

**Press release on "RASA SANJE program held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2006 here in Adelaide" by Raghavendra Prasad on behalf of Executive Committee of AKS**

Much awaited Rasa Sanje program organized by Adelaide Kannada Sangha on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2006 was enjoyed by overcrowded audience with high jubilation. The function also included brief celebration to mark India's 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, a variety of entertainment from kids and dine & dance created euphoric atmosphere for the evening.

The program started off with an invocation song on Lord Ganesha by Kumari Anuja and Gauthami. The President of Adelaide Kannada Sangha Dr. Umesh Nagasandra, in his welcoming speech, briefly explained the purpose and commitment of newly formed and registered Adelaide Kannada Sangha. He also assured to the kannadigas that Rajyotsava, Basava Jayathi (in association with Basava samithi), ugadi festivals would be celebrated in style that people will remember for long time. Dr. Umesh is also trying to get some artists for next year from Karnataka to have a grand musical night for Ugadi festival. Madhukar Katti, Vice-President has been designated for this work. He also said that the new Sangha is always thankful and owe to the contribution and foundation laid by many senior citizens of Adelaide Kannada community since early 80's. "The new team is highly enthusiastic and committed in organizing events and activities to promote and nurture Kannada culture among younger generations and integrating them with local multicultural society" he added. The event attracted members from many other local linguistic communities, who became members too. Sitting arrangements were made for 150 members and other 75 odd people were forced to stand and watch the complete program, which never happened to any cultural Programs here in Adelaide for the past couple of years.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India was briefly celebrated by singing National anthems of Australia and India & followed by screening of video clip "Mile sur Mera Tumhara..." which echoes India's one voice with many languages and cultures and signifies the India's strength of Unity in Diversity'. The video clip of Kannada song from movie 'Bangarada Manushya' showing significant contributions from famous personalities in the history of Karnataka was also screened. Patriotic songs from Mani Sagar & Vinayak, Adil, Vaibhav and speech on Gandhi by Kishan were also complementary to this celebration of Independence Day.

A variety of entertainment performance from kids was the major attraction of this Sanje. The exhilarating dance performance for the Kannada song 'Bagyda Balegara Hogi Baa Nanna Tavarige' from little kids (Anuja, Tulasi, Bhumika, Shrujala, Gautami, Manas, Saurav, Rohan, Lakshay and Arjun) was enjoyed by the crowd and received standing ovation. The song was choreographed and trained by Mrs. Roopa Mohan, Mrs. Sheela Prasad and Mrs. Suma Sunil. Other specialty of the occasion was that all the female folks irrespective of Indian/Australians dressed up with sari, which was acclaimed and appreciated by every one.

The story telling in Kannada on Akbar - Birbal story by Adil Mubarak was highly laudable & educative. The other attractions were Tap dance by Madhuri, Drums by Mayank, dance performance from Bhuvu & Kruti group and enact by Roshini. The kids' entertainment was ended with dance performance by Arjun and Manas to a stimulating Indian pop music mix which drove wild and Arjun and Manas were asked to dance three times on demand which never happened in the history of cultural programs in Adelaide.

Sangha's Cultural Coordinator Mrs. Suma Shivanand was M.C. of the program and Mr. Arun Naidu was D.J. for the event. Mr. Krishna Prasad, Sangha's Coordinator presented vote of thanks.

The crowd rejoiced the evening by dining various delicious food items voluntarily prepared by many families along with fine drinks under the able supervision of Jagadish Gowda and Manjunath Huliubdurga. The program was also partly sponsored by local businesses: The Rock fort International Pty Ltd and Indian Delights Restaurant. The crowd enjoyed late to night dancing to various tunes and rhythms of Kannada pop/folk music. Sunil Anekal (Treasurer) said that this successful Rasa-Sanje event attracted more than 250 members with unprecedented memberships and support to Adelaide Kannada Sangha. AKS executive committee promised to give a complete outdoor activity involving women, children and youths from Kannada community to mark the celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Rajyotsava in November, 2006. AKS is also planning to run a "learn kannada" classes to cater for the need of children of the community to mark Rajyotsava in style. In the end Guru Prasad promised to bring the best web site for our association.

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