

Report of lecture by Ma. S. N.Chandak



Vishwa Adhyayan Kendra organized a lecture by **Ma. S. N. Chandak ji** (*Sah Sanghchalak of HSS Mid West Sambhag*) on Wednesday 8th April from 7.30 to 9.00 pm at Vidyanishi Info Tech Academy (VITA), Juhu.

The topic was '**Impact of HSS and allied activities in USA**'. Through a PPT Ma. Chandak ji gave a very detailed account of the multifaceted activities starting from HSS Shakhas, Balagokulam and programmes like Surya Namaskar Yagna, Yuva Sangam, Speaker on Campus and Exhibition on Hinduism.

He also elaborated on the role of organizations where HSS is directly related viz. Sewa International, VHPA, OFBJP, Hindu Education Foundation, Hindu American Foundation, Hindu Society of America, Ekal Foundation, International Centre for Cultural Studies, Hindu Students Council and Friends of India Society International.



After the lecture there was a very lively Q/A session where Shri Chandak ji could give replies to various questions related to HSS activities as well as the influence of Hindus in general on American social life.

About 35 members attended the program.

Report of VAK meeting held at Thane

H.H. Chaturvedi Swami, an erudite scholar of the Vedas and the Spiritual Head of Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust addressed the members of **Vishwa Adhyayan Kendra** on Thursday 16th April at a function organized by the Thane Chapter of the VAK held at *Sriram Vyayamshala* Hall.

The topic was '**Vishwa Adhyayan**'. Swami ji delivered an outstanding lecture which was noted for its depth of content as well as superlative oratory. The audience was spell bound by the flow of ideas and words that came out from Swami ji just as water gushes down from a waterfall.



He elaborated on the words '**Vishwa**' and '**Adhyayana**' in depth and gave multi-dimensional explanations for them. Swami ji recommended useful suggestions that would enable VAK to be a larger platform for understanding the rich contribution of India and disseminating the knowledge to the world. He also wished that VAK become a centre for study of traditional knowledge of Bharat the greatest gift received from our rishis and sants.



He gave numerous examples from the ocean of Indian philosophy to emphasize the glorious contribution of India to the world for the benefit and welfare of the whole world.

He appealed to the audience to become 'social drivers' and remarked that 100 such 'social drivers' would be sufficient to guide more than 100000 persons from the society.

Earlier **Shri Ratan Sharda** welcomed the gathering and briefly explained the profile of VAK and its activities since inception.

Shri Sanjay Kelapure offered a shawl to Swamiji and he along with **Shri Narasimhan** also offered the **Honorary Life Membership** of Vishwa Adhyayan Kendra to Swami ji in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the fields of Art, Science, Literature, Philosophy, Education, Social Service and providing Spiritual Leadership in carrying forward the glorious values and principles as propounded and promoted in Bharat since time immemorial by

numerous *rishis* and saints belonging to the gamut of *Vaidic Sanatana Dharma*.

The function came to a close with a Vote of Thanks by **Shri Sumant Kelkar**. Shri Ganapathy Narasimhan and family had arranged for very delicious South Indian dinner that was as enjoyable as the proceedings of the evening.

Overall, all the 40 participants were enthralled, enchanted and captivated by the immense knowledge of Swami ji and his powerful oratorical skills. It was a thrilling experience of basking in the sunshine of knowledge picked from Indian philosophy and focused on to the audience by Swami Chaturvedi.

Report of lecture on 'Kautilya Arthashastra'

Ms. Padma Bapat delivered a thought-provoking lecture on '*Kautilya Arthashastra*' on Friday 8th May 2009 at Utkarsha Mandal, Vile Parle East, Mumbai.

VAK members and a select audience had a very wonderful treat of Padma ji's intellectual recipe. She was full of information and kept everyone completely engrossed. She deserves a pat for her good contribution to our ADHYAYAN efforts. No one was bored even for a moment and many did not bother about the time. Shri Ravi Kumar ji requested that his time also be allotted to Padma ji.



The programme was attended by 47 participants. Some notable among those being Shri Deepak Ghaisas, Shri Shriram Dandekar, Dr. Mrs Alka Mandke, Shri Purushottam Chaturvedi, Shri Jayraj Salgoankar, Shri J J Arora, Shri Gopal Kamat and Shri Radhakrishnan Pillai. Many had come just by invitation sent through vakmumbai googlegroups list.

Synopsis

Kautilya Arthashastra is the treatise on the science of polity, composed by Kautilya, around 460 B.C.

Kautiya, Chanakya and Vishnugupta are the three names of one person. In the text two names Kautiya and Vishnugupta are mentioned by author himself.

In the first Adhikarana of the first Adhyaya he has mentioned that, "This science which is easy to understand, without ambiguity in the words, meaning and the principle is composed by Kautilya". While at the end he says," having observed the contradiction of commentators on the text, Vishnugupta himself has commented on it". From the above two references in the text itself, we can conclude that Kautiya and Vishnugupta are the two names of one person.



Ms Padma ji informed the audience that **Arthshastra** comprises of **15 Adhikaranas, 180 Prakaranas, 150 Adhyayas, 360 Karikas and 60000 Shlokas.**

The book begins with the foremost duty of a king, ie. obtainment of the earth and protection of the earned land. The term '*Artha*' in *Arthashastra*, according to Kautilya ,' means of acquiring and maintaining the earth."

Excerpts from the letter sent to the consulates along with copies of Business of Freedom.

"Recently, we have published a book comparing thoughts of some Indian freedom fighters with those of management gurus. The author of the book, Mr. Sandeep Singh is a management professional and a student of freedom movement of India. These studies have resulted in the book '*Business of Freedom.*'

While searching for the parallels between modern management thoughts and the styles of Indian freedom fighters he was amazed to find that many of the modern management models were actually applied by the Indian freedom fighters. It is the application of these management models at the lowest level at the societal level that made these ideas so powerful. We are pleased to send you a copy of the same.

We feel that, this phenomenon can't be country specific and there must be parallel examples in your country, as well as in every other country that went through a freedom struggle. It will be a great pleasure for us to know about such leaders, their lives and thoughts; and study those thoughts. **We would be greatly thankful if you could send us some material about such great personalities (past and present) from your country.**

We shall also be pleased to get information about some scholars from your country who may have done such studies and interact with them. Mr. Sandeep Singh and our team can interact on this subject, or study any other material provided / suggested by you.

We believe that the contribution of all the freedom fighters and their genius must be appreciated, realized and recognized all over the world."

Press note on Sri Lanka scenario sent to media on 26th May

With the death of Velupillai Prabhakaran and the top leadership of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the country can look forward to a future of peace and development.

No doubt the Sri Lankan army has won a decisive victory in its three-decade fight against LTTE and its terrorism. The triumphal mood of the Rajapaksa government is therefore understandable, but the fervent hope that this marks the beginning of a new dawn of peace in the long troubled island nation will depend on the manner in which this emphatic military victory is interpreted.

Over 70,000 people have been killed in this three-decade conflict that pitted the LTTE against the armed forces over appropriate devolution to the Tamil population. More than 3, 00,000 residents of North East regions have been permanently or temporarily displaced. Therefore

what is most urgent is the need for a sincere effort at providing sustained aid for the thousands who have been displaced. This should be the immediate priority for Colombo.

The next important effort should be the opening of dialogue with the Tamil population and their representatives to agree on a devolution package - whose contours were already identified in 1987. Rehabilitation of the refugees, reconstruction of the ravaged Tamil areas and reconciliation between the Sinhala-Tamil political representatives constitute the long-term agenda that Colombo needs to pursue.

Does the government in Sri Lanka have the perspicacity to extend an olive branch to the Tamil minority and be magnanimous in victory? Or will the traditional 'triumphalism of Sinhala majoritarianism' get the better of them? They can no longer blame that the situation is not conducive as they have complete control of the areas now. In fact, the world is waiting to see how much of its promises will be kept by Colombo from now.

To enjoy the fruits of military victory, it is important that Colombo consider Sri Lankan Tamils as partners in progress and make the much-awaited beginning in giving the due to them without any further delay.

Any viable solution to the Tamil problem will require substantial devolution of powers to Tamil majority areas in the north-east of the country. That might not be easy. Politically, federalism finds little favour in Sri Lanka. At the same time, in 2006 the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka had ruled against the administration of the northern and eastern provinces as a single unit. This was a key demand, and its denial at the hands of the judiciary is viewed as going against Tamil interests. Rajapakse needs to tread carefully here.

On the Sinhalese side, any "unification" of the eastern and northern provinces, even if Rajapaksa were to try it, is considered suspect. As a result, there is likely to be a period of confusion in Sri Lanka for a while. But given the period of Tamil grievances built over the last

seven decades or so, the problem requires serious attention on the part of the Sri Lankan government. Unless that is done, the Tamil problem has the potential to resurface in the years to come. Should it happen, then the Sri Lankan government should squarely owe it as their failure and will also be suspect in the eyes of world observers.

New Delhi needs to convince and press Colombo towards a permanent political resolution of the problem. The problem should be resolved in a manner that Sri Lanka has no fears about its territorial integrity and the Tamil community start their lives afresh assured of getting their rights, dignity and livelihood.

Bharat needs to carry out an objective review of its Sri Lanka policy. Both Sri Lanka and Bharat need to break from the past and work together for finding a solution for a better future for the minority Tamil population of the island. They are as much a part of Sri Lanka as the Sinhalese. Both Sinhalese and Lankan Tamils are of Indian origin, Sinhalese migrated from Orissa, Bengal, and parts of Andhra whereas the Tamils belong to Tamilnadu and Kerala. With this perspective the two governments should work to bring solace to the Tamil population that has suffered badly from decades of conflict. Most of them have had no sympathy to LTTE but were drawn into the conflict by Prabhakaran as it suited him well.

The world community hopes that the end of Prabhakaran along with the last LTTE elements marks the end of Sri Lanka's long tryst with terror and the realisation of that elusive Sinhalese-Tamil harmony.

VAK joint program with American Centre

Vishwa Adhyayan Kendra organised a joint program with American Center, Mumbai to discuss **President Barack Obama's Speech at Cairo** that was delivered on June 4th 2009.

The discussion session was held at **American Center, New Marine Lines on Wednesday 24th June 2009** from 6 to 8 in the evening, and despite the short period, focused efforts were made on select 150 members / wellwishers of VAK to attend this prestigious event.

8 ghatayaks were assigned the task of contacting the target group and ensuring their attendance by repeated follow-ups. Since the security at American Center was a major issue all efforts were done in a very confidential manner. 58 members were present and some 40 had communicated their keen interest to attend but were unable to do so due to prior commitments.



The programme commenced with a welcome speech by **Ms. Elizabeth Koffman**, Director of American Center, Mumbai. She informed that the American Center was delighted to know that VAK was interested to have a discussion on President Obama's historic speech at Cairo and hence readily agreed to the same.



Shri Ratan Sharda did the Introduction to VAK

He mentioned the objective of formation of VAK is to create a Think Tank on foreign policy matters that would provide an alternative view point to the Indian policy makers in this area.



He mentioned that VAK came into being at a time when India was trying to come out of its self imposed ideas about world affairs dictated by policy makers whose thinking was moulded and frozen in cold world rhetoric and basically anti-capitalist hence anti US.

“It was strange paradoxes where Indian people loved America and influenced by its open democracy and liberal ideals but Indian policy

makers hated or at least were suspicious of American government and policies.



Where majority of Indians were suspicious of Russian government but dominant establishment intellectuals were enamored by it. It was a policy frame work frozen in time warp, in spite of major tectonic shift with collapse of Communist power centre.

The foreign policy perspectives were defined by a stand point dictated by history understood from British perspective and not Indian perspective. It is said that a view point is defined by the stand point. VAK resolved to provide a view point from purely Indian stand point “he pointed.

He also added that VAK is clear that nobody takes you seriously unless you speak from a position of strength and are seen to be powerful in your own right.

He also pointed out that though VAK is working from the commercial capital and not the political capital of India, we believe that by building up a network with consulates of various countries in Mumbai, and some other think tanks we can slowly build a body of work. Focus of VAK is more on cultural and economic understanding of various communities world over and build bridged based on similarities and human relations.



“This programme is one of such initiatives and VAK is hopeful that such exchanges will help build better understanding between Indian people and American people” he concluded.

The **Speech of President Barack Obama** that was delivered at Cairo was later shown in full which mesmerized the audience. The

fact that the President spoke for almost 40 minutes extempore and with such clarity of thoughts and flow of words was a real treat. He never paused even for a while and delivered the message he had come to deliver.

Hon. Consul General of USA in Mumbai Hon. Paul Folmsbee later addressed the audience and gave the background for the speech from his personal and first hand experiences in Baghdad and Pakistan as a diplomat among other places.



Shri Sanjay Kelapure, President of VAK moderated a very explosive and interesting **Q & A session**. Hon. Paul Folmsbee gave convincing replies to the questions and jokingly requested to avoid questions on ‘Bharat - Pakistan relations and conflicts’. Almost 20 members posed questions ranging from Guantanamo Bay prisoners to Indo-US strategic relations to exchange information on terrorists.

The Q&A session lasted for more that 45 minutes but was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. Shri Sanjay Kelapure concluded the session by a short **Vote of Thanks** to the Council General, Director of American Center, Lynne and all other members of American Center for such a candid and emotional exchange of thoughts and ideas through a memorable discussion session.

Shri Sanjay Hegde and **Dr. Satish Modh** presented Paul Folmsbee and Elizabeth Koffman with mementos of VAK.



Well over 45 minutes after the conclusion of the programme both the Consul General and Liz Koffman spent time in personal interaction with members of VAK.

In conclusion it may be mentioned

that the cherished wishes of many of VAK's members to have a program of useful interaction with some important consulates in Mumbai was finally not a dream anymore.

Report of Universal Brotherhood Day program

The Universal Brotherhood Day was celebrated on Friday 7th August at the Russian Cultural Centre.

Ms Divya Sharda conducted the proceedings effectively and efficiently by her superlative skills in communication.

The programme began with the **Welcome Address** of **Shri Sanjay Kelapure**, President of VAK who highlighted the objectives of the VAK. He also introduced the dignitaries on stage. He mentioned that VAK organises the U B Day every year to foster friendship and goodwill with various consulates and foreign nationals in Mumbai.. He concluded that VAK aspires to become a think-tank that will provide alternative viewpoint on international issues with India-centric focus.



Shri Sanjay Hegde Executive Partner - PWC India presided over the function. He complimented VAK for organizing the event every year to foster friendship and harmony. Though it was a small step it is a significant one he added. He felt that though Universal Brotherhood cannot be implanted sitting in an air conditioned auditorium and speaking for a few hours on the topic, the act is like sowing a seed that will germinate, become a plant and eventually a big tree that will be seen only later. He strongly felt that the virus of goodness should spread more than the virus of those doing bad things. He recalled that civilizations and new thoughts have arisen in many parts of the world but only in Bharat (India) new thoughts, ideas and change have been always welcome without resistance. *“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The world is one family) is a great*



heritage that we have inherited which we need to cherish and also preserve” he said. He also stressed the need for practicing and thus preserving our priceless traditions and values.

Chief Guest of the function, **Mr. Alexey Redkin**, Consul at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai in his short speech thanked VAK for conducting the function at the Cultural Centre of Russia. *“Rakshabandhan, in fact, has a much broader perspective and a universal outlook. The festival encompasses true sense of peace, trust and brotherhood”* he said. Russians and Indians are like brothers stressed the Consul. He concluded by saying *“It is very appropriate that efforts like observing Universal Brotherhood Day will make an important contribution in creating better appreciation of peace, cooperation and harmony in the world, particularly among the increasingly influential and extremely talented younger generation.”*



Ms Divya Sharda later gave details of the **Paper Presentation Competition (PPC)** which was held among students of Technology, Management and International Studies from 20 institutions of Mumbai on the topic *‘India in centre stage of emerging i2i nations’*. She also gave brief profiles of the judges of the PPC – **Shri Ajay Pandey, Shri K. Narassimhan and Shri Sandeep Singh**.

Dr. B K Modi later distributed certificates and cash prizes to the winners of PPC.

The **Keynote Address** was given by **Dr. B. K. Modi** - a global visionary, peace ambassador and a multi-faceted personality. Dr Modi said that universal outlook was inborn in every Indian. *“We are all brought up hearing the verses ‘vasudhaiva*



kutumbakam'. We all earnestly look forward to the day when the world will understand the meaning of these verses and start living like a family" he remarked.

He reminded the audience that in 1938 Shri Aurobindo had predicted that once in 175 years there is a cycle that brings India in centre stage and in a leadership position in the world. "The birth of Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa was the start of one such cycle that has commenced in 1836. In 1893 we have seen Swami Vivekananda proclaim the message of India to the world at the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago. The year 2011 will once again bring India to eminence and the world will be led by Indian thought" he said.

He recalled the events after the end of World War II in 1945 and dwelled on various issues that have had a profound influence on the world from then onwards.

"The UN was formed and 5 countries viz. USA, Russia, UK, France and China have become permanent members of the Security Council and since then dominated the global scene and influenced the world by various bodies of UN like IMF, World Bank etc.

Most of the countries in **the i2i region (Israel to Indonesia)** whereas attained freedom from colonies only after 1945. Unfortunately they have no role in decision making in the world today though they constitute the best talent in the world and have 37% of the population of the world living in this region.

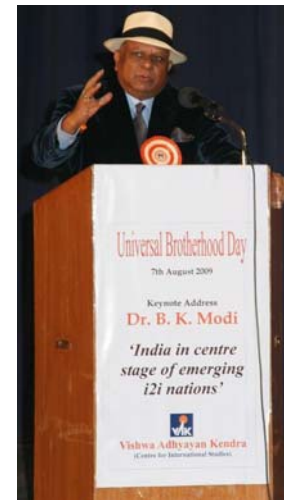
300 years before now, India was a major force. Our greatest virtue has always been 'freedom of thought'. Avatars also came from time to time to reiterate the importance of the freedom of thinking process. The geographical area from Israel to Indonesia is strongly influenced by India. There is cultural link and most of the countries in this i2i belt look to India for their progress and prosperity. India therefore has a great responsibility to lead these countries.

We have seen Industrial Revolution in the 50s and later Agriculture Revolution. We are now in an era of new revolution – **Knowledge Revolution**. Human mind is the centre of this revolution. This

revolution is leading to unprecedented wealth creation. TCS has more value than all other companies of Tata group. It is wealth creation that drives nations to leadership positions.

The world population has also undergone a sea change. 2.5 billion of the world's 6.5 billion live in the i2i belt that constitutes 37%. 43 % of the world's young ignited minds under age 14 live in the i2i belt. They are the future of mankind. The most developed among the i2i nations is Singapore, but India is the largest supplier of young and talented work force for Singapore and also the world.

Today roughly 30 million young Indians are living outside India and are among the world's richest talent force. In coming 10 years they are projected to grow to 80 million. They will naturally make a huge difference to world thinking. It is natural that India will slowly acquire the leadership of the world due to its talent force.



The world need not though worry about India acquiring the leadership role because unlike others who have resorted to violence, war and oppression to proclaim their leadership we will conquer by our message of peace, love and harmony. **Non-violence and compassion are our mantra.**

500 years ago India's GDP was 50% of world GDP. **Even though we possessed the best military talent of the world we did not invade any country ONLY by choice.**

Vishwa Dharma Prasaar Yatra that touched 40 countries and 1 million people was aimed at taking the peace message of the great acharyas of Bharat to the whole world in the form of a global pilgrimage.

We are **fortunate** that we are born in India. We are **more fortunate** that we live close to year 2011 when India will attain glory by

becoming global leader. We are *most fortunate* that the world is beginning to understand the message of '*vasudhaiva kutumbakam*' i.e. living as one family."

His speech was a perfect blend of optimism, information and hope.

The inspiring, interesting and captivating Keynote Address was followed by a thrilling and entertaining Q/A session which was ably moderated by **Dr Satish Modh.**



Vote of Thanks was delivered by **Shri Vishal Chavda**, Deputy Manager - Dept of Corporate Services BSE and managing committee member of VAK.

Report of VAK Chintan baithak

A Chintan baithak was held on Saturday 12th September 2009 from 7 to 8.30 p.m. at Chachad Smruti, Suggestions put forward by members were as under.

Shri Sandeep Singh - He narrated his IIT experience. Generally people are NOT interested in JUST lectures / talks. They ask – What NEXT? We need to coordinate with Sewa Sahyog and have stalls at corporates where people can be asked to contribute time.

Shri Ratan Sharda – “We need to identify a few people who will be interested in doing pure research '*adhyayan*'. We need to give them regular work and publish some study papers”..

Shri Vishal Chavda – “We can help in placement interviews for MBA students”.

Ms Padma Bapat – “We can target students of Politics and Sociology and ask them to present papers on subjects that we may give them. Their papers can be used in our bulletin. They can be given awards / scholarships”.

Dr. Satish Modh – “We can advertise and get few M.Phil / Ph. D students of International Studies to submit 3 International Standard papers in a year. We can offer them up to 10000/- as scholarship for a year”.

Ramesh Subramaniam – “We have started Paper Presentation Competition on topic of U B Day from this year. While continuing this more effectively every year we can think about SAMPARK definitely in Kalina Campus and if possible in a few Management colleges before LBML. This will ensure good attendance in the programme and also help us to identify those who can be actively associated”.

“Each of us to provide **8 / 10 new names** from among our friends who can be introduced to VAK. We can then start PERSONAL MEETINGS with these people and tell them about VAK and how they can get associated”.

Shri Bimal ji Kedia

- Our adharis who suggested the name of VAK were very clear about the role we should play. '**Vishwa Adhyayan**' is a MUST activity for us.
- Committee members **need to meet at Chachad karyalaya every Saturday in any convenient time**. This will help greatly to identify work that can be given to the 3 / 4 people who will start coming regularly.
- We need to bring out at least ONE publication every year.
- We need to have at least ONE programme in a consulate or jointly with them.
- We need to keep mentioning '**Please contact us if you are NOT YET a member of VAK**' in all our communications so as to make them know that there is a formal membership.
- We have to try to associate NEW people by giving them some responsibility. This will help us identify their interest and commitment. We should not HESITATE to involve new people.
- We need to give small responsibility to our long term members and keep insisting them to take some more interest in VAK work.

We need to personally meet them and can discuss with them about their ideas / suggestions and also their experience in VAK since last 10 years.

- VAK managing committee members and a few select new members can have a brainstorming session of 2 or 3 hours with a senior *sangh pracharak* viz. Ma. Hari ji or Ma. Datta ji. This will give us a lot of new ideas to us and also make them know about VAK's activities.

Report of Speaker on Campus (SoC) Lecture programme.

VAK conducted its first lecture under the **Speaker on Campus** program on Saturday 21st November from 3 to 5 pm at the Management College Lecture Hall at Vidyavihar..

Dr Hieu Tran, Dean of College of Pharmacy, Sullivan University, Louisville, KY, USA delivered a lecture on the topic '**Spirituality – Martial Arts and Non-violence**'.



The topic was specially selected as Dr. Tran is a practicing Buddhist and is also a Master in martial arts.

The lecture was held in collaboration with the **K J Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Studies**.

The programme commenced with prayers rendered by Mrs. Deshpande. Lighting of lamp was later performed by Dr. Hieu Tran and others. Mrs Deshpande also gave an introduction of the Somaiya institution.

Shri Sanjay Kelapure, President of VAK, welcomed the gathering and gave introduction of Dr. Hieu Tran as well as Vishwa Adhyayan Kendra.



In his short lecture Dr Hieu Tran

outlined the subtle relationship between spirituality, martial arts and non-violence. He informed that every martial art trainer was expected to perform meditation as equivalent to the time of practice in order to control the power generated.

He also gave several examples from everyday life to explain the need to acquire physical power by practicing martial arts and also counter the same with mental power by performing meditation. Only with a perfect balance of the two will a person be able to lead a peaceful and non-violent life. If the balance is disturbed the martial art performer will resort to violence.

He also answered a few questions on controlling anger and controlling violence that is spreading all over the world.

Shri Ratan Sharda, senior trustee of VAK, delivered the vote of thanks.

The occasion was utilized by VAK to felicitate **Dr Madhuriben Sheth** and **Shri Ramesh Sheth** both of whom have completed 75 years of purposeful life. Shri Ratan Sharda explained how both of them had excelled in professional career but were not lured to shift to the USA. Instead, they chose to stay in Mumbai and dedicate valuable time for imparting knowledge and selfless social work.

About 75 persons attended the programme. The audience comprised mainly of students of Centre for Buddhist studies as well as VAK members. Notable among the audience were Buddhist monks from Myanmar and Vietnam.

Report of 4th Lakshmanrao Bhide Memorial Lecture

Vishwa Adhyayan Kendra (Centre for International Studies) organized the **4th Lakshmanrao Bhide Memorial Lecture** on Friday 15th January 2010 at the Alkesh Dinesh Mody Auditorium in Kalina Campus, Vidyanagari, Mumbai.

The function was presided over by **Shri Ashok Goel**, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Essel Propack Ltd and also Chairman of *Uttan Vividh Laksheee Shikshan Sanstha of Keshavrushti*.

Shri K. Sital, social worker, industrialist and publisher of Hong Kong was the **Chief Guest** who received the ***Bharatvanshi Samaj Bhushan Puraskar*** from VAK for his distinguished leadership & outstanding services in the areas of publishing, networking, social justice, trade and promoting social coexistence and harmony among the People of Indian Origin spread across the whole world.



Shri Dattatreya Hosabale, *Sahsarkaryavah* of RSS delivered the memorial lecture on the topic – ‘**Facebook generation’s face-off with global challenges**’

Ms Mamata Vora did a fine job by effectively conducting the entire program as the MC.

Shri Sanjay Kelapure, President of the VAK welcomed the gathering and introduced VAK and its various activities. He also presented bouquets to the dignitaries on stage.



Dr. Satish Modh, founder member of VAK, introduced Late Lakshmanrao Bhide to the audience as a remarkable *pracharak* of the RSS who worked silently for over five decades building a network of workers around the world. Narrating a personal anecdote he

informed that the energizing words of Bhide ji “Look within you and build your potential” – was like a mantra that changed his professional profile. He went on pursuing academics which made him take Ph D in management and complete law after completing Masters in Engineering all due to Shri Bhide ji’s motivation.

Shri Ashok Goel in his address informed that Shri Lakshmanrao Bhide had expressed the concerns of People of Indian Origin (PIO) and had wanted Mumbai to commence a school where the children of these PIOs could develop with ‘global minds in Indian Soul’ and be nourished with values of Indian culture. *Uttan Vividh Laksheee Shikshan Sanstha* of *Keshavrushti* came into existence due to Bhide ji’s motivation and far sightedness he said. The Ram Ratna Vidya Mandir is committed to fulfill the aspirations of Late Lakshmanrao Bhide he remarked.



Shri Ratan Sharda, the founder General Secretary of the VAK, introduced Shri K. Sital the Chief Guest. He informed how Shri Sital had developed skills from the *shakha* that he attended in Karachi in his childhood and fine-tuned them and transformed himself into a successful businessman and a committed social worker. He listed the various achievements of Shri Sital.

After the introduction of Shri Sital, the Chief Guest was given the *Bharatvanshi Samaj Bhushan Puraskar* by VAK. Shri Dattatreya Hosabale presented the plaque and memento; Shri Narasimhan, coordinator of 4th LBML, handed over a cheque of Rs 100001/- and Shri Ashok Goel presented Shri Sital with a shawl.

When Shri Sital took over the mike the first thing he said was that he was overwhelmed with the honor and warm applause which he got from the audience. He had wanted to speak a lot of things but was made speechless due to the warm and emotional reception. He informed that he perceived Shri Bhide ji more as a saint than a mere RSS worker.



“There are about 25 million Indians scattered over the world. These Indians are hard working wealth creators. They pay their taxes regularly. None of them is a terrorist” he said amid thunderous applause. Shri Sital informed that he had traveled to remote countries and has seen hundreds of success stories of PIOs. In order for the larger Hindu community to know about these remarkable Indians he started to document them and bring out directories and profile of 100 global Indian achievers.

He mentioned that the PIOs who were taken as ‘indentured labourers’ to sugar plantations from Fiji to Suriname faced inhuman hardships for two generations but slowly transformed themselves into achievers due to the Hindu values of life, tremendous will power and patient hard work.

Talking about the secret of his success he said that the discipline that he had imbibed in the *shakha* was the foremost reason. He also spoke of the “*apnapan*” (cordial atmosphere) in the *shakha* that lacks in a school or clubs.

Shri Vishal Chavda, committee member of VAK, informed about the reasons for VAK to decide to have a web presence and introduced Shri Sunil Mishra who designed and hosted the website. He then requested Shri Sital to inaugurate the VAK website. Literally the launch was glittery and dazzling.



Shri Dattatreya Hosabale started his address by mentioning that Bhide ji was an embodiment of simplicity and openness and he personified love and affection. He recalled that after assuming the office of General Secretary of WOSY, he had a met Lakshmanrao

Bhide who gave him useful guidance and suggestions about the students and youth of various countries.

Speaking on the topic ‘**Facebook generation’s face-off with global challenges**’ he said there was a digital divide in the youth. Most of

the youth of rural areas of the country do not have access to primary education leave alone access to the internet he said. Of every 100 students who enroll for primary education only 30 manage to reach up to the 10th Std. he said. More than governments the youth alone have the potential to reverse this and achieve 100 % literacy and spread of education.

He listed the global challenges facing the ‘facebook’ generation of today - climate change, poverty, corruption, terrorism etc. The youth have a lot to speak on these topics he said. The facebook generation is disillusioned with the system in most parts of the world. Youth have expectations from society but when their expectations are not met there is anger amid the youth. It was youth power he reminded which toppled the corrupt Sukarno Government in Indonesia in 1968.

The facebook generation does not want to turn its face from global challenges said Shri Hosabale referring to the 45-minute interaction he had with about 50 students mostly from IIT and Kalina Campus before the main programme. He was confident that the youth will take up issues that haunt society.

Ms Divya Ratan Sharda conducted the interesting question answer session that saw many youth participate with eagerness and enthusiasm. **Shri Vidyadhar Phadke**, Treasurer of VAK, delivered the Vote of Thanks. **Ms Shubaga Narasimhan** rendered the initial and valedictory *vedic* prayer.

The audience which was about 400 mainly comprised of about 150 college students and professionals from various walks.

Collaboration with Vivekananda Education Society

VAK joined hands with Vivekananda Education Society, Chembur and Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha to organize the function to felicitate Shri K. Sital at the hands of Shri. L. K. Advani. The function was held on Sunday 17th January at VES premises at Chembur.

VAK’s special contribution was to bring out a well researched book titled ‘**Sindhi – The Truly Global Citizen**’ which contains articles

like Journey of Vivekanand Education Society, Sindh – Bulwark against foreign aggression, Sindhis – Torch Bearers of a Glorious Civilization, RSS and Sindhi Samaaj, Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha, Sindhis and their selfless contribution to society globally and Sindhi organizations in Mumbai. The book has been edited by Shri Ratan Sharda and Ramesh Subramaniam.

Report of parivarik holi milan programme.



A *parivarik holi milan* was held on 28th February 2010 at Vile Parle East. About 20 families participated and there were about 6 new comers as well.

Apart from a traditional *puja* members also celebrated *holi* in an eco-friendly way.

An attractive demonstration of *Mallakhamb* was an added attraction.

Since two veteran *pracharaks* of *sangh* viz. Nanaji Deshmukh and Sripathy Shastry had passed away on 27th February, the occasion was utilized to show a video on Chitrakoot Project of Nanaji.

This was followed by reminiscences by members about the two *sangh* stalwarts. Shri Bimal ji Kedia concluded the emotional *smarananjali* with many personal anecdotes over the years.

Report of SoC Lecture held at MET.

The second Speaker on Campus program was held on 18th March 2010 at MET campus, Bandra West.

The lecture was delivered by Shri Sandeep Singh on the topic 'Management lessons from freedom fighters'.

Prof. Vijay Page, Director General of MET presided over the function.

About 40 students attended the lecture and listened to the lecture with keep interest.

Prof. Vijay Page speaking to members of VAK after the program, agreed to provide the venue of the campus for the series of lecture under the program "Speaker on Campus" for the whole academic year.

MET has shown interest for a joint program with VAK for the publication of Sandeep Singh's next book and have assured that they will make an effort for getting Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam as Chief Guest for the program.

MET has also shown interest in collaborating with VAK by providing the students for the various research program to be conducted by VAK nationally or internationally

Overseas visits of VAK research scholars

Dr. Shankar Tatwawadi ji toured Kenya and South Africa. Vandneeya Pramiltai Medhe visited Kenya and South Africa along with Ms. Chanda Sathaye. Shri Ravi Kumar ji toured Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Middle East and Singapore.

Visits of HSS members from around the world

The following karyakarta and their family visited Mumbai and stayed with us for a few days.

Shri Amratbhai Chandegra and Dr. Rajiv Chandegra of UK; Shri Bharat Vadkul and Shri Damjibhai Tank of UK; and Shri S.N. Chandak of Bloomington, IL, USA in April.

Shri Prasad Gharkhedkar of Chicago, USA in June.

Ms Meena Rooplal and others of Durban, South Africa in August.

Shri Amith Singh of Johannesburg, South Africa in October.

Ms. Sunita and Ms. Probjot of UK in December.