



Srimathe Ramanujaya Namaha

MANDAYAM NEWS

Monthly News Magazine of
The Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha (Regd.)

198, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt Building, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560 003 Ph : 41535970

Vol I

Issue 7

MARCH 2009

Complimentary



GLOBAL MANDAYAM MEET SPECIAL ISSUE

THE MANDAYAM SRIVAISHNAVA SABHA (R)



GLOBAL MANDAYAM MEET 2008 ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Standing :- back row (L to R)

R. S. Iyengar, M.A. Parthasarayan, M.D. Ranganatha, M.C. Sampath Kumar, N. Narasimhan, M. R. Bharadwaj, R.M. Srivas, Rama Srinivasan, R.A. Sudha, M.B. Thanga, M. Rangarajan, M.A. Sreenath, M.K. Narasimhan

Standing :- Middle row (L to R)

M.R. Krishna, Sheila Narasimhan, Mangala Narasimhan, M.K. Srinivasan, Jayachar, R.M. Indira Parthasarathy, M.A. Shakuntala, M. Narayan, Prabha Parthasarathy, Vijaya Ramaprasad, Radha Murthy, M.A.N. Prasad, M.D. Jayasimha

Sitting :- (L to R)

M.D. Srinivasan, M.A. Dwaraki, Srivas Schar, M.D. Ramanuja, M.A. Seeta, M.T. Srinivasan, M.A. Ramaprasad, M. A. Shama Iyengar

President's Message

Dear Members,

It has been a couple of weeks since the Global Mandayam Meet was over. It is heartening that the feedback – both verbal as well as through e-mail, from both local and outstation members – have been very positive and appreciative of the way in which the event was well organized and successfully conducted. I thank everyone for their participation and cooperation.

The success of the meet is largely due to 'Team Work' of nearly 60 members representing various committees, drawn from the specially constituted 'Global Committee' and the Sabha's office bearers. Team work does not always guarantee success. But in this case, along with a good team work, we also had other vital ingredients like self motivation of the members, a high level of enthusiasm, dedication, commitment to the cause, an organized management and good co-ordination, which brought success. Perhaps, more than this, it is the pride of being a Mandayam Srivaishnava that played its part behind this success.

Any organization, be it a social, or religious or corporate, the fundamentals of management like budgeting, planning, scheduling, etc. remain the same. A meet of this size required greater details to be worked out in these areas. In fact, 22 meetings were held, where in all details up to the last point was drawn up. All this would have been in vain, if these were not implemented. However, our group of volunteers executed the plan well and made the whole show a grand success. I offer my special thanks to all of them.

The purpose of the meet was to involve all Mandayams scattered all over the globe. I am glad that about 50 Non-Resident Mandayams attended the meet. Funds collected stood at nearly 9 lakh rupees, much more than expected. This shows the large heart and the generous spirit of Mandayam Srivaishnavas. There were many items in the meet – from inauguration to the valedictory function -which were landmarks. I am not going in to details due to limitations of space.

Lastly, apart from bringing all the Mandayams together – nearly 750 persons each day – it has also showcased the Sri Vaishnava's unity, achievements, culture, culinary specialties, art, etc.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every one who contributed of the success of this event by working tirelessly, selflessly and cheerfully and made it the grand success that it was.

This can be the 'Ankurarpane' for the future Global Meets. The possibility of holding future Global Meets abroad – namely in USA can be a reality.

Thanking one and all once again,

M. D. Ramanuja
President

THE MANDAYAM SRIVAISHNAVA SABHA

Following are the elected members and sub-committee members of the Sabha:

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

President	Sri.M.D.Ramanuja 23446623
Vice President	Smt. M.A.Seetha 23325320
General Secretary	Sri.M.A.Dwaraki 23347832 dmandyam@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Sri.M.A.Ramprasad 23341784, 9980369596 ramaprasadma@yahoo.co.in

The special issue of **Mandayam News** covers exclusively the **Global Mandayam Meet** in great detail. This has been made so as to facilitate those who could not attend the event, get a complete picture of the same. This has been put together with the inputs from:

Sri M. T. Srishaila. Ms. M. A. Shakuntala,
Sri M. B. Nagarajan, Sri M. A. Dwaraki &
Sri M. A. N. Prasad

As this is an exclusive edition devoted to Global Mandayam Meet, the usual features of our news letters will be carried in the next issue.

Area wise Joint Secretaries

Jayanagar	R.M.Srinivasan (Ravi) 26582683 srinirm@vsnl.com
Malleswaram	M.B.Nagarajan 23347631 naraz70@yahoo.co.in
Bangalore North	M.T.Ramanujam 23338150
Basaveshwaranagar	Smt. Jaya Char 23402467
Overseas	Srivas Schar 26605694 srivasvijaya@rediffmail.com

Chairpersons of Sub-Committees

Finance

SRI N. NARASIMHAN Ph : 23347523

House Magazine

SRI M. A. N. PRASAD Ph : 23342404
email : man_prasad@hotmail.com

Sports & Culture

Kum. M. A. SHAKUNTALA Ph : 23325320

The Chairperson of the House Magazine Sub-Committee, Shri.M.A.Sreenath has requested that he be relieved of this responsibility and .Shri.M.A.N. Prasad has been appointed as the Chairperson of this Sub-Committee. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Shri.M.A.Sreenath for the services rendered.

- **M.D.Ramanuja, President**

Global Mandayam Meet 2008

The year 2008 has a historic significance for the Mandayam community, because it was in this year that the Mandayam community - which is spread all over the world today - had its first Global Meet at Bangalore, from 25th to 28th December. With over 50 participants from overseas, more than a hundred from other parts of India and nearly 800 participants in all, it was a grand event indeed, spread over 6 days, covering various aspects of the achievements of the community and its contributions to various walks of life. It was an event that every member of the community could truly be proud of.

We are bringing out in this issue an overview of this grand event, covering all the salient features.

24th December 2008-The Curtain Raiser

Golf Tournament and Festival Basket Ball Matches

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The curtain riser for the Global Mandayam Meet, was the Golf Tournament arranged at the prestigious Bangalore Golf Club on the 24th Dec 2008. We invited all the local Golf players as well as players from Canada, Australia, Mysore and Chennai. We had in all about 14 participants. The Golf Tournament was inaugurated by our 94 years young, evergreen and enthusiastic past president, Dr. S.S. Jayaram, who not only inaugurated but also played for nearly 4 hours.



Dr. Jayaram at the tournament

The highlight of the Golf Tournament was the participation of 4 generations of the family of Dr. S.S. Jayaram, wherein his daughter, grandson and great grandson participated. There was a festive atmosphere and the game was played in true style of a tournament.



Crystal glass trophies for Golf Tournament

Mr. Ram Sriram of Canada had donated towards the cost of trophies and excellent crystal glass trophies had been procured. We had made 2 categories and totally 4 prizes were awarded. The prizes were distributed by Shri M. S. Rajagopal and Shri M.R. Sampath, who are uncles of Mr. Ram Sriram.

The entire arrangement of the tournament, procurement of trophies, coordinating with Bangalore Golf Club was all organized by our Committee member Sri. M.N. Narasimhan. Special mention has to be made of excellent technical support given by Sri Anand Srinivas, in successfully conducting the tournament.



Shri. M.S. Rajagopal presenting the trophy to Shri. Anand Srinivas

Although the number of participants was not very large, the quality & spirit of the game and the friendly atmosphere that prevailed, made this Golf Tournament, an excellent curtain riser for the Global Mandayam Meet. All the participants and invitees were presented with T-shirts with the logo of Global Mandayam Meet by the Sabha. Sri Govind Srinivas, son of Sri S.A. Ramu, who had come from Australia, sponsored presentation of Golf Caps to all the players and guests.

The pleasant function came to an end with a vote of thanks by the coordinator Sri N. Narasimhan and was followed by a lunch sponsored by the Sabha.

FESTIVAL BASKET BALL MATCHES

Basket ball has been a very popular game of the Mandayam community and the community has produced many state, national and international players over the years. Hence, while holding a Global Mandayam Meet, it was thought fit to express our appreciation of all these players by holding festival basketball matches on the evening of 24th December, at Beagle's Courts at Malleswaram, under floodlights.

The meet created a platform to recollect memories of the three popular basketball organizations we had, namely **YMMA** - The Young Men's Mandayam Association, **YWMA** - The Young Women's Mandayam Association, and **BSU** - The Bharath Sports Union. These were the teams in which majority of players hailed from our community and made their contributions to the game of Basket-Ball. Apart from the members of our community, many leading players of yester years of these organizations were also invited on this nostalgic occasion. The vision of the organizers and the task of bringing together all Basket-ball stars of yester years of YMMA, YWMA and BSU is highly commendable indeed.



Men's basketball match in progress

The event took off with a brief inaugural session in which contributions of YMMA, YWMA and BSU stars were hailed. Rich tributes were paid to the contributions made by late M.R. Narasimha Iyengar, Late S.A. Srinivasan, Late M.A. Ramaswamy (Ramu), M.N. Krishnaswamy(Kittu), Late M.A. Radhakrishna (RTO Babu), Late S.Rangarajan, who were pillars and their contributions to YMMA are still in the memories of one and all. YMMA, YWMA and BSU has produced star players viz., Sri. S. Narasimharajan, M.A. Parthasarathy who were Inter-National Players, and Sri. B.S. Subba Rao, B.S.Srikantaiah, M.A.Srinath, M.A. Lakshman, M.A.Dwaraki, Alwar, Nacchi, M.J.Ramanujam, Late Ashwath, Late HLN, B.K.Srnivasarao, B.Somakumar, Rajendraprasad, Revanna, M.C.Srikanth, M.A.Seetha, M.A.Shakuntala, M.A.Thanga, M.D.Rajalakshmi, M.O.Vijaya, Rangamma and M.C. Srivalli who were the Karnataka State players, while it has also produced International & National Referees, like Late R. Narasimhachar, Sri. K. Seetharam, K. Narayan, M.K. Narasimhan, and M.D. Jayasimha, to name a few.

The event was well attended and festival basket-ball matches of short duration covering all age groups for women & men were conducted under flood lights. All

players were honoured with attractive mementoes jointly sponsored by the family members of Late Sri. M.A.Radhakrishna (Babu) along with the Sabha, in memory of late M.A.Radhakrishna (Babu).



Women participating in basketball match

A highly dedicated and enthusiastic team of organizers led by Sri M. A. Dwaraki & others from Men's side and Smt. M.A. Seetha from Women's side made this event unique and a memorable one.

The whole event was compered by M.A. Dwaraki with an excellent support from M. D. Ramanuja, M.K.Srinivasan, M.A. Ramaprasad, M.D. Jayasimha, M.D. Rajalakshmi, among others. The event concluded with a High Tea hosted by the Sabha. In all, the recap of a glorious era through these festival basketball matches turned out to be a grand success.

25th December 2008

The Inaugural function & Cultural Programmes

The Global Mandayam Meet was formally inaugurated at a function which commenced at 4.30 p.m., on the 25th December.



Smt. Mangala Narasimhan compered the event

Shri. Natampally Narasimhan introduced Smt. Mangala Narasimhan, the compère for the inaugural function. She then invited the guests to the dais and conducted the proceedings.

Keeping up the tradition, the programme started with prayers being recited by Shri. M.D. Srinivasan, along with Shri. Alasingarachar, R.S.Iyengar and Rangan. Thereafter, Shri. R.A. Raghuram sang "narayana ninna naamada smaraneya" invoking the blessings of the Lord for the success of the evening's function.



Shri R. A. Raghuram singing Invocation

Shri.M.D.Ramanuja, the President of Mandayam Srivashnava Sabha welcomed the gathering. Speaking in chaste Mandayam Tamil he said that organizing an event of this size was indeed challenging. Quoting the old adage of "hamsa ksheera nyaaya" he requested the members to pick up the good points and build up on them, ignoring the rest.

Smt. Meera Venkatesh from U.S.A. read out the names of the various members residing outside India, who had come to attend the event. She also read out a message sent by her father Shri.M.N.Krishnaswamy from San Diego, U.S.A., wishing the event all success.

The dignitaries of the evening were invited to light the lamp and inaugurate the Global Mandayam Meet.



Chief Guest Shri Tiru lighting the lamp, accompanied by Dr. Srinath, Srivas Schar and President Ramanuja

The Mandayam community which was largely confined to parts of old Mysore state has today spread all over the world and has contributed richly in various walks of life.



The group presenting the theme song

"Paaduvome puhalndu paaraattuvome, mandayam srivaishnavarai pirandome enru" - a theme song for the Global Mandayam Meet, highlighting the achievements of the community, scripted in Tamil by Shri. M.A.N.Prasad was presented by a group consisting of Smt. Malathi Singlachar Smt. Bharathi Prasad, Shri. Srivas, Kum. Surabhi and M.A.N. Prasad, with Kum. Prerana providing the key-board accompaniment.

Shri. Srivas Schar, the Chairperson of the Global Mandayam Meet, spoke outlining the objective of the meet. He said that the idea of holding a global meet was conceived years ago, but could be implemented only now due to various factors. He wished all the participants an enjoyable and fruitful interaction at the meet.

The Chief Guest of the evening was Shri. Tiru. An eminent scholar trained in the traditional school, Shri. Tiru has imbibed in him the great Srivaishnava tradition along with a deep commitment for social service. This has resulted in his being involved in many social, educational and cultural activities. Addressing the gathering he said that the Global Mandayam Meet was a memorable event in the 92 years of service of the Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha and congratulated all connected with the organizing of the event. Recalling that he was invited to preside over the Mandayam convention held in the mid 90's, he expressed that it was his good fortune to be associated with the Global Meet.



Shri.Tiru addressing the gathering

He felt that the occasion and the location – referring to Ramanuja’s followers assembling at the Ramauja Samudaya Bhavana –were very apt. Recalling that Acharya Ramanuja always had the concern of the common man in his mind and that’s the reason why his philosophy had such a wide and universal appeal, he said that the Mandayam community is built on the guidelines of Ramanuja’s philosophy and is therefore a strong and stable community full of good samskaaras. Our community has produced many achievers which is a matter of pride for all of us. Recalling the great role played by the community members in various walks of life including public life, he felt that we have in us the capability to guide the country rightly in the path of progress. He complimented the various office bearers of the Sabha over the years for their contribution in building it up and wished that the Global Meet would enthuse and stimulate the community to take on bigger projects and greater activities that promote the welfare of the community.

Smt. Indira Parthasarathy, Chairperson of the Souvenir Committee, spoke about the efforts that have gone into the designing and development of the Souvenir and how the team worked relentlessly to bring it out.



Dignitaries with a copy of the souvenir released

Our distinguished guest Smt. S.R.Leela – an eminent scholar of Sanskrit and a Member of Legislative Council of Karnataka - released the souvenir. Speaking after releasing the Souvenir, Smt. Leela complemented the team for bringing out the souvenir in such an excellent fashion. Speaking about the rich talent in the community she touched upon their contributions in the field of literature and drama, among other fields.



Dr.Srinath

Dr. M.D.Srinath from Dallas, U.S.A. is one of the early immigrants to that country. He spoke about the life of Mandayams in U.S.A over the past few decades. Laced with good humour, his talk thoroughly regaled the audience.

Years ago, when the Ramanuja Samskrithi Bhavana was being built, the Mandayams of U.S.A. responded to the requests from their counterparts in India and collected sizeable amounts of donations. However, transferring

funds was not easy as there were many regulations and controls. Dr. Patnaik, a good friend of the Mandayams there, helped them in remitting the funds collected to India. Dr. Patnaik was invited to join us at the Global Meet. Smt. Meera Venkatesh spoke about Dr. Patnaik

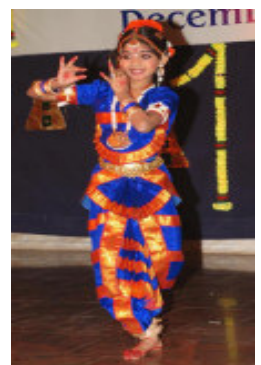
who had come specially to attend the meet, at our invitation.

With this the formal inaugural ceremony was over and cultural programmes followed. Shri.M.A.Narayan compered he programme.



Young artists from Boston (USA) singing

The programme included vocal Carnatic music by young and senior artists from Bangalore and Boston, Bharathanatyam – “Kunidado Krishna” by Kum. M.A.Shreya, who is a very young and talented artist; a short and hilarious Tamil skit “Patiyo ... Partiyo” written by Smt. Vasantha Melnad and enacted by men, women and children.



Kum. M.A.Shreya in Kunidado Krishna



A scene from “Paatiyo ... Partiyo”

Punjabi dance – a typical Bhangra by young boys aged 5 to 10 years; group dance by ladies with lighted lamps depicting “Anandam” – one of the Navarasas. In all about 36 artists took part in this evening’s cultural programme, which was short and sweet and thoroughly enjoyable, keeping the audience spellbound.



Young boys performing Bhangra Dance



Women performing group dance with lamps

Shri.M.T.Srinivasan, Vice Chairperson of the Global Meet proposed a vote of thanks after which all the participants adjourned to the dining hall for a hot and delicious dinner on a cold night of Marzhali Thingal.



Distinguished Guests lighting the lamp and inaugurating the second day's programme at the ADA Ranga Mandira

26th December 2008

Lecture Sessions & Cultural Programmes

The second day of the Global Mandyam Meet was held at the ADA Rangamandira. The programme commenced around 9.45 a.m. Shri. Natampalli Narasimhan, who was the main coordinator of the events, introduced Shri.M.A.N.Prasad who compered the events of the forenoon.

The day's proceedings began with a prayer by our elder and scholar Shri. M.D.Srinivasan chanting portions from Acharya Ramanuja's Gadyatrayam.

Smt. Dwaraki Krishnaswamy is an eminent artist and composer. She has to her credit many thillanas and other compositions. She had specially composed a theme song for the global meet which was set to music by Smt. Malathi Singlachar. This theme song was presented by a group under the able guidance Smt. Malathi Singlachar.



The Group presenting the Theme Song



Compère Prasad introducing Shri. M.D.Srinivasan

Shri.M.C.Venkatesh from San Diego, U.S.A is one of the early immigrants to U.S.A. Venkatesh is a structural engineer by qualification and has been working for General Atomic at U.S.A. which is into research. He has got many patents for the research work done by him. Apart from his professional achievements, Venkatesh is actively involved in charitable and community work too, through Rotary International.



Shri.M.G.Sriram. rendering invocation

This was followed by an invocation rendered by Shri.M.G.Sriram. Sriram had very aptly chosen "Bhajayatirajam" a kriti by the Jeeyar of Vanamaamalai Matam, and rendered it beautifully.

Smt. M.A.Seetha, Vice President of the Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha welcomed the gathering and the function was formally inaugurated by the guests lighting the lamp.



Shri.M.C.Venkatesh

He conveyed his appreciation for the well organized Global Meet. He spoke briefly about the Mandayams in America. Recalling the role played by the Mandayams of U.S. at the time of construction of the Ramanuja Samskrithi Bhavana, Venkatesh suggested that the Sabha should give a greater thrust towards charitable projects related to healthcare, creation of infrastructure at religious places like Melkote, etc., towards which the Mandayams in U.S. could contribute both financially as well as by sharing their rich experience in having worked in similar projects. He then introduced the Board members of the North American Mandayam Organization.



Shri.Venkatesh introducing the Board members of North American Mandayams, Smt. Revathi Sreenath, Smt. Meera Venkatesh and Shri.M.T.Srinivasan to the audience

After this the lecture sessions began. The compere Shri. Prasad indicated that the subjects given to the speakers are very vast and in the limited time available, the talks would not be exhaustive, but would set our thoughts in the required direction. He also indicated that there would be an open house session at the end, and the members could interact with the speakers during that session.

The first speaker was Prof. M.A. Lakshmithathachar, who has spent many years teaching at the university in various capacities. He has guided many students of Sanskrit and Shastras in their post graduate and Doctoral studies. His in-depth traditional learning combined with an open mind to adopt the modern science and technology has resulted in his being involved extensively with research work, covering a wide variety of areas. He is one of the leading scholars of Sanskrit in the country today and has been invited to be on various academic and advisory committees.



Prof. Lakshmithathachar

Prof. Lakshmithathachar spoke on the Mandayam Identity. He said that the Mandayam community has an outstanding culture and tradition. Giving an analogy of computers, where today we have the 4th and 5th generation systems and there is a great need for compatibility between the system and the end user, he said that the human body which is comparable to a computer has the unique advantage that it combines the system and the end user in one. The life style adopted by our ancestors – knowledge based, with spiritual leanings - was such as to bring out the best in this system. The characteristics of the community were preserved through selective marriages with in the community. He said that our community was the most persecuted, and has undergone sufferings like many members loosing their lives during the reign of Hyder Ali & Tippu Sultan, British rulers punishing them for participating in the independence movement, the hoary tradition of learning being destroyed under the English educational system and of course the effects of today's consumerism. The community was characterized by its spiritual moorings. Most of our ancestors were scholars of Ubhaya Vedanta – Vedic texts and Divyaprabhandas. Outlining the characteristics that marked a Srivaishnava, he presented a questionnaire and asked the members present to answer the same and find out for themselves as to how they rate in terms of retaining the identity of the community.

The next speaker was Vidushi Rama Srinivasan, a scholar with proficiency in Sanskrit, Kannada, our scriptures and Divyaprabandhas. She is an excellent speaker and regularly gives discourses on these topics. Her discourses are well known for their clarity and depth of the subject. She has many publications to her credit, has translated many works and is the recipient of many titles and awards.

Vidushi Rama Srinivasan, who spoke about "Sharanagathi" said that every soul yearns for happiness and is constantly seeking happiness and joy. However, all the happiness and joy it can find is only of a short duration, where as it wants this happiness and joy to last for ever. Our ancient preceptors and Acharyas have told us that all worldly pleasures are fraught with problems and miseries and we need to seek mukti or salvation, which alone could give us lasting joy or happiness.



Vidushi Rama Srinivasan being honoured with a memento by Smt. M.A.Seetha

All our scriptures and prabandhas deal with how to attain this everlasting happiness, by liberating ourselves. Sharanagathi, the ultimate step in Bhakthi marga, consists of surrendering ourselves to the Lord totally and appealing to Him that we are not capable of protecting ourselves

and leaving ourselves to His care and protection. Sharanagathi is a positive act that calls for immense faith in the Lord to whom you entrust yourself totally. Sharanagathi is done only once and not repeated again and again.

The next speaker was Smt. Madhura Chatrapathy. Madhura Chatrapathy is an entrepreneur with a lot of Social concern. She is into food processing industry and has initiated and built up many institutions that have promoted entrepreneurship. Her work in the development of entrepreneurship has been recognized by national and international bodies and she is the recipient of many honours and awards. She has co-authored many books and presented many papers on the subject. She is on the Governing Bodies of various institutions and has been appointed as a member of the Vision Committee by the Govt. of Karnataka recently.



Smt. Madhura Chatrapathy

Madhura who spoke about entrepreneurship said that entrepreneurship was not something new to our community though we do not have any specific trade associated with it. Recalling how many families were known by the business they ran, with names like "Gadiyarathva", "Pusthakathva", etc., she gave the example of many community members who had established enterprise decades ago and built it up successfully. She outlined the essential ingredients that go into establishing and sustaining an enterprise, such as proper planning, product quality, innovation, customer service, etc and explained the key elements involved in each of these. She also highlighted the role of good public relation or networking, for the success of an enterprise.

The next speaker was Prof. M.A. Venkatakrishnan from Chennai, a scholar of great academic background, who is the professor and the Head of the Department of Vaishnavism at the University of Madras. He has learnt Divyaprabhandhams under eminent scholars. He is an eloquent speaker and regularly delivers discourses. He has authored many articles and publications in both English and Tamil, which have been well received and are very popular.

Prof. M.A.Venkatakrishnan spoke on the Srivaishnava Lakshnam. Srivaishnavism, which emphasizes on compassion for all beings, has a universal appeal. Speaking of the Lakshanas of a Srivaishnava, he said the external Lakshanas are in the pancha samskaras, viz,

- Tuasi Mala / Nalinaksha Mala

- Marking of Shankha Chakra (Samaashrayanam)
- Nama (wearing the sacred mark & a new name being given by the acharya)



Prof. M.A.Venkatakrishnan

- Mantra (being taught the rahasya mantras by acharya) and
- Yaga (conducting daily pooja).

However, the external Lakshanas alone are not sufficient. He needs the internal Lakshanas too, which are being humble, polite and caring. He narrated the incident of a devout Srivaishnava who approached Parashara Bhatta to know about the Lakshanas of a Srivaishnava. He was told that Anandalvan was the right person to elucidate. He went to Anandalvan and was made to stay at his place for a few days. Then he was told of the Srivaishnava Lakshana by Anandalvan in the following brief way:

A true Srivaishnava is like a -

- Crane - The crane allows the small fish to go by and waits for the big one patiently. Similarly one should not be attracted by petty things and should patiently wait for the major / big things in life.
- Cock - A cock rummages through dirt and filth to pick up the good/edible. Similarly one should be able to sift the good and take it up even amidst the bad and unworthy.
- Salt - Salt adds taste to all items prepared but is not seen. It dissolves in what it is added to. It does not have a taste of its own but brings out the taste in what it is added to. Similarly a true Srivaishnava should be humble, self effacing and should be known by the service he renders.
- You - The devout Srivaishnava seeking the answer, who despite being treated poorly, was not upset and displayed patience, humility and politeness.

He concluded by playing the Gujarati song "Vaishnava janato tene kahiye" by saint Narasi Mehta which beautifully sums up the lakshsnas of a Srivaishnava.

The next speaker, Prof. M.D. Srinivas from Chennai, spoke about the achievements and contributions of Mandayams in Public life. Prof. Srinivas who has a doctorate in physics, has worked for two decades at the University of Madras in various capacities and is presently a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Studies at Chennai. He has to his credit many publications.



Prof. M.D. Srinivas

Speaking of the family of Pradhans, Prof. Srinivas said that in the early seventeenth century, Tirumalayyengar interceded with the king of Vijayanagar to make Raja Wodeyar the King of Mysore. In appreciation of this act, he was appointed the Pradhan – the Chief Advisor to the King. His successors, known as Pradhan family, have played significant role in the affairs of the state. In 1765 Hyder Ali got Pradhan Govindarajayya killed. His sons Tirumala Row and Narayana Row, at the request of Rani Lakshmamanni, struggled relentlessly for twenty four years and got the kingdom restored to the royal family of Mysore. Again in 1811 when the British wanted to take over the administration of Mysore from the Wodeyars, it was Tirumala Row who interceded and prevented the take over.

One of the successors of Tirumal Row, Krishnamacharya was a great legal luminary and philosopher. He named his house near the Parthasarathy temple at Triplicane as "Gowthamashramam", which later became the hub of many nationalist activities. Yogi Parthasarathy, his uncle and a great scholar, established Saraswati Bhandaram and brought out many publications. He also established a temple at Ayodhya. He and his wife Singamma inspired many to participate in the nationalist movement. Mahatma Gandhi visited Gowthamashrama in 1916. Alasinga Perumal, a nephew of Yogi Parthasarathy, along with few of his cousins, played a very significant role in Swami Vivekananda's visit to Chicago. They collected funds for his travel and stay. At the advice of Swami Vivekananda Alasinga started the publication "Brahmavadin".

The nephews of Yogi Parthasarathy, who later came to be known as Puduchery brothers, played a key role in our swadeshi movement. They started publications like "Indian Republic", "India", "Balabharath", etc. They started the first indigenous shipping company in 1906 along with V.O.Chidambaram Pillai, which started plying between Tuticorin and Colombo. As this caused a stiff competition to British vessels, the British government started harassing them and caused them a lot of trouble.

In order to escape from this harassment they had to move to Pondicherry, a French territory. Eminent personalities like Aurobindo Ghosh and V.V.S.Iyer stayed with them at Pondicherry in 1910. M.P.T.Acharya, one of nephews of Yogi Parthasarathy who was running the printing of the "Indian" and was actively involved in the other activities at Gowthamashramam, moved out of India to escape the British harassment and worked with various groups. He was one of the founders of the Communist Party of India in 1920. However, ideological differences between him and M.N.Roy made him quit the same very soon. These are some illustrations of the significant contributions of our community to public life.



View of the audience in the hall

The Directors on the Board of the North American Mandayams, who were present at the meet were invited on the dais and were presented with mementos, bouquets and fruit baskets.

Shri. Natampally Narasimhan thanked all the speakers. The interactive session at the end of the lectures could not be held due to shortage of time.

There was a break for lunch. Considering the fact that there was no facility of a kitchen or a pantry at the venue and every thing had to be brought from outside to cater to nearly 700 participants, the arrangements made were excellent indeed.



Participants enjoying the excellent fare served

The cultural programmes started after the lunch break. It was another attractive evening with varieties of cultural and entertaining events. Smt. Madhushree Srinand compered the programme.



Smt. Madhushree Srinand compering the programme.



Invocation by Smt. Radhika Manoj.

The programme started with an invocation by Smt. Radhika Manoj. Smt. Pramila Narayan and Smt. Srimathi Ramakrishna presented a song on "Mandayam Lakshanangal". Shri.M.D.Jayasimha's mimicry regaled the audience. Bharathanatyam by Smt. Rajani Jayasimha and Kum.Ramya was refreshing after a long morning session.



Smt. Pramila Narayan and Smt. Srimathi Ramakrishna



Sri M.D. Jayasimha regaling the audience with mimicry

About 35 artists from Mysore presented various items like a tableau on "Mysore Heritage" based on a script from Smt. Goda Lakshmithathachar; Kannada bhavageethe sung in group and Tamil folk dance.



A scene from the "Mysore Heritage"



Kuchipudi & Bharathanatyam

Artists from Chennai presented the Jugalbandi dance. The jugalbandi of Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi by sisters Dr.Lakshmi Nandini Navaneeth and Kum. Revathi Chandini was a unique and attractive item. This is the first time in the history of the Sabha that Kuchipudi on a traditional thatte (plate) was presented by a young artist.



Dr.Jayashree Prasad performing on Veena

Artists from overseas joined in presenting a few attractive items. Dr.Jayashree Prasad from Chicago gave a short & sweet veena recital accompanied by local artists Shri.Venkatesha Joshyer on violin and Shri.M.C.Rangarajan on Mridangam. Smt. Revathi Sreenath from Dallas presented a hilarious harikatha "Chandrayana". Smt. Tara Sampalli presented "light Melodies" in which she sang Meera bhajans and Smt. Ranganayaki Rajan sang Purandaradasa kritis, supported by a fusion of percussion rhythm using Mridangam by Ranganayaki Rajan, Kanjeera & jingles by Master Niket Sampalli and Djembe, African instrument by Chi. Amrit Sampalli.



Sampalli family performing

The programme by the artists from Bangalore included a Mega orchestra, varieties of dances, a Tamil skit, folk music and a tableau.

A South Indian classical orchestra directed by Smt. Rajalakshmi Thirunarayan included 12 veena vidhushis accompanied by Sri.Venkatesha Joshyer on violin and Sri.M.C.Rangarajan on Mridangam. The selection of Saint Thyagaraja's pancharatna keertane "Endaro Mahanubhavulu" was very apt for the occasion. The opening devotional 'Sama Veda' and the note in Sindhu Bhairavi - a composition of Late Veene Doreswamy Iyengar - was really a melodious presentation and was enjoyed by the audience.



South Indian Orchestra directed by Smt. Rajalakshmi Thirunarayan

The young sisters Meghna and Sneha presented a Rajasthani folk dance which was very attractive. Full of fast movements, supported with a gorgeous and appropriate dress, their item kept the audience spellbound.



Meghna & Sneha presenting Rajasthani folk dance

Bharathanatyam by Smts. Radhika and Sheela was another attraction. They presented first a dance on Lord Narayana, which was followed by "Mahishasura Mardhini" which was choreographed very well.



Bharathanatyam by Smts. Radhika and Sheela



Dance Performance by Singer & Group

A Punjabi and Rajasthani fusion folk dance was presented by Singer and group, directed by Smt. Padma Singer. Members of four generations of their family participated in this event, which concluded with the senior most lady of the family, Smt. Vedavalli - mother of Smt. Padma Singer appearing on the stage.



Kannada Folk Songs by Manikarnike Family

Smt. Sumathi Pradeep, under her direction presented a contemporary group dance depicting "Rain". Kannada folk songs by the Manikarnike family, directed by Smt. Lakshmi Ammanjee was another attractive item.



"Raaga Ranjitha" troupe performing

"Raaga Ranjita" - selected compositions of Smt. Rajamma Sampath Iyengar was presented by a group of ladies under the direction of Vidhushi Smt. Ranganayaki Rajan, with Vidwan Venkatesha Joshyer on violin and Vidwan M.R.Rakshit on Mridangam.



Tamil Short Play - "Ideal Kutumbam"

" Ideal Kutumbam", a short play in Tamil written by Gutti M.N.Narasimhan, was presented by eleven senior artists under the direction of Sr.R.S.Iyengar.



A still from the tableau "Sarva Dharman Parityajya"

The final item of the evening was "Sarva Dharman Parityajya" – a tableau under the direction of Mythili Mandayam. It presented 14 small children from overseas and Bangalore depicting the Dashavatharas of Lord Narayana with a narration by Smt. Mythili Mandayam. Smt.Usha Rajan supported with vocal music. It was a great pleasure to see the young kids with suitable and attractive dresses, depicting the different avatharas of the Lord Narayana.

In all over 125 community members participated in the cultural programme on this day.

The programme concluded with Shri.M.A.Dwaraki, Secretary of the Sabha proposing a vote of thanks.

27th December 2008

Exhibition, Art & Craft Mela and Ethnic Mandayam Food Mela

At 10.00 a.m., on 27th of December 2008, thematic exhibitions covering different aspects of our community and the art & craft produced by its members; and a Mela of ethnic Mandayam cuisine was inaugurated. After the prayers, Kum. Sindhu Vasuki and Kum. Aryashree sang the invocation. Shri.M.A.Dwaraki, Secretary of the Sabha welcomed the gathering and Shri. Ramanuja spoke about the event. Shri. M.D.Srinivasan, a scholar and a senior member of our community inaugurated the Exhibition which thematically covered the various aspects of our community.



Shri. M.B.Nagaraj Chairperson of the Exhibition and others along with Shri.M.D.Srinivasan as he inaugurates the Exhibition.

Smt. M.A.Vedavalli, a well known social worker and daughter of Shri. M.A.Krishnamachari, inaugurated the Art & Crafts Mela.



Smt. Vedavalli inaugurating the Arts & Crafts Mela. Next to her is Smt. Radha Murthy, Chairperson of the Mela.

Shri.M.K.Sitaram, a well known industrialist of our community, inaugurated the Ethnic Food Mela. The brief and symbolic inaugural function concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri. Shama Iyengar, after which the exhibitions / melas were thrown open to public.



Shri. M.R.Krishna, Chairperson of Food Mela and Shri. Dwaraki along with Shri.M.K.Sitaram as he inaugurates the Food Mela.

Shri. M. A. Narayan compéred the inauguration ceremony. We give below a brief outline of each of these.



Compére Shri. M.A. Narayan. Also seen are Shri.M.Rangarajan and Smt.M.A.Shakuntala

The Exhibition – was thematic in nature, depicting the various aspects of our community. Items included the history of The Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha, and its office bearers over the years. Brief bio-data with photographs of religious scholars, posters of sports and academic achievers were displayed. Posters of authors and their books were also displayed.



Visitors watching the display at the exhibition

Many other news worthy items were also covered and displayed. The exhibition was well attended and appreciated for the wealth of information it provided. Shri. Shreyas from U.S.A has photographed all the display panels at the exhibition and put them on the web.

The Art & Craft Mela



Indonesian Janur art decoration made of tender coconut leaves

Arts & Crafts Mela was a grand event put up by our enthusiastic Mandayams, mostly women, displaying various products made and being marketed by them. We had participants from Mysore, Chennai, Melkote. Various art and craft items produced by the members of our community were put up for display and sale at the Mela.



Various items on display at the Arts & Crafts Mela

The items displayed ranged from collection of rare items, to paintings, illustrations, embroidery, jewellery, hand bags, decorative items and delicately crafted items.



Another view of the Arts & Crafts Mela

The Ethnic Mandayam Food Mela – Certain food specialties are exclusive to the Mandayam Srivaishnava community. These are not only traditional but also rare today, due to the difficult process involved and the lack of expertise in making them. As a result, many of them are not widely known.



With the view of popularizing and preserving the art of making these ethnic dishes, a Mela was organized at the Global Mandayam Meet. Experts were invited from Melukote to prepare these dishes and offer them for sale. Items like "Tuni Tenkolal", 'Manavaram', Sajjappam, "Molagogare", 'Puliyogare', etc were available at the mela.

The mela was open to all and attracted a large number of visitors. How popular the mela was, could be known by the fact that, in the short period it was on, it generated a sale of more than a lakh of rupees.



Visitors lining up to buy the specialties at the Mela

28th December 2008

**Valedictory Session
Cultural Programmes & Gala Dinner**

The Valedictory function started with the prayers, followed by an invocation by Kum. Jayashree and Kum. Nityashree. Shri. Srivas Schar welcomed the gathering.



Shri. Natampalli Narasimhan

Shri. Natampalli Narasimhan gave a brief account about the roots of Mandayam community and how the Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha evolved over the years to its present state.



Smt. Revathi Sreenath

Smt. Revathi Sreenath from U.S.A. spoke about the health and well being. Drawing the attention of the audience to the changes in our life style over the years, she said that many of our specialties are very rich in fat and provide high calories. These were suitable for our earlier generations, whose life style involved a lot of physical activities. However, with our present sedentary life style, we need to be careful and make sure that we adopt what is suitable and healthy for the kind of life we lead. We should also give due attention to keeping ourselves fit through proper exercise and an active life style.

The Central Committee of the Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha had set up a Future Vision Committee to suggest the course of activities it could look at in the years ahead. Prof. M.C.Sampathkumaran, the convener of this Future Vision Committee presented an over view of the recommendations made by this committee to the audience. Elaborating on the background to the formation of this committee and the various members invited to be

the members of this committee, he said that the committee has kept in mind the core objectives adopted by the founding fathers and ensured that the new activities suggested are in harmony with them. Accordingly, the recommendations of the Committee could be broadly grouped under:

- Knowledge & Education
- Spiritual
- Health & Wellbeing



Prof. M.C.Sampathkumaran

Various activities that could be taken up under each of these groups have been identified. As an illustration, he presented the activities suggested under "Knowledge & Education" and said that similar suggestions covering all areas would be presented to the Central Committee. Based on their approval, the accepted suggestions would be worked out into detailed projects and the Central Committee could assign the responsibility of implementing the projects to separate committees or task forces formed for that purpose.

The culinary experts, who had participated in the ethnic food mela by preparing the rare traditional dishes, were felicitated. They thanked the organization for giving them this opportunity. Srishaila, who was one among them, said that "paaka shastra" is one of the sixty four great arts mentioned in our ancient texts. He said that the cooking of Melkote has its own distinctive style and Mandayam Iyengars are such good connoisseurs of food that if you could satisfy them, you could please any body. Sri. Rangan and Ramanna of Yathiraja Mutt were felicitated for their dedicated service.

There was a feedback session and many members expressed their appreciation of the event, while many also offered useful suggestions. The Office bearers of the Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha / Global Meet responded to the suggestions / queries.



The Office bearers responding to the feedback & suggestions given by the participants

Shri. Ramanuja, President of Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha in his concluding remarks said that a function of this scale, spanning over 4 days could not have been successful but for the whole hearted participation of all who attended and all the members of various sub-committees and the volunteers. He thanked all for making the event such a grand success. Shri. Ramaprasad, the Treasurer of the Sabha proposed a vote of thanks. Col.M.D.Shesha Narayan, who headed the group of volunteers, was requested to accept on behalf of all the volunteers a bouquet presented in appreciation of the excellent services rendered by them.

Dr. M.A.Srinivasan, Dr. Anuradha and their children presented a beautiful and hilarious skit in Mandayam Tamil, about a Mandayam Iyengar family in U.S., which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.



Dr. Srinivasan & family presenting a skit

Kum. Y.G. Rajashree sang a classical Carnatic song.

An anthem to the Global Meet was penned on the spur of the moment by Smt M.A. Shakuntala and Shri. Prasad and was presented by a group extemporarily at the conclusion,



The group singing an anthem to the Global Meet

hailing "Vaalga Mandayam, Global Mandayam . . . needoodi Vaalga Mandayam, Global Mandayam".



The lucky winner receiving the prize in Raffle

The draw of raffle prizes followed. In all there were over twenty prizes and lucky winners were given away the prizes. There was a grand and gala dinner with a lavish spread of excellent items.

29th December 2008

A Trip to our heritage centre – Melukote



In order to facilitate a couple of overseas Mandayams who wanted to visit Melkote, a one day trip was arranged on 29th Dec 08. About 20 people took part in this



programme. Excellent arrangements had been made by the tour leader Sri M.D. Jayasimha for Darshan, Prasadam, Kainkaryam, Breatfast & Lunch. The team also visited Thondanur.

An Anthem for the Global Mandayam Meet

Composed by Smt. M.A. Seetha & Sri M.A.N. Prasad

ವಾಲ್ಟಿಯ ಶೆಂದಮಿಳ್, ವಾಲ್ಟಿಯ ತಮಿಳರ್
ವಾಲ್ಟಿಯ ಮಂಡಯಂ ಪೆರುಂ ಸಮುದಾಯಂ
ವಾಲ್ಟಿ ವಾಲ್ಟವೇ, ವಾಲ್ಟಿ ವಾಲ್ಟವೇ, ನೀಡೂಡಿ ವಾಲ್ಟಿ ವಾಲ್ಟವೇ॥

ವಾಲ್ಟಿಯ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೈತ್ರಂಗಳ್ ಅನೈವುಂ
ವಾಲ್ಟಿಯ ನಮ್ಮಡಯ ಪೆರಿಯೋರ್ಪಳ್ |
ವಾಲ್ಟಿ ಮಂಡಯಂ ಶ್ರೀವೈಷ್ಣವರ್, ವಾಲ್ಟಿ ಮಂಡಯಂ,
ಗ್ಲೋಬಲ್ ಮಂಡಯಂ ||

Mandayam Socials 2008

The year 2008 is a very remarkable and memorable year in the history of The Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha. Th annual Founder’s Day which is celebrated in December every year was clubbed this year with the Global Mandayam Meet from 25th to 29th December 2008 and many activities were planned and carried out with the support of all our community members. Prior to the Global Meet many indoor competitions and outdoor sports & games were conducted for men and women of all age groups. The week ends of November and December were full of hectic activity, in which many members - young and elderly alike – participated and enjoyed. These were occasions for the members to meet each other and share joy & cheers. Participation in the events was more important than the prizes.

On all Saturdays indoor competitions like drawing & painting, pot painting, craft with ice cream sticks, rangoli, cooking and vegetable carving



Enthusiastic participants and onlookers at the field events



Women getting set to go at the race



Throwing the ball in the bucket



Men getting set to go at the race



Women at the game



Girls balancing Ping Pong Ball

were conducted at the Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt premises. On all Sundays games like cricket, volley ball, throw ball and basket ball were conducted at various courts. A special mention must be made of basket ball, which was conducted this time at the Jayanagar stadium. In spite of the distance from Malleswaram – where many of the basketball players reside – the response was very good and encouraging. Another special feature of this year's sports was the inclusion of shuttle badminton, 'Pagadai' and carom, which attracted large participation.



Men playing passing the Ball

At all the indoor competitions, coffee and biscuits were served and at all the outdoor games and field events breakfast and lunch were served for all competitors and members.

Copies of the GENEALOGY BOOK are available in Sabha Office. The original price is Rs. 250/-, but is being offered at Rs. 200/- for a limited period.



Women playing Passing the Ball

List of Overseas participants who attended the Global Mandayam Meet

1.	Dr. M. D. Srinath/Ms. Revathi Srinath	USA
2.	Dr. H. R. Sharma/Ms. Anuradha	USA
3.	Sri. M.C. Venkatesh / Ms. Meera	USA
4.	Sri. M.T. Srinivasan/Ms. Rama	USA
5.	Sri M.A. Narayanan/Ms. Pramila	USA
6.	Sri M.B. Prasad/Dr. Jayashree	USA
7.	Sri M.C. Krishna	Dubai
8.	Dr.M.A. Srinivasan/Dr. Anuradha + 3 kids	USA / Germany
9.	Sri M.J. Kannan/Ms. Mythily	USA
10.	Smt. Varsha	USA
11.	Dr. Arun Paramakanthi/Dr. Ritu	Canada
12.	Sri Jaideep/Sri Shreyas	USA
13.	Sri Kesari/Ms. Mangala	USA
14.	Dr. M.T. Raghunath/Ms. Smitha	USA
15.	Dr. Srinivas Sampath/Ms. Tara + 2 kids	Canada
16.	Ms. Rashmi Bharadwaj	France
17.	Ms. Ashita Bhagavan	USA
18.	Ms. Mythili Alwar	Canada
19.	Sri Rohith Srinivas	USA
20.	Ms. Madhushree	USA
21.	Mr. Raghunandan Sridhar	USA
22.	Mr. Govind Srinivas	USA

Book-Post

The above persons not only attended the various programmes, but also participated in sports, cultural programmes, drama, skits, music as well. The entire event was looking like a TRUELY GLOBAL VILLAGE programme of OUR OWN MANDAYAMS.

APPEAL TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We have about 309 Patrons/Donors and 640 members, which totals to only about 900. Our community has a strength of nearly 4000 people and our Membership base has to increase in order to reach out to all people of our community and involve in various activities of the Sabha.

It is requested that all community members become Donors/Patrons/Life Members at the earliest.

Membership Fees (One time)

1.	Life Members	Rs. 500/-
2.	Patrons	Rs. 1000/-
3.	Donors	Rs. 5000/-

Cheques/DDs payable to "Mandayam Srivaishnava Sabha" may be sent along with details of Name, address, family name and telephone numbers.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

To

If undelivered, please return to :

MANDAYAM NEWS

News Bulletin of

THE MANDAYAM SRIVAISHNAVA SABHA (Regd.)

No. 198, Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt Building, Sampige Road,

Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560 003