man was so moved he gave her all he had: a big God bless from the depths of his heart. He said to her, "Your children will become great". Till the end, Yashoda believed that her children's good fortune was because of the blessing of her father-in-law, Ranga Pai.

Whatever that may have been, it is the fact that P A Pai Bros. (as Yashoda's sons came to be known) were by far the most distinguished and most well known of all Ranga Pai's grand children.

It was as mother Yashoda's youngest daughter-in-law that I stepped into the ancestral house in Mukund Nivas in 1931. It was a sprawling house, set in sylvan surroundings with scores of mango, jack and cashew trees, coconut palms, as few scattered buildings and lots of empty space. The P A Pai Bros., all four of them, lived with their mother and their wives under the same roof.

Purushotam, the eldest, was the head of the family. A good upright man, his word was heeded to and accepted by all his younger brothers and family members as well as by his acquaintances and town folk. His textiles were famous for fast colour and durability. His wife Shantha Bai was a good, stately and handsome woman.

Upendra, the second brother, was a man of few words, varied interests and a tolerant and considerate nature; fond of reading, solitude and long walks and all with a very bemused expression on his face. He founded three banks, a cinema house and a place of worship. He was in building construction too. His wife Parvathi, was a lively and remarkable woman with a great talent for management and organising. She was fond of growing vegetables and flowers, roses and jasmynes especially.

The third among the brothers was Madhav, a dynamic person. A man of vision and natural leader, he took on the whole world at the slightest suggestion of a 'no' from any quarter and did not stop till he had converted the "no" into a positive "yes". A doctor with an unfailing gift for healing, he gave up medicine to promote the Syndicate Bank and then went on to found educational institutions

including all professional colleges and the medical complex in Manipal.

His wife Sharada, was a patient but fitting help-mate to him. Of necessity she had to keep a low profile what with her brilliant husband outshining everyone.

The youngest, Raghunath, is my husband. Very much younger than the other three, he worked with all three brothers initially and helped the eldest with the textiles, the second in the bank and doctor in his clinic. Later Dr. T M A Pai founded a mutual life insurance co. My husband ran it till life insurance was nationalised. He retired from the LIC as the Dy. Zonal Manager of the south zone. His interests in life are psychology, philosophy and religion.

Such were the four P A Bros. They had different kinds of talents and very strong personal convictions. Naturally difference of opinion was there amongst them – almost at each and every step. But they respected each other too well to nurse grievances. Whatever their differences, the bond of affection made them sink their differences, work together towards as common goal and present a united front to the world. A very very closely knit unit was P A Pai Bros.

Then there was their sister, Marthi, a cheerful buxom person, with a very good voice and a heavy leaning towards religion. She and her queer-tempered husband lived within walking distance of Mukund Nivas.

In 1931, there were about three children in the house – Balakrishna aged 9, Ramesh aged 7 and their five year old sister, Saguni (all of them U A Pai's)

I remember Balkrishna used to be annoyed with his mother if she asked him to fetch anything from the market.

“Its always me who has to do all the running and fetching for you!” he would grumble.

“Why, whom else can I send?” his mother would protest. “Ramesh is not well and Saguni’s too small.”

“Why Vimalpachchi’s here now,” he would counter “Why don’t you send her?”

“I can’t,” his mother would explain “She’s married and ..”

“You don’t have to tell anyone she’s married. She’s so small nobody’ll know she’s married unless you tell them.”

Parvatakka would shake her head, look at me, cover her mouth with her hand and flash here typical smile.

To Ramesh, though, who was only two years younger than his elder brother, I was very much an adult. He was in very indifferent health that year. To help him while away the long hours in bed, I used to sit by his bed-side and tell his stories. Sometimes, on his request, I used to carry him out to the verandah-this only when his mother was out of sight; because she was afraid exposure to outside air would make him worse.

One day he asked me “Supposing, Vimalpachchi, my uncle (P A Pai) goes to the forest, does ‘tapas’ and God appears to him and says, “I’m pleased with you. Ask a boon and it shall be granted. And suppose uncle asks God to make Ramesh well, then I will surely get well, won’t I?”

I was very much taken aback by this query. But may be not more than Ramesh himself by my reply.

“If you’re ill, why should your uncle go to the forest?” I asked him. “Why not your father go?”

Ramesh was 7 years old then and I was seven year senior to him.

Ramesh recovered soon enough. He was perfectly normal during our family visit to Bombay for Dr A V Baliga's wedding in 1933. All of us were very much excited about the wedding, about Bombay, about the voyage, about everything in fact. Once on deck, I found myself violently seasick. I was a young mother at that time with a baby in arms. Walking to the wash-basin to clean the baby's feeding bottle posed the biggest problem to me on board the ship. And there Ramesh and Balkrishna came to my rescue. Willing volunteers both, vying with each other in fact, they took turns to clean my baby's feeding bottle.

Even after all my brother-in-law constructed their own houses and shifted to Manipal, Balakrishna, Ramesh and Saguni continued to stay with us in the Mukund Nivas house till they finished school. After matriculation, Balakrishna left for Bombay for higher studies. Saguni got married. Even though Ramesh stayed with his parents in Manipal, he was close to us. For one thing, his office was just next door. And at least once a day, he dropped in and spent some time, bringing us up to the minute, so to say, with his amusingly hilarious narration of all that happened in the past twenty-four hours. Then there were the picnics and the outings with Ramesh in the driving seat.

I remember one particular picnic to Malpe. As we went up the narrow Adi-Udupi stretch of road, there were Balkrishna and his wife Prema ahead of us – in their brand new imported Sunbeam Talbot driving at snail's pace, talking to each other and gesticulating.

"Let's overtake them, Rameshanna, please," cried the children. (We were in an old Ford) Ramesh accelerated and went on horning. So engrossed was Balkrishna in his discussion, he did not notice who was clamoring for way from behind. Only when we overtook them they found out

who were in the other car. A bit chagrined, they tried to overtake us, but failed and drew up as we were carrying our picnic basket and things to the sea-shore.

“If I’d know it was you,” Balakrishna flared at Ramesh, “I wouldn’t’ve given way. I assumed he was drunk the way you kept on horning and I was afraid for the safety of my new car. Otherwise...”

“Only now, you would know, don’t you, Anna, that it wasn’t anyone drunk but one who’d come here to drink”.

At Ramesh’s cool reply, all of us burst out laughing. Even Balkrishna couldn’t keep a straight face. That was one instance I saw where a gentle reply did turn away wrath.

He had and still has a way with him, Ramesh has. He does not tread on anyone’s toes. Even when he teases – and he can be a big tease, at times – one cannot get annoyed with him.

Over six decades have passed since I joined Mother Yashoda’s household. Much has happened in between; much has changed. But through all the vicissitudes of life, Ramesh has stood by us through thick and thin. I know we can rely on him always. May God bless him.



RAMESHANNA AS I SEE HIM

TARA D. KUDVA

Mrs. Tara D. Kudva, is the youngest sister of Ramesh Pai

It is but natural for each and every younger sister to have special feelings for her elder brother even were he not such an extraordinary person. But when that elder brother is Rameshanna with engaging manners, obliging nature, unruffled temper under all circumstances, his heart-warming concern for others, his sense of humour at times though he is preoccupied, his humility and self-effacement, then you know what Rameshanna is to me, his youngest sister.

Personally I am not surprised that to lots and lots of other people, too, Rameshanna is someone very very special. The reason is Rameshanna meets and treats everyone as if he or she were someone special to him.

I think I began to have a better understanding and appreciation of his personality 41 yeas ago in June 1953.

Kasturba Medical College was just being founded then. Of course I had seen him working on that project since the preceding so many months. But when KMC became a reality, his involvement with it was total. He was busy from dawn, receiving the professors, inviting them for breakfast or lunch and taking them to their new quarters. These highly qualified specialists were used to city life and conveniences. Rameshanna personally attended to the thousand and one small but essential details of getting these doctors settled in Manipal – an almost primitive Manipal then and in the full fury of the south-west monsoon.

Mattresses for this professor's house; Okay, they were sent from the house. No water in another's house; provision was made for it immediately. One complained of a leaky roof; a second of stuck window shutters and a third of something else, on and on it went ad infinitum. Finally, after every single need was met and every complaint attended to, Rameshanna returned home in the evening. Shantivanni met him at the door and said, there's not a drop of water in the house and the taps aren't running. "God" Rameshanna heaved a sigh and exclaimed "Shanti, you too!" which reminded you of Julius Caesar's "Et tu, Brute".

I am sure most of the professors still remember that first year of KMC and most of the students too. For Rameshanna cared for them, too, and attended to their needs just as conscientiously as he did to those of the teachers. Professor or student, he listened to their complaints patiently and set about solving them.

If the student happened to be the child of someone known to Rameshanna or Shantivanni, then there was no limit to the liberties such students took in their house. It was open house to them. They dropped in, made themselves comfortable, got busy on the phone without so much as a "May I?" etc., and ofcourse, partook of food. If a lady student is homesick she is at Rameshanna's house. A student depressed; Shantivanni promptly took him or her to the Sri Mahakali Temple at Ambalpadi.

I remember a day when I walked into Ramesanna's house when a party was in progress. Rameshanna, Shantivanni and the children were singing "Happy Birthday". It turned out that the birthday was that of a medical student. "They are so far away from home and their parents. We are just trying to make things less difficult for them". Rameshanna

or Shantivanni would explain. It looked as if they had adopted the students, so completely did they belong to the students and the students to them.

Recently, I had occasion to meet Dr Jaya Bhat, now working in Manipal Hospital, Bangalore. She narrated some of her recollections of Rameshanna during her stay in Manipal as a KMC student – his readiness and willingness to help, his easy accessibility to all students in his house at all hours of the day and innumerable speeches of his, which she had listened to. He invariably mentioned his deep sense of indebtedness and extreme good fortune in working with and for Dr T M A Pai, T A Pai etc. She said she marvelled at him and his humility. She happens to know that his own contribution to all Manipal institutions, commercial and educational, is considerable.

Not just students and professors alone, it was everyone, every single one Rameshanna met that he felt kinship with. And in this, Shantivanni has been his true 'Ardhangi'. I remember an occasion when we got news of a bus accident near Manipal. Shantivanni immediately sent her children to the accident site to check if any help was needed and to donate the blood if necessary.

I have not seen Rameshanna lose his temper even once. Nor have I heard him utter a harsh word – not even to servants. However trying the situation, he keeps his cool and keeps smiling. If the driver is not on the spot when needed, without any ado and without a word of complaint, Rameshanna gets into the driving seat and starts the vehicle, all the while keeping a lively conversation going if there is company.

Rameshanna has always been a sort of Public Relations Officer of the Kasturba General Hospital. "Come to Manipal" he invites whosoever he meets and explains about

the medical facilities, the beautiful weather and other side attractions like proximity to the temple at Udupi where Madhvacharya installed the Sri Krishna idol, brought all the way from distant Dwarka, Sri Shakarachaya's Mookambika temple at Kollur, the Sharada one at Sringeri. "Come for a health check-up to Manipal" Rameshanna would insist "and enjoy all the sight-seeing in the neighbouring places". Everyone says it is an interesting and enlightening experience if one accompanies Mrs. Ramesh Pai to the 'Anatomy Block'.

I have always loved to cook and serve food to Rameshanna. I have had this good fortune many times and every single time it has been a privilege and a pleasure. Not only does he appreciate and relish every single item, he explains about the nutritional contents of the dishes. It is so relaxing to hear him at the dining table.

Rameshanna is gifted with a great sense of humour whether at small and select get together or at big parties and functions, he makes others laugh. He always has a store of humorous episodes to entertain his audience with.

In the good old days of my childhood, marriages used to be a leisurely affair spread over a period of two to three days. I remember many an occasion when he involuntarily burst into the appropriate songs at the relevant time of the rituals. Rameshanna used to be the life and soul of the close family gathering during such ceremonies. He even used to conduct a Hari Katha Kalakshepa with film songs strung into the narration. He had everyone in splits over the ludicrous twist he gave either to an episode or meaning of a song. Of course he is very much at ease meeting people and chatting with them, be it an infant or a child, an adult or an elderly person, someone in high position or low. He can carry on a conversation with any

one and on topics of his or her individual interest.

Any one in his circle not feeling too good! Rameshanna at once takes him to the hospital and arranges with doctors for full investigation and treatment. I had this experience once.

Rameshanna and Shanthivanni still keep open house. Call on him in person and he comes out instantly without waiting to put on his shirt or run a comb through his hair. Call him on the phone and he takes it, whether it be the middle or night or he be at a meal or in the midst of party or meeting. Write to him and back comes an answer. It is almost like dropping a coin into one of those modern machines, where you collect your weight card or milk or whatever.

Scores of friends and relatives receive Rameshanna's greeting cards promptly on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries so much so, my husband used to remark that if he did not get a card from Rameshanna on his birth day he would seriously start doubting whether it was his birth day at all.

Mention a problem to Rameshanna and he has a ready solution. A job for someone, a seat in a school or college for someone else, a suitable match for a third or may be just some information for a fourth- the needs may be varied, most of them will be met. And if Rameshanna is not in a position to give the exact thing wanted, he always has an alternative and a second best.

Rameshanna is a blessed person that way. God has not only given him the opportunity and the means to grant favours to others; he has also given Rameshanna a large heart that willingly responds to any appeal from anyone.

He is one person, of whom one may say in the words of

Abraham Lincoln “with malice towards none and affection towards all.”

All his life Rameshanna has been at it – helping others at all times and in all ways he can. The true boy scout that he is, he is prepared always. “Work is Worship” he believes. “Nobody is a stranger here, my child” said Sri Sharadamani Devi, the Holy Mother “The whole world is your own”. Rameshanna follows this to the letter. He has taken the world to heart. He is a true citizen of the world.

May God bless him. Some people may think I am a hero worshipper. But this is the one blessing that I have got (a gene from late Upendra Pai) my father i.e. to see roses in a plant and not the thorns. Even a bright sun suffers an eclipse.



TREASURED MOMENTS

NIRMALA M. PAI

Mrs. Nirmala M. Pai is the D/o Sri T R A Pai, youngest brother of Ramesh Pai's father Upendra Ananth Pai.

Whichever way you look at it, Rameshanna is a VVVIP. He is Chairmen and Managing Director of big commercial and industrial concerns. He is on the Board of Directors of even other bigger concerns. Committees on which he presided over or served as a member are countless. In business circles of the country he has proved his mettle. In contributing to the field of education he had made his mark. He served as Director of Rotary International from 1992-94. But being important or well-known hardly makes anyone popular.

Rameshanna's greatness is in his simplicity and humility. It is by his good deeds, his gentle words and his endearing ways that he has won love. We all grew up in the same house. He strove all the time to put everyone at ease, to make our little world a brighter, happier place. Effortlessly too, as it seemed. But to begin at the beginning.

The house in which we were born and growing up, Mukund Nivas, was an abode of joy and mirth, of love and laughter, of fun and music and of peace and harmony, too.

Nobody who stayed there in the 30s and 40s is ever likely to forget it. Its very air was soaked with happiness and hospitality. It could have been called Anand Nivas or Sri Nivas; veritably Goddess Sri blessed the house.

We all lived together – my grandmother and her four sons with their wives and children. The house was always full –what with relatives and “sambandis” at the Makara Sankranti, Paryaya and Lakshadeepa festivals, with the Syndicate Bank Directors at Board meeting times, and with relatives of patients (from outside Udupi) admitted in my doctor uncle’s nursing home at all times. Everybody was warmly welcomed. A joyous atmosphere prevailed at all times.

Snatches of song sung or hummed were heard almost as often and as regularly as the peal of the huge bell in the nearby parish church. Bapama’s five children had very good voices and an excellent ear for music. They sang and accompanied themselves as well as others on the harmonium, which they could play with ease new and unfamiliar tunes. Rameshanna’s mother too was an expert harmonium player and so is mine. Music was an integral part of the daily schedule – all kinds of it, devotional, light, classical and lullabies. All had a very fine sense of humour. It was a treat to hear them narrate incidents vividly mimicking and monoacting. Bapama’s own repertoire of proverbs and anecdotes was considerable. There never was a dull moment.

We children especially had a gala time. To Bapama’s four sons and their wives we children were never “yours” or “mine”, but always “ours” – to be loved, cared for, guided, trained, encouraged and made much of. When anyone – be he an adult or child spoke, he or she was to listen with attention.

We are three sisters and I am the eldest. From the beginning Rameshanna has had a different way with each one of us. To me he has always been the affectionate elder brother, unfailingly considerate, obliging and understand-

ing so much so unconsciously I got into the habit of approaching him for favours big and small.

My middle sister, Parimala, and Rameshanna used to behave as if they were equals and of the same age. I remember an incident when we sisters were all school going children. Rameshanna mailed a post card to Parimala from Manipal saying he had some work there and wouldn't be coming over to Udupi that day. This was because she was a little sore that she did not receive any letters from anyone. A very small gesture in itself.

It showed his thoughtfulness. He understood her need and cared enough to respond. She walked on air that whole day, proclaiming to one and all that Rameshanna wasn't coming to Udupi that day and that he had written to her to that effect.

With my youngest sister, Leela, he was an altogether different person – he was her baby. At the first sign of her crying in her infancy, Rameshanna would rush to her and place his head in her lap, pretend to wail “Amma, oh Amma”. Forgetting her trouble, she would start mothering him with “What's the matter, child? Why're you crying?” At his wedding, Rameshanna introduced Leela to his bride, saying “This is my little mother, I've two mothers.” Later, Shantivanni used to remark jocularly, “I'm more scared of annoying my little mother-in-law than the bigger one.”

We children had a lovely toyset of kitchen utensils with which all of us played at housekeeping, cooking etc. To make this pretense game more convincing, I felt I had to be dressed in a sari (I must've been 7 then).

I told my mother I wanted a sari, Bapama and Amma decided that a stitched ankle-length skirt with “pallav” was

just the thing for me. It was soon got ready and I was happy in it for a while. But after some time, I wanted a real sari - just like the adults’.

“Bapama”, I said as Amma was combing my hair on the circular front of verandah, “I want a Sari”.

And Bapama answered, “You tell your eldest uncle. He has the looms and the weavers”. Just then, the car from Manipal drew up outside.

“The stitched thing’s no good, Mantha,” I told P A Pai uncle as he entered “I want a sari, a real sari”.

“Why not? You’ll have one,” Mantha assured me.

Within a week I had my sari; it was a prized possession. Like the P A Pai handlooms advertisement proclaimed “It’s not enough for the sari to cover the body, it must capture the mind”. I like the sari so much to this day over half a century later, I remember its pattern, colour-scheme, border and “Pallav”. I was grateful to my uncle for this gift of my childhood wish.

P A Pai uncle was the one who led the evening prayers at dusk in the shrine. After my uncles shifted to Manipal, Amma wanted us, children, to carry on the evening bhajan programme. Under her guidance, we sang daily.

Come summer holidays, Amma sent us to our paternal aunt Marthekka’s house to learn more songs. At Marthekka’s we would copy out the words of a new song, learn its tune and practise it – but only as long as she was present. The minute she left to milk her cow, off we’d run down the lane on our way home to play.

Later at dusk, when Amma wanted us to sing “bhajans” we would demur, “Oh no, not again. We’ve already fin-

ished.” But Amma would insist and we would slowly drag our unwilling feet towards the shrine.

“What’s this Rameshanna?”, Parimala would sigh dolefully.

“What’s this Rameshanna?; she would repeat smiling ruefully.

“What’s this, Parimala?”, he would say, a slight suggestion of a smile on his face.

“Oh Rameshanna”, she’d laugh.

And, “Oh Parimala”, he’d echo.

Whether something that happened pleased Parimala or annoyed her, this exchange was a routine with her since Rameshanna was her confidant.

Rameshanna felt our sense of imposition. He found a ploy to make every one happy.

“You start the bhajan now”, Rameshanna told us. “Before you’re through I’ll be back with ice-cream, which we’ll offer as ‘naivedya’”.

Ice-creams as reward for singing bhajans worked like magic. True to his word, Rameshanna rushed off with a container to the Ramakrishna Theatre where they had bought Udupi’s very first ice-cream machine. He was back in a jiffy as the theatre was only a stone’s throw away so to say, but by the time the ice-cream was offered to God, ladled into bowls and reached our hands it was little better than flavoured milk. This happened day after day, we were quite happy, but Ramehanna wasn’t satisfied. On a day when there was no matinee show, he brought the ice-cream machine home. He and Amma took turns turning the handle with us children looking on entranced. After what seemed an eternity, the ice cream was ready. So heavenly delicious

was it that no ice-cream I've consumed since has equaled the thrilling delight I experienced in tasting that first home-made cup.

Around this time electricity came to Udupi. The electric company decorated our shrine-room with small multi-coloured bulbs for a few days. My sister and I did not tire watching this never-ending marvel. We noticed though with each successive day less number of bulbs were twinkling. This was reported to the electrician. As he was checking the connections his hand must have come in contact with an uninsulated part of the live wire. There he was in the shrine-room, groaning horribly and writhing on the floor. And there we were – Bapama, Amma, my sister and I – rooted to the spot, hopelessly looking on, not knowing what to do. There were no men-folk in the house. Suddenly, Rameshanna entered the house and hearing the commotion came straight to the shrine. One look and he rushed upstairs and switched off the main. I shudder to think what would have happened if Rameshanna hadn't turned up in the nick of time.

End of February 1951, we were all preparing for the exams – three of us Dineshanna, Mohan and myself for the university intermediate and Ramdas and Parimala for the S S L C. For both exams that year "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens was one of the books for non-detailed study. Almost on the eve of our exams, the only theatre in Udupi ran the picture for a single day. It had been a much-awaited event what with all schools requesting for the movie to be shown since months. The whole student population was agog. So were literature – lovers and regular movie-goers. Nobody was going to miss it.

In anticipation of the show, the five of us, who had studied the powerfully moving novel, could talk of nothing else

for days on end. Over and over again we discussed the cruelty of the French aristocrats and the ill-treatment of the poor suppressed which led to the French Revolution; how Dr. Manatte tried to right the wrongs done to his patient and her family and got thrown into the cursed Bastille prison; how his gentle daughter's life was affected and how her righteous husband suffered for no fault of his and the unexpected climax Sydney Carton's supreme self sacrifice. Our combined study and endless discussions were always carried on in our front verandah, Rameshanna's office-room next-door was within hearing distance. He also caught the Tale of Two Cities excitement. What were the details of the story, he didn't know; he acquainted himself with these by asking us.

On the day of the show, all five of us went to the theatre and occupied our seats on the last row upstairs. The theatre was almost full and fast filling up. When Rameshanna with a couple of friends entered the auditorium there was not even a single chair vacant; within seconds they were accommodated in chairs placed in the aisle. Soon the aisle was filled up too. And still people were coming in. A friend of Rameshanna entered with his wife. The picture had started and was proceeding fast. Audience interest was mounting each minute. Rameshanna's friend's wife managed to get a seat from an obliging friend whose child was shifted to the mother's lap. The husband was leaving promising to pick her up at the end of the show.

Suddenly Ramehsanna got up and surrendered his seat to the gentleman who protested over and over again. Rameshanna would not hear of it and firmly pushing him into the seat, left. We, who knew how much he wanted to see the movie, were shocked and dismayed. His sacrifice seemed as good as Sydney Carton's, who after all, was but

a fictitious character. That's another characteristic of Rameshannas: without a moment's hesitation or a second thought, he gives up what he has and never mentions it again.

Swami Swahanandaji, President, Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, Hollywood centre, who met Rameshanna for just a few minutes was very much impressed by Rameshanna's interpretation of the Puranic episodes and his descriptions of the gods and goddesses. A learned scholar and a double M.A. himself, Swamiji said, "Ramesh Pai's ideas are so original I've not heard anything like it from anyone before. It was so new, so refreshing I'd love to meet him for a longer time and hear his views".

Asked what these descriptions were, Rameshanna said, "First is Lord Ganesh, who is the remover of obstacles. Ganeshji is described as having a human body topped by an elephant head. You know man is the only intellectual amongst all God's creation and elephant the strongest. Ganeshji combines the physical might of the elephant with the intellectual faculty of homo sapiens.

"Why then does Ganeshji not have an elephant body and a human head? Because one must speak less and hear more and this purpose would be defeated if Ganeshji had a human tongue with the elephant head. He cannot talk, but listens to everything through his extra large ears.

"India is a land with an agricultural economy and rats are the pests which destroy the harvested crops. They must be kept under control. That is why a rat is Ganeshji's selected conveyance – He rides it and it is kept under check. Also, Ganeshji has cobra – double checking the rat – at hand, wound right round his ample waist. So Ganeshji signifies the best in God's creation- man's mind and ani-

mal might. Obstacles disappear in his presence. Prosperity will be a certainty – you have only to look at his full stomach.

Next comes Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. She is pictured as standing in a lotus in water. Does it not show the unstable nature of wealth? How long can a woman balance herself standing in lotus in water?

In contrast is Saraswathi, the goddess of knowledge, who is always pictured as firmly seated on a rock – surely no other base could be steadier. She has a book in one hand and a “Veena” in another. She is goddess of not knowledge alone, but of music and all the fine arts.

Rameshanna has that graceful Midas touch which transforms the unpleasant into the pleasing, the difficult into the easy, the hard into the soft, the unbending into the pliable. He is so natural, outgoing and helpful, all tensions just seem to loosen their hold on their own in his presence. It is like removing a blinding veil from one’s eyes. One wonders what the hassles that haunted one were and where they are now.

Around a year ago, Rameshanna rang from the Madras airport and told me where he had come from and where he was going before returning to Manipal only to fly to USA via Bombay. Even to me, used as I am to his busy travel schedules, his itinerary was dizzying.

“Tell me, Rameshanna”, I asked him, “Don’t you find all this a bit hectic?”

“No, not at all,” he said firmly and went on to explain, “Actually, you know, I do all things very, very leisurely, only,” he added almost lamely as it were. “Only the plane flies fast.” Shaking my head, I could only laugh. That was

Rameshanna all over.

Rameshanna is blessed person. He is that one individual who has the means, the inclination and the opportunity to help others at all times. There seems to be a 'seismoscope' like instrument oscillating somewhere in his personality. Otherwise it is difficult to explain his uncanny gift of sensing other people's mental upsets or emotional turmoils. He responds and responds promptly. He goes all out to soothe, to relieve, to solve and to cheer and unobtrusively too. Only the beneficiary knows and calls down Heaven's blessings on Rameshanna as I have done again and yet once again all my life.

4

T. RAMESH U. PAI

SERVICES & LINKAGES

Preparing an exhaustive list of the institutions/organizations founded/co-founded/served by Mr. Ramesh Pai is an exhausting task. The number of such institutions and organisations is so large that it will exhaust the reader also. What is, therefore, attempted below is a partial list of the important organisations and institutions he served/is serving. Also listed are some of the Awards received by him for various services.

1. Educational Institutions founded/co-founded

- 1.1 *Academy of General Education which, at the last count, ran four Kindergarten, six Primary and eight Secondary Schools, six First Grade Colleges and a School of Music and Fine Arts.*
- 1.2 Hindu Orphanage
- 1.3 Kasturba Medical College, Manipal and Mangalore
- 1.4 College of Dental Surgery, Manipal and Mangalore
- 1.5 College of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- 1.6 College of Nursing
- 1.7 Manipal Institute of Technology
- 1.8 Manipal College of Education
- 1.9 Vaikunta Baliga Law College
- 1.10 Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration
- 1.11 Two Polytechnics
- 1.12 School of Nursing
- 1.13 Sharada Residential School

1.14 Several centres for Computer Education

2. Educational Institutions connected with

- 2.1 Chairman, Vidyadhiraj Theerth Charitable Trust
- 2.2 Trustee, Manipal Indusal Trust
- 2.3 Member, Senate of Madras University
- 2.4 Member, Senate of Mangalore University
- 2.5 Member, Court of Goa University
- 2.6 Member, Syndicate of Mysore University
- 2.7 Represented India at the 50th Assembly of American Association of Junior Colleges, 1970
- 2.8 Chairman of Indian Chapter of Friends World College, New York.

3. Healthcare (Co-founder)

- 3.1 The Kasturba Medical College & Hospital, Manipal
- 3.2 College of Dental Surgery, Manipal & Mangalore
- 3.3 Dr. T.M.A. Pai Health Complex, Udupi
- 3.4 Dr. T.M.A. Pai Rotary Hospital, Mangalore
- 3.5 Manipal Hospital, Bangalore
- 3.6 Rural Maternity & Child Welfare Centre (7 centres)
- 3.7 Karkala Health Project & Maternity Hospital
- 3.8 Manipal Artificial Limb Centre
- 3.9 OEU Institute of Ophthalmology

4. Service through Rotary

- 4.1 Charter Secretary, 1958
- 4.2 First DG of Dist. 3180, 1970-71; part of 1971-72
- 4.3 Founder, Rotary News Trust - Regional Magazine "Rotary News"
- 4.4 Member, RI Extension Committee, 1978-81
- 4.5 RI Director, 1992-94
- 4.6 Chairman, RI Audit Committee, 1993-94

- 4.7 Liaison Director, Hunger Task Force, 1993-94
- 4.8 Liaison Director, Rotary Volunteers Task Force
- 4.9 Member, Indian National Polio-Plus Committee, 1994-99
- 4.10 Member, Polio Plus Speakers' Bureau, 1996-98
- 4.11 Member, Election Review Committee, 1996-98
- 4.12 Member, Paul Harris Scholars Centres Committee, 1997-99
- 4.13 Chairman, Four Dist. Conferences Dist. 3180
- 4.14 RI Pres. Rep. to Dist Conferences several times
- 4.15 He & Shanti are Paul Harris Fellows & Benefactors of the Rotary Foundation and are Major Donors
- 4.16 Member Executive Committee, Rotary Foundation, India
- 4.17 Vice Chairman, RI Election Review Committee, 1998-99 & 1999-2000
- 4.18 Member, RI Nominating Committee for electing RI President for 2000-2001.

5. Civic and Public Service

- 5.1 Mayor, Shivally Panchayat 25 years
- 5.2 Councillor, Udupi Municipality 5 years
- 5.3 Asst. Commissioner, Bharat Scouts 10 years
- 5.4 Vice President - Govt. of India Coir Board
- 5.5 Former Member of Regional Committee of Industrial Development Bank of India and Zonal Committee of Life Insurance Corpn. (South Zone)
- 5.6 President - Udupi Handloom Owners' Association
- 5.7 President - Udupi Co-operative Milk Society
- 5.8 President - Shivalli Weavers' Production and Sale Society
- 5.9 Founder President - Consumers' Co-operative Society, Manipal.
- 5.10 President - Manipal House Bldg. Co-operative Society
- 5.11 Chairman -

Canara Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Ltd.5.12
Chairman - Manipal Co-operative Bank Ltd.

6. Current Association with Corporates

- 6.1 Chairman & Managing Director-Maha Rashtra Apex Corpn. Ltd.
- 6.2 Chairman Emeritus - Kurlon Ltd.
- 6.3 Chairman - Canara Steel Ltd.
- 6.4 Chairman - Manipal Home Finance Ltd.
- 6.5 Director - Reliance Industries Ltd.
- 6.6 Director - Andhra Sugars Ltd.
- 6.7 Director - Dupont Kurlon Ltd.
- 6.8 Director - Sealy Kurlon Ltd.
- 6.9 Director - Pushya Industrial Gases Ltd.
- 6.10 Director - Manipal Holdings Ltd.
- 6.11 Director - Manipal Power Co. Ltd.
- 6.12 Director - Manipal Telephone & Telecommunications Ltd.
- 6.13 Director - Manipal Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- 6.14 Director - Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd.

7. Delegations

Was member of an Industrial Delegation to Japan & South East Asian Countries in 1953, leader of the Study Team sponsored by Coir Board visiting East Africa, Ethiopia and Sudan in 1968, was member of an Indian Trade Delegation to Italy in 1970. He also visited Russia, East European Countries in 1961, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Hongkong, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal & most of the European Countries and South America. Coffee marketing delegation to Germany, Switzerland, Italy and UK (1997).

8. Awards

- 8.1 "Karnataka Rajyotsava Award 1998"
- 8.2 "Academy

- Award” for outstanding work in the field of Education
- 8.3 “Vidya Bhushan” Award by Paryayam Swamiji, Udupi
 - 8.4 “Vidyadhiraja” Award by Gokarn Math Swamiji, Parthagali
 - 8.5 Recipient of the key to the City of Miami Beach, USA (1959)
 - 8.6 Citation from International Planned Parenthood Federation, London for outstanding contribution as Vice President of the Family Planning Association of India for over 25 years.
 - 8.7 RI President recognized Mr.Pai as “One of the Rotary’s 10 Best” at Glasgow International Institute 1997.
 - 8.8 RI President’s Golden Century Citation Award.
 - 8.9 New Year’s Award instituted by Rotary Club of Udupi-Manipal in collaboration with the Academy of General Education, Manipal & Syndicate Bank for his distinguished work in the field of Education.
 - 8.10 Awardee of the 2000 Millennium Medal of Honor by the American Biographical Institute, USA.
 - 8.11 His name has been included in the century long Marquis Who’s Who tradition of biographical excellence – the 30th Edition 1998-99 “Who’s Who in Finance & Industry”, USA.



SHANTI - RAMESH PAI

NIRMALA M. PAI

“October 22, 1999 – a memorable day for all of us. Dear Father will be completing seventy-five years on that day. And also celebrating fifty golden years of marriage to dear Mother. We, their children, are very happy and proud on this great occasion,” gushes Jaya S. Pai, elder daughter-in-law of Rameshanna and Shantivanni and wife of Sudhakar Pai.

Jaya further continues, “ Simple living and high thinking have been the basis on which their fifty years of married life have been led. The respect I have for both of them comes out of my love and affection for them and not by virtue of their being my parents-in-law. Whatever they do is done with intense feeling, involvement, concern, affection and warmth.”

Rameshanna’s 75th birthday brings to mind another birthday celebration a quarter of a century ago. I was not present for his 50th birthday in Manipal. But his uncle (and mine, also), who seems to have enjoyed it all greatly, wrote to me about it. This uncle is no other than the famous Dr. T.M.A. Pai, the Architect of Manipal.

“Yesterday,” reads uncle’s letter dated October 23, 1974, “the Golden Jubilee of the birthdays of dear Ramesh was celebrated by the people of our district on a very grand scale at Valley View, Manipal. There were a number of speeches which covered practically every phase of his life and how he has endeared himself to the society by the services he rendered through various organizations – edu-

cational, industrial, social and cultural. It was a thrilling experience to many to know the humility and also the greatness of dear Ramesh.”

Uncle wound up the letter saying, “Dear Shanti, who has been practically his shadow, must have felt great happiness.”

It is true, Shantivanni has been following Rameshanna like a shadow since their marriage half a century ago. Like Mary’s lamb, Shantivanni was sure to go everywhere that Rameshanna went.

“She is a devoted wife,” says Shantivanni’s youngest sister Jaya V. Nayak. And Ramesh Bhavaji’s needs and comfort always got top priority in her work. She has never refused to accompany him on visits anytime and to any place, although at times it was not so convenient for her to do so.

So much so, Rameshanna once remarked, “After Sita Devi of Treta Yug, she is the first woman to accompany her husband on his van-vaas.”

“Van-vaas! Did you say van-vaas, Rameshanna? What van-vaas are you talking of?

What forest exile?

“Look,” Rameshanna explained, “it is her fault that her husband did not go to the forest, but went to USA instead?” he grinned. “And you really don’t know what trials and tribulations a visit to USA means.”

Apparently, all light banter, of course. One does not have to go to the forest, nor to USA either. Troubles come to everyone, seeking one in one’s own home, and nagging and sending one crazy. Living life together serenely, facing problems every second day in and day out for full fifty years and making a super success of marriage on top of it

and come out smiling sweetness unsoured and spirits still up is no laughing matter.

Rameshanna has always been fond of narrating the story of Mada, the truthful woodcutter and his old axe. Now Rameshanna has created a sequel to the story in which sometime later, Mada's wife fell into the river by accident.

Heart-broken, Mada called upon God to come to his succour.

God appeared to Mada on the riverbank, heard Mada's story and at once brought out Hema Malini from the water, asking Mada, "This your wife, Mada?"

At once, Mada reached out to Hema Malini as if he were afraid God might change his mind, saying "Yes, dear Lord. This indeed is my wife.

Now God was very angry at Mada. "Shame on you, you miserable wretch," God said. "You used to be a truthful person. But now as soon as you see a glamorous filmstar, you claim she's your wife; I didn't expect this from you, I really didn't."

"No, Lord, no," Mada wept, falling at God's feet and rolling on the ground. "I'm the same old Mada, Lord, the same old person."

"Then why all these lies?" God asked.

"Let me explain, Lord," said Mada. "When my old iron axe fell into this very same river sometime ago, you brought out a gleaming gold axe. I said it wasn't mine. Next you took out a shining silver axe from the river. I had to say that wasn't mine either. How could I claim something that was not mine? " Having asked his rhetorical question, Mada paused to get his breath. And God said severely, "But that's exactly what you 're doing now – claim-

ing someone not yours!

“Let me finish, Lord,” Mada begged. “Third time, though you fished out my own axe, Lord. I was overjoyed to get it back, since it is not only an heirloom which I inherited from my ancestors, but my only means of livelihood.”

“That still does not explain your dishonesty” God insisted.

“Look, Lord, you rewarded me for my honesty with the golden, the silver and the iron axes. I reasoned like this : first you bring out Hema Malini from the river and I say she’s not my wife. Next, you’ll probably bring out Sridevi from the river and I say she also is not my wife. Finally, you’ll bring my wife back from the river and reward me with all three. I just shudder to think of it, Lord. In these days of inflation and rising prices, how will I support these three wives, two of whom are top stars used to luxury of all sorts? All I want, God, is one woman – to be my wife, cook and keep house for the kids and me. I would’ve preferred my own wife, but if I can’t have her, I have to compromise...”

How God and the truthful woodcutter Mada settled this ticklish issue is not known. But speaking for himself Rameshanna says if it were a wife like Shanti, he wouldn’t mind having one or two more of her.

In the golden jubilee year of their marriage it must be gratifying to be appreciated like this. Appreciation, though, does not come one’s way on a platter. Every single day of those fifty years, Shantivanni has had to work for it. And prove her mettle as a wife.

What is an average day in her life like? Guests, expected and unexpected, of the usual kind and the unusual kind, too, dropping in at all hours of the day. Like, for example those, who come to the hospital for a consultation and

stay on for treatment. Visitors and callers dropping in all the time. Children, foster-children and grandchildren, sisters, sisters-in-law and cousins, nephews, nieces and friends on visit. Citizens of the world are like that, I suppose. Social engagements like functions, weddings, etc. which she cannot skip, if in station; a sudden illness, birth or death which she will not miss whatever happens. Above all, any appeal from the ill, the distressed, the deprived or the bereaved, she is not known to have ignored – whatever the circumstances or the consequences.

“If anyone Shantivanni knew was ill and in hospital, she would make it a point to visit them and sometimes would make arrangements to send food from her house,” says Tara D. Kudva. Tara or Taram as she is also known to all dear and near ones is Rameshanna’s youngest sister.

Very matter-of-factly Shantivanni explains, “My husband always felt that patients felt very lonely in the hospital and wanted me to visit the hospital whenever I had time and see if I could cheer them up and help them if they had any problems. I am glad that for a few years at least I had the opportunity to make the hospital stay of some patients a little more comfortable and easy.”

“Ramehsanna’s abode”, Taram says, “has given shelter to many people in times of necessity. I never saw anger on Shantivanni’s face. Most of the close relatives and sometimes even distant ones found a comfortable dwelling place in their house. It was a sort of convalescent out-patient ward. She looked after my younger brothers with love and care. In fact, she gave more attention to them than to her own children.

An occasion in the earlier years of their marriage comes to mind. We were having lunch at Mantha’s (Uncle U.A. Pai) house, Chitrakala Mansions – the first of the three

Chitrakalas of Manipal. The meal, as usual, was a sumptuous affair with different dishes of fresh Manipal-grown vegetables; with Mae (his wife Parvati) beaming and firmly serving an extra helping on everyone ever after one covered one's plate with one's hand in firm refusal and her two daughters-in-law attentive to the individual needs of the diners; with Mantha at the head of the table enjoying the lively conversation and family banter to which his contribution was an occasional question or a remark; with Balakrishnanna (T.A. Pai) doing most of the talking and with Rameshanna enlivening it with his spicy comments.

After food, we were relaxing in the spacious drawing room upstairs. The subject of palmistry came up and I looked at Rameshanna's hand.

"Rameshanna", I said, reading the lines on his palm, "you're an independent kind of person. You've been that right from early infancy – independent in your thinking, independent in your action. You are not the kind who will lean on somebody or who will cling to anybody. It is the other way round. Others will always lean on you and lean heavily, too. You have tremendous self-confidence. You know and you're sure you can do whatever you set out to do and whatever you attempt to do. But with all your independent nature, you're very sensitive about one thing. It hurts you and hurts you very much when other people—especially those close to you are not as confident about your capabilities as you yourself are."

"Right," said Rameshanna, nodding his head. "Now, you please tell that to Shanti. You know she thinks I'm not good at anything. Do tell her – rather convince her that I can achieve whatever I try my hands on. Let her have no doubt about it. Tell her that the lines on my palm say so. The stars in my birth chart also must be saying the same."

Further, Rameshanna continued, “Soon after marriage I told her, ‘Look, Shanti, I’m a good and sound person. If ever anything unwittingly goes wrong or something hurts you, you must remember it wasn’t meant to hurt you. You must attribute it to some bad phase in my life – in short to the peculiar position of my stars prevailing at the time.’ We got married only after performing a nava graha homa and shanti, because more than anything I need harmony and peace at home and in my marriage. That’s why I named her Shanti. Every time somebody has to call her they’ve perforce to utter the word ‘Shanti’. Our scriptures advise repeating Shanti thrice after the word Om like this – Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti! I believe it creates a peaceful atmosphere.”

The charm seems to have worked, hasn’t it? Why? Definitely because the couple toiled to make it work.

“Ramesh and Shanti are made for each other, says Vimala R. Pai, wife of the youngest brother, the late Sri. T.R.A. Pai of the P.A. Pai Bros. Team. She has known nephew Ramesh for nearly seven decades and niece-in-law Shanti for half a century. “Yes, Ramesh and Shanti are indeed made for each other. They love each other, expect each other, help each other and obey each other.” That is Rameshanna’s aunt Vimalapachchi’s evaluation. Here is Shantivanni’s niece, Dr. (Mrs.) Poornima Nagaraj’s : “My own opinion is that they compliment each other because what is missing in one is supplemented by the other in good measure.” Niece Poornima does not think she can describe or know her aunt completely, but loves and admires them both, enumerating point by point what she learned from her aunt and uncle.

“We remember Shanti and Ramesh with love and gratitude”, says Dr. A Padma Rao, Retired Director and Head,

Dept. of Obst. & Gyn. Kasturba Medical College, Emeritus –Professor. “My husband and I have known Ramesh and Shanti since December 1954. Our children and their children played in our house. Shanti and Ramesh considered our children as their own and have taken them for trips along with theirs to Mysore and Bangalore. Nothing whatsoever posed a problem to Ramesh. He solved them all quickly and effectively.”

Dr. Padma Rao continues, “Ramesh is easy to approach by any one – big or small. He can give a patient hearing to everyone in the midst of his work in the office. I like cordiality to all and I admire his sharp intellect. He can pick up the points in any statement within minutes whereas I might have to do many readings to catch the point. I also admire the manner with which he can narrate past events with precision and with sense of humour.”

Does Dr. Padma Rao think Ramesh and Shanti are made for each other?

“Yes, very much so,” she says.

Mrs. Martha Ashton Sikora is another friend who says it is a treasured friendship.

“I met Mr. Ramesh Pai and Mrs. Shanti Pai in 1969 when I first came to Udupi on a Fullbright Graduate Fellowship to research Yakshagana for my Ph.D. dissertation.... Over all these years whatever assistance I have asked from Ramesh and Shanti they have given without hesitation. We have visited in each other’s homes and have done whatever we can to help each other. When I celebrated my Indian wedding in Hiriadka in 1987, Shanti helped me dress, Ramesh placed the toe rings...so many of Ramesh’s ideas have become reality and positively effect and affect the lives of many people, not only in India but around the world...It is fascinating to watch the wheels of Ramesh’s

mind constantly turning with ideas.”

Praying to God to grant them health, happiness, peace and many more fruitful years of service to the community, Mrs. Vasanti R. Pai, a family friend and admirer of the couple says, “What strikes one most about this ideal couple is their simplicity, their respect for each other and concern for another individual irrespective of their status.”

Vasanti R. Pai further says, “Mr. Ramesh Pai is a true Rotarian reaching out to people through Rotary, guiding fellow Rotarians and helping various causes through the Rotary International Services. Mrs. Shanti Pai has a very philosophical attitude to life. An ardent devotee of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, she not only spends a lot of time reading books on religion and philosophy but also understands and practices what she reads. Being in her company itself is ‘Sat Sang’. While he tries to make the world a better place for us to live in, she tries to make it better for us when we leave.”

Here is an affectionate testimonial from Taram to her sister-in-law:

“Few people are lucky like Rameshanna for he is blessed with a loving and understanding wife who cooperates with him in his busy schedule” says Taram and goes on to add, “I lost my father before marriage and mother soon after it. But till now I never felt that I lost my parental home. Both my brother and sister-in-law filled that vacuum.”

“Throughout my life my sister-in-law has been a great moral support to me. When the doctor told me that I was going to have twins, I was confused and dejected. In tears! The lady doctor comforted me saying, “Why do you worry (pointing to Shantivanni who was with me) when you have such a loving and caring sister-in-law?” Literally it proved

so. She looked after me and my children very well.

“To maintain poise and grace in good weather is easy enough; it is only bad weather that tests the genuineness of a person’s character.”

“I would like to conclude by saying good sisters-in-law are smooth bridges for the easy flow of love from their husbands towards the family. They act like needles which sew lovingly the torn garments in the family whereas the opposite types are like sharp knives which cut the cloth asunder and damage it permanently.” Taram says her prayers will follow her brother and his wife as long as she lives.

“I simply cannot forget that night as long as I live,” Dr. H. Venkataramanayya, the famous nonagenarian doctor of Kundapur, known for magneto therapy, medical relief, education and social service.

On 8th February 1972, when the doctor was returning home from Mangalore his car met with an accident. A friend took the unconscious doctor to the Govt. Hospital in Kundapur from where he was taken in an ambulance to Kasturba General Hospital, Manipal.

“Because of my close association with you,” writes Dr. Venkataramanayya to Rameshanna, “during the setting up of Bhandarkar’s College in Kundapur and Rotary, somebody phoned to you about the accident and that I was being brought to Manipal Hospital. So, when I was brought there in the middle of the night, everything was ready and waiting at the Hospital. Multiple injuries in the face, big wounds on the forehead and left cheek, right eye iris prolapse, commuted fracture of the left upper arm, dislocation of the right hip joint, injury to the sacrum causing neuritis in the left leg – the doctor had to remain in hospital for three months.

“The accident took place at about 8.30 p.m.” the doctor writes. “When the treatment and surgery was over it was well past 4.00 a.m. The following day you could not perform the “Grahapravesham” of your newly constructed boat-house at Malpe as both you and your wife almost didn’t sleep at all the previous night.”

Dr. Venkataramanayya further writes, “Your wife was kind enough to take trouble to prepare and bring coffee to the team of doctors (orthopaedicians), ophthalmologists, surgeons, anesthetists, etc.) and my people in the middle of the night, well past 12 o’clock.”

Shantivanni explains, “Since at that time there was no cafeteria inside the hospital I remember providing coffee to the doctors as they were attending to him the whole night and as he was being operated on, I was with his wife all through the night”.

Shantivanni would gladly have done more – like donate blood, for example. But her blood group was different. She has been known to donate blood to anyone needing it, be it a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a total stranger. Which is not in the least surprising for Shantivanni is made that way.

Vimalpachchi (to Rameshanna) says, “Shanti as a person is loving, helpful, courteous and hospitable. She used to donate blood to any patient who needed it. At any time if she was called to donate blood she would go to the hospital. This is life saving work and she does it gladly.”

How did it start in the first place – the blood donation, I mean?

“We had enrolled our names as blood donors at the Kasturba Hospital, Manipal,” says Shantivanni. “Once Dr. Padma Rao had sent a patient’s relative to our house late

at night, with a note asking me if I could help a mother of six children who was bleeding profusely. It was 2.30 a.m. and my husband drove me to the hospital and both of us donated one pint each. God saved the patient! I have donated blood every now and then when required, but my son Sudhakar has donated blood regularly several times.”

The incident, which to my mind really takes the cake, happened in 1979. But before I start narrating it I must inform the reader that it was purely by accident I chanced on it. I happened to arrive in Manipal within a week of its occurrence. This incident brought home to me the strangeness of it all - how little one really knows, how a person whom, one knows well, will react in any situation. I have known Rameshanna all my life and Shantivanni since their marriage. Am personally indebted to them in many, very many ways for all their help and favours, sometimes asked for and at others unasked. Have known for quite some time that they are far more greater than I thought, it is only now I realize how little I really know them. There seem to be so many facets of their character of which I have been wholly unaware, so many heights of greatness their goodness has taken them to, which I did not even know existed. I can only say “May God bless them both in every way and may there be more like them.”

As mentioned, the incident happened in 1979. The Emergency clamped down on the country in 1977 had been lifted and General Elections announced. The Press became free. Little known atrocities, real or imaginary, of the Emergency were aired. The prevailing atmosphere of vague sullenness, discontent and dissatisfaction intensified. And the whole country became a seething, simmering and frothing cauldron of restless, rebellious and revengeful feelings. Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Manipal were no different.

The students of MIT were up in arms against the Management. There was a political colour to it – Balakrishna (the late T. A. Pai) was contesting the Lok Sabha seat.

But hear the incident in Shantivanni's own words:

“One night it was nearing midnight in late 1979, I had a telephone call from the son of the then Principal of the Engineering College asking for my husband. Since he was away campaigning for his brother later T.A. Pai's election I asked him what the matter was. I believe the students were protesting against the newly introduced system of conduct of examination and since the Principal was not yielding their demands, they had gathered together in front of his house and were getting violent. Since there was no one at our house to take me there, I walked to the Principal's house.”

Mind you, in the dead of the night, she walked the distance of about one kilometer alone – ALONE except for the company of the Creator.

It is not safe for a lone lady to walk this distance on a deserted road at midnight – even in the best of times. But with violence already in the air, a couple of ugly incidents having occurred the previous week and the belligerent students in mob mentality, it was – what shall I say – most dangerous. Anything, I repeat, anything could have happened.

Why did Shantivanni go at all? For what reason did she take this risk?

To pacify the students? To reason with a mad mob?

She might as well have preached patience to the winds!

Shantivanni could very well have washed her hands off the whole sordid affair, saying she was alone in the house. And

that would have been that.

In no way was she responsible or answerable to the students for an University decision. She was not the management.

At that hour of the night, what could anybody expect from her anyway? Nobody would have blamed her if she had put the phone down and tried to go back to sleep.

At that particular moment, though, any thought of blame was furthest from her mind. She just responded to the tearful call of a frightened teenager. She could hear the angry growling of the students over the phone. So Shantivanni went there. Tried to talk to the students. They were in no mood to listen. They started shouting and throwing stones at the Principal's house. The din outside was deafening.

The Principal had to call the Police. When they arrived, the students behaved like hooligans. They attacked the Police. There was utter chaos. All hell seemed let loose. One student lost his life in the police firing.

That was the kind of situation Shantivanni found herself in. When someone appeals to her for help, she does not hesitate. She does not wait to weigh the pros and cons. She does not reckon the cost. She goes headlong into action. Today, if a similar incident were to occur, she will most probably act as she did twenty years ago.

"The first time I met my mother-in-law" says Jaya, "what struck me most was her down-to-earth attitude. She came across as an open person, firm, honest and genuine, who would be there whenever you needed her. And through the years this has been proved right. Her encouragement and appreciation have helped me achieve whatever little I could.

“What I like most in her as a mother-in-law is that she has never been possessive about her son. Never interfering with our personal lives nor with the upbringing of our children. But always there to listen, guide and give us her love and affection.

“As their eldest daughter-in-law, having lived with them for the past twenty years, I am proud to say that they are more like my parents and over the years have treated me like their daughter.

“I am indeed blessed and fortunate to be their daughter-in-law and to be able to enjoy their love and affection.”

“I consider myself fortunate to have her as my aunt as well as my mother-in-law,” echoes the elder son-in-law, Dr. K. Arvind Pai. “She is very loving, caring and affectionate. She gets things done when a request is made to her. She follows through the request without forgetting...She has treated me just like her own son with love and care. She showed the younger generation how to respect the elders. She is a great source of strength...Her guidance and giving confidence to others has been greatly appreciated. I like her simplicity and faith in God.

“We are lucky and fortunate to be a part of the family of dear Rameshman and Shantimai.”

In addition to their four children, Rameshanna and Shantivanni have some foster children, too.

“Having been brought up in a big family of nine children and growing up with three cousins, who did not have a mother, sharing and adjusting became a way of life. It seemed quite natural to have foster children at home and it gave us a chance to know more about their customs and culture,” says Shantivanni about their foster children.

“Ms Linda Yesulitis was a very kind, understanding and

adjustable girl with a positive attitude,” Shantivanni continues. “When she could not get what she wanted, she would say ‘It does not matter’ and carry on with her work. This positive attitude of hers has helped me deal with many difficult situations later on in life.” Now in USA with a twenty-one year old daughter, Linda keeps in touch with Shobha, Shantivanni and Rameshanna’s elder daughter, who also is in USA.

Joe Knapp was another foster child. His foster parents in Manipal are happy he is well settled. His son and daughter are additional foster grandchildren. Joe writes at least once a year – at Christmas.

Rameshanna and Shantivanni’s dearest foster child is Christine Futia. This is how she came to join their family –

“Soon after my term of governorship of Rotary International District 3180 during 1970/71, I had a letter from one Dr. Clarke Case from Utica (USA) who was working as a missionary at the Vellore Medical College asking me whether he could send a young American girl for a year under the Rotary Youth Exchange to India and whether I could host her. I said yes. But I found none of the members in my Club were willing to host one, feeling that they may not have adequate facilities. Shanti readily agreed to have the visiting Youth Exchange young lady. That is how we had Christine Futia who landed at our home in 1973 . Though she stayed with us for less than a year, she developed great love and affection for our family and she became our third daughter getting extra attention.”

The foster mother says, “Ms. Christine Braen, who came to stay with us when she was in her early teens, had absolutely no idea of life in India, especially a remote place like Manipal. So she had a lot of problems trying to adjust to our customs, way of life and food habits. Over the years

she has constantly been in touch with all of us and today she is more a daughter to us than a foster child. She has come back a few times and spent some time with us in Manipal. She has married Carl Futia and has adopted three Indian children – Leo Rajan, Anne Shanti and Peter Ramesh. We never thought that this difficult foster child of ours would grow up to be such an affectionate, hardworking, sincere and generous person.”

Christine’s own account of her stay in Manipal is colourful and interesting. Her it is.

“I was born in New York in 1956 and lived in the north-east U.S. for most of my life. My parents, Peter and Jeanne, were an engineer and a home economics teacher. I have one brother, Russell, who is two years younger than I am. As a child, I loved reading more than anything else. I was a good student, and I also studied piano for 8 years. In 1973, at the age of 16, I went to Manipal, Karnataka, India as a Rotary International Foreign Exchange Student. Upon my return, I completed high school and then went on to college. I received my B.A. in Operations Research and Applied Economics from Princeton University in 1979. I studied at Oxford University in England from 1979-81, and received a Master’s degree in Media Sociology at the end of my stay.

“As a professional, my work has centered in the areas of marketing science and management information systems. I worked as a consultant for many years before joining Nabisco, Inc. as a Senior Manager for Marketing Systems in 1997. Nabisco manufactures and sells many common food items such as cookies and crackers, cereal, candy, gum and nuts. I enjoy my work, and I find fulfillment in helping to support my family while developing my career.

“I married my husband Carl Futia (a self-employed invest-

ment advisor) in 1983. In 1987, we adopted our first child, Leo Rajan, from an orphanage in Calcutta. We then adopted Anne Shanti and Peter Ramesh from another Calcutta orphanage in 1991 and 1995. It gave me great joy to name my children for my foster parents Ramesh and Shanti Pai. It is my great hope that my children will follow in their footsteps and dedicate themselves to making the most of their God-given talents, including the gift of giving to others.

“When I am not working or caring for my home and family, I still enjoy reading, especially new fiction by India writers. I participate in a very active internet support group for families adopting Indian children. And I also help to run a wonderful heritage camp for families like ours, where we gather to learn about Indian culture and celebrate the beauty of India’s rich heritage.

“I was supposed to stay for a full year, but in the end I only stayed for seven months (June to December 1973). I had never been away from my family before I came to Manipal and despite the loving kindness shown by Ramesh and Shanti and my siblings Sudhakar, Sheela and Shantaram, I was terribly homesick much of the time. I will always regret running away rather than “staying the course”, but I was a very young girl and I just couldn’t bear to be away from my parents any longer. Of course, Manipal in 1973 was very, very different from my home in America. Today, we Americans know a great deal more about life in other countries, and Manipal too has become far more cosmopolitan.

“I was a Rotary International Foreign Exchange Student. I competed for this honor after hearing about the program during my junior year of high school. I remember that one of the questions I was asked was, “What would you do if you were offered the local delicacy in your host coun-

try, chocolate-covered grasshoppers?” I replied that I would eat one grasshopper to be polite, but I would refuse a second helping. This seemed to amuse the Rotarians who were interviewing me!

“When I was ultimately selected, my local Rotary Club sent a representative to my home to help me choose a country. Dr. Clarke Case, my advisor, had spent many years as a mission doctor in Vellore, and he had been looking for someone to send to India for a long time. After talking with me, he decided that I was that person. So that is how the word “India” came to be written on my request form. My parents had left me alone with Dr. Case, and I did not dare to argue with him, since he was an older gentleman and I was just a young girl. When he left the house, I ran to my bedroom and threw myself on my bed, crying, “I don’t WANT to go to INDIA!!!” My mother and father comforted me and said that we could call Dr. Case again and change my request. But first, they suggested that we go to our public library and see what we could learn about India.

“Needless to say, as soon as I looked at some books about India, I was “hooked”. At that time, the only knowledge I had of India came from National Geographic. I imagined that India was full of people wearing loincloths, dodging snakes, and riding elephants. But then I came to realize that there was so much more to be experienced if I actually spent a year in India. In the meantime, Dr. Case wrote to Ramesh Pai (a past District Governor of a Rotary District in South India) to see if he could find a host family for me. Ramesh Pai responded saying that he and Shanti would like to be my foster parents. So I got 14 injections and a passport, and my parents put me (a scared and excited 16-year-old) on a plane to India. Now that I’m a mother myself, I can’t imagine how they did it, but they knew I

was very determined to go, and they didn't want to stand in my way.

“Chitrakala” mera dussara ghar hai. I have visited homes in other countries, but I have never stayed for more than a few days.

“The new sensations I experienced upon coming to Manipal were utterly overwhelming, and it is hard to know where to begin in describing some of them. I do recall that from the very first day I felt very safe and in love with my Mummy, my Daddy, Su, Sha and Sheela. There were always aunties, uncles and cousins about, and with our schoolwork and our family obligations, life was very full. I attended Manipal Junior College (2nd PUC) briefly, then joined 1st B.A. at Mahatma Gandhi College at Udupi. I rode the public buses to and from the college, and had lunch across the road with K.K. Aunty, who made a very delicious peas pulao! With my siblings and friends and cousins, I enjoyed attending Hindi films and stopping for delicious ice cream at Diana in Udupi. There was so much to talk about, and it seemed we were always laughing. To this day, I love the songs from “Bobby”, the hit film at that time. I think we saw it at least three times, with Su whispering in one ear and Sheela whispering in the other, explaining all the dialogue to me.

“Of course, there was the homesickness, and the rain, and the feeling of being an outsider, always stared at and questioned. That part was difficult, along with the change in food. But by the end of my stay, Mummy had me eating masala dosas until I was ready to burst, and along the way, she introduced me to the many delicious foods that I can only get when visiting Manipal. In those days, it was the custom at “Chitrakala” to have dal, curd and congee for supper, late in the evening, unless we had guests. If we had guests, Daddy usually invited me to dine with them,

and I enjoyed watching Mummy in one of her beautiful sarees, serving all the special dishes that she and our cook Girija-Mai would prepare. The congee was less appealing to me, but that is what we ate, and it was very healthy. For many years, I assumed that all Indian people ate congee for supper every night!

“Girija-Mai was a very good cook, but she was also very temperamental. She only knew a few words of English, and one of them was “Good!” She was always very happy to see me eating, because I was very thin. When she saw me enjoying her food, she would say “Good” with a big smile on her face. The best time of all was when Girija-Mai would make a fiery fish curry, and Sheela and I would sneak downstairs after finishing our studies and eat huge platefuls until we couldn’t eat any more. Sheela was a first-year MBBS student at the time, and she often skipped lunch after spending the morning in dissection hall. This made her all the hungrier in the evening.

“But Girija-Mai wasn’t the only one who was determined to fatten me up. Wherever I went, the “aunties” expected me to eat heartily. Sometimes I would have to take tea in three different homes on the same day! When they insisted on filling my plate again and

again, I learned to say “Naka, Naka! Puro, Puro! Beda, Beda! Bas, Bas!” To give me extra calories and protein, Mummy made me drink two cups of hot Bournvita every day. I will never forget watching her pour the Bournvita from one tumbler to another until it was cool enough to drink and had a nice froth on it. Mummy was always watching carefully to make sure I drank it all, since she felt responsible for my health. Imagine how she felt when I carelessly broke my ankle tumbling down the stairs at the Kasturba Medical College Ladies’ Hostel one evening! I had to wear a plaster for several weeks, and I think she felt

it was proper punishment for my habit of going out alone after dark.

“I also remember going to many places with Mummy and Daddy, as they tried to give me every kind of experience while I was staying with them. Daddy would take me to “Valley View” for “non-veg” when I was missing my Dad at home, and he taught me to say “Uma Di!” in Konkani. I went with Mummy every Friday to Ambalpaddy Temple, to pray to the goddess who saved Daddy’s life when he was a boy. I was always slightly frightened by the oracle there who went into a trance while worshipping the goddess, and answered people’s questions. Mummy taught me the proper way to behave in the temple, and other important things like eating with the right hand (I am left-handed), accepting food and drink when visiting, and other essential social graces. Mummy also gave me my first saree, a beautiful cream and blue silk one, on my 17th birthday in September 1973.

“Life seemed slow at times in Manipal, but there was always something to do, somewhere to go, and someone to meet. We went to dozens of weddings, spent time at our little beach house at Malpe, and entertained hundreds of visitors, including Satya Sai Baba, who appears in my memory as a smiling, fuzzy-headed young man. I spoke for Rotary Clubs all over the district, and enjoyed eating spicy meals with my hand while all of the Rotarians watched in amazement. I greatly enjoyed handing out coins to the people who rang our bell during the Krishna festival, and I loved the procession in Udupi during the Ganesha Festival. I also developed a taste for sweets, beginning with Mummy’s wonderful laddoos, which I devoured at every opportunity.

“In the midst of my stay, I went to Jog Falls with a group of KMC students, and spent time in Bombay, Mangalore

and Bangalore with friends or relatives of Ramesh and Shanti Pai. My stay in Bangalore was especially memorable as I was hosted by the Matthias family, who owned the Kelagur tea plantation in Coorg. After so many months in steamy South Canara, it was very pleasant staying for a few days at Kelagur enjoying the cool weather. On our way back to Bangalore, we stopped at Brindavan Gardens and spent two nights at the Krishnarajasagar Hotel, where I enjoyed a long, hot bath in a deep Raj-era bathtub. We also went to Mysore City, Belur, and Srirangapatna, where I saw Tippu Sultan's summer palace and the dungeons where he kept his British prisoners.

“Despite all of these activities, what I remember most are the family ties, when Mummy and Daddy offered prayers at home, when our servant Sersu milked the cows, when

Mummy helped with the chopping for lunch, and when Girija-Mai ground the rice and gram for tomorrow's idlis. Sudhakar, Sheela, Shantaram and I spent many long hours doing our homework together, listening to music, and just talking about whatever was on our minds. Sudhakar challenged me to keep up with his quick mind, Shantharam had a special knack for sensing when I was feeling sad, and Sheela could make me smile no matter how homesick I was feeling. My pet name, coined by Mummy, was “Baby”, and they treated me like a very precious baby indeed. Words cannot describe how fortunate I was that this family made me part of their happy home.

“ I have not had other foster parents, but my relationship with Ramesh and Shanti is very special to me. Indeed, as I've grown older, they have both grown smarter! I sometimes feel that the experience of being an exchange student is wasted on the young – only now can I appreciate many of the things they told me so many years ago.

“First and foremost, living in Manipal taught me that life is very different in other parts of the world, but there is so much love and kindness in the world if you know where to look. It also taught me that despite being a high-achiever, I am not perfect and not everything comes easily to me. My adjustment to life in India was not as good as it could have been, and I spent many years trying to come to terms with what I saw as my failure to be a complete success as an exchange student. Indeed, for a long time I pushed India out of my mind and out of my life. I couldn’t seem to connect my experiences in Manipal with any other part of my life, and I couldn’t understand why God has sent me to India at all.

“ In 1986, I learned that I would be unable to have biological children, and a loud “gong” went off in my head. I asked my husband Carl if he cared whether our children were born in America or elsewhere, and he said he would be honoured to be a father no matter where our children came from. At that moment I knew that I had been specially chosen to adopt my children from India, the country I had carried in the deepest recesses of my heart and mind ever since I was a teenager. You see, being the parent of a child from another country brings with it a special responsibility, to raise that child to know, love and respect his heritage. Having experienced Indian family life firsthand, I knew that I would have much to share with my Indian children. And that is how Leo Rajan, Anne Shanti, and Peter Ramesh came into my life. My family tree now has a new graft and will forever retain an Indian flavour.

“And how did I know that I could love and accept children who were not born to me? In the same way that Ramesh and Shanti accepted me as their American daughter. This is a very great gift, and it has brought me more fulfillment as a mother that I could or ever have imagined. Now I

bring my children, one by one, to visit Chitrakala and meet Grandpa Ramesh and Grandma Shanti and enjoy the happiness of this very special connection to Mother India. Main bahut bageshali hunh!”

In a letter dated August 15, 1997, Chris write to her Mummy and Daddy in Manipal her thoughts and impressions of India.

The letter reads:

“Today, on the 50th Anniversary of India’s independence, I feel I must share with you my gratitude at being welcomed into your home and family 24 years ago. Since that time, I have also felt a part of the larger Indian community, a marvellously diverse and inclusive congregation of unique individuals. Today the children and I watched the ceremonies from New Delhi and were thrilled to hear the recorded words of Pandit Nehru spoken at midnight on April 15, 1947. My heart swelled as the sounds of Bande Mataram rang out among the assembled leaders and freedom fighters.

“As you welcomed me into your family, so we welcomed three children of Mother India into our family. Through them, we always have a connection to the land of their birth and to Indian people everywhere. Each time an Indian person reaches out to them, with a pat on the head, a sweet in the hand, or a kind “hello”, they feel a renewed sense of kinship with their countrymen. I can honestly say that our pride in them, and their pride in their Indian heritage, knows no bounds.

“Here in the U.S., many people focus on India’s troubles rather than her beauty and strength. Despite the challenges inherent in bringing together many different kinds of people with different languages, beliefs and customs, India’s survival as a democratic nation has been and will

always be a marvel and a triumph. For every corrupt businessman or politician, there are still a thousand honest, hardworking men and women who personify the ideals of equality and non-violence.

“I hope that I will be on this earth to celebrate India’s 100th birthday. If I am not, then my children and their children will certainly raise their voices and shout to the heavens on my behalf: “Jai Hind!”

What about their own grandchildren? What do they think of her? Would they exchange her for anybody else?

“Are you serious?” asks Vivek, the eldest grandson. And answers emphatically, “Of course not”. He goes on to explain what grandma Shanti means to him, “It’s been a lot of fun to be around my grandmother, and even though she has been half a world away, I always know that my grandmother and grandfather are always with me in spirit.”

On behalf of all grandchildren, the two daughters of son Sudhakar and his wife Jaya hurry to pay their affectionate tribute to their grandparents.

13-year old Deepa waxes poetic about her grandmother and 17-year old Jyothi about her grandfather.



MY GRANDMOTHER

DEEPA PAI

Deepa Pai is the second grand daughter of Ramesh Pai and second daughter of Sudhakar Pai, the elder son of Ramesh Pai

Her love

Is pure as a dove

Giving me medicines

With tons of affection

Stitching during her free time

Visiting temples time to time

She knows A to Z of fruits

But don't forget physiotherapy and reiki

Telling me stories and putting me to sleep

You will not know what my grandma means

It is rare to get people as precious as she is to me

If I would exchange her I would think I am crazy!

OUR RAMESH AJJA

JYOTHI PAI

Jyothi Pai is first grand daughter of Ramesh Pai and the first daughter of Sudhakar Pai

Bestowed upon this earth years before

In a small town near the shore

The second of eight siblings

To everyone's wishes always abiding

A young lad with responsibilities on his shoulders
From printing to banking to dyeing powders
His uncle was his favourite elder
The one whom he looked upto with all tender

He wanted to realize his predecessor's dream
By establishing an ideal village by the stream
He did this with colleges, banks & mills
Thus came the 'Blooming & the Bald Hills"

Working everyday for hours together
No matter the surrounding or the weather
He strove for success to be the best
Encouraging all who came to him with zest

The principles he imbibes strongly depend on honesty
He puts in more than his share of sincerity
Confident, cheerful, to many a mentor
Sweeps everyone off their feet with his character

Many an obstacle in his path he faced
With blessings from God, he was graced
"He's the one" people say
"Who stood tall and strong all the way"

His love and affection knows no bounds
His humour's always making the rounds
His stories all about the past
Keeps all enthralled till the last

He's now recognized the world over
Still has remained the same as ever
Lucky are we, his grandchildren
To have such a wonderful grandfather

No wonder Shantivanni says with a full heart, "God has been kind to us. And I am indeed fortunate to enjoy the love and affection of my family, my relatives and a large number of friends. I pray to God to guide and guard them always".

As Martha Ashton Sikora says, "Shanti, who, no doubt, looked forward to her married life as pleasing her husband, being in charge of the house and raising her children, in addition, has become a charming international hostess and world traveler on her own."

Yes, Rameshanna's shadow has gained quite a lot of substance. But in other ways she remains very much the same old Shanti – simple, unassuming and charming. Devoutly elder daughter-in-law Jaya prays, "On this auspicious occasion my husband, my children and myself pray to God to grant them long life, health, happiness and peace. We seek their blessings and look forward to sharing many more happy and memorable years with them basking in their warmth and affection."

"Amen" say all Rameshanna's and Shantivanni's relatives, friends and well-wishers. And aren't they a legion?



ತಂದೆಯ ಸರಿಸಮಾನರಾದ ಅಣ್ಣ

VARADHA S. PRABHU

*Smt. Varadha S. Prabhu is the yonger sister of Ramesh Pai.
She lives in Mangalore.*

'ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಣ್ಣತಂದೆಗೆ ಸರಿಸಮಾನ' ಎಂಬ ಗಾದೆ ಲೋಕದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ನಾನು ತಂಗಿಯಾದರೂ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಅವರು ವರದಕ್ಕಿ ಎಂದೇ ಕರೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಾವು ಚಿಕ್ಕವರಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕುಳಿತು ಸಂಗೀತ, ಹರಿಕಥೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಿತ್ತು. ಮನೆಪಾಲಕೆ ಹೋದರೆ ನಮಗೆ ಅವರಲ್ಲೇ ತವರು ಮನೆ. ರಮೇಶ್ವರನವರು ತಮ್ಮ 75 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಭಗವತ್ ಸೇವೆ ಎಂಬ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಪರಿಪಾಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪತಿ ಪತ್ನಿಯರಿಬ್ಬರೂ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೊಬ್ಬರು ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಾಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶಾಂತಿ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿ ವಿನಯದಿಂದ ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದಂತೆ ಶಾಂತಿಯಿಂದ, ಸಮಾಧಾನದಿಂದ ನಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಬ್ಬರದ್ದೂ ಸರಳ ಜೀವನ. ನೆಂಟರಿಷ್ಟರು ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತುಂಬಾ ಸಂತೋಷ.

ಅವರ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ. 'ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಭಾವನೆಗಳು ಸುಗಂಧ ಪುಷ್ಪಗಳಂತೆ' ಅಂತಹ ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಗುಣಗಳು ಅವರಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಪ್ರೀತಿಯೇ ಅವರ ಸಹಜ ಸ್ವಭಾವ. ಅವರ ಬಳಿ ದ್ವೇಷವೆಂಬುದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಯಾರು ಏನೇ ಮಾಡಲಿ ಅಂತಹವರಿಗೆ ದೇವರು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲಿ ಎಂದು ಆಶಿಸುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಇವರು. ತಾಳ್ಮೆಯ ಸ್ವಭಾವದ ನನ್ನ ಅಣ್ಣ 'ತಳಿದವನು ಬಾಳಿಯಾನು' ಎಂಬ ನುಡಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕವರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ದೇವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿದ್ದ ಮನುಷ್ಯನು ಕೆಟ್ಟದ್ದನ್ನು ಎಣಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗಿನ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗಿ ಬಾಳುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಕಷ್ಟ, ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಶಾಂತಿ, ಸಮಾಧಾನ, ತಾಳ್ಮೆಯಿಂದ ನಡೆಯುವವರು ತುಂಬಾ ವಿರಳ. ತುಂಬಾ ಸರಳ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸುವ ಇವರು ತಿಂಡಿ-ತಿನಿಸು, ಊಟದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದಿಷ್ಟೂ ಕೊಂಕು ನುಡಿದವರಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ಷಮೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯನಲ್ಲಿರಬೇಕಾದ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ವಸ್ತು. ಯಾರು ತನಗೆ ಎಂತಹ ಅಪರಾಧ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಅವನಿಗೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದನ್ನೇ ಬಯಸುವ ಔದಾರ್ಯ ಅವರದು. ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮುಡಿಪಾಗಿಟ್ಟು ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದ - ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ದಂಪತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದೇವರು ಸದಾ ಆಯುರಾರೋಗ್ಯ, ಸುಖ, ಶಾಂತಿ, ಸಂತೋಷ ಕೊಡಲಿ ಎಂದು ತುಂಬು ಹೃದಯದಿಂದ ದೇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಕಷ್ಟದಿಂದ ಪಾರಾಗಲಿ, ಶುಭವನ್ನು ಕಾಣಲಿ ಎಂದು ಆಶಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ತಾಯಿಯ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿದ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆ

ನನ್ನ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರು ಮದುವೆ ಆಗಿ ಬಂದ ನಂತರದಿಂದ ನನಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಹತ್ತಿರ. ಅವರಿಂದ ನಮಗೇನಾದರೂ ಸಹಾಯ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಹಿಂದೆ ಮುಂದೆ ನೋಡದೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಯೇ ಬಿಡುವವರು. ಇತರರ ಒಳಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅವರಿಂದ ಏನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸಾಧ್ಯವೋ ಅದನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವವರು. ನನ್ನ ತಾಯಿಯವರಿಗಿಂತ ನನಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಲುಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರಲ್ಲಿ. ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಳತೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾಶಸ್ತ್ಯ ನೀಡುವ ಅವರು ಎಲ್ಲರ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ನನಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕುವ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನನ್ನ ಒಡೆ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ ಅಣ್ಣ ತಮ್ಮ, ಅಕ್ಕ, ತಂಗಿಯಂದಿರಿಗೂ ಅವರ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಯಾರ ಬಳಿಯೂ ಅವರು ಚರ್ಚೆ, ಕೋಪ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಇಲ್ಲಾ. ಯಾವ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಭೇದ-ಭಾವ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ನಮ್ಮವರೇ ಎಂಬ ಮನೋಭಾವ ಅವರದ್ದು. ನನ್ನ ಮೂರು ಹೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಅವರೇ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಿದ್ದು ರಾತ್ರಿ-ಹಗಲೆನ್ನದೆ ನನ್ನೊಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಅಸ್ತತ್ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತಾಯಿ ಇಲ್ಲವೆನ್ನುವ ಭಾವನೆಯೇ ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಬರದ ಹಾಗೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಮದುವೆ - ಉಪನಯನ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ನಾವುದೇ ಸಮಾರಂಭಗಳ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಸಹಾಯದ ಅಗತ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿ ಮುಂದೆ ನಿಂತು ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ನೆರವೇರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅತಿಥಿ ಸತ್ಕಾರ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರದ್ದು ಎತ್ತಿದ ಕೈ. ನೆಂಟರಿಷ್ಟರಿಗೆ, ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದವರನ್ನು ಪ್ರೀತಿ, ವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಿಂದ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಸ್ತತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯ ನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಪರಿಚಯದವರು ಯಾರಾದರೂ ಬಂದರೆ ಅದನ್ನ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು, ಶ್ರೀಮಂತ-ಬಡವರೆಂಬ ಭೇದಭಾವವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಮಾತಾಡಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಹೇಳುವ ಜಾಯಮಾನ ಅವರದ್ದು.

ನನ್ನ ಪತಿಯವರು ನನ್ನ ಈ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು "ನೀನು ಸಾಕ್ಷಾತ್ ಶಾಂತೇರಿ ಕಾಮಾಕ್ಷಿ ಕುಲದೇವಿ" ಎನ್ನುವುದಿತ್ತು. ಕುಲದೇವಿ ಎಂದರೆ ನಾವು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವವಳು ಎಂದು ಅರ್ಥ. ಅಂತಹ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಅವರದ್ದು. ನನ್ನ ಪತಿಯವರ ದೇಹಾಂತದ ನಂತರ ನನಗೆ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರು ಅಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ದೇವರ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನು ಓದು ಎಂದು ನನಗೆ ಅಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಾನು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದಂತೆ ಈಗಲೂ ದೇವರ ಸ್ತುತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಓದುವ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ನನ್ನ ಬಾಲ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಯಿಯವರು ಇದ್ದಾಗ ನನ್ನ ಮಾವ ಅಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತನ್ನ ತಾಯಿಯವರು ತೀರಿಹೋದ ಮರುದಿನವೇ ಅವರು ತನ್ನ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡು "ಮುಲ್ಕಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತೇನೆ" ಎಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಟರು. ಆಗ ನನ್ನ ಈ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರು ಅವರ ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದು "ನೀವು ಹೋಗಲೇಬಾರದು, ಹಿಂದಿನಂತೆಯೇ ಅಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ನಿಲ್ಲಬೇಕು" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಕಣ್ಣೀರು ಸುರಿಸಿದ ದೃಶ್ಯ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಲೂ ಅಚ್ಚಳಿಯದೆ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಮಾಯೆಯ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆ.

ಕೆಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಎಕ್ಸಿಬಿಷನ್ ಏರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದ ಸಂಪಾದನೆ ಎಮ್.ಜಿ.ಎಮ್. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಸಹಾಯಾರ್ಥಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನನ್ನ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರು ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹಗಲು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಯೆನ್ನದೆ ದುಡಿದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ನನ್ನ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರು ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ತುಂಬಾ ಹಣ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

50 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ದಾಂಪತ್ಯ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ ನನ್ನ ಅದರ್ಶ ಅತ್ತಿಗೆಯವರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದದ್ದು. ನಾನು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಚರಣುಣಿ



PARVATI AKKA – EMBODIMENT OF VIRTUES

JAYA V. NAYAK

Ms. Jaya V. Nayak is a sister of Shanti Pai and having been a hostess to Ramesh and Shanti Pai, has had the opportunity of observing them at close quarters.

About Shanti (Parvati Akka) I am to say that she is a special sister to me. She is a very loving, affectionate and considerate. She is a very active and courageous lady. She is by nature, obliging and helpful to anyone. The help is spontaneous and is given without any distinction. She gives respect to the elders and is always conscious of her duties. After the passing away of my mother, Parvati Akka has filled that place for me. I am fortunate to have such a wonderful sister.

Further, Ramesh Bhavaji is also a very nice person, very affectionate, obliging and adjustable. He is systematic in his habits, prompt in replying to the letters and meticulous in planning his work and keeping up timings. He is a voracious reader with very wide interests. He is a shrewd observer. He always loves to meet people and make use of every opportunity to keep up contact. He is a visionary and always emphasizing hard work, leading from the front. He is always appreciative of new ideas and innovations which will improve the life of the people. His interests are wide as well as deep. Parvati Akka is a devoted wife and Ramesh Bhavaji's needs and comfort always get a top priority in her work. She has never refused to accompany him on visits anytime and to any place, although at times it was not so convenient for her to do so.



SHANTI – MY MUCH ADORED AUNT

DR. ARVIND PAI

Dr. Arvind Pai is a son-in-law of Ramesh and Shanti Pai is a successful doctor in California, USA.

About dear Shantimai, first of all I consider myself fortunate to have her as my aunt as well as my mother-in-law. She is very loving, caring and affectionate. She gets the things done when a request is made to her. She follows through these requests without forgetting them. With her experience in world travel and numerous contacts with all kinds of people over the years, she has been very resourceful. She has treated me just like her own son with love and care. She helped us a lot with upbringing of dear Vivek, her first grandchild. She showed the younger generation how to respect the elders.

She is a great source of strength. She is a good host and one feels very much at home. She will do anything to make one comfortable within her means. Her guidance and giving confidence to others has been greatly appreciated. I like her simplicity and faith in GOD.

We are lucky and fortunate to be a part of the family of dear Rameshmam and Shantimai.



THE PAIS – AN EXAMPLE TO YOUNGER GENERATION

VASANTI R. PAI

Mrs. Vasanti R. Pai is a distant relative of Mr. Ramesh Pai and also a family friend.

Though Sri. T. Ramesh U. Pai was a familiar figure since my childhood, it was only in the year 1977 that both my husband and myself came into close contact with him. We were in Kuwait at that time and he happened to stay with us for a couple of days. His adjusting nature, his generosity and the methodical manner in which he functioned has left a lasting impression on our minds.

It was in the 1990's that we really came to know both Mrs. Shanti Pai and Sri. Ramesh Pai well enough to claim that both of them are "Made for Each Other!". Though they have been married for 50 years, to all of us they still seem like they are newly married. They have lived their lives like two wheels of a bullock cart, both caring and sharing the burden of life. She listens to all his speeches in public and in private and makes others listen to him, as she knows the wisdom of his words. They have taught their children the art of loving, caring and sharing which will definitely stand by them as they set out to lead their lives. A befitting example for the younger generation, indeed!

What strikes one most about this ideal couple is their simplicity, their respect for each other and concern for another individual irrespective of their status! Any guid-

ance sought is readily given. They instill enthusiasm in the younger generation to study hard, work hard and become leaders in life. He is also deeply concerned about the political affairs of India and the plight of the Indian citizen.

r. Ramesh Pai is a true Rotarian, reaching out to the people through Rotary, guiding fellow Rotarians and helping various causes through the Rotary International services. Mrs. Shanti Pai has a very philosophical attitude to life. An ardent devotee of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, she not only spends a lot of time reading books on religion and philosophy, but also understands and practices what she reads. Being in her company itself is “Sat Sang”. While he tried to make the world a better place for us to live in, she tries to make it better for us when we leave.

My admiration for this couple is growing day by day. As a friend and well wisher, I seek their guidance and blessings and pray Lord Almighty to grant them health, happiness and peace and many more fruitful years of service to the community.



MADE FOR EACH OTHER

POORNIMA KINI, MBBS, Dch.

Dr. (Mrs.) Poornima Kini is a Paediatrician, practicing in Davangere.

When I first came to Manipal I had just completed 16 years and had met R. Manth and P. Mahavae (Shanti R. Pai) off and on when they visited Bangalore either at our place or at my grandfather's place. She had children of our age group and we dropped in at Manipal on our annual visit to Udupi (visiting my paternal grandmother). I was quite shy and reticent and only answered questions when asked. We had lived in a unit nuclear family and was transposed quite suddenly to stay in a joint family at Udupi, study at Manipal and have afternoon at Chitrakala. It took me some time to adjust to joint family, traditions and customs and adjust to cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. I subsequently completed my MBBS and Dch. And spent many years at Manipal and got to know them more intimately. Parvathi Mahavae (that is what she was called by the relations from her father's side) was and is a very special aunt. I learnt a lot of things from her.

1. Giving everybody a chance to air their views.
2. Always obliging and ever smiling.
3. Even in troublesome times, she used to pray to God saying "God give us courage to bear with what we are going thro' and it is into your hands that we surrender.

4. She was a very busy person, attending to everyone, even as she was busy with her hands, she would enquire about how I was faring. She and all my cousins always quoted “Apna Hi Ghar Samjho” on the dining table.
5. I guess her policy was “good will be done unto you, if you have done good to others”. She never lost an opportunity to help anybody be it big or small.
6. Listened to all my woes, complaints frustrations inspite of having a very tight schedule herself.
7. She used to think of everybody; it is not so easy unless you genuinely care and next to impossible when you care for everybody (their likes, dislikes, moods, etc.)
8. She was a very religious person, prayed , went to temple regularly, but not superstitious or rigid, would make adjustments on the need of the hour.

I don't think I can describe or know her completely but these are the qualities that will remain etched in my mind.

My own opinion on “Rameshanna and Shantivanni are made of each other” is that they complement each other, because what is missing in one is supplemented by the other in good measure.

I wish and pray to God to give them the very best of things, peace and health on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

I close with love.



MY REMINISCENCES OF RAMESH & SHANTI

MANORAMA S. ACHARYA

Manorama S. Acharya is the Former Municipal councillor Udupi & President of Mahila Mandali. She is also active in the Social Service

They complement each other so very much, that I feel they must be able to read each other's thought.

My childhood was spent in Vizag and Madras, with my parents. After my dad expired and my mother moved to Karkala, I was at Udupi only for a year, studying at St. Cecily's High School, doing on 10th Std. As soon as I completed SSLC I was married to my cousin Mr. P. Sripathy Acharya and he took me off to Poona. Yet I did hear of the Pais of Manipal and the Pais who were in Insurance business, for Kochikai Prema Pai, daughter of K. Padmanabha Pai, and Vathsala Pai, daughter of Dr. Sunderam Pai, were both my classmates, from June 1942 to April 1943. In January 1946, my husband was constrained to quit his job and come to Udupi as his dad suddenly expired and his younger brother, the Swamiji of Sri Sode Vadhiraaj Mutt was only nine years old and quite ill too. It was then that my husband got to know Dr. T.M.A. Pai, Mr. T.A. Pai and Mr. T. Ramesh Pai, who was a bachelor then. My husband and I started visiting Manipal as Prema was my classmate, and I got to know the rest of the family, better and better, and they got to know me. Mr. Ramesh Pai and Shanti were married on 29th May, 1949. From then on, Shanti and I

came closer and closer. When in 1947, my husband went down with typhoid and was very ill, Dr. T.M.A. Pai, T.A. Pai and Ramesh Pai visited us daily and were a moral strength to us. I remember very well attending Ramesh and Shanti's wedding. There was a permanent joke of Ramesh's among his dear friends – a complaint that Mr. Vaikunt Baliga, Shanti's father, failed to arrange for an elephant to lead the groom's procession, until at last, even our patient and amiable Shanti too started getting upset. When at last the light-hearted joke came to a natural end. Ever since then we have been growing closer and closer as a family to family. Their youngest child Shantharam and my youngest child Sandhya, were born in the same year. She, Shanti, was more like my younger sister, and Ramesh, an elder brother, I would have loved to have. They have been close to me, in happiness and grief; in comfort and illness; in prosperity and distress and in peace and trouble too.

Their total and individual friendship and serenity and concern for me and my family, is what I like very much in them. Ramesh never mixes business and friendship – they are two separate compartments. Shanti will go to any lengths to involve herself and help me out, physically too. I cherish their care, affection and love for me and my family. Ramesh is like the elder brother I never had, and Shanti, one of my younger sisters.

May God bless them, their children and grandchildren and keep them always happy and smiling, prosperous and at peace, for many many years to come!



THE MAN,
IN EDUCATION &
INDUSTRY

RENDERED YEOMAN SERVICE

Dr. B.D. JATTI

He was Governor of Orissa during 1972-74. He held the august post of Vice President of India from 1974 to 1979. He was the acting President of India from February to July 1977.

I know Sri T.Ramesh U Pai almost for the last 3 decades. I am glad to know that you are going to felicitate Sri Pai on his completion of 70years of useful life. He has rendered yeoman service in the fields of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance, Industry and Community Service through Rotary and other various institutions. I came in contact with DR. T.M.A Pai and Sri T Ramesh Pai in connection with starting a Medical College at Manipal, when I was Deputy Minister of Health and Labour in the erstwhile Bombay State. He is kind and generous in his out-look. I wish him long life, sound health and prosperity for serving the Nation and the people in general for many, many more years.

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MULTI - FACETED ARE HIS TALENTS

V.R. KRISHNA IYER

V.R.Krishna Iyer was a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, during 1973-80. He was Minister for Law, Home, Irrigation and Power, Kerala State during 1957-59. He was Judge of Kerala Highcourt from 1968 to 1971, Member of Law Commission during 1971-73.

Dr. T.M.A. Pai was a person with creative vision and infinite capacity to implement his apparently impossible ideas and plans. But during his time he showed the way to fulfil selfless ambitions for society's well - being. Ramesh Pai truly carried the torch forward, pursued the same path and demonstrated how great things could be accomplished provided one had the commitment and capacious faculties. Sri Upendra Pai, brother of Dr. T M A Pai, was one of the two early founding fathers of Manipal Complex Institutions.

Ramesh Pai completed 70 years of life and has long years to go in the journey terrestrial. I have often wondered how Ramesh, in partnership with Ramdas, had made dreams come true. The spiritual orientation of Dr. T M A Pai is the secret of Ramesh -Ramdas success vis a vis the medical college which has made Manipal famous. The role of Ramesh Pai in the humanist adventure will be remembered as a wonder. I am reminded on this occasion of the great words I often quote from Robert Kennedy:

“Some men see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say why not?”

The gratitude of the people is earned by hardwork de-

voted to their work, wealth and happiness. This was the ideal Shri Ramesh Pai had before him. He did not stop with being a visionary but moved with passion to achieve things which might look to ordinary persons as beyond reach. The Kasturba Medical College and Hospital with its multi-dimensional expansions is breath-takingly astonishing. His personal and extra-ordinary familiarity with the developmental directions in the medical field often drew my admiration. He never bothered about ill health or age but his health was part of the sacrifice he was willing to make to redeem the tryst with destiny that Manipal (if I may name the noble institution that way) had set for itself. Today, a marvellous service-oriented institution of health education and medicare caters to a large community of the rich and the poor who are treated alike with skills which are rare and institutional attention beyond the grasp of the middle-class Indian. The two great cousins have done Manipal proud.

Nor was Ramesh Pai confined to the Manipal magnificence. Beyond the field of education and medical care, his indelible and creative hand shaped banking and finances well. Indeed, Shri Upendra Pai and Dr. T.M.A. Pai were a paradigm in the field of banking as well, and Ramesh proved that he could fulfil the wishes and vision of Upendra and T.M.A, the great Pai brothers. Multi-faceted as his talents were, even in industrial enterprises, Ramesh Pai made contributions although 'I am not particularly familiar with that department of his activities. But I do know that 'Service above self' which is the motto of the Rotary International was actively adopted by Ramesh Pai in versatile ways. Of course, community service was in his blood and the Rotary movement claimed his energies in large measure. He became Rotary Governor and remains one of the great Rotarians of our country, pursuing in spirit and works the

essence of that humanitarian international movement.

When oft I have met him at airports and other places he has regaled me with instructive conversation, lofty ideas of Indian developments and plans for the future of the country in this competitive world.

This fine human being is a close friend of mine. I like him, love him, admire him. Ramdas, his close cousin did strive with him to make “Kasturba” a medical giant. I must conclude with what commonly occurs to me when I think of great human beings and their achievements:

“What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form, in moving, how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragons of animals!”. (Shakespeare)

I know the mellowed wisdom and finer faculties of Ramesh are the need of our nation and I am sure that, with all the limitations and hassles of life, he is spiralling forward with spiritual insight and methods of material transformation of ideas and ideals. May he live long as all of us have a vested interest in his successes which are dedicated to society in general.



A NATURAL LEADER

S. JAGANNATHAN

Latei S. Jagannathan ICS (Retired) held many senior positions, prominent among them being Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and Director of IMF.

Shri Ramesh Pai is one for whom I have the highest regard and admiration; I particularly value my longstanding friendship with him. In addition to unfailing inherent courtesy, a natural unvarying consideration for others and their points of view, he has all the other qualities which win him friends in every part of India and the world over and drawn from all walks of life. He is a natural leader in his part of India, holding the unswerving loyalty of all his community as I may loosely refer to them all. He has admirably shouldered, in his turn, and ably continued his family's ("The Pais of Manipal") outstanding yeoman service to the Manipal region in numerous ways, most notably in the fields of education and medical care where not many, at best only a few captains of Industry, have made a contribution.

As I know personally, he is undoubtedly a person who always has the consideration in mind to avail every opportunity and be of help to others whenever he can. I am sure the number must be legion who have received help from him and remember it thankfully. I would also like quickly to mention his outstanding successes in the fields of Banking, Finance and Industry where his un-

surpassed reputation for integrity and dependability and natural shrewdness and sagacity have helped him to make a mark. He has been a contribution of great significance in what has proved literally to be a transformation of Manipal.



INDUSTRY AND RAMESH PAI

MALCOLM. ADISESHIAH

Late Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah was Asst. Secretary General of UNESCO Paris. He was the Director of Madras Institute of Development Studies from 1971 to 1978 and later became its Chairman. He was Rajya Sabha Member from 1978 to 1984. He was the Vice Chancellor of Madras University.

The country's industrial development has been a remarkably rapid one over the four and a half decades since our Independence. The main economic factors responsible for this unique development include the industrial policy resolution of 1952 and 1980, the plan priority given to industrial development in the 60s, 70s and 80s, the rapid capital formation helped by the increasing high rate of savings and the growth of education, particularly in engineering and management through IITs and IIMs and other such efforts as those at Manipal.

This rapid industrial development took place in the face of proliferating state controls through permits, licenses and regulations of almost every aspect of industry. By the early 80s, the prolificacy of controls was recognised to be self-defeating, serving to promote a bureaucratic stranglehold on the economy, and offering a tempting seed-bed for widespread nepotism and growing corruption. Hence the movement for the decontrol of the economy was begun in the early 80s and liberalisation of the economy, which applies in particular to industrial production, marketing, exports and imports and the opening up of the economy in gen-

eral.

The macro economic picture should be filled out and supplemented by micro economic programmes, particularly in the industrial field. In this Maharashtra, Gujrath, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were the lead parties. But this is still a rather wide coverage of industries. Under the able entrepreneur leadership of the Pai family, the Manipal division of modern Karnataka state developed as an important and striking island, promoting the savings tradition of the local people, developing fast expanding banking and insurance policies and instruments, and make cost effective feasibility studies leading to the establishment of industry at all three levels –tiny and small, medium and large. In fact Manipal is in the forefront of local area initiatives which promoted the integrated growth and development of industry and banking as an example and model which other local areas in the country and state have attempted to follow.

In this effort Ramesh Pai stands out for the care and attention he gave to every detail of the integrated development of banking and industrial finance in Manipal and the Bombay area, promoting the growth of education from the school to the university level, and in the setting up of a high quality medical care system which has today been taken up by the corporate sector of the country and its patrons, the NRIs. For all this, we owe an unrequitable debt to Ramesh Pai who completes his 70 years and whose work and contribution to the several facets of Indian society will continue to serve as an example to all of us for a long time.



HE HAS AMAZING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

PADMASHRI C. NARASIMHAM

Late Padmashri C Narasimham I. A. S. (Retd) was Commissioner of Madras Municipal Corporation during 1947-53; Other important positions held by him were: Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh - 1955-64. He was Managing Director of Food Corporation of India - 1965-66, Director of Corporation Bank - 1970-80, Chairman, High Power Committee on Panchayat Raj - 1971 to 1981. He received Padmashri in 1962.

Ramesh Pai is one of God's good men, ready to help and to enjoy sense of participation with others particularly those in need. He is a many faceted personality with amazing knowledge and skills in the fields of education, medical care, banking and finance, industry and community service and is ever ready to extend his helping hand.

I first came to know him through his beloved brother Sri. T. A. Pai, a great son of India known as an innovator and inventor. He displayed his courage by refusing to compromise on ideals and adhering to truth like Gandhi. Ramesh and I came closer when we were both directors of the Corporation Bank. He and I were both happy that we were able to contribute our time to the fast growth of the bank in all important sectors.

Many of us who have high regard for the Pai family and

great respect for the manner in which their concerns have been managed are shocked at the recent unhappy developments in their families and their concerns. It must be a revelation to Mr. Ramesh Pai that smouldering embers have become consuming fires. It is still the hope of their wellwishers that they will appreciate the truth, “united they stand and divided they fall”. May God guide them wisely so that memories of their half a century’s devoted service will not be wiped out.

May God grant Ramesh strength and peace to face the current situation and emerge unscathed like Divine Mother Sita Devi out of the fire-ordeal.

Three score and ten is enjoyed by most of the senior citizens nowadays. I am passing thro 91 and still feel quite normal all by the grace of God.



A GREETING

DHIRUBHAI H. AMBANI

Mr. Dhirajlal Hirachand Ambani is the Chairman of the Reliance group of industries. He is the recipient of the coveted Wharton School Dean's Medal, USA, in 1998, and became the first Indian to be conferred this prestigious award and joined 23 illustrious awardees so far. The Wharton Award was given for his achievement and public service in Mumbai.

“You are a many splendoured personality, a helping hand, always smiling and a caring heart. Shanti has contributed a lot in all your achievements. May God shower His choicest blessings on you both on this day and you live for many more fruitful years.

Kokila, Mukesh, Anil and all others in the family join me in wishing you happiness and may God continue to shower health, happiness and contentment.”



DYNAMIC MEMBER OF A DYNAMIC FAMILY

K. M. MATHEW

Mr. K. M. Mathew joined the family publications Malayala Manorama as Managing Editor in 1954 and became Chief Editor in 1973. He launched several best selling publications in Malayalam and English and made Malayala Manorama the largest circulated newspaper with six editions. He was the Chairman of P.T.I, President INS and founder Trustee and Chairman Press Institute of India and also ABC. He is involved in Social and Sports activities. He lives in Kottayam.

A man of many parts – that would be an apt description of Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai. A man who gave flesh and blood to the vision of his illustrious predecessors.

He is a dynamic member of a dynamic family that transformed Manipal village into the hub of India's educational and economic activity.

Our close relationship with the Pais of Manipal started quite a long time back. When Mr. Ramesh Pai's uncle Dr. T.M.A. Pai came to Kottayam to canvass students for the Kasturba Medical College, my father K.C. Mammen Mappillai, then chief editor of Malayala Manorama, addressed a meeting at the Y.M.C.A. He gave a speech emphasizing this golden opportunity presented to Malayalees. He also published several articles in our newspaper detailing the academic virtues of the Medical College.

This showed concrete results. In the first four or five years, more than 70% of the students were from Kerala. Thus the association of Manorama with the Pais of Manipal proved to be beneficial for the Malayalees.

Mr. Ramesh Pai is one of the most versatile conversation-
alists whom I have met. He is vibrant, socially active and
is forever embarking on new ventures. His 'Midas touch'
is responsible for the tremendous growth and progress of
all institutions with which he involved himself.

It is difficult to name a field in which Mr. Ramesh Pai has
not dabbled - Banking, Medical Care, Industry, Education,
Business... To each of the institutions, he gave a firm foun-
dation and built them up into shining examples worthy of
emulation.

Amidst all this, he never forgot to serve his fellowmen.
He could achieve the unique distinction of rising to the
heights As a Director of Rotary International.

Our personal relationship is such that when Malayala
Manorama celebrated its centenary in 1988, the Pai fam-
ily accorded a big reception to Manorama in Manipal. It
was a great and cordial function. Around a hundred people
from Manorama travelled to Manipal with me to take part
in this joyous occasion.

We still maintain that close association and it continues
through my children. I am certain it will continue forever
through generations to come.

On the occasion of Mr. Ramesh Pai's 75th birthday let me
wish my dear friend a very long and fruitful life, taking the
legend of Manipal to still greater heights.



HUMBLE INDUSTRIAL MONARCH

DR. MULLAPUDI HARISCHANDRA PRASAD

Dr. M. Harischandra Prasad is one of the leading industrialists and philanthropists of Andhra Pradesh. He pioneered the industrialisation through private enterprises with Andhra Sugars Ltd. at Tanuku, West Godavari Dist. and diversified into chemicals, chemical plant equipments, textiles, edible oils and petrochemicals. He is connected with several Government Committees, trade bodies, educational institutions and cultural and social organisations. He is the recipient of many awards. He is the Chairman and MD of The Andhra Sugars Ltd., MD, Andhra Petrochemicals Ltd. and lives in Tanuku.

It is heartening to note that a function is being organized to celebrate the 75th Birthday of my beloved and learned friend, Shri. Ramesh Pai. It is indeed a difficult task to write about this multi-faceted personality whose achievements have been in so many different fields and it would be a Herculean task to make an assessment of his outstanding personality. It is like making an attempt to measure the length of the sky or depth of an ocean. Nevertheless I consider it as a privilege to write a few words about my close association with this towering personality.

My association with Ramesh Pai dates back to more than three decades. We used to meet quite frequently in various forums in view of our common interest in the fields of industry, education, medical care, and philanthropy.

From the day one of my meeting him, what impressed me most about him was his simplicity, high thinking, sincerity, humility, friendly and affectionate approach.

Ramesh Pai has been instrumental in bringing the name of Manipal on the World map of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance apart from the various industries now flourishing in the hitherto unknown small town, Manipal, in Karnataka. In fact, Manipal and Ramesh Pai are synonymous. Constant and devoted application of his skillful creativity led to the flourishing of the prestigious educational, medical, engineering, banking, financial and industrial institutions which is a monumental testimony to the manifold qualities of his genius in all aspects of human qualities and concern for welfare of society and mankind at large. Ramesh Pai has been zealously carrying the ever-glowing torch of the Industrial house of Pais to the greater heights.

In the field of Rotary service, Ramesh Pai's contribution and rise have been meteoric, having served with distinction in almost all important Rotary offices including the coveted position of Director of Rotary International. Ramesh is a living legend in the Rotary World of India and abroad and is a real friend, philosopher and guide to all the Rotarians around him. As a Rotarian myself, I was highly impressed by his outstanding achievements in Rotary service which were attained through his dedicated efforts.

Ramesh Pai as a man, with spiritual outlook draws out respect and admiration of all those around him. As a friend, well-wisher and philanthropist Mr. Pai has extended a helping hand to those around him and always with a smile. The depth of his friendliness, the spontaneous gestures of goodwill, understanding and graciousness has made him a

warm hearted human-being and a model for others to emulate and follow. Another striking trait of his personality is the helping nature, a large and generous heart willing to extend support at all times to all – known and unknown. This quality makes him “AJATA SHATHRUVU”.

On my own behalf and as a colleague on the Board of The Andhra Sugars Ltd. and on behalf of Andhra Sugars Family, I extend our good wishes to Ramesh Pai on the occasion of his 75th Birthday and wish him success in all his future endeavours and pray God to grant him a long life and greater glory.



DEDICATION AND HARD WORK MADE HIM A SUCCESS

DR. N. MAHALINGAM

Hailing from a family of agriculturists, from Pollachi, Tamil Nadu Dr. N. Mahalingam obtained a Science degree and an Engineering degree and was later conferred Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Science. As a devoted Gandhian he established Sakthi Sugars Ltd. to help the farmers. He came up with innovative schemes in irrigation and power and authored books in English and Tamil. He is Chairman, Sakthi group of industries and lives in Coimbatore, T.N.

I first met Sri. Ramesh Pai in 1955 when Hon'ble Sri C. Subramaniam (then Minister for Education and Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu) visited Manipal. Sri. T.A. Pai, a Member of Madras Legislative Assembly was my good friend, and he invited me also to Manipal. Sri. Ramesh Pai made my stay happy and took me to many temples. After a few days stay at Manipal we returned.

The new Medical College which was being started as a self-financing private institution was first of its kind in India. Later an Engineering College was also started. Capitation fee was Rs. 50,000/- for Medical College and Rs. 20,000/- for Engineering College. Under Dr. T.M.A. Pai's guidance, Sri. Ramesh Pai worked hard to make Manipal an International Centre.

When Sri. T. A. Pai became Chairman of L.I.C., Sri.

Ramesh Pai and myself used to meet in the Southern Regional Advisory Committee of L.I.C.

I used to travel extensively due to work connected with my industry and I happened to meet Sri. Ramesh Pai on many occasions and kept track of the developments at Manipal. Whenever I sent students to Manipal for admission, he was able to accommodate them.

Sri. Ramesh Pai consulted me about starting a Sugar Factory at Manipal, around 1970. I visited Manipal, studied the area and found that sufficient water was not available in the river for more than six months to sustain sugarcane crop throughout the year. I advised against starting a sugar factory in Manipal area.

I invited Dr. T.M.A. Pai to N.G.M. College at Pollachi and Sri. Ramesh Pai accompanied his uncle. Between 1962 and 1975 Sri. C. Subramaniam was at Delhi as the Minister for Steel and Industry, later as Minister for Food and Agriculture. Sri. T. A. Pai was M.P. and later Minister for Industry.

When the Government of India nationalized the 14 leading banks in 1969, Syndicate Bank promoted and nourished by Pairs was one of them. With the compensation paid by Government to the Syndicate Bank Ltd., Sri. Ramesh Pai had been clever enough to change the name and style as "Industrial Credit and Development Syndicate" which has emerged as one of the outstanding non-banking finance companies of the country.

When he was building "Manipal Complex" (office cum shopping complex) in Bangalore City he advised me to take up accommodation for my Bangalore business. We did not accept the suggestion and we missed the beautiful

place which is a good complex in Bangalore.

Sri. Ramesh Pai is a great Rotarian and I am also a Rotarian at Madras Club. We used to meet in many clubs. I did not take up further responsibility in the Rotary Club than being a member, but Sri. Ramesh Pai worked hard and became a Governor and did commendable work. He has used his foreign visits to develop Manipal.

Sri. T. A. Pai was a pleasant idealist and it was his younger brother Sri. Ramesh Pai who made many of his ventures successful. During Dr. T.M.A. Pai's and Sri. T.A. Pai's time Sri. Ramesh Pai always did his duties in Manipal. It was only later he shone on his own and made Manipal a great world educational centre.

Sri. Ramesh Pai told me about rubberized coir industry and has made it a great success. He has been a very hard working gentleman; whatever he touched turned into gold.

I am proud to say that I am happy to have known Sri. Ramesh Pai from 1955 and he has been a good friend for a long time. His sincerity, good family, contact with many people in different areas have made him successful.

Let me offer my greetings to Sri. T. Ramesh Pai and his wife Smt. Shanti Pai, a devoted hostess. I congratulate the members of his family who are bringing out a volume in honour of his 75th year of birth.



HIS PROGRESSIVE ORIENTATION

K.L. CHUGH

Mr. Kishen Lal Chugh was the Chairman of ITC Limited based at Virginia House, Chowringhee, Calcutta.

It has been a great privilege for me to know Rmesh Pai over the past years, particularly on account of our association with Manipal.

Like T. A. Pai, the present patriarch of the well-known Pai family, Mr. T. Ramesh U.Pai, has carved a distinct niche for himself in the annals of history through the glorious growth of the Manipal Group of Institutions. He shares certain family traits with his uncle, brothers and cousins in terms of a spirit of enterprise, a progressive orientation, a good application to work and refusal to admit defeat. Ramesh Pai has been a 'continuity to the Philosophy' of the founder of Manipal in that "all well-conceived ideas implemented with great dedication, devotion and dynamism get people's support and co-operation".

In the last decade, he has provided a keen leadership in the diverse fields of education, healthcare, finance, industry and community service. His sense of humour and human values has endeared him to one and all.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the ITC Group, I extend wellwishes to Ramesh Pai on his 70th birthday. May this occasion bring a new dawn to the recent past such that the Pairs of Manipal can continue to be emulated in the Indian social development context. As phi-

losophers, humanitarians, visionaries and educators they have indeed been a testimony to the power of self-regeneration ingrained in the traditional society of our country.



THE BEST IDEALS OF ROTARY

M.V. ARUNACHALAM

Late M.V.Arunachalam was the Chairman, EID Parry (India) Limited., Chennai.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Ramesh Pai for the last several decades. We were Governors in our respective Rotary Districts in the year 1970-71. Ramesh was the Charter Secretary of the Rotary Club of Udupi when it was established in 1958 and the late Dr. T.M.A.Pai, uncle of Ramesh, was the Charter President. Ramesh's life and work exemplified the best ideals of Rotary and it is no wonder he rose to be Rotary International Director during the years 1992-94.

The Pairs of Manipal have become a legend. Ramesh continued the good work of his uncle, the late Dr. T.M.A Pai and his brother, Mr. T.A Pai in not only establishing but also running, very efficiently, a number of educational institutions in medicine, law and management. The services of the Pai family of converting a rocky place on the West Coast, which was barren, into a veritable centre of excellence in higher learning in medicine, engineering, law and education are indeed commendable. The industrial and financial institutions, with which Ramesh has been associated, have continued to prosper and grow, thanks to his leadership. I have always felt that Ramesh has held that leadership does not confer rank but entails responsibility. He has been diligent in the discharge of such responsibility. He has been fortunate in having the

unstinted support of his wife, Shanti.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish him many more years of health, happiness and prosperity.



RAMESH PAI – A LIGHT HOUSE OF SERVICE

M. P. VEERENDRAKUMAR

Mr Veerendrakumar is presently the Chairman & Managing Director of Matrubhumi Printing and Publishing Company Ltd. He was formerly the Minister of State for Finance, Govt. of India and also the Minister of State for Labour, Govt. of India. He was also the former Chairman, PTI. He published many books in Malayalam and received several awards.

It is rarely found that a person born with a silver spoon in his mouth taking interest in Social Service by birth. The Pai Family in Manipal has transformed the bald hilly land of Manipal into a big city having International Standards and the leader among them Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai has accepted in mind and soul, "Social Service" as his life objective. There is no field which he has not entered and all his ventures have come out in flying colours.

He is the genius who ventured in the field of Education, Health, Banking, Finance, Business, etc. and worked with dedication and made the world know that there is no shortcut on the way to success. He could connect his work with Social Service with his superb work style and approachability. This is the reason why he became a rare personality in the society. He is a great example of hard work, punctuality, humane and helping nature.

He took special interest in finding out and encouraging every person whom he comes across. He whole-heartedly

believed that poverty should not be an obstacle for education. Many poor people have reached good positions in life only with the kind help of Mr. Ramesh Pai. His institutions created lasting impression on people and his public ventures have given him a bright image in the society.

Though he is interested in the growth of private sector, he strongly believes that their activities should uphold public interests. This view is hardly seen in many of those who venture in public sector. According to him education should not be a monopoly of the state.

He is the man behind the famous MANIPAL CENTRE, now a landmark in Bangalore,

He continues to be as active as a youth even at the age of 75. His ability and punctuality would impress anybody. He mingles with all, irrespective of caste and creed, rich and poor and he does whatever he can to those who seek help from him. His simplicity, morality and character are praiseworthy. He stands like a beacon in social service.



A KARMA YOGI

DR. H. V. HANDE

Dr. H. V. Hande is a well-known medical practitioner in Chennai. He later became the Minister for Health in MGR's cabinet in 1980 and again in 1984. He received the prestigious B. C. Roy Award in 1985 for his work in the field of health. He is a prolific writer and rendered in English prose the Tamil epic Kamba Ramayanam for the first time.

Mr. T. Ramesh Pai will be completing his 75 years on October 22, 1999.

As an old student of late lamented Rajaji, I have always had great admiration for Mr. T. RAMESH PAI. Rajaji used to constantly tell us that the progress of the country rested in the hands of indefatigable workers, like Ramesh Pai, who slogged for the country's advancement in the economic field and worked hard to make the corporate sector a success in the global scenario. All that Rajaji wanted from politicians was that they did not hamper the work or dampen the spirit of persons like Mr. Ramesh Pai. It is only centers of excellence like the edifice in Manipal, Institute of Pilani, Tata Institute of Science in Bangalore, Rabindranath Tagore's Shantiniketan, Pandit Madan Mohan Malavya's Benares Hindu University, Kulapathi K.M. Munshi's Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and several other institutions started by great visionaries which have brought laurels to our country.

Inspired by the late lamented Dr. T. Madhava Pai, Mr. Ramesh Pai has been continuously working towards giving material shape to several of the projects conceived by the former.

Razor like intellect, pragmatism, innovative ideas, capacity to put succinctly with ease thoughts that elude our comprehension, suave manners, courteousness, sharing the concern of colleagues and preparing himself as a Karma yogi – these are all special characteristics which one can instantly spot in Mr. Ramesh Pai.

I have no doubt in my mind that if only we have many more persons of the like of Mr. Ramesh Pai, India would grow into an economically strong nation, provided of course, as Rajaji felt, they are allowed to function with freedom by my political colleagues.

My sincere prayer to God is that the country should have the active services of Mr. T. Ramesh Pai for many more years.



RAMESH PAI – THE INCOMPARABLE MAN

GEN. S. F. RODRIGUES, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)

General S. F. Rodrigues retired as Chief of Army Staff in 1993. He was also Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee, India. He was honoured with PVSM and VSM, the highest military honours for distinguished service. He lives in Goa. He is connected with Goa Planning Board and several other institutions there.

When I try to give an assessment of Ramesh Pai, the first phrase that comes to mind is that he, of all the people that I have met in a very varied life, can best be called a Renaissance Man. We have our quote of visionaries, Gandhians, social activists, philanthropists, business men and bankers, but I cannot bring to mind anyone else who is all of these and more and who yet brings to his life a humility and caring attitude that all of us would do well to emulate.

In these trying times, when, as a nation and as a people, we are striving desperately to establish an identity, and to evolve a value system that we can take pride in, Ramesh Pai epitomizes the ideal Indian. It is fatuous to list out his achievements and invidious to invite comparisons, for Ramesh Pai stands alone, as an Indian and as a caring human being. May I suggest that such people are ageless. They bring joy and pride to our people and serve as role models to be followed. God knows that our benighted Nation has little enough to take joy in and I can only hope and pray that more people follow in Mr. Ramesh Pai's footsteps and match his example.



STRIKING SIMPLICITY AND HUMILITY

A.B.DATAR

Mr. A.B. Datar I A S (Retd) is a former Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka.

It is indeed difficult to write about a multi-faceted personality like Mr. T Ramesh Pai. His achievements have been in so many different fields that it would be a Herculean task to compress them into a short personal assessment of his outstanding personality. He has excelled in many walks-of-life: education, finance, real estate, rotary and medical services to name only a few. He has continued the illustrious traditions of the Pais of Manipal who have, through their various activities over the past few decades, transformed an unknown place like Manipal into a hub of financial and educational activity.

I have had the pleasure of first meeting him when he visited Chickmagalur, as Rotary Governor, Where I was posted as Dy.Commissioner in early 70s. Since then over last quarter of the century we had many occasions to meet and interact. What is striking about this unique person is his utter simplicity and humility, which indeed is a great quality. He wears his many achievements very lightly on his broad shoulders. I wish him many more years of useful work to the society. The country needs many more illustrious sons like him.



RAMESH – A UNIQUE BLEND

C. THOMAS, IAS (Retd.)

Mr. C. Thomas, IAS (Retd.) is a Former Chief Secretary – Govt. of Kerala, Trivandrum.

I am happy to associate myself with the tribute that the friends and admirers of Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai are paying him on the occasion of his seventy-fifty birthday.

Years ago when I was Secretary to the Government of Kerala in charge of the Public Health Engineering Department, I had the privilege of meeting his brother Shri. T.A. Pai of legendary dynamism with a request for a substantial loan for the water-supply schemes of Kerala State. I am glad to state that my request met with a most generous response from Shri. T.A. Pai.

Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai shares with his brother superhuman organizing capacity and dynamic efficiency in all spheres of activities in which they were engaged.

After my retirement from Government Service, I was a Member of the Madras Local Board of the State Bank of India for some years. During the early 1980s, one of the meetings of the Bank's Local Board was held at Manipal. Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai took all the Members of the Board to visit the Medical College to the organization and development of which he had contributed so much of his time and energy and had raised it to the position of one of the foremost Medical Colleges in India. After the visit to the College, Shri. & Shrimati Pai, the generous hosts they are, took us home and gave us a grand breakfast.

Later I had occasion as a Rotarian to meet Shri. Pai when he was Rotary International Director and to listen to his magnificent speeches.

I can confidently state that in the character of Shri. T. Ramesh Pai, dynamism and personal charm are blended in equal measure. I pray that he may be granted many more years of good health and energy so that he may continue to serve the community with his outstanding qualities.



RAMESH – ONE MAN BUT MANY QUALITIES

DR. P. C. THOMAS

Dr. P. C. Thomas is an educationist and founder of the reputed Good Shepherd Public School, Ootacamund. He was the District Governor of Rotary Dist. 3200 during 1987-88. He received several awards both in educational field and Rotary. He lives in Ooty.

Mr. Ramesh Pai to me is a close friend, a guide, philosopher and an outstanding personality. He was a successful entrepreneur and organizer who nurtured private educational institutions, finance, real estate, medical services, etc. and also pioneered in the Rotary movement. He is a model statesman and social worker. Though excellent in all he touched, he is yet unassuming and simple. His ideas and plans are for the well-being of the society and are worthy of emulation.

The multifarious involvement saw Ramesh through the thick of activities in various fields. Yet, his time management skills stood by him to help dedicate his attention to all that he undertook and in bringing out the best in them. He is well organized and manages his and the time of the people around him judiciously, setting the priorities.

His yeomen services in education, industry and finance saw Manipal emerging as an integrated growth and development centre in these fields. His visionary contribution coupled with his integrity and dependability, have been significant in the transformation of Manipal to its present

legendary status.

As a Rotarian, I have found him an inspiring personality with relentless drive. As a Governor of Rotary District and then as a Director of Rotary International, his involvement and commitment to the cause was total and the call to the service was effectively fulfilled. His achievements in the field of industry and education and dedication to Rotary movement have been a source of inspiration and motivation to those who knew him and closely worked with him. His awe-inspiring but pleasant disposition along with his continuous commendable contribution to serve the community and humanity at large makes him a man of great reverence. Indeed a friend in need, he does his best to make the world around him a happy place to live in, making all around him comfortable with his gentle manners and good deeds.

I pray God to bestow him with a long, healthy and happy life.



A WARM-HEARTED HUMAN

S.J. COELHO

Mr. S.J. Coelho IAS (Retd) has had a distinguished career and is widely respected for his contribution in the industrial development of the State of Gujarat. He has held several senior positions both in the Government of Gujarat and in the Government of India. He now lives in Bangalore and is connected with public causes.

Mr. Ramesh Pai has contributed immensely in the field of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance. Words cannot adequately describe or assess the contribution. The institutions which he has fostered and built with loving care, dedication and commitment will always stand as lasting and monumental tribute to his foresight and leadership.

It is Ramesh Pai as a man who draws out respect and admiration of all those around him. As a friend and well-wisher, Mr. Pai has extended a helping hand to those around him and always with a smile. The depth of his friendliness, the spontaneous gestures of goodwill, understanding and graciousness will always characterise him as a warm hearted human-being, a model for others to emulate and follow.



RAMESH PAI – A MAN OF VISION

K. NARAYANAN, IAS (Retd.)

Mr. K. Narayanan is a retired IAS officer from Kannur, Kerala. Presently he is the Chairman of the Expert Committee of the Kannur Municipality.

My heartfelt felicitation to Sri. T. Ramesh U. Pai who is completing 75 years of his eventful and dynamic life on 2nd October, 1999.

I have personal and intimate association with Sri. Ramesh Pai officially when I was the District Collector and District Magistrate of Kasargod District and otherwise after my retirement. Mr. Ramesh Pai tried his best to start a new industry in Kasargod – a backward and ‘no industry’ District. When I was the District Collector there I encouraged him promising all possible help and started ground work with a view to begin industrialisation in that industrially backward area. But for some reason or other it could not be pushed through. Now his Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation Ltd., the Finance Company extends its services all over Kerala.

Mr. Ramesh Pai is a man of great vision and endeavours to see his ideas realised at his best. His activities embraced all aspects of human life. From Nursery Schools to Universities, Financial Institutions and Banks, Hospitals and Medical and Engineering Colleges, Social and Religious Organisations all come under his patronage. His dedicated work closely associated with his uncle Dr.

T.M.A. Pai for founding Kasturba Medical College and Hospital at Manipal was legendary. The Kasturba Hospital renders its services not only for the people of Dakshina Kannada but also to the people of the rest of South India. Most of the people who go to the medical College Hospital for treatment are from the Malabar Area and they normally go by train reaching Mangalore railway station early morning. In order to mitigate the hardships caused to them for getting proper and timely transport to the bus stand, Mr. Ramesh Pai had suggested personally to me while I was working as District Collector to introduce bus services direct from the Mangalore railway station to Manipal Hospital and back. I took up the matter with the Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada and direct services were introduced accordingly and I understand that the buses are still plying.

After retirement from service, I had occasion to visit the various institutions including the Manipal Industrial Trust run by the Pai's Family at Manipal where Mr. Ramesh Pai was closely associated. Mr. Ramesh Pai had taken very keen interest in the matter of medical education and health care and promoting family planning and I had occasion to visit a free medical camp at Shimoga. In the field of agriculture, with his active participation large extent of dry lands were converted into paddy yielding areas by providing irrigation facilities applying modern technology and I had occasion to visit some of the nurseries run by the Institution.

The general public especially those in Dakshina Kannada consider Mr. Ramesh Pai in such high esteem that they are confident that their investment will be safely and properly looked after by him and so much so they take it as a credit to be shareholders in the financial and other insti-

tutions sponsored and nourished by him.

I had the opportunity to be the host for Mrs. Shanti Pai when she came to Cannanore in connection with the inauguration of the Branch office of the Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation at Cannanore since Mr. Ramesh Pai had to be unavoidably away from the country in connection with an urgent mission abroad. Devoted wife as she is, she had been giving full support and inspires Mr. Pai in all his activities and helps Mr. Ramesh Pai in discharging the duties in his absence. She is religious in its true sense and spirits. This gives them peace of mind and strength to go forward with their social and financial endeavours.

I wish them long life and good health to enable them to carry on their great activities.



PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES

K. R. SHENAI, IPS (Retd.)

Mr K R Shenai served in Royal Indian Air Force and Royal Indian Navy before joining IPS cadre in old Madras Presidency. He was the DGP, Tamil Nadu in 1980. He received the Indian Police Medal and President's Police Medal for distinguished services. He lives in Chennai.

Although I have been given several assessments in my long career, none has been for a person of Ramesh Pai's standing and stature.

In the closing days of 1990, my wife and I were privileged to be your guests at Manipal to receive the prestigious Academy Award on 1.1.1991. As we woke up that morning, we were surprised to see Ramesh Pai himself waiting for us. He took us round your Campus explaining the work of each Institution briefly but with great affection.

This special courtesy he extended to one of your hardly special invitees showed the man's greatness and we forthwith realised how he has come to gain his eminent position in education and administration. Mr. Ramesh Pai practices what he preaches.

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STANDS TALL AS A VISIONARY

R.PRABHAKAR RAO

Mr. R Prabhakar Rao is a retired officer of the Indian Police Service as D.G.P and is settled in Hyderabad , Andhra Pradesh.

Even with people like me who have met him only a few times, Sri Ramesh Pai establishes an unforgettable rapport. There is an instant and direct communication of his immense energy, consuming zeal and transparent sincerity of purpose. These are the qualities which have inspired so much confidence in his leadership in fields of Banking, Finance and Industry and made him a pioneer who guided the course of development of financing sector after the Nationalisation of Banks. His efforts in providing quality education and medicare of world standard again broke new paths winning innumerable admirers, grateful patients and brilliant students.

In the true spirit of a Karmayogi he utilised his talents and immense goodwill for community service.

As events have shown he was way ahead of his times and his mottos have become today's buzzword for entrepreneurship and management. He had courage and vision to tread the path of initiative, innovation – for a long time all alone. Many have subsequently flattered him by following the trail blazed by him in these fields. He stands tall as a visionary.

At 75, he has his best year of leadership yet to give to our society. May we have the wisdom to utilize the same!



EXCELLENT IN TIME – MANAGEMENT

H.J.DORA

Mr. H.J.Dora, I.P.S. is the D.G.P, Andhra Pradesh.

I have known him (Ramesh U Pai) for the past few years and found him to be extremely humane and warm hearted person. What impressed me most was his excellent time management on any day. I had been to Manipal twice and both the times I could see how perfectly organised he was. There were several VIPs, each time, when I went to Manipal and Sri Ramesh Pai organised their itinerary, joined them on certain occasions and then saw that they were taken round by different people without any waste of time.

Unless a person is well organised and has clarity of thought, the priorities cannot be properly set. A successful person is one, who has this clarity and can organise his day properly, so that his time as well as others' time is not wasted. This is something which others should emulate and become successful. I pray God for many more happy years of service for Sri & Smt. T.Ramesh U Pai.

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HIS MONUMENTAL PROJECTS

B.MACHANDER RAO

*Mr. B. Machander Roa is Ex. M.L.A. living in Secunderabad.
He was also previously a Director of Syndicate Bank.*

Shri Ramesh U Pai is known to me personally since decades. I found him to be an eminent banker, a reputed industrialist, a renowned educationist and a great contributor in the field of Medicine. He has done valuable service to the needy people. His services are always appreciated and recognised by one and all. He started Engineering College, Medical College and other Educational Institutions. His contributions in the Medical field are immeasurable. He is one of the main founders of Kasturba Medical College and Hospital which are doing a great service to the people.

All the projects have become a monument which will be remembered in this world always.



HIS KEEN INTEREST IN SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

VASANTRAO S. DEMPO

Mr. Vasant Rao S. Dempo was Chairman, Dempo Group of Companies and headquartered at Dempo House, Panjim, Goa.

When I think about Mr. Ramesh Pai, thoughts regarding his multifarious activities dominate my mind. Nerve-centre of these activities is at well-known Manipal, which is combination of great centres of learning, ultra-modern medical facilities, Banking and Finance, Industry, Social Service, etc. This unique complex is very well managed under Mr. Pai's able and foresighted leadership.

Manipal, which was originally a rocky land, was systematically transformed into a place of learning by the great visionary Dr. T.M.A Pai. In fact, visiting Manipal Complex of Educational Institutions which is a mini-university, is like accomplishing a sojourn to an inspiring place of temples of learning which has produced men of eminence, who have been serving with distinction in their respective fields of activity within India and outside.

Managing the Academy of General Education and its institutions is really a monumental task. The magnitude of this work, planned efforts made and the amount of pains taken by the devoted band of untiring worthy colleagues led by Mr. Ramesh Pai are certainly commendable. One has to see to believe this. Spreading knowledge through private institutions in addition to governmental efforts is

essential in a developing country like ours.

Continuous flow of ailing persons from various parts of the country to Manipal to avail of specialised medical care is the testimony of how meticulous Mr. Pai's devoted colleagues and well managed set-up are in extending such required facilities with expertise and sympathetic touch which provide solace to hundreds of beneficiaries. It has become a most reliable place for availing of best medical services provided there.

Banking and Financing activities managed under his guidance are another best example of efficiency with which Mr. Pai's organisation of talented men have excelled in their performance so as to ensure the place of prominence to the respective institutions.

Industrial activities undertaken by Mr. Pai's group, their objective of and fulfilling social responsibilities and equipping people to face the emerging challenges are certainly laudable. Their performance in every sphere speaks for Mr. Ramesh Pai's wisdom and foresight.

It is happy augury to observe Mr. Pai's active participation in community service programmes and keen interest that he takes in Rotary Movement, Dr. T M A Foundation's socio-cultural activities and other community services.

The Vidyadhiraj Award for the year 1992 given to him by His Holiness Shrimad Vidyadhiraj Teerth Shripad Vader Swamiji of Shri Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Mutt, in recognition of his meritorious services to society in socio-economic, industrial and educational field was indeed a well deserved honour to a person of Mr. Ramesh Pai's stature.



RAMESH PAI

K.K. PAI

Mr. K. K. Pai, a distinguished banker, was Chairman and Managing Director of Syndicate Bank for many years. He is presently connected with several financial and educational institutions in Manipal and elsewhere in Dakshina Kannada. He is also on the Board of Directors of several important Corporates. The following article has been extracted, with his prior permission, from a foreword written by him in 1989 for a book on Mr. Ramesh Pai.

“India lives in villages”, said Mahatma Gandhi, and late Dr.T.M.A. Pai realised its significance and embarked on building up nearby Manipal village. Poverty and illiteracy were the chronic problems of the country and Dr.T.M.A. Pai started Syndicate Bank Ltd., and felt that to remove illiteracy, promotion of education was quite essential. To improve the living conditions of the people, he started 33 educational institutions and five financial institutions during his lifetime and made Manipal a University Township. On his demise in 1979 his nephew Sri. T. Ramesh U. Pai automatically became his successor because of his great leadership qualities which he has already showed during the life time of Dr. T.M.A Pai. Sri. Ramesh Pai is a man of immense patience, kindness, dynamism and above all he takes keen interest in introducing the latest Scientific methods and technology in the working of the Institutions of Manipal. Sri. Ramesh Pai is the Chairman and Managing Director of many Financial Institutions like the I.C. & D.S. Ltd., M.F.C. Ltd and President of many Educational Institutions like Dr.T.M.A. Pai Foundation.

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SRI. T. RAMESH U. PAI - 75

G. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

Mr. G. Lakshminarayanan, M.A., CAIIB, is a former Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Bank, Chennai. He was also the Vice President, Indian Banks' Association and Director, HMT Ltd., Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India and United Asian Bank, Berhad, Kuala Lumpur. He lives in Chennai.

It is a pleasure to hail Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai. The "Pai Brothers", Shri T. Anantha Pai and Shri T. Ramesh U. Pai – sons of Shri. Upendra Pai and nephews of Dr. Madhava Pai- are a legend. Even when Anantha Pai was in his teens, his School Master hailed him as a "Darling of Destiny". No prophecy could have been truer. Ramesh Pai was Anantha Pai's mate in the best sense of the term. Ramesh forged ahead to dizzy heights in the world of finance and industry, profoundly matched by involvement in public welfare.

Ramesh threw himself heart and soul in Rotary International movement, adorned the highest of offices in Rotary International. He became an international celebrity. Ramesh and his gracious wife Shanthi have travelled the world over, ever so extensively and ever so often, They became an illustrious Indian couple. In fact, on one of his visits to USA, Ramesh was struck alarmingly by heart ailment. He discarded medical advice and stayed on to complete his commitments, flew back to India and underwent surgery at the Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Manipal, the

institution in the making of which he had played such a magnificent part.

My wife and I first met Ramesh and Shanthi in Singapore in the year 1953. Our love and regard for them have grown ever since then.

May Ramesh and Shanthi – in the fullness of health and happiness – ever continue to serve humanity for years and years, for years and years!



HE IS A VIDWAN, A UNIVERSITY IN HIMSELF

K. MANMOHAN SHENOY

Late Manmohan Shenoy was a former Chairman, UCO Bank.

As I pin down myself to pen down what I feel about Ramesh Bhavaji (as I affectionately call him) I recall the famous words of Shakespæare:

“Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them”. And here is Ramesh Bhavaji who is a living example of having achieved the greatness in his own imaginative way.

It was in 1953 when I was just taking my first step to the long corridors of legal profession in the office of his father-in-law, Shri B. Vaikunta Baliga, that I met Ramesh Bhavaji. At the time he was a modest humble and shy young person but his glittering eyes exhibited the make of a model man. With the passing of time and acquisition of name and fame, he shed his shyness but retained his humility and modesty.

Shortly thereafter I had an occasion to stay in their house “Chitrakala Mansions” where I met his father Shri Upendra Ananth Pai who was an embodiment of simplicity and sincerity. Under the able and efficient guidance of his uncle Dr. T.M.A Pai, Ramesh Bhavaji imbibed all the noble qualities of these great men and perfected himself in radiating the virtues of his sincerity, capacity, abil-

ity, sagacity, integrity and ingenuity all throughout his life. He had a rare acumen of combining the oratorical skills of his father-in-law, Shri Baliga, simplicity of his father Shri U A Pai and the dynamism of his uncle Dr. T.M.A Pai. True to the saying "A pessimist is one who sees problems in the opportunities and an optimist is one who sees opportunities in problems". Ramesh Bhavaji saw plenty of opportunities in every problem that he came across and converted he same into an ever cherishable project of his dream world. Perhaps this quality in him enabled Ramesh Bhavaji to take from Dr. T.M.A Pai the mantle of expanding the ever growing educational institutions of South Kanara.

Behind this towering strength of insatiable passion and dynamism for achieving the best in everything he undertook, Ramesh Bhavaji had a noble heart and mind to the suffering. He regularly visited the Kasturba Hospital to bring cheer to the in-patients of the hospital. As a Rotarian he rose from President of the Club to the Governor of the District only to become an international office-bearer.

His contribution to the growth of financial institutions, educational institutions as well as philanthropic outlets in and around Manipal is exemplary. I can only consider Ramesh Bhavaji as a university in himself as in these five decades of his march to success he had become a versatile man, an educationist, a financial wizard, an industrialist an astute businessman and above all a noble social worker.

Nothing is new to know the secret of Ramesh Bhavaji becoming an international figure because: 'Vidwan Sarvathra Pujyathe' and I have no hesitation in calling Ramesh Bhavaji a Vidwan.

As the saying goes, behind every great man stands a great

woman and in this case it is Smt Shanthi R.Pai (I call her Parvathi – in her maiden name) and they were complementary in all their activities. Ramesh Bhavaji owes much to her for what he is today and every person who has met this couple only say “They are made for each other”. By harmonising the intellect, intuition, emotion and action, Ramesh Bhavaji has attained a star studded place in the galaxy of Sons of South Kanara and who will ever remain a cherishable role-model for many youngsters. Oldest living persons may not be able to recall the likes of Ramesh Bhavaji, the youngest, however long he may live, may not be able to meet the likes of Ramesh Bhavaji.



GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION

G. V. RAO

Mr.G.V. Rao, after a brilliant Engineering and Management qualifications occupied senior management positions, and joined UNESCO in 1981. He retired as Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Paris.

Shri Ramesh Pai has contributed so much for promoting the growth of education from the School Level to the University Level. As a retired Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Paris, I have appreciated his contribution to Education and improvement of literacy in the rural areas of India.

History will remember him not only in South and North Kanara Districts of South India – but all over our country.

In the twilight years of his life, we wish him long life and good health.



NOBLE, FRIENDLY, AFFECTIONATE

T.H. CHOWDARY

Mr. T. Hanuman Chowdary, after a degree in Telecommunications Engineering, worked in Government of India Service for 37 years. After successfully completing Senior management level assignments he retired as the Chairman and Managing Director of V.S.N.L., India's Overseas Telecom Corporation. He held many international responsibilities also. He occupied a number of high positions related to professional and public activities. Among the latter, Chairman of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Hyderabad is notable. He is a consultant to several leading organisations and was made Advisor to Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1997 for Information Technology. He was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Honaris Causa) by the Jawaharlal Technological University for his achievements in Telecommunications and Information Technology. He lives in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

It was in 1971 that I met Sri Ramesh U. Pai at the instance of the late Mrs. A.V. Baliga, in Bombay. My son was to join the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. Dr. Baliga was my mentor in the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society. Smt. Baliga spoke highly of Sri Ramesh bhai. The first impression I got was that Ramesh Pai had Sri Rama's noble quality of being "PURVABHASHI" the first to converse. That puts you at ease; that indicated the modesty and friendliness of the person, to one and all. I was the Deputy General Manager of Bombay Telephones in 1971. He invited

me to visit Manipal – not merely to admit my son but to see the educational institutions, to understand how private initiative and enterprise could be beneficial to society and of course, to oneself too.

When I went to Manipal, he and his wife Shantiji invited me and my student son to their home. Smt Shanti Pai was and ofcourse is as noble, friendly and affectionate as Sri Ramesh Pai. They told my son that he could be deemed to be a member of their extended family and advised him to come upto the expectations not only of his parents but that of Dr. T.M.A.Pai, the visionary educator and institution-builder. I was happy to report later to Sri Rameshji and his noble wife that my son Dr. Prabhakar did his M S in Pune and together with his doctor wife, Bharathi, had set up his own Nursing Home in the most back-ward district town of Mehboobnagar and that they are doing well and are thought of well, having given direct employment to 60 and treating, healing and curing thousands of the ailing and stricken. The Pais were immensely happy to learn of it. I could see how satisfied they were that one of their boys has come upto their expectations.

In 1992, Shri Ramesh Pai and Dr. Alladi Prabhakar, the Principal, invited me to deliver the convocation address to the Manipal Institute of Technology. My wife had met Rameshbhai but was always eager to see the famous Vidyakshetra (place of learning), Manipal. My 8 years young grandson, Aditya, Dr. Prabhakar's son learning that we would go to Manipal, where his father studied, insistently wished to come there. Shri

Ramesh Pai and his wife Shantaji were delighted to see the inquisitive child of their product.

On the day of our departure at breakfast Aditya told

Rameshbhai, "Sir! My grandfather was busy. He did not show me the class rooms and labs where my father studied". Rameshbhai immediately took the boy and us around the entire campus and township and showed the Anatomy Museum, himself explaining several exhibits to the eight year old! What affection, what patience and what mission to inspire the inquisitive! We were surprised but knew that it was affirmation of Rameshbhai's real commitment to arouse and nurse excellence. What is more ! The 8-year old boldly and matter-of-factly said "Sir! I also want to study here". Then Rameshbhaiji told him "Babu ! You must get over 80% marks to get admission. Study well and you will come here". The child said, "I will". And what magic this conversation, this advice and assurance is having on the child! On return he has become more studious. He told his father "Daddy! I got a seat in the Medical College in which you studied. I have to get 80% and Ramesh Pai Sir told me I could be there."

Besides the convocation address, he asked me to speak to the Rotary Club. I spoke on the subject which is dear to him and conforms to his ideas – demonopolisation of and competition in telecom, which would allow private sector to develop the telephone system and enable subscribers to be customers and get liberated from monopoly's abuses.

These incidents, I have narrated to many. My regard for this family of Pais is great. They have demonstrated the triumph of convictions and faith in private initiative for promoting social good and welfare. The same spirit that built up the educational institutions which are not only all-India in character but are, of late attracting students from foreign lands, has also founded a string of successful commercial enterprises- the best printing press, and beneficial financial institutions. While ideas may spring in one

person their realisation requires several associates who are as dedicated and actually more capable even. Sri Ramesh Pai and his wife Smt.Shanti Pai are examples of Bharatiya Culture who could live in and demonstrate the thought VASUDAIVA KUTUMBAKAM, the whole world is one family. They are of noble culture, Arya in behaviour and a delight to converse with. His enthusiasm is infectious. His optimism elevates. Rameshji and Shantabehen would be looked upon as dear, caring and benign persons. May God give them a long, healthy, happy, tranquil life of more and more achievements in the service of society.



HE DEVELOPED NEW INSTITUTIONS AND DEPARTMENTS

B.U. NAYAK

Dr. B.U.Nayak was Deputy Director and Head of Ocean Engineering Division, National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, and is presently Director of Central Power & Water Research Station, Khadakvasla , Pune.

I would like to touch upon only a few aspects of Ramesh Pai's personality which impressed me most. I find him very large-hearted, humanistic in approach and unassuming in behavior. From early morning when he entertains visitors at breakfast until late in the night, Ramesh Pai has continuous and diverse programmes. I have great admiration towards Ramesh Pai at his punctuality, patience, indomitable will power, love, ability to handle all types of problems associated with diverse fields such as education, finance, banking, industry and community service with a cool and balanced mind.

To me, Ramesh Pai is a great human who has extended his helping hand whenever I was in difficulty. Coming from an extremely poor family, I had the great privilege and good fortune of having my education from the primary level to Bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Manipal and then start my career as a teacher at Manipal Engineering College, for about 8 years. Ramesh Pai has always been very kind to me and helped me every time I have approached him. Because of his encouragement I could go to Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for my

M.E. degree and then to University of Hawaii, Honolulu from my postgraduate studies leading to Ph.D. degree under an U.S. Fellowship Grant.

Each time I visit Manipal, I get thrilled and filled with great joy and pride, being fortunate of watching Manipal being converted from a barren unproductive land to a booming centre of excellence in education in diverse fields, healthcare, banking and financial services. We should all be proud that after Dr. T.M.A. Pai, the Founding Father of Manipal, Shri T. Ramesh Pai shouldered the responsibility of not only efficiently managing all the Institutions founded by his uncle, Dr. Pai, but also in developing new and innovative institutions and departments which ultimately led to the recognition of Manipal educational campus as a deemed university. Leadership and entrepreneurship set in action by Dr. T.M.A. Pai in Manipal, enhanced by Shri T. Ramesh Pai and others in the Pai family has made Manipal a shining star on the World Map of today.

My wholehearted prayer is “May the Lord Almighty bless Ramesh Pai and his wife Shanti with many more years of healthy, happy and active life.” Ramesh Pai’s devoted and loving wife Shanti who has stood by him steadfastly would indeed deserve full credit for the success of her beloved husband.



THERE IS A BIGGER SPIRITUAL MAN IN HIM

DATUK DR. MOHAN SWAMI

Datuk Dr. Mohan Swami a Malaysian, is a qualified medical doctor and lives in Kuala Lumpur. His outstanding services were recognised by WHO in Malaria Control. He rose to eminence in the Corporate Sector also and heads a number of commercial organisations. In 1999 he was appointed as Honorary Consul for the Republic of Botswana in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Ramesh Pai whom I fondly remember as 'Uncle' was exposed to me when I was a student at KMC from 1970-1977. After a lapse of nearly twenty years – I came in contact once again when he came as the Chief Guest of the Manipal Alumni Association Dinner at Penang.

He was the role model for many a student at the Campus during my time. If Dr. TMA Pai caused Manipal to be what it is today, then Mr. Ramesh Pai was one of the prime architects, planners and implementers. Along with his good and dutiful spouse, they traversed the Campus in all directions by car or by foot with the same grit, humility and determination that he still exuberates.

I'm proud to be associated with him and his family in many ways. He serves as an Advisor to our Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust Medical College at Dehra Dun (founded of my Gurudev, His Holiness Dr. Swami Rama of the Himalayas).

Mr. Ramesh Pai is a selfless and courageous person. His duty to his country knows no bounds. He has contributed continuously to society what many others could not achieve in their lifetime. I admire the man, the human and the brother in Mr. Ramesh Pai. I need not say much about his vision and business acumen. But more than material wealth is his passion for spiritual growth, of not only himself, but also the people around him.

To many of us, he and his family exists as a friend who can be depended upon at any time. May there be many more Ramesh Pai's in India and the world over.



A PRACTITIONER OF DESIRELESS ACTION

Dr. B. V. RAMAN

Late Dr. B. V. Raman was the Editor of the Astrological Magazine from Bangalore.

I have the good fortune of knowing Sri T. Ramesh Pai for nearly three decades, ever since the day I lectured at the Manipal Medical College, at the invitation of his revered uncle, late Dr. T. M. A. Pai. I have also shared with Mr. Ramesh Pai, a common platform on one or two occasions.

What impresses me most is his sincerity, love of the motherland, regard for all that is best in our ancient culture and concern for the poor and suffering. His work in the field of efficiently running great educational institutions is well known. As an industrialist, his contribution to the banking and economic growth is also well known.

He appeared to me as a practitioner of Nishkama Karma or desireless action where the individual interests are subordinate to the interests of the society.

Mr. Pai is a rare personality and above all a human being touched by the sufferings of the less fortunate and working for the welfare of the community as a whole.

Mrs. Pai's silent role in enabling Mr. Pai to achieve what he has achieved is equally admirable.

I pray to God to confer on Mr. Ramesh Pai and Mrs. Pai

a long, peaceful and healthy life so as to enable him to continue to serve the cause of the community and the people.



HE DESERVES TO BE HONOURED

T. PARAMESHWAR

Mr. T. Parameshwar was Managing Editor of the Reader's Digest. He is now the Joint Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, founded in 1938 by Kulapati Dr. K. M. Munshi. They are the publishers of Bhavan's Journal, a Gujarati monthly Samarpan and Hindi monthly Navaneet. He is living in Bombay

Both my wife and myself have known Ramesh Pai personally since 1964 when we first met in Manipal. However, our personal relations and friendship continued without our getting involved in any of his business activities and, therefor, it is very difficult for us to write anything sensible about Ramesh Pai's multifarious activities, economic progress etc. The very sight about Manipal and its surroundings today compared to what it was 30 years ago, is the greatest tribute one can pay to Shri Ramesh Pai. He is certainly a great man and a person who deserves to be honoured by Indians all over.



HE HAS FRIENDS IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD

G. VASANTHA PAI

Mr.G Vasantha Pai is Senior Advocate of Supreme Court who lives in Chennai. He was a Member of Madras legislative Council.

Soon after we attained Independence there was a Conference of the E.C.A.F.E. in Aranmore Palace at Ootacamund. I was anxious to hear Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, my childhood hero, who was inaugurating it. After Mahatma Gandhi in rank came Panditji and Sardar Patel. They were national heroes and their love and aspirations exceeded all limits of narrow party feelings. They were freedom fighters with one difference that they never asked anything for themselves. Neither did they encourage the spoil system of Walpole, imported into America by President Andrew Jackson. They held the services in esteem and insisted on their being above party politics.

When I went to Ootacamund and checked into Hotel Dasaprakash I found the names of two other Pais who had checked in before me. That was my first acquaintance of Mr. Anant Pai and Mr. Ramesh Pai. We had a common purpose namely the inauguration of the E.C.A.F.E. and we steered our way to the Aranmore Palace. That was the beginning of a friendship which has lasted these years. Both the brothers were the sons of Mr. T. Upendra Pai direct brother of Dr. T.M.A.Pai, the Founder of Manipal. Mr. T.A.Pai extended this help to

me in the statewide election to the Non-Party Graduate's Constituency to the Madras Legislative Council. He introduced me to a number of members of the Legislature and requested them to support my candidature. Thereafter I met him only on one or two occasions, the last one after he became a Minister and was felicitated in Madras. I also met him after his resignation at the residence of his brother and in a discussion he stood his ground justifying it, though his uncle was not happy that Balakrishna (T.A.Pai) should have resigned from Smt. Indira Gandhi's Cabinet and expressed to me his conviction. Despite the hopes that Shri Sai Baba gave him, Mr. Anant Pai for the first time lost in the General Election and this hastened his death.

I have taken so much time to dwell on his brother to strike a contrast between him and Ramesh – Ramesh was a regular visitor to us after his marriage in 1963 and on no occasion did he come to Madras without looking us up. We were very happy to have him amidst us. What strikes one is the total absence of politics in him and dedicated service in the fields of education, medical care, banking, industry and community service. I cannot dwell on the details except what is in public knowledge. But as a Rotarian his friendship and connections were enormous. From 1971, my wife and I have travelled throughout the world except the North and West Coast of Africa and some neighbouring countries. You have only to give the names of the countries you are visiting and Ramesh will promptly send you a list of his friends and acquaintances who will be helpful to you on your visit to those cities along with copies of his letters to them, on our intended visit. Very often the existence of such friends gave you a sense of security in the countries you visited, and most of them were really helpful.

My wife and I were very glad to hear that Ramesh completed his 75 years on 22nd October 1999. Ramesh has been a most affectionate friend to us. We wish him God-speed and success in all his endeavors.

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A MAN OF ACTION AND DEDICATION

DR. K.K.N. KURUP

Dr. K.K.N. Kurup is the Vice Chancellor, University of Calicut, Kerala. He was the Dean of Arts in the Mangalore University, earlier.

It is stated that History has its march through personalities of action and dedication. Mr. T. Ramesh Pai is one of such personalities who has given dynamic leadership to multifaceted human activities not only in Karnataka but also in other states in India, particularly in the fields of education, medical care, banking and finance, industry and community services. In fact like T.M.A. Pai, the architect of Manipal institutions, Mr. T. Ramesh Pai has been a pioneer and forerunner in many activities, which have a social commitment and mobility towards nation building.

My first contact with this great personality was in 1983, when I was the Dean of Arts in the Mangalore University and as such the member of Academic Council. Mr. Pai was then piloting the cause for the independent status and affiliation for Kasturba Medical College to Mangalore University. I know very well the hardships and difficulties faced by him for this right cause in the promotion of medical education in South Kanara. I am happy to recollect these sweet reminiscences that I had also played my card in favour of the efforts undertaken by Mr. Pai. Later after some years I met him along with His Holiness

Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade, in a seminar at MGM College, Udupi. Then he had easily recognized me and I was introduced to His Holiness. Later also I had some communication with him.

A man like him, who has dedicated his life for the betterment of society and fellow beings provides with a model of service and humility to our generations. When such a personality is completing his 75th year, it is an occasion of joy and happiness for the whole society in which he has designed and executed fruitful experiments and designs in favour of modernity. When he has lived in a traditional social set up, he played the role of a reformer, activist, educationist and industrialist and banker and financier. His noble touch has made many institutions and firms prosperous and committed to a cause.

Finally his role in building up the region of South Kanara into a district renowned all over the world through its medical institutions and other agencies will be ever cherished as a great legacy and tradition.



RAMESH PAI – A RARE PERSONALITY

DR. P.V.S. NAYAK

Dr. P.V.S. Nayak, MD, is a former Professor & Head, Dept. of Dermatology, in Educational Service, Kerala Govt. and Examiner, National Board of Examinations, Govt. of India. He lives in Kottayam.

When I think about Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai, my memory flies back to 1963, when I was just 17. I went to Manipal with my parents to meet Dr. T.M.A. Pai, who is well known to us, seeking help for getting admission for MBBS. During our stay in his house and Academy Guest House, I saw an energetic dynamic young man, having serious discussions with Dr. Pai and others. He was introduced to us by Dr. T.M.A. Pai as his nephew, Mr. Ramesh Pai. Mr. Ramesh Pai just gave us a smile and courteous nod. Next day on our way back to Kerala, while in Mangalore we went to see Shri. Vaikunta Baliga, a leading advocate, politician and speaker of Karnataka Assembly. I again met Shri. Ramesh Pai and Mrs. Shanti Pai there. Mr. A.V. Baliga was going to introduce them to us. I suddenly uttered in Konkani that we have already met him. Shri. Baliga, father-in-law of Mr. Ramesh Pai, just looked at me. I felt embarrassed and thought that I have talked in haste. There was large audience in that room, waiting for Shri. Baliga. I think Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai understood my dilemma. He just came to me with a smile, and patted on my shoulder affectionately. After a month, I joined pre-medical course in Manipal. I was in Manipal and Mangalore for five and a half years. During this tenure I

have met Shri. Ramesh Pai on numerous occasions and had enjoyed the patronage and hospitality of Shri. T. Ramesh Pai and Mrs. Shanti Pai. I used to call them uncle and aunt. I have pestered them on various occasions seeking help for getting admissions for my 2 brothers. Whenever Mr. Ramesh Pai acted seriously, Mrs. Shanti Pai used to console and encourage me. I have no hesitation to say that I myself and my 2 younger brothers became doctors; just because of the kindness and generosity of “Pais of Manipal” . I always remember Dr. T.M.A. Pai, Shri. T.A. Pai, Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai, Dr. Ramdas M. Pai and Shri. K.K. Pai. Subsequently I got married. My wife Dr. Sheela Nayak alias Dr. Chandrakala Bhakata, born and brought up in Manipal, is also an alumni and first lady surgeon of KMC, Manipal. Hence naturally my visits to Manipal became more frequent. My wife and her family has close association with Pai family. Members of Pai family always have a soft corner for us. Occasionally I have exploited this relationship, with their permission.

Now years have passed. I have become older and probably a more mature man. When I think about the past, especially my experiences in Manipal, I feel that it is a very rare chance to come across a man of Shri. T. Ramesh Pai’s calibre, with qualities like honesty, hospitality, kindness, highly achieving, accommodating humble, loyal, loveable and sincere.

I am sure that Smt. Shanti Pai is the beacon and unfailing source of inspiration in the life of Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai. On his 75th birthday, I along with my family with humble privilege wish him long life, further bliss and prosperity in the years to come. I also take this opportunity to register my indebtedness to the great “PAIS OF MANIPAL”



RAMESH U. PAI – SOME RECOLLECTIONS

PROF. C.N. SREEDHARAN

Professor C N Sreedharan is the former Professor of Mathematics and the Head of Department of Continuing Education and student counseling, M.I.T Manipal.

If someone ventures to write an honest and detailed history of South Kanara, last fifty years, he will have to devote a considerable number of pages to Manipal in general and Dr. T.M.A. Pai in particular. While describing the multifaceted personality of Dr. Pai and enumerating his achievements, the silent and dedicated service of another person also will have to be highlighted – that of Sri. Ramesh Pai.

I had the privilege of witnessing the phenomenal growth of Manipal during three and half decades, fairly close, being a member of the cosmopolitan community there. Sri. Ramesh Pai has been its prominent citizen all these years and was a trusted lieutenant of Dr. Pai along with Sri. K.K. Pai and late Sri. T.A. Pai.

When I recollect my association with Sri. Ramesh Pai, official and otherwise, what comes to my mind is his capacity to work hard and the ability to take timely and constructive decision. No wonder he steadily reaches the commanding positions, often becoming more equal even among equals. He takes care to practice what he preaches, using “yes” and “no” only in their practical and ethical dimensions. This nature of his does not contribute to popularity these days, but Sri. Ramesh Pai is im-

mensely popular and much sought after, speaking volumes about his personality. His approach backed by shrewd observations made him an excellent manager of events, men and materials and not a self-centered politician.

In one of the meetings he addressed after recovering from a heart ailment, he said, “now people know that I have a heart”, a humorous but sad remark straight from his heart. None of us could laugh!

In the tough and unpredictable pitch of life he has scored seventy-five and is still batting. May God bless him to reach a century and more.



HE LOOKS FOR THE BEST IN
OTHERS AND GIVES THE BEST
HE HAS

D. P. MALOO

Mr. D P Maloo is Managing Director of Mangalam Cement Limited, Kota, Rajasthan.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Mr T Ramesh U Pai for almost two decades now. We came in contact through Rotary while I was member of the Delhi South Rotary Club. Ever since then we had been in touch with each other and a few years ago when both of us visited Manipal on a medical health check up programme we had the good fortune of meeting him and as usual he bestowed on us his kind, gracious and affectionate hospitality by inviting us to his home in Manipal.

Shri Ramesh Pai has not only been a very conscientious dedicated Rotarian but he is an excellent specimen of a perfect human being so full of milk of human kindness.

People in his area will always bless him and remember him for his commendable contribution in the field of education, medical care, banking, business, industry and above all the community services through the auspices of Rotary and even directly,

About success it is said:

That man is a success who has lived well,
Laughed often and loved much;

Who has gained the respect of intelligent men,

and the love of children;
who has filled his niche, and accomplished his task;
who leaves the world better than he found it,
whether by an improved poppy,
a perfect poem or a rescued soul;
who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or
failed to express it; who looked for the best
in others and gave the best he had.

We strongly feel Rotarian Ramesh Pai has achieved success in his lifetime and for which he deserves our hearty congratulations and sincere felicitations.

We wish and pray God grants our dear friend Shri Ramesh Pai longevity, good health, and happiness so that he can continue to serve the humanity as he has been hitherto doing. I should thank you once again for your sending us this unique opportunity and honour to reflect upon the life of our dear friend Shri Ramesh Pai.



RAMESH PAI - A COMPLETE MAN

K. S. VAIDYANATHAN

While in service, Mr. K.S.Vaidyanathan was made the partner of the British Company, M/s Paterson & Company. He was also a Director of EID Parry & T. Stanes. Presently he is the Chairman of a group of Coffee Companies and lives in Bangalore.

I have known Sri. T. Ramesh U. Pai for nearly half a century and have been the beneficiary of his benevolent kindness. The nobility in him is in-born and is a common characteristic of the members of the family, particularly his late lamented brother, Sri. T.A. Pai who adorned everything that he touched.

The virtues of Sri. T. Ramesh Pai are manifold and his attainments numerous. It is therefore, difficult to describe which of them surpass the other. His genial temperament, his willingness to help the needy with a sense of unassuming modesty are indeed conspicuous among other good traits that he displayed.

His business acumen, his flair for financial direction and management of economic resources stand out in his life. He is Thus a Complete Man.

As it is said of Abu Ben Adam, "May his tribe increase for the welfare of the man-kind which is presently torn by strife and greed out of a despicable selfish nature."



RAMESH PAI – A MULTI - FACETED PERSONALITY

K. N. SHANBHOGUE

Mr. K.N. Shanbhogue is the retired Drugs Controller of Karnataka State. He was the first Drug Controller from India who was awarded a WHO Scholarship. He is the Founder Director of Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and was also Director of a number of well-known drug manufacturing companies. He lives in Bangalore.

Writing anything about Sri T. Ramesh Pai, one of my best friends and also a philosopher & guide, is like showing candle light to the Sun. Because, he strode as a Colossus for over 50 years and the footsteps he had left behind are so firm and prominent, they will ever be there on the sands of time. For many years to come, he will be remembered by generations of his friends and admirers not only in our country, but also in every nook and corner of almost all the countries in the World. Not only he had his admirers there but also he is being remembered as a Goliath, ably stretching himself to such lofty heights, which few have ever reached.

As we are now stepping into the 21st Century, in a few months from now his image will continue to be on the screen, by the side of giants and stalwarts of this 20th Century in all walks of life. Such is the identity of this man, whom I am privileged to know personally, when I became the first Drugs Controller of Karnataka (then

Mysore) State, forty years back. It was during this period, both before and after my retirement, I came closer to great personalities of Manipal Complex. Mr. T. Ramesh Pai is one of them, besides of course, the great creator of Manipal, Late Dr. T. Madhav A. Pai, ever known as the “BRAHMA” of Manipal. Both of them, the uncle and nephew are personalities enshrined in the history of Manipal. Their achievements, therefore, will be written in letters of GOLD to inspire future generations. Nowhere in the world in the past or now, probably, there has been such a parallel in human habitation and activity, like Manipal experience. At a far away Mannu-Palla (Mud Dump), the true meaning of MANIPAL, on barren rocks of an unknown hamlet of Shivalli Panchayat of Udupi Taluk, in South Kanara District, “ P A I S” carried out this miracle in a span of two decades or less. Sixty years back, when I used to travel by a rickety bus, run on water gas (being War years, petrol was totally scarce) inching through its way to Mangalore, where I had joined College for education, I used to see nothing but barren rocks and mud everywhere at this place, with hardly any human civilisation. They say it was infested fully with jackals and other wild animals, from the nearby forests on the hills which used to be haunting that place. In less than half a century, Pais developed this center as a beehive of activities, in all fields, viz. Medical, Technical, General Education, Healthcare, etc. and also Finance, Banking, Industry, Social Work, etc.

Who else, is to be given credit for all this but the duo: uncle and nephew ?

With the passing away of Dr. T.M.A. Pai in 1980, the entire burden fell on Sri. T. Ramesh Pai who single handedly masterminded Manipal’s supremacy in these fields. A record anybody will be proud of!

He is younger to me in age but much more experienced and far-sighted. I have therefore addressed him as one of my best friends, philosopher and guide, which he deserves fully.

May he live long and be blessed with best health, wealth and prosperity!



HAS DEEP INTEREST IN PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

K.S. RAME GOWDA

Dr. K. S. Rame Gowda is former Director of Planning in Karnataka. He lives in Bangalore.

I came in close contact with Sri T. Ramesh U Pai, popularly known as Ramesh Pai, as Director of Town Planning, continued to be an ex-officio member of the Karnataka Housing Board in 1968. Sri Ramesh Pai was appointed by the Government of Karnataka as one of the non-official members of the Board for a period of 3 years, from 1968 to 1971. He regularly attended the meetings and felt embarrassed about the way in which built houses were allotted to the applicants of different towns and cities in Karnataka. He used to request the members to be "fair" in selecting applicants for allotments instead of adopting arbitrary methods of allotment. He tried to convince the other members about the necessity to adopt some norms while allotting houses to deserving applicants. I used to appreciate his point and plead with the other members to adopt a rigid policy. But in committees, where majority opinion prevails, individual members should either accept the decision or record their dissents. The other alternative is to quit the committee.

Sri Ramesh U Pai, after attending meetings about one year or so, felt that his presence in the Housing Board as one of the members did not serve any purpose and resigned from the Board. This is an instance which indi-

cates his sincerity of purpose. I pleaded with him to reconsider his decision, but he did not withdraw his resignation. Thus we lost the services of an able member, probably in 1969.

I had no direct contact with Sri Ramesh Pai afterwards, except reading in newspapers about his stewardship of various educational, health, financial and industrial undertakings. In 1993, the Government of Denmark (Danida) in collaboration with the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka, started the sustainable development project in Dakshina Kannada through “Environmental Master Plan Study” for the district, and I was appointed by Danida as an urban planning expert for the project. During the preparation of a ‘Status Report on Urban Development and Environment in Dakshina Kannada’ I contacted many Institutions and leading personalities of the district, the important persons among them being Sri Sugunendra Thirtha Swami of Puttige Mutt, Udupi, Sri T Ramesh Pai of Manipal Educational Trust, Manipal and Sri Kuranji Venkataramana Gowda of Educational Academy, Sulya.

I met Sri Ramesh Pai in his office at Manipal on 15th June 1993 and it was a pleasant surprise for both of us to meet without prior appointment after a very long time. Our team of experts were courteously received by Sri Pai and after exchanging pleasantries we discussed about environmental improvement needed in Manipal, Udupi and Malpe. I could appreciate the interest he had about health, education and recreation of the people in the region. Without going in to details, I wish to mention two key issues he posed for the Danida project to consider.

The first one pertained to employment for women, who had high level of education in Dakshina Kannada. He sug-

gested that the Danida project should recommend for starting of safe industries like electronics, computer and allied industries which need skilled labour. He expected that women in Dakshina Kannada will switch over from labour intensive jobs to skilled work. Later, I checked up from Census figures of 1991 and found that Dakshina Kannada District had registered the heaviest decline in the proportion of workers in household industry to main workers. i.e. from 16.4% in 1961 to 2.04% in 1991 (-87.23%)! I appreciated the forethought of Sri Ramesh Pai and included this aspect in the Status Report.

The other issue pertained to his concern about the environmental aspect in Manipal and the surroundings. In order to demonstrate his concern, he took us from his office to the 'Mannupalla' or Clay-Pond situated to the south of the Educational Trust and explained the necessity to protect the large water sheet from pollution and use it for recreation. We could observe that the natural lake needed deepening and also protection by diverting sullage from the built-up area entering the lake, by constructing check drains and by afforestation of the lakeshore. Sri Ramesh Pai spent considerable amount of time with us on this unscheduled visit. It shows the deep interest he has on the general welfare of the people and protection of environment.

I am happy that activities like education and medical care are continued by Sri Ramesh Pai in Manipal, as contemplated by the founder, late Dr. T.M.A.Pai, a household name in Dakshina Kannada. I wish Sri Ramesh U. Pai long life, peace and tranquillity.



MY EXPERIENCES WITH SRI. RAMESH PAI

MATHOOR KRISHNAMURTI

Mr. Mathoor Krishnamurti in prime life was influenced by National leaders of forties. He translated the public speeches of many leaders into Kannada. He joined Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore in 1969 and was posted in London where he rose to become Executive Director till his retirement in 1995. He wrote many books and lectured extensively. He received several honours and awards. He is the Executive Director of BVB, Bangalore Kendra.

My contact with the Pai's family of Manipal goes back to more than five decades. I know how the institutions at Manipal have been built, and who are all the backbones of those institutions. It is not an exaggeration if I say that the moving spirit behind all these institutions is Shri Ramesh Pai. His presence of mind, calmness, simplicity, hard work,

his capacity to entrust the right job to the right person, appreciate the good work done and to forgive small lapses with broad mind have contributed abundantly to the developmental activities that are taking place in Manipal. He is indefatigable, and his memory is unfathomable. His zeal and enthusiasm in doing something for the benefit of the humankind are unparalleled.

I was away at London as the Executive Director of Bhavan's London Kendra for twenty-five years. When-

ever he came to London, he made it a point to pay a visit to the Bhavan. On one such occasion I made a small request about someone of my contacts, and forgot about it. After some time one fine morning Mr. Ramesh Pai rang me up and drew my attention to the request I made and said that he has done that. This instance I am quoting to indicate how he deals with persons. He is not the type to talk and forget.

Whether he be a big or small man if it is possible for him to help he helps, if not he shows a way out.

I wish him all success in his endeavours.



WE CAN BE PROUD OF HIM

MANECK DALAL

Dr. Maneck Dalal is the Chairman -U.K. & Europe for Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Institute of Indian Art and Culture. He has been honoured with an OBE and lives in London.

I understand that Shri Ramesh Pai has just reached seventy five years of age and quite rightly a book about the achievements of such a distinguished person is being produced.

I have now known Sri. Ramesh Pai for at lest a decade and throughout those years I have regarded him with affection and much respect. Both my wife and I visited Manipal and were enormously impressed with all that the Pai family has achieved in that city. In so many directions they have produced results of excellence which any city or country would be proud of.

As an Indian myself, I felt very proud when I went to Manipal to see the achievements of the Pai family, and the person who is at the apex of this family is Ramesh Pai himself.

I take this opportunity of sending him my salutations and my sincere affection for all that he stands for, and wish him many, many future years of even further success.



A MULTI-FACETED PERSONALITY

KURUNJI VENKATARAMANA GOWDA

Mr. Kurunji Venkataramana Gowda is a well known educationist and has established several schools and professional colleges in his home town, Sullia, D K, Karnataka. He received several national awards and two international awards also for his meritorious services in the field of education.

I know not as to how to compliment the vivid services of Sri. Ramesh Pai – especially

in the fields of Education, Medical Service, Banking and Finance, Industry, Social Service and the like to our society. This is because his contributions and achievements are so many and varied that one can't assess his outstanding personality in a few words. He is a multi-faceted personality par excellence. I have all appreciation for his nobility and saga of vision.

As a pioneer in establishing and running variety of reputed educational institutions in whole of India and abroad, I have the pride to follow him as the leader. His ideas and far-sightedness have infused greater strength in me in establishing some educational institutions in Sullia.

I wish him health, happiness and contentment even in the years to come.



AN INTELLIGENT INDUSTRIALIST

K.S.JANARDHANAN

Mr. K.S.Janardhanan alias Rajan was Municipal Chairman, Alappuzha, Kerala. He has flourishing coir Industry there.

I happened to associate with Mr.Ramesh U Pai while both of us ere members of the Coirboard in the year '82. Even before, I knew the family while I had an occasion to visit them at Udupi when the Kerala Service Society Bank which was run by N.S.S., was takenover by the Syndicate Bank.

My mother who was the Proprietor of an export firm in the name of 'Coir Floor Furnishing Company' had some problem with Kerala Service Society Bank and the matter was settled after negotiation while the great man, Mr.T.M.A.Pai was alive.

I found Mr.Ramesh U Pai is a hard working and intelligent industrialist, whatever avenues he has ventured he has come out successfully which is really blessing of GOD. When the Syndicate Bank was nationalised they started the New Financing Banking arrangement of the I.C.D.S which is functioning very well and is doing service to the public.

While he was the Governor of the Rotary District, he had visited Alleppey.

Unfortunately, I couldn't meet him, since I was hospitalised at Madras. Being a past President of the Rotary Club of Alleppey, I was informed about his visit.

Friends like us cannot forget Mr.Ramesh U Pai because he is so simple and a good friend.



A DEDICATED ADMINISTRATOR
AND LOVABLE PERSONALITY

M. NARAYANAN NAYAR

Mr. M. Narayanan Nayar is a retired Deputy Director of National Savings Finance (NSD) Department, Trivandrum. He lives at Kotachery, Kanhangad, Kasargod District of Kerala.

I heard about Sri. T. Ramesh Pai, since very long years, but have known him well only for the last five years, since I was working as Vice President of Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation, Kanhangad Branch in which he was its Chairman & Managing Director. Before that I had known him from a distance. But over the last five years I came to know and admire and love different faces of the Man. Now I know him as a warm, humourous, compassionate, perceptive and unassumingly simple man – a person who is eager to share his store-house of knowledge and experience in the field of Education, Medicine, Industry and Service.

I am glad to know that we are going to felicitate Sri. Ramesh Pai on his completion of 75 years of useful life. He had rendered yeomen service in the field of education. Medical, banking and finance industries and community service through Rotary and various other institutions. He showed remarkable capacity in developing a big empire with his relations. It has to be specially mentioned that many of his business institutions are also service oriented and the Pai family as a whole, had a desire to help people in large. His name will be remembered as

a pioneer in many ways.

Sri. Ramesh Pai is one for whom I have highest regard and admiration. I particularly value my longstanding admiration for him. In addition to unfailing inherent courtesy, he has all the other qualities which win him friends in every part of India and the world over and drawn from all walks of life.

He is very prompt in sending replies, good wishes and felicitations on any invitations which were sent to him for any function or any occasion. Some of the friends and relatives receive his greeting cards promptly on their Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries. He has got a solution for any problem such as a job for someone, a seat in a school or college for someone else. All his life he has been helping others at all times in all ways he can. He always believes work is worship. His life has contributed a lot in all his achievements. May God shower his choicest blessing on both of them on this auspicious day and may he live more fruitful years to serve the people.



RAMESH PAI OF MANIPAL

S. GOPAL PAI

Mr. S. Gopal Pai has varied business interests in sugar, textiles and electronics in Kollam, Kerala. He was the President of the local Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.

Sri. Ramesh Pai who has made a niche for himself in the Banking, Industrial and Educational fields in India is reaching the age of 75 on twenty second October this year.

When we look back, we are convinced that he has lived up to his theme "AIM, ACT, ACHIEVE". His achievements are not for him, but for the people around him, the people of Manipal and Karnataka in particular and to the whole of India in general.

The syndicate bank established and nurtured to reach great heights under the Pais of Manipal was nationalized in 1968. That did not deter Ramesh Pai from continuing to reach new heights in banking. He took over a scheduled bank and developed it to reach the peak among the scheduled banks and later started a leasing bank, which is also in the top rung of the ladder.

His activities in the field of social service was recognized by the State of Karnataka by giving him the State Award for carrying out many schemes to uplift the down-trodden of the society.

He served the people nationally and internationally by

joining the Rotary movement. He was District Governor of Dist. 3170 in 1971-72 and Director of Rotary International for two years (1992-94). He was the convenor of the R.I. Institute for Asia held at Delhi twice, and once each in Bangalore, Manipal, Colombo and Pune, and Executive Director of Rotary Foundation.

In the industrial field he is the Director of many prestigious joint stock companies in India including Reliance Industries.

In the educational field, he has served as senate or syndicate member of Madras, Karnataka and Goa Universities. Another feather on his cap is the membership of Association of World Universities and Chairmanship of the Indian Chapter of World Colleges, New York.

A great man of diverse facets, multiple activities, indomitable will and inexhaustive energy, let God give him long life and continued happiness.



MY BOND OF LOVE WITH RAMESH & SHANTI

MARTHA B. ASHTON-SIKORA

Martha B. Ashton Sikora is a Ph.D. from Michigan State University, specializing in Asian Theatres and employed as a lecturer at University of California-Berkeley. She received many scholarships from India as well as USA for specialization in Indian Arts & Theatre. Lectured extensively and produced books, films and papers specially on Yakshagana, a folk art from Karnataka.

I met Mr. Ramesh Pai and Mrs. Shanti Pai in 1969 when I first came to Udupi on a Fullbright Graduate Fellowship to research Yakshagana for my Ph.D. dissertation. We were attending Dr. Shivarama Karanth's seminar on Yakshagana at MGM College. Shortly afterwards Shanti and Ramesh came to the small MGM hostel where I was staying temporarily to welcome me to Udupi and offer any assistance needed during my stay. I was often at their home for tea or a meal. They frequently dropped by to visit us at Professors Leela Bhat and Lakshmy Kutty's Kunjibettu cottage where I stayed, oftentimes waking me up with the lure of a refreshing swim in the Arabian Sea. They often entertained foreign guests and many times invited me to join them.

I fell in love with India as I gazed out the plane window upon approach to the luscious green landscape of the Kanara coast in October 1969; that feeling has never changed. When my feet touched the earth I knew I was in the right place. I was fortunate to have an outstanding teacher,

Hiriadka Gopala Rao; to live with loving people, Leela Bhat and Lakshmy Kutty; and to make good friends, including Shanti and Ramesh Pai who encouraged and helped me in my research.

In 1972 I received my Ph.D. and subsequently numerous grants for research on Yakshagana, Bhutaradhane and Nagamandalam. I also organized and led a tour in the US of Yakshagana artists sponsored by the Asia Society of New York City and the tours of five other Indian performing art groups for the Festival of India-USA. In all I have spent approximately seven years in India. Most recently I have been teaching at the University of California, Berkeley.

Over all these years whatever assistance I have asked from Ramesh and Shanti they have given without hesitation. We have visited in each other's homes and have done whatever we can to help each other. When I celebrated my Indian wedding in Hiriadka in 1987, Shanti helped me dress, Ramesh placed the toe rings. This is a treasured friendship.

What is so enjoyable about knowing Shanti and Ramesh for such a long time is to have watched them ascend to the international personalities they are today. So many of Ramesh's ideas have become reality and positively effect and affect the lives of many people, not only in India but around the world. Shanti, who no doubt looked forward to her married life as pleasing her husband, being in charge of the house and raising her children, in addition, has

become a charming international hostess and world traveler on her own. It's fascinating to watch the wheels of Ramesh's mind constantly turning with ideas. I look forward to seeing them each time to learn more about the next project and hear Shanti's stories of new travels and new friends.



A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

P . DAYANANDA PAI

Mr. P. Dayananda Pai, a prominent businessman, lives in Bangalore.

Mr. Ramesh Pai has been throughout a source of inspiration to me. I always used to admire his simplicity and his nobility and his farsightedness. Meeting him and talking to him always gave me more strength and inspiration.

He used to be always a guide and philosopher to me. He is one of the few persons responsible for my success in life.

I pray God for his good health and happiness and I wish him long life to serve the people. Always my prayers and good wishes are with him and his family.



RAMESH PAI - A FAMOUS ECONOMIST AND PHILANTHROPIST

R. SURESH

Mr. R. Suresh is the Chief Executive of the family business house S T Reddiar & Sons and lives in Ernakulam, Kerala.

I have great pleasure in writing this note with profound joy to greet the veteran Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai on the day of his 75th birthday celebrations. He is not only a great personality in the field of banking and education but a well-known personality in the social service field also.

My father, late Shri. M. Rajendran was a very old friend of Shri. Ramesh Pai and their relationship started during the period of his association with Syndicate Bank. I still remember that they had close relationship and had exchange of communications. Through my father I came to know about Shri Ramesh U. Pai long back who is not only an Economist but a famous Philanthropist also.

The services that Shri Ramesh Pai had rendered in the field of medical, academic and technical education areas are really praise-worthy. He had very closely worked along with his Uncle, Dr. TMA Pai in founding Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Institute of Technology, Welcomgroup School of Hotel Administration, College of Dental Surgery, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences and several other educational institutions. It is a matter of pride for Indian citizens that he had represented India at the International Assembly for the American Association of Junior Colleges, Hawaii during 1970. He was the

Chairman of India Chapter of Friends World College, New York.

When I was the Secretary of the Cochin South Rotary, I had the opportunity to associate with him in the Rotary activities. He had held several posts in the Rotary International like, Club Secretary, President, Governor of a District, Convenor of the Rotary International Institute for Asia Zone II etc. He was the Founder of Rotary News Trust and Publisher of Rotary regional magazine. He is an Executive Committee member of Rotary Foundation India and a member of Polio-Plus Speakers' Bureau R.I. 96-99 and a member of Rotary International Committee for nominating RI President for 2000-2001. The services he rendered to the humanity through Rotary will ever be remembered.

Mr. Ramesh Pai has been honoured with many Awards both from National and International Organisations. He is a recipient of Karnataka Rajyotsava Award 1998, Academy Award for outstanding work in the field of Education, Udupi Paryyaya Swamiji's 'Vidya Bhushan' Award, Gokarna Mutt Swamiji's Vidyadhiraja Award and several other awards.

On his 75th birthday I have great pleasure in wishing him long life and all the best and pray Almighty to shower His choicest blessings on him.



ADAPTS AND ADJUSTS LIKE A FLOWING LIQUID

C.S.MA

Dr.C.S.Ma is Chairman-cum-Managing Director and Medical Superintendent of the Combined Rajuma Dental Clinic and Hospital, Lucknow. He is fellow of the Royal Society of Health, London, Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International, U.S.A.

I recall the days while I was a student of Kasturba Medical College. I went to Mr.Ramesh U pai for admission of two more candidates. He admitted both of them as well as financed them through Syndicate Bank in my name. Even today, after more than twentyone years, I cannot forget his sharp vision and devotion in the progress of Manipal. By doing this he created:

- a) Personal obligation to me.
- b) Created more funds and interest money for Syndicate Bank,
- c) Filled the required seats according to his condition,
- d) Created more respect for himself,
- e) And projected Manipal organisation as more humane

Mr.T Ramesh U Pai is a most adaptable person who fits in every rectangle, square or cylindrical shape and of any size and gives a feeling of belonging. Take field of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance, Industry, Community Service through Rotary and otherwise, he is a dictionary by himself. However, vocabulary will not be able to assess him properly. He is such a humble soul, a great personality, and a handsome person, who once met could not be forgotten. We will never find a proper and befitting reverence to this man Mr.T Ramesh U Pai.

◇

A LEADER WHO INSPIRES

G RAGHUVARAN

Dr.Raghuvaran is an ENT Surgeon and is the present incumbent of Dr.M Gopala Pillai's Jawahar Hospital, Nagercoil.

The life and achievements of this septuagenarian are awe-inspiring. His contributions to the society in the field of education, medical care, banking, finance and industries are well known. He believes in private sector and it is in a way against all sorts of controls in entrepreneurship. He shares the view that education should not be the monopoly of the state. He is one who wants talents to be discovered and nurtured. All these are in the highest traditions of the 'Pais of Manipal'

His personality is towering. His character is worthy of emulation. His friendliness is marked by sincerity and his kindness is unfailing.

As a manager and executor, he is meticulous. He is a leader who inspires. He is a philanthropist and social worker. His Rotary career has been long and eventful. He has retired as R.I. Director only in June last – leaving only the Presidential chair still to occupy.

My conversation with him dates four decades back. Memories are evergreen and pleasant. He belongs to those few whom I admire most. His life and career should inspire a whole lot of young men of our country. Let me and my family wish him many happy returns of the day.



A TRIBUTE

PROF. M. S. APPA

Prof. M.S. Appa is a retired Principal of Vivekananda College, Puttur, Dakshina Kannada. He is also the founder of Kanara Stock Exchange Ltd. now Mangalore Stock Exchange.

Driving along the West Coast, a big hoarding near Bramhavar attracted me. Curious I was, I read the advertisement. It related to MAHA RASHTRA APEX CORPN. LTD.. "From 1943, we cared for your interest. We now do it with higher interest."

After my return to Bangalore I wrote a letter of compliments and congratulations to MAHA RASHTRA APEX CORPN. LTD., appreciating the sentiments carried in the theme of the advertisement.

My letter was promptly reciprocated.

Right from the day I landed up in Dakshina Kannada District, the achievements of the Pais of Manipal drew my attention.

Brahma of SAGARI HILLS became a model to me. I lost no opportunity to be close to the Pais of Manipal.

Prof. K. S. Haridasa Bhat once presented me (with) a copy of "Knowledge is Power". Reading through, I was amazed at the concern, the devotion, the ideal Pais exhibited to the Community around.

My pilgrimage to Udupi and Manipal became regular whenever there was an opportunity.

To be close to Dr. T.M.A. Pai was an exhilarating experience for any young man, and more so to me in particular. Dr. T.M.A. Pai was a man of the masses. He was ahead of his times – A great visionary.

“If you produce one blade of grass where there was none, you have enriched the Society”, Late Dr. T.M.A. Pai used to say.

The credit of introducing “Pigmy deposits” goes to Dr. T.M.A. Pai. Similarly choosing the dog – the faithful animal for the emblem of the Syndicate Bank again goes to Dr. T.M.A. Pai. He breathed Local, envisioned Global, in the minutest of his activities. Assisted by two equally able cousins, who throbbed with the ideas of this Great, Grand Seer, Dr. T.M.A. Pai, Dakshina Kananda District attracted the attention of the whole world.

“Name him ANANTHA” said Dr. Pai, when asked after the birth of his nephew.

“Name him Ramesh”, when asked after the birth of another nephew.

An all time mentor, and guiding force, Dr. Pai became the Bheeshma - watching the two nephews blossoming and shaping into brilliant careers, start keenly watching their progress.

The providential family Bond between Sri T. Ramesh U. Pai and Saadhvi Smt. Shanti of the Renowned Vaikunta Baliga family brought fortunes galore to this dynamic youngster.

Addition of a brain to throb with his wave length, and two

more hands to enrich his positive plans. Smt. Shanti stood strong and solid behind this successful entrepreneur in all facets of his successful career.

I remember once Mrs. Shanti Pai taking a host of foreigners around the KMC, Vaikunta Baliga Law College and other institutions to explain to them with pride the achievements on the Sagari Hills.

One nephew rose to the eminence of an innovative Banker and a statesman and another shaped himself as an expert financial wizard, industrialist, Rotarian, Social Worker and a man of the Community. The Manipal Academy, The Syndicate Bank, M.A.C.Ltd., The ICDS and a host of institutions stand out as meteors in the Social, Financial, Educational horizon today.

Times change the perspective of men and matters; Destiny of men and matters.

The worst of life's crisis did not weaken him. I saw him one at such a great crisis.

It was at this point I saw a person moving to tears, and emotions.

A towering personality, full of worldly wisdom, pragmatism, purpose, and will to achieve, aiming at excellence had lost his moorings but not his hope.

“He who has health has hope,
He who has hope has every thing in life”

- Dr. T.M.A. Pai -

This spirit sustained him and continued him in his strong beliefs and pursuits.

Open Heart Surgery did not unnerve him, did not frustrate him. God Almighty surrendered before his determi-

nation, dedication, discipline, devotion and daring spirit.

It is this great man's 75th birthday we are celebrating. He is the forebearer of all the ideals, principles, purposes, fostered by Late Dr. T.M.A. Pai –a Padmashree.

He is none other than Tonse Ramesh Upendra Pai popularly called T. Ramesh U. Pai.

As the Chairman and Managing Director of MAHA RASHTRA APEX CORPN. LTD., he has attained a place of envy in the world of finance, leasing and hire purchase and social work.

I salute this great soul Sri. T. Ramesh U. Pai for the Humility and Honesty he has practiced all through his life.

MAY GOD ALMIGHTY SHOWER ON HIM AND HIS FAMILY, HEALTH, WEALTH, PEACE, PLENTY & POISE.



RAMESH PAI & HIS WISE COUNSEL

V. JANIKIVALLABHAN

Mr. V. Janakivallabhan is a retired banker and lives in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

I am very glad to hear that Sri. T. Ramesh U. Pai will be completing his 75 years of age on 22.10.99. Needless to say he has won the hearts of many by his gentle nature and by the quality of remembering anybody whom he comes across. I still remember his golden words, which I had experienced during his visit to Thiruvananthapuram in the year 1997. He said, "Persuasion is essential if one has to develop business. But, it should not end with a first meeting alone. Go on pursuing him till you achieve the goal. Don't hesitate to continue your services even if the reward is not up to your expectation. This way you will build confidence in his mind. Remember, one day he will be your best client."

Mr. Pai has generated employment to the unemployed, and his contribution to Industry, Education, and Rotary Foundation of India is exemplary.

I wish him sound health and long life, and I pray Almighty to give mental strength to serve people throughout his life.



RAMESH PAI LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION

K. C. GEORGE

Mr. K. C. George is a practitioner of Tax Laws in Trivandrum, Kerala. He is a keen and Senior Rotarian for 25 years, he fulfilled many district arrangements in Rotary.

Past R.I. Board of Director PHF Ramesh U. Pai accomplished a number of valuable things in his life specifically in programs of getting approval of a university with Medical, Engineering and other faculties and helping the students to extend their higher education. The ripple effect of that sort of public service widens forever.

But the more one learns of his works, the things he accomplished with his time, money, and modest style, the more one appreciates that this was a life. The true measure of a life was that it be useful to the people. Lives are measured by the impression they leave on the world and by their intensity and virtue. He has a legacy and he learned to treasure it whether it is community/service through Rotary, or educational field or the Banking and Finance.

I had occasion of knowing Mr. Ramesh U. Pai through my association in Rotary. I do remember his visit to Trivandrum Rotary Club in a joint meeting arranged to felicitate him as Director of RI. In the said meeting he was made Honorary Rotarian of all the ten clubs in Trivandrum which is a rare thing. He made such an impression of nobility that as long as the world shall live his

name will be remembered and honoured. Even though the Rotary theme for 2000 came out recently, all the action of Rtn. Ramesh U.Pai has been acts which was model of consistency, credibility and continuity. On this occasion when he is completing his 75th year on 22.10.99, I wish him prosperity, long life and God's blessings.



A MAN OF QUALITIES

S. PEER MOHAMMED

Mr. S. Peer Mohammed is the former Managing Director of the Kerala State Industrial Enterprises Ltd. He is also the past Rotary Dist. Governor of District 3120. He lives in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

T. Ramesh U. Pai combines divergent qualities in his personality. On a first acquaintance he passes for a hard working financial expert of the old order. 'Save money and it saves you' is the slogan of the old time expert. He no doubt has this trait, but he has understood all the manifold forces of money. That deeper knowledge makes him shine with the splendour of a true philanthropist.

His family traditions helped a lot to mould his multi-faceted personality. The great T.M.A. Pai, in the family, prompted him to pick up various attitudes in public life, keeping finance management of course as his main forte. Honesty is the best policy is the theme on which he operates in the business world. Education and healthcare have also been his favourite concerns arising out of family connections. His endeavours in finance, education and public welfare are not of the average pattern which obtain in the country today. He had always aimed at perfection and got away with excellent achievements in these fields.

Ramesh Pai entered Rotary when it was blooming bright in the Indian sub-continent. Rotary promised enduring ideals and planted the environment for the healthy growth of middle class population in the country. He devoted

himself whole-heartedly to promote the world movement of Rotary. He rose to become a director of Rotary International. The Rotary International Asia II Zone Institute, at the village town of Manipal in December 1992, brought out a unique expression of his organizing skill. It signified his intense devotion to the twin ideals of fellowship and service above self, promoted by Rotary.

Ramesh Pai is one of the few no-nonsense type of businessmen we have in the country today. He has visionary insights and keeps absolute integrity among his talents. His attaining 75 years of age is a landmark in the growth of the business world in India.



RAMESH- A MAN OF MANY QUALITIES

SHANTILAL PURUSHOTHAM

Mr. Shantilal Purushotham is a partner of Putushotham Goculdas Plywood Co., leading exporters and manufacturers of plywood and plywood products. He lives in Kannur, Kerala.

My father-in-law Shri. D.G. Chandana was one of the founder Trustees of Kasturba Medical College founded by the Late Shri. T.M.A. Pai. This association had brought me close to Shri. T. Ramesh Pai, nephew of Late Shri. T.M.A. Pai.

Further Mrs. Shanti Pai, wife of Shri. Ramesh Pai, is the daughter of Late Shri. Vaikunth Baliga, Advocate, Mangalore who had a long political career including Minister for Health and expired while he was Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. My father was close family friend of Shri. Vaikunth Baliga. This again brought me in association with Shri. Ramesh Pai for more than fifty years.

The first and most characteristic quality of Shri. Ramesh Pai is that he never forgets his friends and I have with me all the forty-one letters he has written to greet me on my Wedding Anniversary. He will do his utmost to help his friends.

I do not wish to elaborate on his achievements in the field of Education, Industry, Banking, Rotary and various other activities, as there is nobody amongst us who does not know about them. However a reference to some very im-

portant achievements of Shri. T.Ramesh Pai have to be repeated. He, under the Late Shri. T.M.A. Pai can be undisputedly said to have contributed to the development of the Educational Empire at Manipal. His wife Mrs. Shanti has all along been his strength and has also contributed to a great extent for the success of the social stature of Shri. Ramesh Pai.

Finally I wish to highlight one of his outstanding qualities which is punctuality. I have participated in various functions in which he was the Chief Guest. In every one of them he was punctual to the minute.

I and my wife Geetha (Shobha) send him warm Birthday Greetings and wish him a Long Life full of Health, Happiness and Prosperity.



UNFADING MEMORIES

VARKEY JOHN BABUJI

Mr. Varkey John Babuji, a B.Pharma from KMC, Manipal is now the Chief Administration Executive of the National Petroleum Construction Company, Abu Dhabi.

“I remember, I remember
The house where I was born,
The little windows where the sun,
Came peeping in at morn.”
And that was ‘MANIPAL’

When I think of Manipal, two names flash in front of me....Dr. T.M.A. Pai and Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai. It is Manipal and these two personalities that developed me what I am at this moment, which I will never forget.

Mr. Ramesh Pai is a figure whom I can never forget because he was the man behind the show in developing me and many others through their educational institutions and cultural activities. It is under their leadership that I could develop and learn the basic principles of living because Mr. Pai has given all facilities so that we can expose ourselves to various civilizations of east and west. So we all could come up in life under this great educational institution “Academy of General Education.”

My association with Ramesh Uncle was mainly in the field of education, cultural and social service activities, healthcare and journalism though he is more than all these, an industrialist too. As a student of Kasturba Medical College for B.Pharm., I could work hand in hand with Mr. Ramesh Pai as a student correspondent to ‘Manipal Record’ and also in social service and healthcare activities as a Leo Club President. I could also associate with him

in Rotary Club activities and various technical conferences organized under his guidance. The ideas that Mr. Pai was delivering were always a means of success and I can without hesitation say that Mr. Pai was never a failure in his endeavours.

Mr. Ramesh Pai is on the move to celebrate his 75th birthday, on this occasion I am really honoured to have been given a chance to pen a few lines about him. My memory goes back when I had a chance to interview Dr. T.M.A. Pai on his 80th birthday. Though years have passed, and I am elsewhere, still the sweet memories are with me and each step I take in my present career has definitely a tinge of the Manipal culture advocated by Mr. Pai. Whenever I have gone to Ramesh Uncle with any sort of problems or for organizing something, even in the midst of a number of activities, he was ready to spare time for us in giving the proper and effective guidance. In any type of situations, I have seen Mr. Pai as a coolest man with an authoritative voice and command and he was literally a solution for any problem.

Mr. Ramesh Pai was sweet tempered under every criticism, charitable in his judgments and discriminating in his adjectives. He is strong in the presence of any arguments, alert in the presence of opportunity, open-eared to the call of conscience for service and open-minded to views of truth. I can without hesitation say that Mr. Pai is a man who is faithful to every honest obligation, simple in his tastes, sympathetic to the sorrowing, gentle to the weak and courteous to all.

My sincere prayer to Almighty on this 75th birthday of Mr. Pai, is to keep him in good health and happiness for many more years so that he can be of service to the poor, needy and suffering humanity for many more years to come. May God Almighty bless Ramesh Uncle.



RAMESH PAI – A MAN WITH MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DR. K.P. NAIR

Mr. K.P. Nair, FRCS was formerly Resident Surgeon, Burlington County Hospital, NJ, USA, Resident Surgeon, Merthyr General Hospital, S. Wales, UK and Surgeon, General Hospital, Trivandrum. Presently, he is the Director, Dr. Nair's Hospital, Quilon, Kerala.

Mr. Ramesh U. Pai is one of the illustrious sons of Karnataka and I had the happy occasion to associate with him on a few occasions at Manipal, Bangalore and at Quilon. It is every ones knowledge that, Sri. T.M.A. Pai, the founder of Manipal Institutions was ably assisted and helped by a few stalwarts from among his family members. Sri. Ramesh Pai is one such important person among them.

His magnificent personality, lucid speech, ability to convince others and tendency for strenuous work, smiling but serious when seriousness is required, gentle but firm, and above all humane approach to problems and persons have helped him accomplish great achievements. On 27th August, 1986, my associates and myself had the happy opportunity to invite Sri. T. Ramesh Pai to Dr. Nair's Hospital. He visited our Institution along with Mr. Bhageerathan. He spent there only an hour or so but during that time, he addressed the staff of the hospital. We still remember the telling speech that he gave on the occasion regarding banking, business, economics and co-

operation.

Though not a proclaimed politician, he has a very clear grasp of the history and politics of this country. In the foresaid speech, he elucidated some of the major points in Indian Politics.

I am happy to pay my tributes to this Great Person, on his attaining the 75th year of life.



MAY HIS TRIBE INCREASE.....!

SANKARA MENON

Mr. Sankara Menon is the Principal of Menon & Krishnan, the well known Educational Institution in Ernakulam, Kerala.

The first time I saw Ramesh Pai he had his eyes pasted into a big book, it was inevitably some kind of a ledger. Mr. Pai's local manager looked up with a welcome smile, then he invited me to go in. There were already some people seated in the hall outside, they behaved like they were in a church, that is to say they hushed themselves when they spoke, if at all. Mr. Pai asked for information and I guessed he was asking if I was a borrower or lender, I wonder what Mr. Pai would say if God asked Mr. Pai the same question. I never really got to see Mr. Pai, I mean his face, except that he looked what I thought he would, handsome and guarded. After turning down a man who had applied for a certain big job, President Abraham Lincoln had said he had not liked the man's face, he explained that after 40 each man was responsible for his face, not anybody else.

The meeting began on time, there were only two speakers apart from Mr. Pai himself, I was to follow the illustrious Mr. Venugopal C. Govind. I sensed Mr. Pai's nearness, he never made any sound, nor looked up. Not all people are capable of these silences. I am sure if Mr. Pai was in a taxi the driver would look around on and off to make certain the passenger was still inside and alright, people

of this manner are supposed to erupt if an emergency should arise. Afterwards I had occasion to enjoy Mr Pai's company I got him nailed. I had done so much research on him and his family I never gave him any chance to recover from his surprises. I concluded by saying that Mr. Pai owed not a little to the peace he enjoyed.

I noticed that Mr. Ramesh Pai had a habit which is Russian, he is fond of bear hugs. It was nice to be pulled to his heart, one felt so protected, I felt for a moment that Mr. Pai could have been anything he wanted, he was so much in control. With most people they are what their jobs are, even Presidents and Prime Ministers are no better, but there are some people who add to their jobs because they are more than what they hold or do, they are the makers of nations. It is said of Charles Dickens that his coming into a room was like forty or thirty people trooping in or think of President John F. Kennedy walking up to the press in Paris who were making so much of his wife, "I am the guy who came with this lady". We wait in vain for somebody different, someone singular, in India it is often like looking for sugar in the ocean.

So I liked Ramesh Pai for what he is, so different, and yet not at all different. Ramesh Pai hugged me and patted my back, then he asked me about my children, then I realized he had gotten from me whatever he wanted to know through one single question. Afterwards I have wished that Mr. Pai or people like him had turned to politics, made this country itself a going concern. Mr. Ramesh Pai's father was drawn into politics, he had started the Syndicate Bank primarily to grant funds to handloom weavers. An average Indian needed six yards of cotton clothing, if he made it himself, he could double it, make money and close down Lancashire and Manchester, there was more to

Gandhi's simple love of cotton than what met the eye.
Right now I can only wish many happy returns of the day
to Mr. Ramesh Pai, may his tribe increase.

OM SHANTHI.



MR. RAMESH PAI IN MEDICAL COLLEGE PREMISES

DR. T. SREEDHARAN

Dr. T. Sreedharan was the medical student of the first batch of Kasturba Medical College in 1953. He lives in Calicut.

Kasturba Medical College made history when it was first started in Manipal, way back in 1954. People from far and near spoke about it as a 'mad venture' of the Pai family. When I first met them and gathered all information, I knew that Dr. Madhava Pai had openly taken the challenge; and Mr. Ramesh Pai was working as his undaunted helping hand in all matters.

When the first batch of students arrived at Manipal, we found to our amazement, a newly built Anatomy block getting ready. Its painting work alone remained to be completed. There were only 36 hours more to go, for its inauguration. Thereupon Mr. Ramesh Pai organized all his family members to participate in this work. This sight moved the heart of the newly arrived students, and a group among them including myself, took over their work. The students with their usual gay mood, and light conversation, worked fast. To keep up the progress, Mr. Ramesh Pai had thoughtfully arranged tea and snacks to all, at regular intervals. The result was that the painting work, which was thought to occupy 3 to 4 days, was fully over before daybreak! When Chief Minister K.C. Reddy inaugurated the College building next day, he was genuinely surprised; since the completion of this building was

done in a short span of 8 months. He wished all progress and prosperity to the College, students, and its devoted organizers.

Mr. Ramesh Pai studied each one of the new students and his problems, with painstaking precision. The hostel for students was under construction, and they were temporarily accommodated in some 5 to 6 old and vacated tiled houses. During monsoon, Manipal with its torrential rain, used to be a small 'CHERANPUNJI', and many of these buildings began to leak. The dismal and dirty look of the building made many students grumble, but Mr. Ramesh Pai had the uncanny knack of pacifying them all, with his smiling face, and compassionate words. He reminded us that we will have to bear passively some little inconveniences, since neither the Government nor any private agencies, can afford us any help at this stage. But words were not all. He instituted some clever emergency workers, who quickly stopped all leaks in the buildings. This organizing capacity of Mr. Ramesh Pai, and the flawless execution of his ideas earned much respect from students at that time.

The only small town nearest to Manipal in those days was Udupi, which was about 2 miles away. An occasional bus to the town was often erratic, and students found much difficulty from getting their requirements from Udupi. After persisting efforts by Dr. Madhava Pai, and Mr. Ramesh Pai, more frequent bus services evolved later. A great deal of the pathway to Udupi at that time, was covered on both sides by a dense forest. Students who went to Udupi and had missed their evening bus, had no other alternative than to walk back through this perilous path; and sadly I was the one who had to do it frequently.

One evening when I reached back, after walking from

Udupi, I saw Mr. Ramesh Pai talking to a group of students in an unusually disagreeable tone. When I met my friends in the dining hall, they explained that he was unhappy, because students were taking lightly his advice, not to travel in these dangerous paths towards nightfall, since it was rumoured that a tiger lurked in these areas.

However nobody had actually seen the tiger, and we thought it was meant to frighten us. But a fortnight later, the truth remained that a live tiger was shot from the College grounds, by one of our students, Balan Pillai, who was also an excellent gunman. This tiger artificially stuffed, had been exhibited for visitors to see, in the Medical College premises for a long time. I had however stopped totally, my walking episodes from Udupi after hearing Mr. Ramesh Pai's strong objection to it, and from events that followed, it seemed that he had indirectly saved me from an impending peril.

Most students of the first batch were conscious, and a hardworking lot, having medical admission after persistent trials. Selection to all Medical Colleges were done by a Selection Committee; which consisted of some Ministers, and several political leaders. Winning admission was a far cry. In my own case, despite getting a First class and distinction in Medical subjects, six of my earlier attempts did not meet with success. At least when I got admission to Kasturba, I was nicknamed as the Robert Bruce of the College. However, I was deeply despondent over the last years, and it was the special kindness and sympathy shown to me by Madhava Pai and Ramesh Pai that served to wipe off my past gloom. From then on, Mr. Ramesh Pai watched me with added interest. It was at this time, one of our College functions was held, and at the instigation of my college mates, I happened to sing a Tamil song, "Katrinile

Varum Geetam”, sung by Smt. M.S. Subbalakshmi. It won all round applause, and Mr. Ramesh Pai was the first to congratulate me as I came down from the stage. Our intimacy thus grew deeper in course of time.

The interests of Mr. Ramesh Pai were not confined to students and College work alone. He was a born organizer for arranging meetings held by leading educational and social dignitaries. He also arranged for students indoor and outdoor games, sports and medals, and various other curricular and extra-curricular activities, and was considered by students as “Jack of all Trades”. In short, there was no field in which the deft hands of Ramesh Pai had not touched, and in each one, he left the stamp of his personality.

Despite all good attributes given to our first batch of students it has to be admitted that there was a small group of mischief makers amongst us. Their behaviour was also strange. While most of the students used to study from evening 7 to 11 P.M. and go to bed; the other group chose to study from 11 P.M. to 4 A.M. To shake off sleep, they sued to go out and throw stones at mangoes on the nearby trees, come back and have a cold shower bath, and then sit down to study. Some of the stones hit the tiled roofs of houses in the neighbourhood. The alarmed people of the household complained to Dr. Madhava Pai, but his friendly advice only served to lessen, but not completely stop this practice. It was at this juncture that Mr. Ramesh Pai entered the scene. After a thoughtful study of the incident he kept on waiting for some time. One night when the stone throwers were returning with mangoes in their hands, Mr. Ramesh Pai intercepted them saying, “Friends, I see you like mangoes. All these mango trees belong to us. You can pluck and have all the mangoes if you like, but

please do not throw stones and break tiles. The simple, poor people in these houses have so much respect for Doctors. Since all of you are going to be doctors; your good name should not be spoiled by a thoughtless act.” This was a different philosophy heard by the youngsters. It made them thoughtful and stone throwing stopped completely from the very next day.

The first Medical exhibition conducted by Kasturba Medical College students, turned out to be a success. People from far and near flocked together, and stood in long queues to witness the rare sight. Both men and women gathered round the dissected bodies, displaying the internal organs as the heart, lungs, liver, intestine, and pelvic organs. In Anatomy section, the attraction was an articulated human skeleton with all small and long bones of the human body, and dissected brain showing the pathway of the nerves. The Physiology section showed several charts and specimens; explaining the normal process of Respiration, Digestion, Excretion, and Reproduction. Scores of specimens from Pathology Museum showed malignant tumors in connection with several organs. There were also many Gynecology specimens and models to explain normal birth, diseases of pelvic organs in women, malformations in children, and freaks of nature. People had never seen anything of the kind before. The exhibition scheduled for 7 days, was then extended for 3 more days, due to public clamour. Towards the end, when tired students could hardly speak due to hoarseness of voice, the untiring Mr. Ramesh Pai who was a helpmate in all sections took it over. He moved round swiftly to all empty gaps, and explained about the specimens to the people, not only in English, but also in vernacular, much to the satisfaction of the people. When the exhibition finally ended, it left

an everlasting conviction among students that MKC had really won the hearts of the local people.

In subsequent years, KMC grew from strength to strength, and so did the luminous image of both Dr. Madhava Pai and Mr. Ramesh Pai. As a warrior who had fought on all fronts; the services of Ramesh Pai thereafter have also been associated with Education, Banking, Finance, Industry, Community, and Rotary Club activities. But whatever be his sphere of activity, his life has always carried a simple message which can be better said, as per the inspiring poetical words of Alexander Pope who wrote: -

**“Honour and Shame, from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honour lies”**



HE BUILT UP K.M.C. INTO A WORLD CLASS INSTITUTION

DR. T. NIRMAL RASALAM

Dr. T. Nirmal Rasalam joined the K.M.C., Manipal as a student in 1965, and retired as Professor in Calicut, Kerala.

I feel singularly honoured to be chosen to write a few words about the great visionary Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai.

In 1965 I joined KMC at Manipal. My alma mater is dear to me and I'm ever thankful to Dr. Tonse Madhav Pai for making me a doctor. Those days Dr. TMA Pai was leading a semi-retired life and the person who was at the helm of the affairs in the management of the educational institutions was Mr. Ramesh Pai.

Whenever problems arose in the campus, Mr. Ramesh Pai used to sort out the matter and defused the crisis in an intelligent and amicable way. Though a strict disciplinarian, he showed sympathy and understanding in the matters concerned with the students. A man of exemplary character and maturity. I salute him for his untiring efforts for making KMC what it is today.

The KMC'ites and now spread all over the world. They occupy honourable posts and are successful in alleviating the suffering of the sick all the staff of KMC took real interest in coaching the students. The administrators like Dr. Ramesh Pai have to be congratulated for inducting good teachers to head the departments.

Mr. Ramesh Pai is a renowned banker, industrialist, phi-

lanthropist, etc. But being a surgeon who got his basic education from KMC, I honour Mr. Ramesh Pai for his contribution in building up this institution and finally making it a premiere medical centre in India. The tiny, remote Manipal is now in the educational map of the world because of the sincere effort of people like Mr. Ramesh Pai.

Only 75 years young now, I wish him many more years of fruitful public service.



RAMESH PAI – A PATHFINDER

K. T. RAGHUNATH

Mr. K. T. Raghunath is the Past District Governor of Lions Club International from Calicut, Kerala. He is also the Past President of Malabar Chamber of Commerce.

I had occasion to meet Mr. Ramesh Pai in his house in the year 1994 when my daughter was studying in MIT for her Computer Engineering Degree. I was overwhelmed by the hospitality and the warmth of this person when I called on him at his house in Manipal to invite him to a Lions function in Calicut.

The empire which Sri. Ramesh Pai has built in Manipal speaks volumes of his leadership qualities, dedication and dynamism. I had a heart to heart talk with him that day on the Manipal Institute of Technology and it was his dream at that time to make MIT a deemed University, which alone, according to him, would update the students with the latest technical education.

My elder brother was a student of the KMC in the first batch itself and he has excelled in his profession in United States, thanks to the foundation he had from KMC and the subsequent membership in the Royal College of Physicians in London. Though he is no more with us he used to remember with gratitude, the services rendered by KMC for building up his career and also his association with the Pai Brothers, Mr. Ramesh Pai and Mr. Ramdas Pai.

I wish long life, health, wealth and prosperity to Mr. Ramesh Pai, so that the community will continue to enjoy the benefits of his leadership qualities and vision.



RAMESH PAI – A VERSATILE PERSONALITY

DR. M. BALRAM NAMBIAR

Dr. M. Balram Nambiar is the District Cabinet Secretary of Lions Dist. 324 E2 for 1999-2000 and lives in Kanhangad, Kerala.

Tonse Ramesh Pai is seventy-five years old – it is unbelievable as Mr. Pai is the same old person, always on the move, very agile and active. Never tired of hard work. Work being worship for this great achiever. I had the good fortune to watch the great son of modern India from close quarters as I had the privilege to be a student of Kasturba Medical College. At that time he used to devote all his time and energy in bringing up the educational institutions in Manipal. Those were the formative days of the academic of general education which has blossomed into MAHE (Manipal Academy of Higher Education) a deemed University. He had great vision about the academy of higher education and had utilized all his energy to realize his dream. Institutions of higher learning and hospitals at Manipal have grown as second to none in whole of Asia. He is a workaholic never tired of working for translating big dream into reality. He has been continuously the President of Shivalli Panchayat for a pretty long time.

He is an excellent social worker , a great motivator, and a Rotarian par excellence. He has reached the highest honour any Indian Rotarian can hope, namely the International Director of Rotary. He has a Midas touch.

Whatever he initiates turns out to be crowned in glory. Number of industrial units and financial institutions had the blessings and involvement of this great leader. Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation is only one among the many institutions receiving his patronage.

There is a famous saying by Sri. Ramesh Pai that “Money is the only thing which grows without any extra care. All that one has to do is to deposit money in a bank or a financial institution which offers interest. The interest starts growing even when you are asleep.” He is such a versatile personality who has done so much in the field of education, industry and business. He is a great social worker. Our sincere prayers for his long life which we are sure he will utilize for the betterment of the society.



ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈ ; ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದಂತೆ

KAYYARA KINANNA RAI

Sri. Kayyara Kinanna Rai is a well-known Kannada writer. He authored several prose and poetry books, treatises, criticisms. He received a number of awards from the Government and private organisations. He lives in Peradala, Kasaragod, Kerala.

ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈ ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದಂತೆ ಮಣಿಪಾಲದ ಸಾಹಸೀ ಉದ್ಯಮಿ, ಸಂಘಟಕ, ಲೋಕಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಪ್ರಾಪಂಚಿಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ತಜ್ಞ - ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲಾ ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸಜ್ಜನ - ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೇವಾ ತತ್ಪರರಿಂದ ಈ ತೋನ್ಸೆ ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈಗಳು ಇಂದು 75 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತ ಜೀವನ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿವೆ ಸುನೆನಪಿಗಾಗಿ, ಅವರ ಆತ್ಮೀಯರು, ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳು ಉತ್ತಮ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಚರಿಸುವರೆ ನಿಶ್ಚಯಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆ ಉತ್ಸವದ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ಅಭಿನಂದನಾ ಗ್ರಂಥ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಾಗಿಯೂ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಪೈಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಲೇಖನವನ್ನು ಬರೆದು ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗಿಯೂ ಕೇಳಿ, ನನ್ನ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಭಿಮಾನ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಾನು ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ಕೃತಜ್ಞನಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಈ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ನಾನು ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವೆಂದೂ, ಸೇವೆಯೆಂದೂ ತಿಳಿದು ನೆರವೇರಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಬಾಲ್ಯಾರಭ್ಯ ನನಗಿದ್ದ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಜಾಗೃತವಾಗಿಯೇ ಉಳಿದ ನನ್ನ ದೇಶಾಭಿಮಾನ, ಭಾಷಾಭಿಮಾನ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಅಭಿಮಾನಗಳ ಪರಿಚಯ ಅನೇಕ ಮಹನೀಯರ ಪ್ರತ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪರಿಚಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸುಯೋಗ ನನಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಭಾರತ ದೇಶ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೋರಾಟ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ, ಲೋಕಮಾನ್ಯ ತಿಲಕರು 'ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯವೇ ನನ್ನ ಜನ್ಮಸಿದ್ಧ ಹಕ್ಕು' ಎಂದು ತೋರಿಸಿ ಇದರ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಪಡೆವೆ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಅಸ್ತಂಗತರಾದಾಗ ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾಗಾಂಧಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾತೀತ ಧುರೀಣರಾಗಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದರು. ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿಯ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಆಂದೋಲನ ಇಡೀ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರವನ್ನು ಜಾಗೃತಗೊಳಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯೂ ಎಚ್ಚರವಾಯಿತು. ಕಾರ್ನಾಡು ಸದಾಶಿವರಾಯರು ಸರಳತನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕ್ಷರಾದರು. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ಪೋಷಿತ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿದರು; ಸರ್ಕಾರೀ ನೌಕರಿಗೆ ರಾಜಿಯತ್ತರು; ವಕೀಲರು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಬಹಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿದರು. ಹಲವರು ಸೆರೆಮನೆ ಸೇರಿ ಕಷ್ಟ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದರು ; ಈ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮಂಗಳೂರಲ್ಲಿ

ಸ್ವದೇಶಾಭಿಮಾನಿ, ನವಯುಗ ಮುಂತಾದ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳು, ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸತ್ಯಾಗ್ರಹ ಎಂಬ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಇವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ದೇಶಭಾವಾಭಿಮಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ರಾಮರಾಯ ಮಲ್ಕರು, ನಾರಾಯಣರಾಯರು, ಸಾಂತ್ಯಾರು ಅನಂತಪದ್ಮನಾಭ ಭಟ್ಟರು, ತೋನ್ನೆ ಉಪೇಂದ್ರ ಪೈಗಳು, ಡಾ| ಮಾಧವ ಪೈಗಳು ಇಂತಹ ನೇತಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ನನಗೆ ಸುಪರಿಚಿತವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

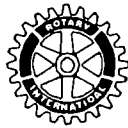
ತೋನ್ನೆ ಉಪೇಂದ್ರ ಪೈಗಳು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಗಾಂಧೀತತ್ವದಂತೆ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ನೇತಾರ ವೃತ್ತಿಯ ವಿಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ, ಮುಂದೆ ಅವನ್ನೇ ಕೆನರಾ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯಲ್ ಅಂಡ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿಂಗ್ ಸಿಂಡಿಕೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಎಂಬ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಾಲೆಯನ್ನು ಗಾಂಧೀ ಸಂದೇಶವಾದ ಅಸಹಕಾರ ಚಳವಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ ರಚನಾತ್ಮಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಈ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಿ ಸಂಘಟಕ ಸಹೋದರರೇ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಣಿಪಾಲದ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮರಂದೇ ಖ್ಯಾತರಾದ ಡಾ| ತೋನ್ನೆ ಮಾಧವ ಪೈಗಳು. ಈ ಸಹೋದರರಿಬ್ಬರೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಚಾರಧಾರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಮನಃಪೂರ್ವಕ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ದೇಶ ಸೇವಾದೀಕ್ಷೆ ವಹಿಸಿದ ಮಹನೀಯರು. ಅಂತಹ ನೇತಾರರಾದ ತೋನ್ನೆ ಉಪೇಂದ್ರ ಪೈಗಳ ಸತ್ಪುತ್ರರೇ ಮುಂದೆ ಸಿಂಡಿಕೇಟ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಗಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೊಂಡ ಪೈ ಬಂಧುಗಳ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೂ, ಆಮೇಲೆ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಧುರೀಣರಾಗಿ, ಪಾರ್ಲಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೆಂಬರರೂ, ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳೂ ಆಗಿ ವಿರಾಜಿಸಿದ ತೋನ್ನೆ ಅನಂತ ಪೈಗಳು ; ಮೇಧಾವೀ ರಚನಾತ್ಮಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತ ತೋನ್ನೆ ಉಪೇಂದ್ರ ಪೈಗಳ ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪುತ್ರ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಧುರೀಣರನಿಸಿದ ತೋನ್ನೆ ಅನಂತಪೈಗಳ ಕಿರಿಯ ಸೋದರರೇ ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ ಪೈಗಳು.

ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ ಪೈಗಳನ್ನು ನಾನು ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿಚಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡದ್ದು ಡಾ| ಮಾಧವ ಪೈಗಳ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ; ಬೋಳು ಗುಡ್ಡವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಡಾ| ಮಾಧವ ಪೈಗಳ ದೂರದೃಷ್ಟಿಯ ಯೋಚನೆ - ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ನಿರಂತರ ಪ್ರಯೋಗದ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಇಂದು ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯ ಒಂದು ಸುಂದರ ನಗರವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಎಕಾಡಮಿ ಆಫ್ ಜನರಲ್ ಎಜ್ಯುಕೇಷನ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ರೂಪಿತವಾಯಿತು ; ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲುಗಳು, ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು, ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್, ಕಾನೂನು, ಸಂಗೀತ, ಲಲಿತಕಲೆ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾದುವು. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಮದ್ರಾಸು, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳ ಸಂಪರ್ಕದಿಂದ ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಸಮೃದ್ಧವಾದವು. ಇಂದು ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಉಡುಪಿ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಕಾರ್ಕಳ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಟಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ವಿಸ್ತಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಘನವಾದ ಮಹತ್ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾ| ಪೈಗಳ ಜತೆನಿಂತು ನಿರಂತರ ಶ್ರದ್ಧೆಯಿಂದ ಸಮರ್ಪಣ ಬುದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸಮರ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಮಹನೀಯರು ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ ಪೈಗಳು. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಪಿತ ಮಹತ್ಕಾರ್ಯಗಾಂಧಿಯ ಜೊತೆ ಮಹಾದೇವ ದೇಸಾಯಿ

ಗಳದ್ದಂತೆ, ಡಾ| ಪೈಗಳ ನೆರಳಾಗಿ ನಿಂತು ಸೇವಾಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಸ್ಥಿತರಾಗಿ ದುಡಿದ ರಮೇಶ ಪೈಗಳ ಸಾರ್ಥಕ ಜೀವನದ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ನಾಡಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಮರಣ ಅಭಿನಂದಿಸಲೇಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ನಾನೂ, ನನ್ನ ಹಾರ್ಡಿಕ ಅಭಿನಂದನೆಯ ಈ ಕಿರು ಕಾಣಿಕೆ ಈ ಲೇಖನ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲು ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಡಾ| ಪೈಗಳ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿ ಆಫ್ ಜನರಲ್ ಎಜ್ಯುಕೇಷನ್ 1940ರ ಸುಮಾರಿಗೆ ಫೆಲೋಷಿಪ್ ನೀಡಿತು. ಮಣಪಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗುವ ಹಲವು ಸಮಾರಂಭಗಳಿಗೆ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಪೈ ಬಂಧುಗಳು ಆಂದಿನಿಂದ ಇಂದಿನವರೆಗೂ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಿಂದ ಆಮಂತ್ರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಾನೂ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದೇನೆ. ಡಾ| ಪೈಗಳು ನಾನು ಯಾವಾಗ ಮಣಪಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೂ ಅವರ ಮನೆಗೇ ಬರಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಖಾಯಂ ಆಮಂತ್ರಣವನ್ನೇ ಬರೆದು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರಿಗೂ ನನಗೂ ಭೇಟಿ ಆಗುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ಬಂದಾಗ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಆಗ ಅವರ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಇರುವ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ನಾನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವಿಷಯದ ಕೊನೆಯ ನಿರ್ಣಯಕ್ಕೆ ಡಾ| ಪೈಗಳು ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈಗಳ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತನ್ನ ಅಣ್ಣ ಶ್ರೀ ಉಪೇಂದ್ರ ಪೈಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಅನಂತಪೈಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾ| ಪೈಯವರಿಗೆ ಅಪಾರ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಇದ್ದುದನ್ನು ನಾನು ಹಲವು ಸಲ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈ ಮನಸ್ತಿಕೆಯ ಸತ್ಪರಿಣಾಮವೇ ಇಂದು ಮಣಪಾಲವನ್ನು ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಎವರಿಸಿದೆ. ದೇಶ-ವಿದೇಶಗಳ ವಿಸ್ತಾರವಾದ ಪರ್ಯಟನದಿಂದ, ಆಳವಾದ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸದಿಂದ ನಿರಂತರ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಸ್ಥಿತ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಲಾಪಗಳಿಂದ ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ್ ಪೈಗಳು ಓರ್ವ ಅನನ್ಯ ಸಾಧಕರಾಗಿರುವುದು. ಶ್ರೀ ಪೈಗಳು ಸಮೃದ್ಧ ನೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಜೀವನ ಮಾಡಿ ಲೋಕಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತಾಗಲಿ.

◇



IN ROTARY

AN INTELLIGENT BRAIN - AN INTELLIGENT HEART

ROBERT R. BARTH

Rtn. Robert R. Barth was the Rotary International President in 1943-44 and Trustee Chairman – 1998-99. He lives in Rothrist, Switzerland.

Ramesh Pai and I became close friends in the two years we served together as members of the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

As exceptionally gifted and talented as Ramesh is, he remains always guided by his wisdom in combining a clear and precise thinking with a modest and heart-warming approach towards the people he is addressing.

I always liked to discuss with him an actual problem out of the rich catalogue of themes Rotarians are concerned with. He has never left me without having added value to my life thanks to his deep human approach towards hardships and the sufferances of people in need are facing. And this never without expressing his charming sense of comprehensive humor.

I owe to Ramesh much of my profound esteem and respect for India's culture of which he is daily giving an impressive example by all he is saying and doing.



CAN I ASSESS RAMESH?

RAJENDRA K SABOO

Raja Saboo, as he is dearly called, is the second Indian to have become the President of Rotary International (1981-83). He is associated with many trade and industrial associations like FICC, ASSOCHAM, AIMO, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Currently he is the Chairman of Kamla Dials and Devices with units at Bangalore and Chandigarh. He lives in Chandigarh.

One of the best statements to describe Ramesh, I heard, was, “When Ramesh starts on something there is no stopping”. Everyone knowing Ramesh will endorse the statement whole-heartedly. Whether it is an industrial activity, or development of Manipal, or even a personal pursuit of a cause, once he starts he would refuse to be sidetracked or slowed down. Even in story telling, his favourite pastime, once he gets on then even his wife Shanti’s signals are ineffective on him. Seriously, Ramesh is a dreamer and goes out single-mindedly to make the dreams come true.

I was club president the year Ramesh was a Rotary District Governor. I had not known him then but had heard of him as a very persuasive and result-oriented Rotary leader. When I finally met him in early seventies I found this unassuming simple personality had something uncommon, out of average friendly attraction.

I have been in contact with Ramesh for along time; to my pleasure, last few years have particularly brought us closer.

I have seen him in action in various areas. As an educationist, his commitment is unswerving; as an industrialist, his optimism is infectious; as a social worker his sincerity is transparent; as a thinker his views and voice are candid; as a speaker he is full of wit and humor; his simple living is an example and his feet are firmly rooted to the ground. I have seen him taking visionary flights and one such occasion is when he thinks of Manipal; he is full of passion when he talks of this once-bald-hill. I have seen him working as a Rotarian and as a leader he is a team player. If you happen to be celebrating your birthday in his presence his joyful excitement will be so great that he would sing all the verses of “Happy Birthday” to you. I have found him drawing his strength from his faith and spiritual learning in which his wife is a great influence on him. In fact, simplicity personified, Shanti is Ramesh’s true-life partner who completes his personality.

How can I assess Ramesh? He is not just what he is – to me he is more than that – he is a friend. And his friendship I value. And yet when one realises the depth of his knowledge and wisdom one understands that he is the product of years of hard and meaningful work. He has earned the milestone of his life journey well. May God bless Ramesh to cover many more milestones happily and healthily.



RAMESH PAI

GLENN E. ESTESS, SR.

A Rotarian from 1960, Mr. Glenn E Estess Sr. still remains as an active member even after retirement in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. All his five brothers were in Rotary. Glenn distinguished himself in community service as well as in Rotary. He became the Director for 1990-92 and Vice President 1991-92 and Foundation Trustee for 1993-96 of Rotary International and went on to hold many other prestigious assignments in Rotary.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Pai since 1992. Dr. Pai was an incoming director of Rotary International. We immediately found Ramesh and his wife Shanti to be warm and genuine friends. We also learned of the profound respect he commanded in the field of Medical Education.

Soon after we met Dr. Pai, we had occasion to know several graduates of the Medical College in Mangalore. Dr. Pai was attentive to retaining contact with graduates now dispersed throughout the world.

Dr. Pai was a member of Rotary International's Board of Directors. This is the nineteen (19) member governing body of that organization of more than 1,200,000 members in more than one hundred fifty (150) countries.

One of Rotary International's primary programs is the PolioPlus effort to eliminate Polio from the world as we know it today. The respect Dr. Pai commands in the world

of Rotary and in the Nation of India continues to be reflected in the massive and successful National Immunization Days conducted throughout India. The success of this extraordinary effort to make our world free of the dread disease of poliomyelitis is possible because of the leadership of a great variety of Volunteers, Health Care workers and Rotarians like Dr. Pai. The sincere commitment to the welfare of children is evident in the untiring efforts of so many.

During a visit to India, I became aware of the success of Dr. Pai in the fields of Banking and Finance. Dr. Pai is known as a man of integrity with a shrewd sense of what is necessary to transform a need into a thriving enterprise. I was impressed with the passion Dr. Pai demonstrated as he talked of India's industrial development and the prospects for the future of its people.

Dr. Pai is truly a gracious and warm-hearted person. As guests in his country, my wife Mary and I were humbled by his generous and caring hospitality. We appreciate being able to contribute to the publication of **Ramesh Pai-the Man and His Mission.**



DEDICATION TO ROTARY, DEEP LOVE FOR HIS COUNTRY

W. J. WILKINSON

Rtn. Wilf Wilkinson, is the founding partner of Wilkinson & Company, Chartered Accountants. He specialized in Fraud Examination, investigative accounting and litigation support. Wilf was the District Governor and became Director, Vice President and Trustee of the Rotary Foundation for 1997-2001.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I offer these few thoughts concerning my very good friend and Past Director, Rotarian Ramesh Pai. I have known Ramesh since 1992 when he, together with his wife Shanti met Joan and myself at the indoctrination for new directors of the Rotary International. Perhaps due to my previous visits to Southern India the four of us quickly established a warm friendship that has survived the intervening years. Shanti and Ramesh work very hard both for Rotary and for the whole cause of India by bringing to the Rotary boardroom table the thoughts and aspirations of not only Rotarians but also the population of India. Both he and Shanti were able to explain the cultural differences and the needs of your country. They never for a minute tried to hide their deep love for India and its people.

However, my most intimate experience with the Pai family was when I had an opportunity in 1996 to visit them in their home at Manipal. Those few days with their children and their grandchildren were a life heartening experience.

rience. Apart from their superb hospitality, it was remarkable to see what the Pai family, under the direction and leadership of Ramesh and his father, has done for the people of Manipal and all of Southern India. The medical college alone has provided the people of India as well as most parts of the world, including Canada and the United State of America, with first class physicians.

It has been a wonderful experience for me to be associated with Ramesh and I wish him every success and longevity during the years ahead.



A MENTOR AND TEACHER

S. AARON HYATT, Ph.D.

Rtn. S. Aaron Hyatt was chosen as the ninth General Secretary of Rotary International and its Foundation. He served as District Governor during 1982-83 and many R.I. Committees as the Chairman and Director of R.I. between 1994-96.

It is an honour to be associated with a new publication to commemorate Ramesh's 75th year.

I first met Ramesh in 1994 as he was retiring as a Director of Rotary International and I was just coming onto the Board. Thus I have always looked upon him as a mentor and a teacher, which is so appropriate since his life has been dedicated to education. We have met frequently at Rotary occasions over past years and Ramesh is now currently serving on the Paul Harris Centers Committee of The Rotary Foundation, where once again Rotary is able to benefit from his experience in the field of higher education.

Rotary has been an important part of Ramesh's and Shanti's lives since 1958 and Ramesh has credited Rotary with providing him an opportunity for social service that he would not have otherwise had. As Ramesh himself wrote in Volume 2 of Rotary Wisdom Reflections on Service: "In Rotary and through Rotary, I was able to fulfill my self-actualization needs." Both he and the Rotary movement have benefited from this association. May it long continue.



VERILY A LION IN WINTER

KALYAN BANERJEE

Mr Kalyan Banerjee is the Director of M/s United Phosphorus Ltd. and was a Director of the Board of Rotary International (1995-97). He lives in VAPI ,Gujrat.

I have known Ramesh Pai well only for the past 3 years. Before that I had known him from a distance – as a scion of a great family.... But over the past 3 years, I have come to know and admire and love some rather different facets of the man. I know him now as a warm, humourous, compassionate, perceptive an unassumingly simple man—a person who is eager to share his vast storehouse of knowledge and experience in fields of education, medicine, finance, industry and service. He has been a fine leader of men. If there were only a score of persons like him in the country, perhaps the scenario in the fields of education and health care would have been different. His gift for starting institutions – be they financial or industrial – is God-given. Equally admirable is his ability to nurture such institutions to maturity and then to hand them over to others to run, though keeping a benign eye on them, even as he seeks to initiate other ventures.

It has been a privilege to know him and to call him a friend, to learn from him and to marvel at his multi-faceted personality.

Verily, he is a Lion in winter. May it be a long, long winter.



A MAN OF ALL SEASONS

DATO' JAMES PETER CHIN

Dato' James Peter Chin is Chairman of Innovara (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and Chairman of Marquest Sdn Bhd. He is also a Director of many Companies and social organisations. He is currently a Director of Rotary International, 1997-99. He lives in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

Shri Ramesh U. Pai is indeed a man of all seasons. Quite frankly, I have never met an individual with such a distinctive array of amazing accomplishments and successes. How much really can any man accomplish in his lifetime? For Ramesh, it is endless. He founded or co-founded several internationally acclaimed educational and health care institutions. This caring and concern man has to his credit 18 schools, six degree colleges in arts, science, and commerce; 15 professional colleges and about 10 hospitals and healthcare delivery systems. Some of the professional colleges have now been formed into a University. This does not take into account his varied activities in the field of finance, industry, commerce and service.

To me, Ramesh U. Pai is a national treasure. I am glad that he considers me a friend. I once asked him how he managed to do so much for the common good of all. He said his late father and he were greatly influenced by the teaching of Sri. Ramakrishna, and more significantly, by those of his internationally-known disciple, Swami Vivekananda. Eventually, he said, he found expression in the work of Rotary International when he became Char-

ter Secretary of the Rotary Club of Udupi in India culminating as an RI Director in 1992-94.

In the context of Ramesh's life and overwhelming work for the common good, I remember so well the words of George Bernard Shaw who said: "Life is not a brief candle. It is a splendid torch that I want to make burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations". This, I believe, describes very aptly our beloved Ramesh U. Pai – the industrialist, the banker, the educator, the doer, above all, a warm , humourous, compassionate, perceptive and, strangely but true, an unassuming simple man. He is a giant in his time. In the words of Robert Kennedy: "Some men see things as they are and say why! I dream things that never were and say why not!"

May the Lord Muruga grant him health and happiness to cover the many more milestones so that he can eventually hand his torch of super achievements to future generations. Yes, my friend, the remarkable Shri Ramesh U Pai is indeed a man of all seasons.



RAMESH – HE MADE THE WORLD A LITTLE BETTER

ART JENKYNs

Mr. Art Jenkyns is the Founder and Honorary President, Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canadian charitable organisation preventing blindness in the developing world. He operates from his World Headquarters in Calgary AB, Canada. His Excellency, the Governor of Canada is the patron of OEU.

It is a privilege to contribute to the celebration of Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai's 75th Birthday. Thank you for the kind invitation.

For me, my life has been highly privileged! My life's chosen work as the Founder of Operation Eyesight Universal, has taken me to many countries around the world. That in itself is a privilege! To see the wonders of this world and all the splendid sights of nature and man's creative ability was certainly privilege enough!

But the greatest privilege was that of meeting many wonderful people. People who took control of their lives and directed them to help others. People who devoted themselves in trying and making this world a little better place in which to live.

Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai of Manipal is such a man.

I would add a postscript to this tribute for I know Ramesh and I share a particular but not unique belief. "Behind every successful man is a woman and without her he

would not have been so successful!” This applies to me and my wife, Una and I know Ramesh would agree with me and his wife Shanti!

A great couple! A greater team!



A TRUE ROTARIAN

F.T. KHORAKIWALA

Shaikh Fakhruddin Shaik Taherbhai Khorakiwala was the Sheriff of Bombay in 1993. He was also the Past President of Indian Merchant's Chamber in 1995-96. He is associated with several Dawoodi Bohra Institutions like, hospital, educational institutions and a Trust. He is a Chairman of Akbarallys Group of Department Stores established in 1897 and Chairman Emerites of Wockhardt Limited. He lives in Mumbai.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Ramesh Pai for quite some time. He put up an educational complex at Manipal and made it not only known nationally but even internationally. He could show through Manipal, how education can be successfully managed in the private sector. Similarly for medical care, he had successfully shown that medical care and hospitals can be efficiently managed in the private sector. Similarly his contribution to banking and finance, which is also service oriented, has been substantial.

He also took out time to do community service through Rotary. He is a true Rotarian and because of his work through Rotary he was elected to the prestigious position as Director of Rotary International.

In India we do not find many of the successful businessmen taking out time for social work and provide that non-political leadership in other areas of social welfare and development. Mr. Ramesh Pai is an exception. In

the present environment it is necessary that independent leadership should be provided for areas in education, family planning, rural regeneration, culture sports, etc. This could be done very effectively by businessmen who must take out time. Business is funding most of the social causes. They should provide social leadership which with their expertise in management and experience of maximum utilisation of available resources would go a long way in meeting the needs of the society in non-political areas.

Such programme by the businessmen would help improve their own image and create goodwill in the society which is badly needed.



A TRUE FRIEND AND GUIDE

T. VENKATARAMA SASTRY

Mr. T. Venkatarama Sastry a leading advocate in Shimoga, was the District Governor of Rotary Dist. 3180 in 1965-66.

Mr. T. Ramesh Pai, a good friend of mine for the last 40 years and more. I have seen many facets of his life and activity. He is prepared to accept any challenge and work it through because of his Motto “Service, Determination and Sacrifice”.

I wonder how he and his wife, so well matched, find time to be everywhere, when they are wanted as a Friend and Guide.

Shall we pray and wait for his Hundred.



GROWS OLD BUT NEVER LOOSENS LIFE'S ZEST

SOM N DHINGRA

Dr. Som N. Dhingra, an entrepreneur engaged in Bulb Industries and based in Dehra Dun was a Rotary Governor of District 307 in 1970-71; a recipient of Distinguished Service Award.

Having known Ramesh Pai for the last 25 years I have always felt of having a valuable friendship with a person who has dedicated himself for improving the quality of life of all those who have ever come in contact with him or through his Institutions of Education, Medical Care, Industry and Banking and specially for those near Manipal Area. Persons like him have been described by Phillip Bailey as under –

“We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart – throbs.

He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.” Ramesh has the capacity to believe about the visions that he has for education, medical care, community services, industry and a concern for others. This belief makes him what he is and the things that keep him going in face of untoward circumstances and give him resistance and drive.

As educationist his work at Manipal Institutions like the Management College is a living example. The medical facilities created at Manipal and the health care that has

been provided alongwith quality medical education is an achievement which is envy for many.

His work through Rotary brought him to the status of International Directory of Rotary International – the Premier Service Organisation of the World. This could only be achieved because of his dedication for removal of sufferings and upgrading quality of life of the common men.

He always believes in the words of Hanery Dyke:

“I shall grow old but never lose life-s zest
Because the road’s last turn will be the best”.

My prayer to the Almighty is always that my dear friend Ramesh may continue his quest for happiness to all human beings and may he be blessed with long and healthy life to achieve his goal.



IN TRUE SERVICE TO THE NATION

P. K. TARE

Mr. P.K. Tare is retired Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court; before retirement he was also Chairman of M.P. Law Commission and Lokayukt. Above all he was a freedom fighter.

It is really a pleasure to recount the good work by Shri T Ramesh U Pai in various fields, namely education, medical care, banking and finance, industry and community service through Rotary International. I have known of his excellent work in the sphere of education and community service through Rotary International. He deserves all praise for the same and thereby he has rendered unstinted service in the cause of the nation. I wish him long life so that he may still serve the nation by his various activities.

-JAI HIND-



A SUPERB AND IMPRESSIVE SPEAKER

GYANENDRA KUMAR

Mr. Gyanendra Kumar is a former Justice of Allahabad High Court. He was District Governor of R I District 312 during 1970-71 and a member of the Council on Legislation '86. He resides at Allahabad (U.P)

Ramesh Pai belongs to my batch of Rotary Governors for the year 1970-71, who had attended the Rotary International Assembly at Lake Placid, U.S.A., during May 1970. Almost at the very first sight Ramesh impressed me as a genial and kind hearted friend. Hence my wife Krishna and I became quite friendly with Ramesh and his spouse Shanti during our sojourn at Lake Placid.

With the passage of time we came to know the Pai couple more intimately, as we met frequently at various Rotary functions, particularly the Rotary Institute at Delhi, Bangalore, Bombay and Agra. To my regret I could not attend the Rotary Institute at Manipal, inspite of pressing personal invitations from Ramesh and Shanti, on account of protracted illness of my wife who, unfortunately, passed away on 10th September 1994.

Ramesh Pai is really a towering personality of various facets and interests and has been primarily responsible for bringing the name of Manipal on the world map of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance, apart from various industries which are now dotting the face of Manipal which, at one time, was a mere distant town in the heart of Karnataka, not even served by a railway line.

But this was achieved by his constant and devoted application of his skilful creativity, where now stand the prestigious Educational, Medical, Engineering, Banking, Financial and Industrial Institutions which serve as monumental testimony to the many fold qualities of his genius in all aspects of human qualities and concern for the welfare of the society and mankind at large.

In the field of Rotary service, Ramesh Pai's contribution and rise have been meteoric, having served with distinction in almost all important Rotary offices, culminating in the coveted position of a Director of Rotary International which he is now adorning with dignity and distinction.

Ramesh is a living legend in the Rotary World of India and abroad and is a real friend, philosopher and guide to all the Rotarians around him. He is a superb and impressive speaker at Rotary functions and Fellowship get-togethers.

His helping nature and concern for a friend is borne out by a small incident which occurred at Lake Placid in May 1970. During one of the days in International Assembly it was announced by the authorities concerned that in the evening function everyone should appear in his national dress. Unfortunately, I had only taken 3 piece and 2 piece suits with me and did not know how to conform to the dress desired by the management of the International Assembly. Seeming somewhat perplexed he approached me to enquire as to what was my embarrassment, which I related to him in a helpless tone. Initially Ramesh told me that he had brought two buttoned-up coats, one of which I could select for my use on the occasion as national dress. Needless to say that I jumped at his offer and Shanti Bai promptly adjusted the coat buttons to fit me better and look as if it was my own! I can never forget this act of human kindness and concern for a friend in need. I hap-

pily recount that in one of the important Rotary functions I had described the Pai family as the Birlas of Karnataka. May God grant long life and greater glory to Ramesh Pai.



A POETIC PORTRAIT

RAJNI C THACKER

Mr. Rajni C Thacker, Past District Governor of RI Dist. 3060 [1970-71] lives in Surat.

I have penned down a few lines I came across which are true reflections of Ramesh and Shanti as we have known them over last 25 years:

He is a simple man, always down to earth,
Oasis in a desert, when such person in dearth.
A great organiser, very noble at heart,
Exemplary for others, as living art,
Opportunities galore, but honest to the core,
For luxurious living he is never sore.
In various Institutions, he worked as a head,
They would not have prospered but for his aid.
For Rotary, he is a driving force,
For Institutions, he is an inspiring source.
Sincere Social Service, his life's goal,
Always prepared to play his role.
He is lucky to have a co-operative wife,
She never grudges, for their hectic but simple life.
Always smiling, meets big and small,
That is the reason, he is loved by all.
Rotary International's Directorship a feather in his cap,
Deserves our congrats, kudos and claps,
May God give him and 'Shanthi' good health and long life,
To remove from people, agony and strife.



HE IS THOROUGHLY SECULAR AND HUMAN IN OUTLOOK

O.P. SAPRA

Mr. O.P. Sapra was Rotary District Governor (of 3100), 1988-89, leader of GSE Team to Brazil in 1992 and member of R.I. Task Force Committee.

Shri Ramesh Pai is a well known personality not only in the state of Karnataka but in the whole country and internationally also, particularly in the field of education, medical care, banking and finance besides industry. He has been engaged in multi-splendoured activities associated with various welfare and educational institutions. His interests in these fields is unmitigated and whole-hearted. He has been working for the same with great devotion and dedication.

I came more close to him when he was elected as R.I. Director. Age did not deter him from putting his heart and soul in the activities of Rotary International in his capacity as R.I. Director and undoubtedly he proved to be one of the best directors we had. His organisational skill is unmatched. He impressed with his words of wisdom and delighted everyone while addressing various conferences of Rotary International with his wit and humour. His contributions in the Rotary field are really great.

He is thoroughly secular and human in outlook and his

action overcomes the barriers of religion, region and language without discriminating between person and person. I found him always optimistic.

I wish him a very long and healthy life so that he continues to serve the humanity.



RAMESH PAI – A BORN LEADER

KASSIM DADA

Rtn. Kassim Dada is a Past District Governor of Dist. 307 East & West Pakistan during 1969-70. He is also the recipient of Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and the citation for Meritorious Service in 1978.

Ramesh is undoubtedly one of the important Rotary leaders of our region.

Looking at things from a wide perspective, welfare of others has been his regular habit, and acting on his beliefs is the natural consequence of his outlook and attitude. Rotary has provided him with a further avenue of service which fits well with what he has been doing for many years.

Ramesh is a deep thinker and a born leader of men. His family background of service to the community on a large scale has helped to further refine and sharpen his inborn tendency and talent to help others on a continuing basis in a wide variety of ways.

In Shanti he is fortunate in having an understanding and loving companion who has played an important supportive role in his active and fruitful life.

May the Almighty bless Ramesh with good health and happiness.



CONSTRUCTIVE IN HIS APPROACH

B.P. BERI

After a distinguished academic career commenced legal practice in Ajmer in 1938. He was elevated to the Bench of the High Court of Judicature, Rajasthan in 1960 and then as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court in 1973. He was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1976. Appointed as Chairman, Single Member Committee between 1978-81. Served as Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Jaipur in 1996-97. Elected as Dist. Governor of Rotary Dist. 305 for 1970-71. Authored many books ranging from Law, History, Language (Hindi) and Literature. Recipient of three awards. He lives in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Ramesh Pai was my class-fellow at Lake Placid as a Rotary Governor. Amiable, quiet and constructive in approach he has rendered great service to the cause of Education to ensure a bright future for the country and dedicated his efforts to wipe out tears of suffering humanity afflicted by disease. He is a financial wizard but what will perpetuate his name will be continued service to India's tomorrow. May he live on and on to continue his mission.



AN OUTSTANDING ROTARIAN AND TRUE FRIEND

NAHNI T. KAPADIA

Mr. Nahni Kapadia is a businessman living in Belgaum, and was District Governor of Rotary International District 317 in 1971-72.

My association with Ramesh Pai began and continues through our membership in Rotary. But Rotary was only part of Ramesh's numerous achievements in a multifaceted career, which are very well known and described by so many distinguished persons that another tribute from me would be superfluous. I will therefore restrict myself only to Ramesh as I have known him in Rotary.

I got to know Ramesh in the early 1960's, a little before his illustrious uncle the late Dr. T.M.A. Pai became the District Governor of the then Rotary District 317. Ramesh was his District Secretary, and it fell to him to translate that great visionary's ideas and guidelines into concrete action. Yet another example of the unique uncle-nephew association that spectacularly succeeded in their multifarious spheres of activity.

Ramesh's Rotary career was thereafter in the ascendance. He was elected District Governor a year before me, but the District was bifurcated thereafter. Ramesh was the first District Governor of the new District 318, and I followed a year later for the remaining District 317. Though we subsequently served different districts, our paths frequently crossed, and I was and remain his great admirer.



MY FRIEND RAMESH PAI

GYAN PRAKASH GUPTA

Mr. Gyan Prakash Gupta, has a chain of business concerns ranging from hotels, small scale industry petroleum products and trading firms. He is also a Past District Governor of Rotary District 3190.

Today in the year 1999, if a man or a woman has a photograph of himself with Mahatma Gandhi or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or Dr. Rajendra Prasad or Sardar Vallabhai Patel or Pandit Madan Mohan Malviyaji or with Mrs. Indira Gandhi – in his heart, he will have a feeling of greatness, great achievement and a sense of pride. He will take opportunity to show the photograph to his grandchildren and recall the story of how the photograph came about. Each time he would narrate the story, he will experience a sense of satisfaction and pride.

25 years later from today, when a person will show a photo of himself with our friend T. Ramesh U. Pai, the same kind of feelings of satisfaction and pride will get generated. Why?

Yes, Ramesh Pai has climbed many a step of success and fame in his walk of life up a set of stairs. But why should his friends admire him?

I like Ramesh Pai for his humourous, simple language. For his most unassuming personality, for his great learning, for his devotion for service, for his friendship.

His contribution for generating literacy, learning, voca-

tional opportunity, opening up venues in Trade, Industry and Commerce, care in Health and Medical matters, for his value for peace at all levels, affectionate family life, for his being a trustworthy human being.

I have known Shri. T. Ramesh U. Pai and his wife Smt. Shantiji for decades and both of us, my wife Smt. Saroj Gupta and I consider a good fortune that we have a gentle couple like them in our midst and have become an example.



SERVICE IS HIS MISSION

TRILOK NATH

Commissioned in the I.P. in 1939 in the British Government, Mr. Trilok Nath retired in 1975 as the Head of Police Force in Bihar State. He became the District Governor of Rotary District 326 and 325 covering Eastern India including Nepal and Burma (now Mynmar). At eighty plus he is actively associated with the National Association for the Blind. He lives in Delhi.

I have known Ramesh (and Shanthi) for nearly three decades, no mean period to make an assessment of his (their) personality. Assessment making had been the prime job, which I did in my nearly four decades in the I.P., which was a parcel of the colonial steel-frame in this country. I can therefore express my ideas about Ramesh as a human being though I may not be able to do the same about his mission. Of this I have had some glimpses only that truly reflected his personality. In short, his mission has been service, under all worthy and worthwhile flags. Rotary was one of such items and I have savoured of it in an ample measure to be able to say that, he was highly successful in this field, having been elected to the office of Director of this great movement R.I.

My assessment of Ramesh, the man, is nothing short of a string of eulogical words, beginning with simplicity in carrying on with sincerity and dedication to all works taken in hand. I jocularly told my friends that Ramesh is not Pai (pie) but solid gold. While I pray for long years for his

worthy and fruitful service, I would only repeat a few words of an Urdu Poet – Tum Jio Hazaro Sal, Har Sal Key Hon Hazar Baras. I thank you for allowing me to express my views.



RAMESH – HUMANE, KIND

V. S. BHANDARI

Mr. Vijay Bhandari is the Chief Executive of Bhandari Group of Companies. He has served as Chairman IRTDA. He was the Dist. Governor of Rotary Dist. 3290 in 1972-73 and also for 1973-74. He received citation for Meritorious Service Award. He lives in Calcutta.

I have known Rtn. T. Ramesh U. Pai of Manipal for nearly 25 years. I served as a Governor 1972-73 and 1973-74. He is one of those persons whose multi-faceted personality has made a tremendous impact on every one. His kindness is unbelievable. In spite of his busy schedule with so many activities he takes personal care.

One incident I would like to relate is of great significance to me. My sister wanted her son to be admitted in Manipal. There was lot of difficulties in admission, but my sister persisted and went to see Ramesh Bhai at Manipal. It was so kind of Ramesh that he took personal care of her and also helped her in getting the admission of her son.

My nephew had sent me a CARD, which said, "Thank you for making my future bright." I sent this Card to Ramesh.

Most unfortunately, one month later my nephew died in a scooter accident. When I informed Ramesh about it he was in tears. Later, when he visited Jaipur he met my sister and brother-in-law and he wept as if his own family

member has died.

This was the depth of feeling that Ramesh has for people. I sincerely hope that God gives many more years to Ramesh and Shanti. He is an outstanding man in every way and yet he is so simple in his behaviour.



A SINCERE FRIEND AND INSPIRING LEADER

GEMUNU GUNATILLEKE

Mr. Gemunu Gunatilleke is a partner of Ernst & Young Chartered Accountants and served as Governor of RI District 3220 in 1984/85, which covered parts of Tamilnadu, South India and Sri Lanka.

I am grateful to Rotary for having given me both the pleasure and privilege of getting to know a great personality – Mr. Ramesh Pai, Past Director of Rotary International.

I had the opportunity to come into close contact with Mr. Ramesh Pai at the time of planning and organizing the Asia Zone II Institute in the year 1993/94 when he served as the Convener of the Institute in his capacity as RI Director serving the Region. I was able to appreciate his outstanding qualities of leadership in planning, organizing, delegating and motivating others.

Ramesh has a genial personality and is able to narrate humourous stories in a most original manner. His wealth of knowledge both on academic and Rotary matters and his ready wit makes him a very popular speaker.

Ramesh although born with a silver spoon has achieved success in life through his own efforts. He is an acknowledged leader in the fields of Banking, Finance, Education and Medical Care not only in India, but also in neighbouring countries such as Nepal. Ramesh is fortu-

nate to have as his wife and constant companion, Shanti, who supports him fully in all his endeavours. I wish Ramesh long life and many more years of selfless service to society.



A LEADER IN TRUE SENSE

VARKEY GEORGE

Mr. Varkey George is a past District Governor (1972-73) of Rotary District 3210. He was also a former Member of Parliament. He is the Chairman of A V George Group of Companies, one of the leading tea and rubber plantation groups in South India. He lives in Kottayam.

I had the privilege of getting acquainted with Sri. Ramesh Pai for quite some time. I met him for the first time in 1960 – when he visited Kottayam – my home town – looking around for a proper place for a branch of Syndicate Bank, I was so impressed with his courteous manners and dynamism. I offered a wing of my newly constructed office building. The branch of Syndicate Bank still functions there.

Life and achievements of Sri. Ramesh Pai are awe-inspiring. His contributions to the society in the field of education, medical care, banking, finance and industries are well known.

As Rotary leader he is known in the entire rotary world. As A Past Governor of District 3210 (1972-73), I looked upto him for guidance and inspiration. His speeches in Rotary gatherings with full of jokes and wits motivated Rotarians to do their best for minimizing the hardships of poor people.

I always consider him as a friend, guide and philosopher.

I get a greeting card signed by him and his charming wife Shanti on all my birthdays. I wonder how he remembers my birthday during his busy social and business schedule. May God bless him and his family.



SIMPLE IDEAS, FATHOMLESS THOUGHTS, PRECISE KNOWLEDGE

ASHOK M. MAHAJAN

*Rotarian Ashok K Mahajan was District Governor for 3140,
Mulund, Mumbai.*

It's a privilege – an honoured privilege – to have an opportunity to say a few words about R.I. Director 1992-94 Rtn. T. Ramesh Pai.

Born with a service spoon in his mouth, he has elevated service to a Himalayan height and has enriched Rotary by his great achievements.

Brought up in the famous Pai family of Udupi, he has so many interests at heart and all his interests have been so successful that it reads like a fairy tale. He has been a banker par excellence, and educationist par superior, a Rotarian finest, a leader incomparable and an industrialist of repute.

'R' stands not only for Ramesh but for Rotary and his blood has those special cells of service circulating all over. He served R.I. with distinction as Director in 1992-94 and his achievements, aptitude, pleasant disposition and characteristic humility have made him a favourite of many R.I. dignitaries.

It is a pleasure to listen to his talks – full of humour, simple ideas, fathomless thoughts and precise knowledge. It is a great pleasure to talk to him and still greater pleasure to

work with him. He carries an aura of authenticity and a charm of a prince.

In Manipal and Udupi, his name is a household word. Everything he has touched has turned to Gold – truly a Midas Rotarian. And amongst all this splendour it is a surprise to realize that he is a simple, lovable, talkable friend. The pair Shanti and Ramesh truly reflect the ideal in friendship.

It is easy to love him

It is easy to respect him

It is easy to listen to him

It is easy to follow him

It is easy to mark with him

It is, however, impossible to emulate him

He's a true son of Rotary.



RAMESH U. PAI – AN APPRECIATION

VENUGOPAL C. GOVIND

Mr. Venugopal C. Govind is a Managing Partner of M/s Varma & Varma, leading Chartered Accountants in Cochin. He was the Governor of Rotary Dist. 3200 in 1979-80. He is also a Senior Management Consultant and served as the President of many associations of Commerce and Industry.

To some of us who know Dr. Ramesh Pai for over a quarter of a century – ‘Ramesh’ as we affectionately call him – is a towering institution by himself. Ramesh is personification of excellence, perfection, perseverance, dedication, ambition and humility. His whole life is a saga of service and success in community, business, educational, professional and social life, worthy of emulation by all. He is a man of principles and one who values, values.

There are many who have achieved success in life, but not founded on ‘values’. A life and an institution without value are hollow and purposeless and they serve none. Rare indeed, are men who have dignified their lives by their selfless contribution to the cause of humanity. Every vocation, every activity, every position, every organization, every institution unfolds opportunities for service and men with rare distinction of commitment and values do make use of every such opportunity to give themselves to others. Manipal is known all over the globe as the abode of “Pais” and Ramesh Pai is one of the strongest links in the chain of the great family of Pais of Manipal,

who, through their dream and vision, running through decades, transformed the whole of Manipal into a centre of excellence in education, quality in healthcare, service in social action and success in industry and commerce.

The exemplary leadership provided by Sri Ramesh Pai in steering the various institutions nurtured by his family, now known as the 'Manipal Group of institutions' which extended to almost all activities of educational, medical, cultural, social, business and community life of Manipal has to be written in golden letters in history.

Ramesh has left his indelible mark of quality and success through excellence and perfection in almost all the institutions – he has served with distinction. The number of beneficiaries, who have gained through the benevolent service of such institutions in all branches of education – engineering, technical, medical, management, et-al – over the decades, run into thousands and they are now to be seen in all spheres, spreading the saga of success and services of Pairs of Manipal.

Ramesh, today as the senior most and the leading figure of the house of Pais, is the doyen amongst the towering personalities in this part of the globe, who has, on his own, added a new meaning of standards and quality, if life. He has provided inspiring leadership through his rare skills to organize, mobilize, motivate, enthuse and encourage men of all hues and all ages and of all strata in society. He shines as a beacon of hope and a 'Big Banyan' of shade and succour to many in distress, pain and want.

Rotary International has gained immensely out of his unequivocal and unparalleled dedication to the cause of this great movement. There have not been many who walked on this earth wearing the lapel pin of Rotary – the power-

ful insignia of Rotary International –kept closed to their chests who have served, sustained, promoted and fostered this institution with such rare commitment and devotion as Ramesh has over the last several decades. He has been recognized often, as the most outstanding example of selfless service in promoting the lofty objects of ‘Rotary’ founded in fellowship, grown in friendship and blossomed in uniting people worldwide towards the ideal of worthy service to humanity at large.

As he crosses yet another significant milestone in the cherished years of his legendary life, I join the thousands of its friends and admirers in wishing him health, happiness, peace, contentment, success and satisfaction for many more years of productive, useful life, in his continuing pursuit of ‘Service Above Self’.

Most respected Shantiji, who has been his partner in life, gracious, gifted, dignified, accomplished as she is, has been of great support and strength to Ramesh in all his endeavours and she too exemplified herself with her rare qualities of head and heart, in contributing beyond measure, to all, what Ramesh is, today.

May God bless this wonderful couple with many more years of long healthy, satisfying, life.



RAMESH – THE REAL GREAT MAN

DR. PAUL CHRISTIAN

Dr. Paul Christian was the Dist. Governor of R.I. District 3210 in 1986-87. He now lives in Kollam, Kerala.

There are great men who make others feel dwarfed in their presence. But, the REAL Great Man is the one who makes others feel just as great, in his company. T. Ramesh U. Pai is one such guy – a REAL Great Man. We, lesser Rotarians, feel comfortable in his company – and enjoy it too. His speeches are filled with wisdom and spiced with an abundance of wit. I remember his after dinner toast at a banquet in Colombo where the then President of Sri Lanka, Junis Jayavardhane was the Chief Guest and the ruling President and a couple of Past Presidents of Rotary International were present. For twenty minutes he kept the audience (over 1000) roaring with laughter. I'll bet my last farthing, that even today, old Junis will be chuckling in his grave over Ramesh's humour.

It is a shame that an Indian becomes the R.I. President once in 30 years. I wish I am around then, in another 3 decades, just to hear Ramesh, as an International President.

Happy Birthday to you, Ramesh, and very many more ever happier returns of the same.



RAMESH PAI AS I KNOW

DR. GIRISH UDAPUDI

Dr Girish Udupudi runs a Polyclinic in Jamkhandi, Karnataka State. He was District Governor of Rotary Dist. 3170 in 1988-89. He is also the family physician of Pais.

Mahatma Gandhi the Father of the Nation once said, "A small body of determined and spirited men fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history". One such team: - a humble family of Pais is the monumental example of the belief of the Mahatma. Like the lotus rising from a small pond; rose the members of this great family each with his/her own special blossom, that made them outstanding; individually and collectively.

One such flower rising in a rural background rose to the national and International fame by his own committed work, sincerity and forethought and that is Ramesh Pai. He did play a supporting role as a youngster to the seniors in the family. But soon outshined others by his volunteerism, hard work unfailing faith in his own beliefs and strong conviction. I have been meeting Rtn. Rameshji in the last twenty years in Rotary gatherings. I am more than convinced about his friendly feeling, because of his sweet smile, affectionate behaviour (with rank and file Rotarians and their family members) enquiring about well being of everyone. That makes people coming in touch with him feel cared for. His memory of names and incidences are all very clear. He is more humane than many

others of his stature. Shantakka adds to this affectionate approach; and we the youngsters find parental love and concern in Ramesh and Shantakka. They believe in encouraging youngsters for a good cause by their own example. Their hospitality has a personal touch which I and my friends enjoyed in their home.

Inside this soft looking person there is a strong will and skill to accomplish the goals he envisages. His commitment to anything is always complete and competent. He works like a devil for a Godly cause and with religious fervour. Result; is the aim; honesty; is the approach. Rameshji is a man of superb knowledge and accuracy. He is one who can solve crosswords puzzle in ink. This many splendoured personality with multifaceted interests have made him competent, confident, and successful. When it is tough to work only the tough can work. Even at this age he is a dynamo both in planning and execution. "Providence of grace days I got", he says "should be utilized for a good cause of the Nation of human upliftment".

When it comes to humanitarian cause, his heart cries out with concern and compassion for the emancipation of the less fortunate and to purify the social, political and administrative systems. He stands as an ideal example for others to emulate and as a guide to help others to fathom the seas. May God give Shantakka and Ramesh a long, healthy and useful life.



A GOOD LEADER

SUDHIR RASHINGKAR

Dr.Sudhir Rashingkar is engineer by profession and was past Governor of Rotary International Dist.3130, Pune.

“He reaches the top position being totally modest. He glorifies the good qualities of other people And thereby indicates his own virtues. He always Works for the benefit of others and thereby Projects his own interest, he shuts the mouth of critics by pardoning them. Who would not like praise such gentleman ?”

Past Director Rtn,Ramesh Pai fits into above characteristics. I really came to know more about him at Rotary's Trivandrum Institute, when I was Governor-nominee. I found him to be very simple, easily approachable person. He will start dialogue without much formality and once in it, will never show that he is a wealthy man, he heads a big business group and also (later on) that he is Director of our International Organization. His language is simple, practical and his speeches full of wits, examples and jokes.

I still remember his short speech during Colombo Institute at a banquet when Hon.J.R.Jaywardhane, past President of Srilanka was present. He gave a vivid account of importance of ladies through jokes, poems and so on. Same was the case during two Institutes that I attended during which he was convenor at Manipal and Colombo. He was at his best during opening and closing remarks.

During his Directorship, I was a PDG and hence had no

occasion to work under his stewardship but I attended atleast four functions in our own district. When he spoke, and his speeches were always interesting to hear the main thread of thought was always a concern for education and especially for those women. His theory is that population, poverty and many other social problems are due to the heavy percentage of illiterate women in India. He not only expressed his concern but in his own way has done something within field through various institutes of education in Manipal and other places. He proudly shows, speaks and narrates about the growth of Manipal from a barren land in remote corner of India into a major centre of education, medicine and business. Manipal gave birth to one of the biggest banks of India (now nationalised) and other business and financial organisations. His pioneering contribution in these ventures is to be worth noticing.

Inspite of all this, he devoted time to social work and amongst it, Rotary found main medium, over the years. He developed many many social projects, held many responsible positions and went on to become Director of the most coveted voluntary social service organisation. During his tenure, he had an occasion to visit practically all districts and through his speeches, he emphasised the need for Rotary to be community – oriented and specially to concentrate on women's education. At the same time, he was passing through a critical phase in his business and must be under great tension but he never showed it at his Rotary work. This is-a good quality of leader.

During all his travel in business and social field, the support of Anne Shanthi was always an asset. She always cares for others and makes everybody feel at home.

Overall, contribution of Rtn.Ramesh in the particular field of Education, Medical Service, Banking, Business and more

important through Rotary's medium will need to be recorded with reverence. We look forward to another opportunity to work with him in Asia Zone - II institute in Pune.

May God bless him with long and happy life in Service to the Community.



AN ORGANISER PAR EXCELLENCE

DR. LAXMIKANT BHOJWANI

A qualified and practicing Chartered Accountant, Dr. L. R. Bhojwani obtained a Ph.D. in Taxation of Industries. He is also Chairman of several family concerns, notable among them being Ram Laxman Hotels, Pune, owned by Holiday Inn. He was the District Governor of Rotary Dist. 3130 in 1988-89. He is connected with many educational institutions. He lives in Pune.

I have great respect and regard for Ramesh and his loving wife – Shantiji. I came to know Ramesh through Rotary. As and when I met him, I came to know more about him. I was much more impressed with his love for Education and Industry and his support to all activities from his heart. Whatever he says comes right from his shoulders and he never minces his words. Even as the Director of Rotary International, he gave an excellent account of himself as an Organizer par excellence.

He is one Educationist who is above board and he tries to help people. Once it so happened that, a friend of mine met me in Bombay and asked me to arrange admission for his son at the Engineering College in Manipal. I just gave a call to Ramesh and though the admissions were over, obliging as he is, Ramesh told me to send the father and son to Manipal and that, he would take care of the matter. Today, that same boy is doing extremely well as an Engineer in the US.

I wish we had many more Ramesh Pais in our country so

that , we could have many Educational & Financial Institutions, Banks and Industries, which can do well.

I wish Ramesh excellent health and happiness so that, he can continue to contribute to the development of various institutions. He is one person from whom I have learnt a lot and I cherish the memories of my association with him. In fact, I look forward to meeting him so that, I can learn something more.



RAMESH – A TRUE FRIEND

DR. LAL RATHOD

Dr Lal Rathod FRCS (Lond.) is the leading Urologist and Oncologist in Rajkot. He also works for WHO as the Head of Surveillance team for South East Asia. He was the District Governor of Rotary Dist. 306 in 1989-90.

Ramesh has been a friend since 50's when my wife Dr. Hema joined Medical College, Manipal in the very first batch. As a friend he is sincere and concerned. He takes time for his friends. His frankness with his friends is always palatable. To him friendship is as much a responsibility as an opportunity. There are cases where Ramesh has helped friends in distress, financial as well as emotional. From child's admission to terminal illness, Ramesh has always stood by his friends. How true are the words of Robert Louis Stevenson's "So long as we love, we serve. So long we are loved by others I would say we are indispensable; and every man is important while he has a friend." " Ramesh, I feel you're important. You are most affable and kindhearted friend. You have rare combination of Humility and Honesty." I remember a poem from my childhood.

Ramesh is a Friend

He can speak his mind and knows when to keep quiet
He can pat your back and kick your butt if needed
He can share a hearty meal, a good joke at sunset
He acts neither big nor small but just medium
He lets you be you; He is the answer to your needs

As a man he is a good chap with lots of steel in his back. He is an excellent administrator with a sensitivity for humanity. Trying to understand the other fellow's point of view is his concern.

Among his many admirable qualities one of the strongest is his ability to meet, adapt to, and encourage change – especially change that would better the lives of people around him. He is flexible, hopeful and forward-looking. He sees Rotary's role not as sweeping and daring, but as a constant influence through its special friendship network, through which the Message of Understanding could be continuously transmitted.

He is a leader, a man who stands ready to meet the challenges of a changing world. He inspires us all to follow his footsteps.

It is said that "A man's worth is - what he gives and forgives." This is the quality of heart, and head, Ramesh possesses. He measures upto every test of greatness in thoughts, in deeds, upholding high human values, his fight for the noble cause and downtrodden.

He is so close to the soil and with understanding of weaker people's aspirations as well as his amiability, he can be depended upon to serve the community.

I feel proud to be his Friend.

Shanti always walked beside him in all his endeavours. With her versatile talents in music, arts, literature and social service, Shanti has left lasting impression with his friends and associates.

I wish them a long, healthy and happy life.



SRI RAMESH PAI – THE PERSONIFICATION OF PERFECTION AND DEDICATION

A. I. ABRAHAM

Mr. A.I. Abraham was the Dist. Governor of R.I. District 3210 in 1990-91 and now lives in Kottayam, Kerala.

“The span of life should not be measured merely by the number of years, but by the good volume of works done; for the zeal and welfare of one’s fellow-men, because years are only leaves abounding in the tree of life, but good deeds of service and sacrifice are the fruits and flowers growing on it. A harmonious pattern of life can be woven by growing beautiful flowers of good deeds of human love, of sympathy, mercy, devotion, and dedication in service to God in Man.”

While reminiscing Ramesh Pai, the person I greatly admire for his simplicity and humble manners and also sincerity of purpose, I could find the above quote most appropriate in characterizing this great man.

My acquaintance with Ramesh Pai started two decades back when the Branch of the ICDS was inaugurated at Kottayam. Ramesh was the Chairman of the Company at that time, and as President of the Kottayam Chamber of Commerce, he gave me the privilege to give my felicitations during the meeting to the Management and staff of the Company. The affection and sincerity with which he talked to me on matters concerning business, Rotary, etc. made me an instant admirer of this great man. I had the privilege to closely associate with him on several occa-

sions. While I was the District Governor of Rotary District 321 in 1990-91, I organized a grand reception for Ramesh at Kottayam, to felicitate him on being elected as the Director of Rotary International. I still remember his eloquent speech, emphasizing his total commitment and dedication in spreading the ideals of Rotary. He has proved to be one of the most successful and result-oriented RI Directors, the Rotary Zone consisting of India, Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, has produced.

His outstanding organizational ability was fully evident at the meticulously planned Rotary International Institute he organized at the beautiful township Manipal – the place the Pai Family has transformed from a bald hill to a haven of educational institutes, hospitals, financial institutions, and above all, the cosmopolitan abode of people from different nations, from 10 to 14 December 1992. It was there I learnt that Ramesh Pai was the man behind the new teaching techniques in the educational institutions in Manipal, citing the more stimulating classroom atmosphere in American Colleges as a model. The RI Institute was the true demonstration of the wonderful hospitality of the ‘Manipal Family’.

Ramesh Pai was a great orator and his thought-provoking speeches at Rotary gatherings kept the audience spell-bound. He encouraged me in my Rotary career and his sound advices have enriched my life as a Rotarian, and in fact it has contributed much for my dedication and involvement in Rotary. Only great men with proven leadership like Ramesh, use their combined power to ascent the positive by arousing that enthusiasm for the joyous task of moulding future leaders.

The smile of Providence has always been with him, and while he enters the prime age of 75, we raise our hands in

gratitude to God for helping Ramesh for his good deeds and for practicing what he preached. With Smt. Shanti as his inspiration and dutiful counselor, I am sure, Ramesh has a life full of happiness and contentment, and my humble prayer to God to grant him many more years of exciting life to continue his dedicated service to mankind.

I would conclude my reminiscence with an apt quote from the Holy Bible :

“Behold, I have given him for a witness
to the people,
A Leader and Commander
to the people.”

T. Ramesh Pai is the humble, dedicated, and sincere leader, whom many of us look for inspiration and guidance.

MAY GOD BLESS RAMESH PAI AND HIS FAMILY.



3 H OF RAMESH PAI – HUMILITY HONESTY HUMOUR

DR. P. KISHEN

Dr. P. Kishen is a consulting Surgeon and the Founder Chairman of Hyderabad's first corporate hospital, Hyderabad Nursing Home. He was the Governor of Rotary Dist. 3150 in 1993-94 and the recipient of Rotary 'Service Above Self' Award. He is actively associated with the Vasavi Group of institutions. He lives in Hyderabad.

I consider this is a great opportunity to give my assessment of this multi-faceted personality. I am fully conscious of the fact that it is very difficult to write about a helping friend, guiding leader & knowledgeable philosopher. I met Ramesh U. Pai when I was First Past President of Rotary Club of Hyderabad Midtown and Chairman of Hyderabad Nursing Home. At that time I was aware of the fact that he with other members of his family was responsible in converting an ordinary Village into a Metropolis of Medical and other branches of Education, Industry, Banking and Finance etc. But one could never imagine that one is meeting such an industrious, talented, patient and unassuming person. What impressed me most is his humility; to be precise and honest— humility is the other name of Ramesh U. Pai.

All Rotarians know about 3 H programme – (Health, Hunger and Humanitarian Project) but how many of us know 3 H of Ramesh U. Pai, i.e. Humility, Honesty and Humour. But for the honesty and straightforwardness he

would not have been so successful in various fields of Education, Industry, Finance and Rotary. I met him again when he became Director of Rotary International. There was no change in his simplicity and humility. His dynamic presence in my Conference in January 1994 was remembered by each and every Rotarian. His humour in Rotary is a very well known fact. I admire his capacity to make everyone laugh. Humour has no Religion, Caste, Creed or Colour or Enemies. He also does not differentiate between Caste, Creed and Religion.

Thus he has been working relentlessly to build international understanding and peace between the people of India and the countries he visited. May God bless him with many more useful and prosperous years.



A SYMBOL OF QUIET EFFICIENCY

D.N. PADHI, IAS

Mr. D. N. Padhi belongs to the IAS of Orissa cadre. He is the Principal Secretary to Govt. Steel and Mines Dept., Orissa. He became Rotary Governor of District 3260 in 1996-97 and was the recipient of 'Service Above Self' award from Rotary International.

For a long time I had been hearing about the good deeds and admirable achievements of Past RI Director, Rotarian T. Ramesh U. Pai. We had spoken on many occasions in some

of the crowded Rotary events but I do not think the friendship registered strongly until some time in April, 1995 when the "Pai couple" visited us in Bhubaneswar (Orissa). He was in his extended term as RI Director and I was the DGN. Something clicked. Rtn. Ramesh Pai was in his "magnetic best" when he attracted everybody and endeared himself to one and all. R'ann Shanthi Pai has been a great support to him in spreading his goodwill among the ladies.

Since April, 1995, Deepa and I have felt ourselves close – and wanted – by the "Pai Couple". Their "elderly affections" for us has been something to savour. Often both Deepa and I have marvelled at the "best combination of the head and the heart "in him; ably, superbly and consciously supported by R'ann Shanti Pai.

We have seen the achievements of Rtn. Ramesh Pai in the field of Rotary and have listened to his gripping speeches.

I have also heard about his enviable contributions in the field of Humanitarian works, Banking and Finance, Education and Medical Care which reflect his concern for people and the affairs of the society.

A quiet, unassuming and a friendly person; efficient at everything he took up as a cause. His greatness is he has completed everything. Truly, he is a symbol of Quiet Efficiency.



RAMESH PAI – A LIVING LEGEND

DR. RAJAN DESHPANDE

Dr. Rajan Deshpande is a Pediatrician. He was the Past President of Indian Academy of Pediatricians and Past Chairman, IMA. Academy of Medical Specialties, Karnataka. He was the Dist. Governor of Rotary Dist. 3170 in 1998-99.

Shri Ramesh Pai is truly a multifaceted personality. His life and works are an example to youth. I am really impressed by a few of his finest qualities. He never keeps a distance with anyone and mixes freely with all age groups. His advices are practical and they can be followed up easily. His passion is particularly for primary education. He will never miss visiting even a primary school and spending time with teachers and students.

He is very humble and with all humility he has openly commented, on many of the Rotary platforms that with his educational qualifications he should not have been serving on some committees connected with higher education. It is only because of his far-sighted vision, sense of dedication for cause of education, he has been elevated to high positions in various places, which he richly deserves.

Though by looks he may appear serious, he is witty and humourous and at times emotional. He is truly humane and an embodiment of wonderful qualities of life from Almighty.

We all pray HIM to grant a long lease of life for Ramesh as he is a guiding force to many of the youngsters and a source of inspiration behind many institutions and organizations.



A MONUMENT OF VIRTUE

THAKOREBHAI H PATEL

Mr. Thakorebhai H Patel was Governor of Dist.305 and member of the Asia Consultative Group, Ahmedabad.

Ramesh Pai is a multifaceted personality. I will touch upon only a few of his qualities which have impressed me most. I have come to know more about Ramesh Pai and his total commitment to Rotary since he was unanimously elected as Governor of R.I.Dist. 317 in 1969. He took charge as the first Governor of Dist.318 on 1st July, 1970 and continued for a part of 1971-72.

The leadership qualities Ramesh Pai inherited from Rotary brought him many more laurels and he was elected as R.I.Director for the years 1992-94. R.I. Directorship is a challenging job but he met this challenge ably and responded to the call of service to humanity effectively. I am not in the habit of distributing bouquets without due and proper reasons. He has never tried to climb the slippery path to the top through adulation or mutual admiration. Duty stern and duty true has been his guiding star. In his years of high office of R.I.Directorship, he was humble, humane and dedicated to Duty. He really motivated Rotarians by exhorting them to do their best for minimising the hardships of humanity.

Shri Ramesh Pai is a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. He has written his name in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of the hundreds he has come in contact with, year by year, and he would

never be forgotten. His name and his good deeds will shine as stars of heaven.

I have known that his gracious wife Shanthi has been helpful to him in the excellent performance of his responsibilities as R.I. Director.

According to Ramesh Pai, Rotary is not only “Service above Self”, but also “Service Through Self” the giving of one’s heart and mind in the programmes for human improvement. To Ramesh Pai, Rotary Service is Service to Mankind.



A THOROUGH GENTLEMAN

SANTOSH K AGARWALLA

Mr. Santosh K Agarwala is a prominent member of the Rotary International. He was past Governor of District 3250 and was on the Council on Legislation and Polio Plus Immunisation (Task Force) Committee for India.

It has been rightly remarked:

“Give a man a fish and you feed him a meal, Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”.

Involved in one of the leading educational institutions of our country, my dear friend, Ramesh is proof of the above.

A warm hearted gentleman, I have always found him to be very helpful towards all. Our association goes way back to the year 1972 and during all these years our friendship has endured and warmed me whenever we have spent time together.

Ramesh hails from an educated, cultured family. A simple man, he is a fine example of a “Thorough Gentleman”.

I send my heartfelt wishes for a long fruitful life ahead. Well done Ramesh. All the best always.



A REAL GUIDE, PRECEPTOR, MENTOR

V. N. KAPOOR

Mr. V.N. Kapoor was Governor of Rotary District No. 311 – 312 and is a meritorious awardee.

Age is a reward from Almighty to righteous Karam Yogis and is heritage of those who fear the name of Lord undertaking all their ventures with one aim i.e. “living for others”. Ramesh Bhai is a personality who is rare combination of qualities of head and heart and who has not only maintained but widened the circle of “Service to Humanity”, keeping up the old traditions set by his worthy ancestors. How far-sighted “PAIS” must be when they chose “MANIPAL” – a place though barren at that time but was a sacred land near Gods with complete solitude. Later they worked so devotedly and with such planning that today it is “Heaven on Earth” with its multifarious humanitarian projects.

As an education centre it is unique with so many colleges, schools and is one place where there is no illiterate at all. In medical relief, they have nearly 2000 bed hospital with all modern techniques attached with medical college with best expertise of the globe, rendering most valuable services to students as well as giving succor to hundreds and thousands regularly. Manipal Institute of Technology is talk of the town – both the medical college and MIT are producing jewels of fresh doctors and engineers which is real service to our country. These institutions are of international reputation.

The aim behind their Syndicate Bank, business, finance and renowned industries is to provide maximum relief to rural areas. India lives more than two-third in rural surroundings and only a fraction in towns. So all told it is India which is being benefited by PAIS' laudable undertakings.

I had met Ramesh Bhai on a couple of occasions earlier but the man - the real man I met was at Lucknow Rotary District Conference where both he and Shanti Bhabi were representing R.I. Presidents Per. Rep in 1981. It was love at first sight. I had a very close personal rapport with him. During that conference his appearance thrice were sixers everytime. He is a pied piper and got himself mixed up with every one as if known to each other for many many years. His words of wisdom to the audience were thought – provoking, illuminating and inspiring. I was so fortunate that he agreed to pay a visit to my humble abode which was till then known as “KAPOOR VILLA”. It was Ramesh Bhai who baptised it to ‘ROTARY VILLA’ to the delight of all my family.

Whenever we meet later on, I found in Rameshji a real guide, preceptor, mentor and reservoir of experience and accumulated wisdom. It is difficult to enumerate combination of the great qualities he possesses – in short he is deeply religious, modern in outlook and catholic in tastes. He is ideally suited to link old and new values and thus involve alike the old and the young. As a friend he is your well wisher – you will receive his greeting cards whether on your birthday, anniversary or new year without expecting any return gesture. I would call him a man of steel and velvet both – in times of adversity he has virtues of courage, tolerance, discrimination and above all fair judgement. Now that he is three scores and ten, we look forward to

his shining example and may Lord bestow upon him all joys of old age and may we, his friends, be receiving his Beacon Light for many many more years. His saint like nature will now feel pleasure to witness the golden colour brilliance of the evening which has its own "CHARM"



RAMESH PAI – A HUMBLE MAN OF VISION

A. S. SHENOY

Mr. A. S. Shenoy is a past President of Rotary Club of Cochin West and a Paul Harris Fellow. He is also a member of the District 3200 Awards Committee. He lives in Ernakulam, Kerala.

Rotary brought me close to Rtn. Ramesh Pai. He is a dedicated Rotarian ready to help the needy and a grass root practical person.

I remember our meeting at RI Convention, Calgary, Canada. Rtn. Ramesh Pai with his Ann greeting me and my Ann at Fellowship Hall and enquiring about all Indian delegates.

I noted how much he is respected by his colleagues and subordinates during the RI Institute for DGNs held at Cochin. He was making it a point to meet everyone and exchange words with them. I had an opportunity to receive the couple for a dinner in my house when local officer of ICDS came to my house to pay respect to him and I could note mutual warmth between them.

I always use his words in my speeches. His opinion about a true Rotarian is:

“One who believes in action
Has courage to express his opinion
Does not assume things
Will verify the facts
And lastly not an egoist.”

Rtn. Ramesh Pai is a combination of all these.

**My best wishes and I pray God to give him good health to
continue his good needs for many more years.**



RAMESH IS LIKE A MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN PEAK

KRISHNAKUMAR N. PAI

Mr. Krishnakumar N Pai is a prominent Rotarian associated with automobile and transport company. He resides at Belgaum, Karnataka.

“The Mass of Men” the American philosopher Henry Thoreau said. “lead lives of quiet desperation”. While that may seem an overtly dramatic way of putting it, there is little doubt that many of us are often dissatisfied with our lives. We have the suspicion, too, that life is passing us by, that we are missing out on a great adventure. At the same time we sense that if only we knew how to go about it, our lives could become so much more satisfying and fulfilling.

There is no reason why Mr. Ramesh Pai should fall in this category. In fact his satisfied life full of achievements has been a result of his devotion and dedication to life’s ideals, his unbounded capacity for friendship, his keenness of perception and his uncanny ability to visualise the future coupled with his genuine appreciation of current problems. It has made him great. Whenever privileged to be with him, I was inspired by the burning enthusiasm which, despite his extremely busy business – schedule and health- limitations, carried him on in his fulfilling commitments.

I recall an incident where Rtn. Ramesh exhibited his firmness in fulfilling his commitment. It was in 1990, I was

President elect of Rotary Club of Belgaum and was to shoulder this responsibility during 91-92. This was made still difficult, as that was the year of our Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Ours being a very prominent Club in our district, the responsibility of deciding a Chief Guest worthy of this occasion was entirely on me. Knowing Ramesh Pai's dedication to Rotary, I had no hesitation in meeting him in August 1990, and requesting him to be the Chief Guest on this occasion which was to be celebrated in December 1991. Rtn. Ramesh after opening his diary and after a minute of silence said, "Yes" I tried to tell him with a bit of hesitation that this function was going to be held exactly after 15 months from then. He had a smile of confidence and said, "Yes" patting on my back.

It was to my luck, Rtn. Ramesh was elected to the Rotary International as a Director nominee for 1992-94. I immediately made up my mind to felicitate him on his election, during my presidentship, that is in the month of July 1991. Believe it or not, Rtn. Ramesh successfully fulfilled both his commitments. His ever-growing enthusiasm to meet Rotarian friends brought him to Belgaum from Manipal. In spite of discomforts and hardships enroute, Rtn. Ramesh Pai joined us with smiling face. He transacted Rotary Business with cheerful disposition and spontaneously expressed his provocative thoughts.

Rameshmam has fully realised that there are great riches in lasting friendships, harmonious family relationships, sympathy and understanding between business associates, and inner harmony which brings peace of mind measurable only in spiritual values.

Rameshmam believes that excellence implies more than competence. He knows that it implies a striving for the highest standards in every phase of life. He has practised

individual excellence in all its forms-in every kind of creative endeavours, in business, in education, in industry, in our spiritual life in short, universally He, in his work, family life and in his public behaviour has seen himself a builder and maintainer of the values of society. He has always cherished, "The habitual vision of greatness". He has raised his sights, striven for excellence, dedicated himself to the highest goals of society. Thus reaching toward the most exalted goals he could conceive and strive impatiently and restlessly for excellence and he has achieved religious insights, and has set standards of conduct that heighten our sense of pride-and dignity as a human being.

Yes, the guardian of Manipal Group of concerns is a simple man, but one with a great vision-peace and a truly neighbourly world. To aid in its implementation he has travelled extensively meeting and appreciating men and making friends everywhere he went. He is a normal lovable human being, balanced, competent, friendly, with a supreme confidence that just such ordinary human qualities would work wonders among men.

Getting introduced to a new person is not very difficult. However developing the mere introduction into a close intimacy in short period requires a very special nature. Mr. Ramesh possesses this special nature. I have never come across any other person expressing such deep concern for his friends over a short period of association. It is an invaluable treasure for any one to have Ramesh as his friend. No doubt this is why he has so many friends not only at home, but overseas too.

With most of his time and energies harnessed to business and social activities. Mr. Ramesh Pai has meticulously managed to devote time to religious activities. That is how, His Holiness Shri Shrimad Vidhyadhiraj Theerth

Shreepad Wader Swamiji of Shri Samsthan Gokarn Patagali Jeevottam Math was present to bless his disciple, Ramesh, on the occasion of celebrating his 70th Birthday in Bangalore recently.

The noble character of Mr. Ramesh is manifested through his involvement in business and social activities. He has indeed set an example for others to follow. It is not very often that we come across a person with whom success has always associated itself.

Rameshmam, to me is like Majestic Mountain Peak. No matter, from which direction you look at him, the view is not only impressive but leaves you with a sense of pride and satisfaction for his association, however deep or small it may be.



RAMESH 75 – IN GOOD FORM FOR A CENTURY

V. V. PRABHU

Mr. V. V. Prabhu is an Engineering Consultant in Quilon, Kerala. He is a Senior Rotarian in Rotary Dist. 3210, Kerala.

I know about Rtn. PRID PHF T. Ramesh U. Pai since 1960s when the late T.M.A. Pai was Governor of the then Rotary District 317 in 1964-65. Rtn. T.M.A. Pai was a Chief Guest at my Club (Rotary Club of Quilon) when I was Secretary and later came on a private visit to Quilon when he was Governor. The family of Pai's is well known in Quilon and Quilonians know that the part played by Mr. Ramesh Pai in the family's endeavours in education, banking, promotion of industries and their response to social obligation was significant and great. The Rotarian Magazine published from Evanston U.S.A. a few years ago described the Pais of Manipal as "India's Builders of Colleges" and that title fits in more to Ramesh than others in the family. He had built not only more colleges but brought them up to world class level attracting students from overseas, even from America. His involvement in floating and developing financial and banking institutions and promoting industrial units is modern history and I do not dwell on that.

When he came to Quilon to address the Rotary Club of Quilon in April 1991, I had to write a synopsis of his bio-

data to enable the introducer to save time. But I found that the job was very nearly impossible and gave the bio-data to an English Professor (Rtn. K. Udayakumar) who was a member of the Club. I told him that one fact should not be left out – that the Rotarian Magazine had a few years ago published an article “Role of Rotary in Developing Countries” and that it was translated into Spanish and published in the “Revista Rotaria”. Rtn. Udayakumar hit back saying that it was a small matter in the bio-data and that it would take two life times for a mortal to go through all the assignments, national and international given in the bio-data.

When I met him at Trivandrum in 1993 at an informal meeting at the then District Governor, Dr. P. Sukumaran’s house, he paid an unexpected tribute to me publicly for my efforts in editing the “Quilon Rotarian” for years together. The topic under discussion was the term of two years for R.I. Directors and 3 years for Rotary Foundation Trustees. A couple of past Governors present at the meeting were of the opinion that these terms should also be reduced to one year, as for the District Governors and R.I. Presidents. Hearing the arguments, Ramesh Pai convincingly explained to them why Directors are having two year terms and the Trustees three years. He also added that some of the jobs require not two or three years, but more. He said, “Take for example the “Quilon Rotarian”, the bulletin of the Rotary Club of Quilon. It is an excellent bulletin because Rtn. Prabhu is its editor for the past few years. One year and two year terms will not give such bulletins”. All eyes were on me for a few seconds. I felt great that day.

Whenever Ramesh Pai speaks, he gives a telling message to the audience. But the message is given not in a pedagogic style but in a particular Rameshian style with wit, humour

and wisdom. The result is that the messages get imprinted in the mind of the audience. Rtn. PDG Dr. Paul Christian once told me that Ramesh proposed the toast to the ladies at a banquet held in connection with the Rotary Institute held at Colombo a few years ago. Paul said that in every breath there was a joke driving the audience to rollicking laughter. He also said that late Junis Jayavardhane, the former President of Sri Lanka who was the Chief Guest at that function would still be chuckling in his grave over some of those world class jokes.

Once I published an article in the “Quilon Rotarian” on “Namboothiri Jokes”. When Ramesh Pai read that article he sent me a letter enquiring whether there is any publication on Namboothiri Jokes. I replied stating that there is a book on “Namboothiri Phalithangal” (Namboothiri Jokes) by Poet Kunjunni Master but it was in Malayalam. He asked me to send one copy and that he would get it translated. I sent a copy to him. Ramesh Pai himself is a treasure house of jokes but he is keen on adding more to that treasury.

Ramesh Pai is eruditely and professionally a great man. All his activities in life – in Education, Banking, Industry, Rotary, etc. – are directed towards one goal. That is , service to humanity.

Let his tribe increase.....



PHOTO SECTION



Family, Religious
Political
Business & Social
Rotary



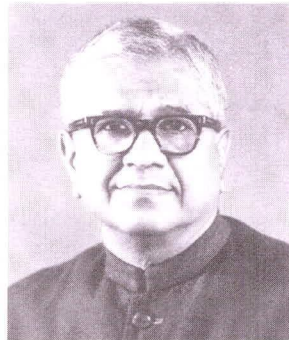
Illustrious Pai family members who inspired and shaped Ramesh Pai's destiny



Parents, Smt Parvathi & Sri Upendra Pai



Brother, Sri T. A Pai



Uncle, Dr T. M. A Pai

Shanthi's Parents



Smt. Sharada & Sri Vaikunta Baliga

Sri Vaikunta Baliga was the Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly for three terms. He was also the Minister for Law & Labour, Mysore State.



*Brothers and Sisters :
Sathish, Ganesh, Ramesh, Anant, Suguna, Varada, Lilly, Taram.*



T.A. Pai, Sri Satya Saibaba, Ramesh and daughter Sheela.



Upendra Anant Pai's Birth Centenary



Receiving Blessing of H. H. Shringeri Swamy.



Mrs. and Mr. Ramesh with the Swamiji of Haritharapura Mutt - inauguration of the new building of High School at Agumbe.



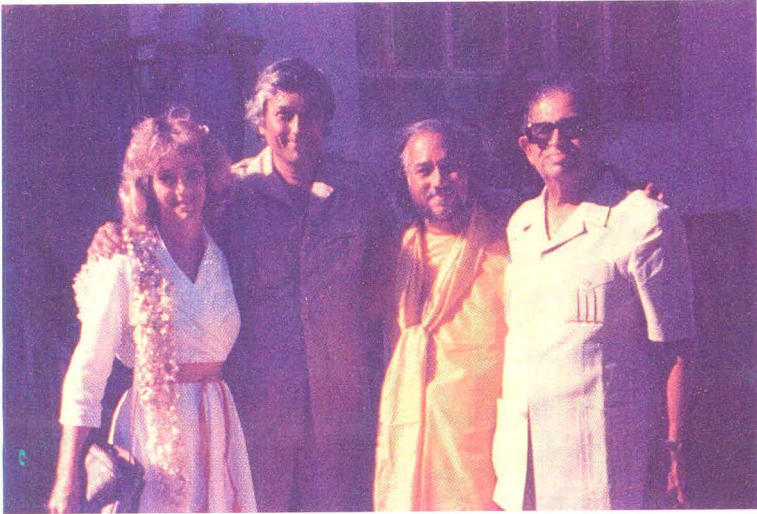
His Holiness Swamiji of Parthgali Gokarn Mutt presenting Ramesh with Vidyadhiraj Award.



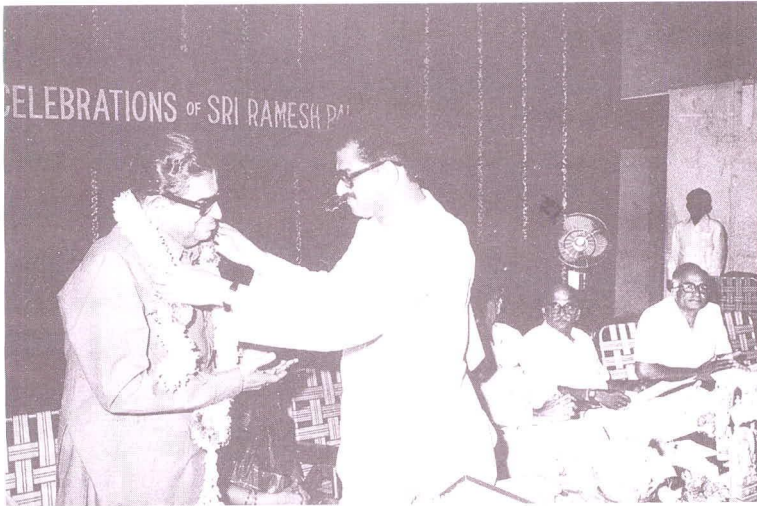
H. H. Shrimad Sudheendra Teertha Swamiji of Sri Kashi Mutt Sansthan blessing Ramesh Pai.



Ramesh with Swamy Chinmayananda.



Sant Keshava Das with Mrs and Dr. Yvan Silva and Ramesh.



Sri D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari, Dharmasthala, honouring Ramesh Pai on his 60th birthday.



Ramesh and family at his 70th Birthday - 22.10.1994



Dr. Shivarama Karanth, Wilfred D'Souza, Dy. Chief Minister of Goa and Ramesh Pai at the 70th Birthday celebration of Ramesh Pai at Mangalore.



Birthday celebrations of Ramesh Pai.



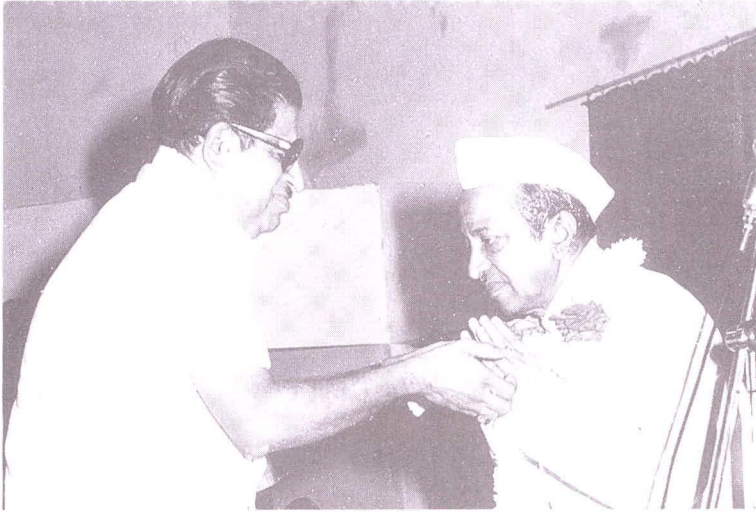
Y. V. Pai felicitating Ramesh on the Rajyothsava Award celebration of the Manipal Group.



Sri J. H. Patel, Chief Minister, Karnataka, seen with Ramesh at the Rajyotsava Award function. Minister for Kannada & Culture, Smt. Lilavati R. Prasad is seen presenting a shawl.



Ramesh wearing the Regalia and holding the Rajyotsava Award at the function



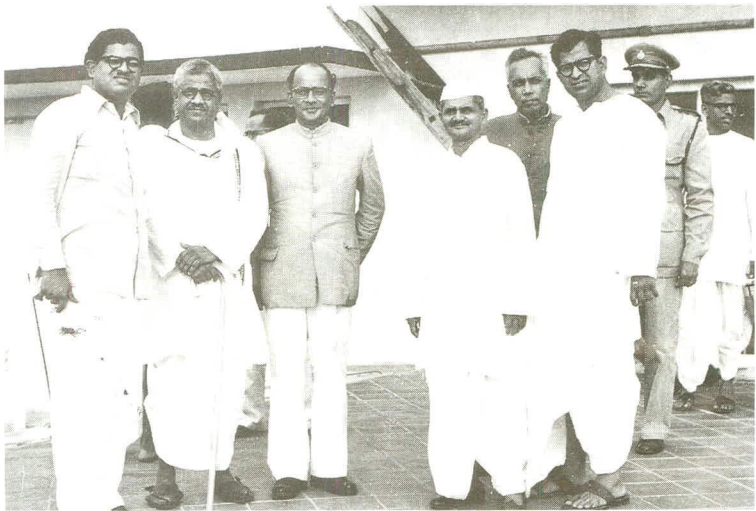
Sri B.D. Jatti, former Vice-President of India being garlanded by Ramesh Patil.



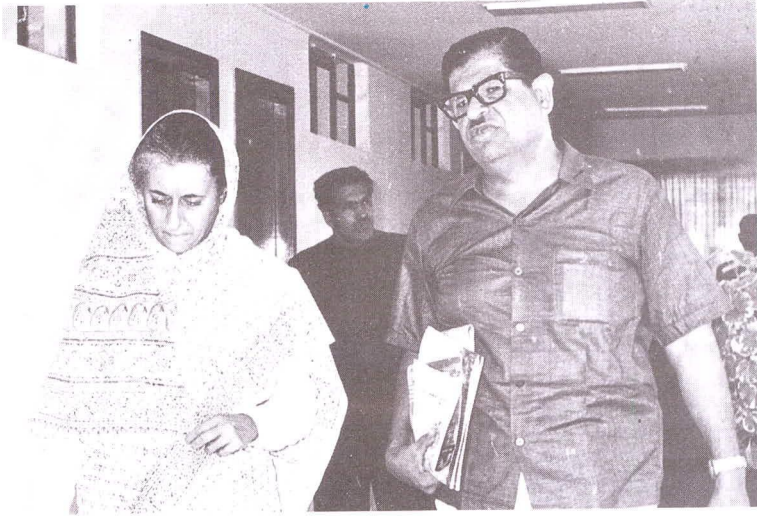
Flanked by Zail Singh, former President of India and Ramkrishna Hegde, former Chief Minister of Karnataka



Honouring Sri Shankardayal Sharma when he visited Manglore as Vice President of India.



With Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister of India.



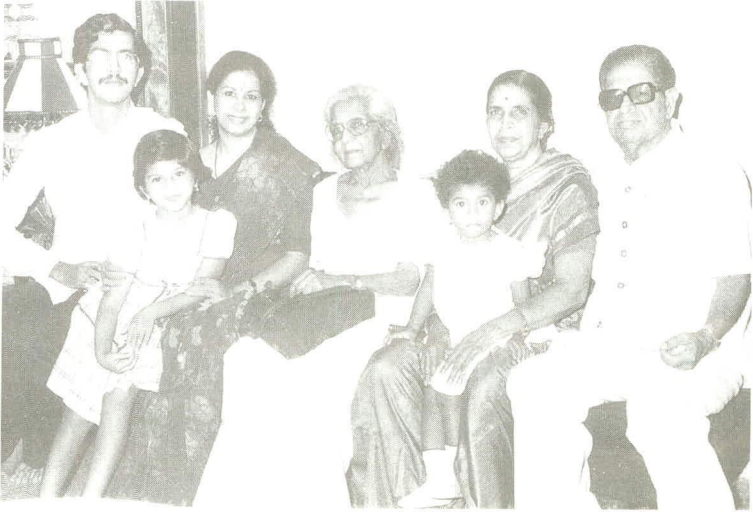
Ramesh with Indira Gandhi visiting Manipal.



With His excellency Jayawardane, former President of Sri Lanka.



Sri S. Nijalingappa, a veteran leader of Karnataka honouring Ramesh Pai.



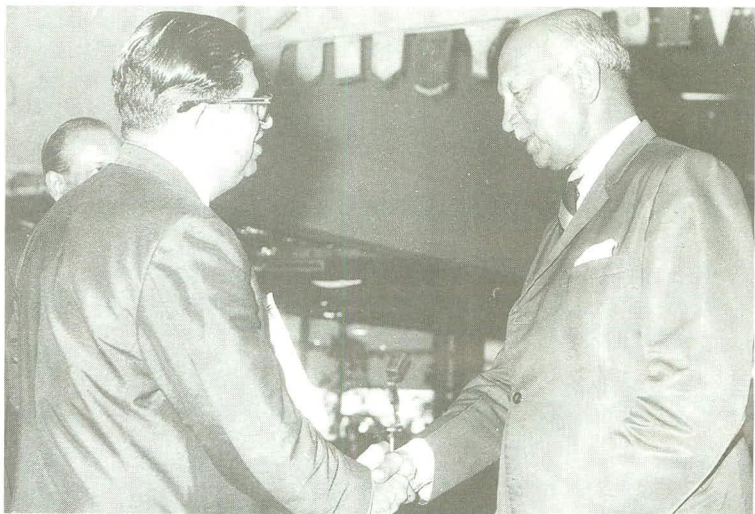
Ramesh and family with renowned freedom fighter Aruna Asaf Ali.



Ramesh with Veerappa Moily, former Chief Minister of Karnataka.



With Smt. Nagamma Keshava Moorthy, the then Minister of State for Primary Education.



With Gen. Cariappa, First Commander in Chief of India.



Sri Dharma Vira, Governor of Karnataka with Sri Ramesh Pai.



Greeting Civil Aviation Minister Anantha Kumar at AIMO.



State Minister, R. V. Deshpande with Ramesh at the inauguration of Manipal Motors



Ramesh Pai poses in front of the Foundation Stone of the Prestigious Manipal Centre, Bangalore.



Ramesh with Sri Dhirubai H Ambani of Reliance Group.



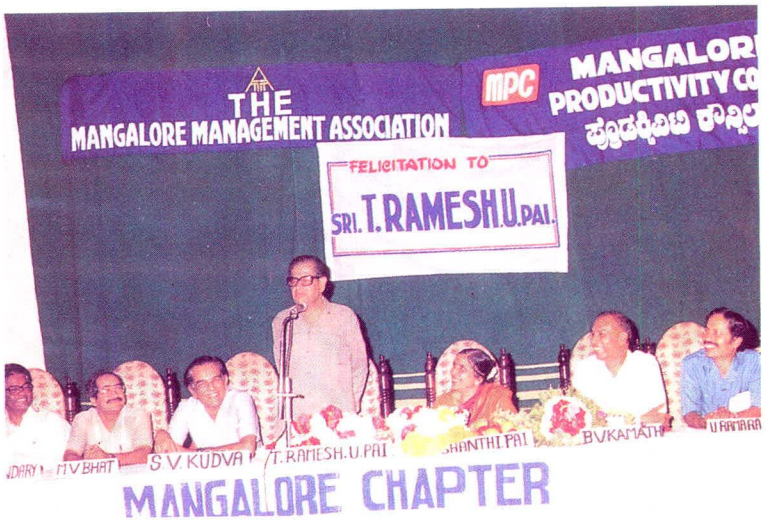
Ramesh Pai with Mr. Hari N. Harilela Business Magnate at Hong Kong.



With Padmabushan Netradani Dr. M. C. Modi, famous eye Surgeon.



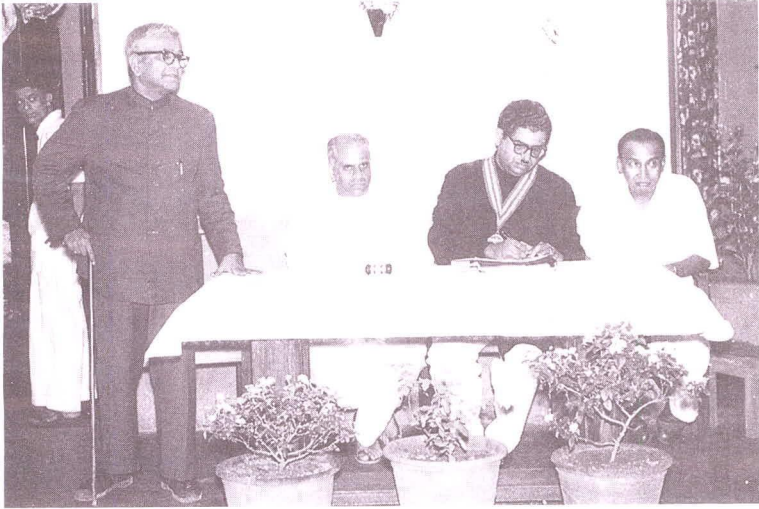
Ramesh in Moscow - As a guest of the Soviet India Cultural Society (1961).



At the Mangalore Management Association meeting.



Prof. Savadatti, Vice Chancellor of Mangalore University with Ramesh at the convocation of the KMC.



Dr. T M A Pai felicitating Ramesh as the President of the Rotary Club of Udupi.



With a leading official of the Government of UAE and M M Rai.



Ramesh with veteran journalist Mr. M. V. Kamath.



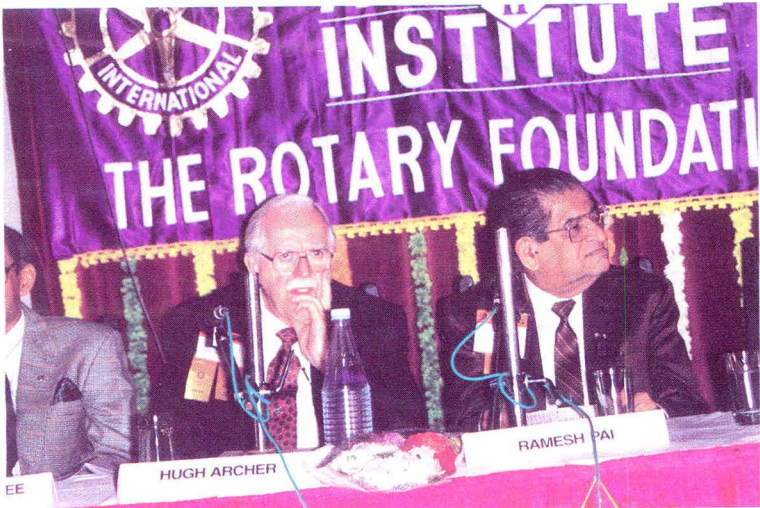
Ramesh and Shanti



Ramesh Pai with his colleagues on the Board of Rotary International (1993-94)



Ramesh Pai with Mr. Don Quayle, Vice President of United States of America.



Ramesh Pai with Chairman of the Rotary foundation, Mr. Hugh Archer at Rotary International Asia Zone II Institute at Pune.

