

A Newsletter for Us

Namaskarams to one and all.

Finally, the wait is over. It gives us immense pleasure in bringing the inaugural edition of the e-newsletter for our community.

Welcome to Sistakaranam's LEKHA. The newsletter for us, of us and by us!

This launching will be a giant leap as far as the reach of this letter is concerned.

A newsletter should always reflect the core values of its audience. We promise you that we will strive to meet it.

We acknowledge that a newsletter is ever-evolving reflecting the changing times. However at the onset we have tried to get as much as possible covering lot of topics.

At the beginning, we have **Community News** related to happenings that are of interest for us, followed by **Newsmakers** that covers individuals with notable achievements. There is the usual **Editorial** and, alongside, an **Interview** with a prominent person of our community. The **Open Forum** contains contributions from members of our community. The newsletter is also an honest attempt to bring together various groups of Sistakaranams (be it regional associations or special interest groups) through the **Fraternity Pages** where focus is given to each of them. And then, we try to bring out the talents of our members thru a **Talent Showcase**. Finally, we sign off with updates from our team in the **Ikyavedika Round Up**.

We hope the e-newsletter LEKHA will truly reflect the vibrancy of our community.



We request all of you to contribute to its content and enrich it. We are always looking forward to your comments and inputs which will help in better product output.

As said by Henry Ford "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Let us all contribute to LEKHA's success and by extension in our community's reach and connect. The intent and content of the LEKHA will be towards it.

We take this opportunity to thank every one of our SK community who encouraged and guided us in starting this initiative.

Inside this issue ...

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Community News | 2 |
| News Makers | 3 |
| Editorial..... | 4 |
| Interview | 4 |
| <i>Open Forum</i> | |
| - A Health Topic | 5 |
| - A Govt. Pension Scheme | 6 |
| - A Place of Interest | 7 |
| <i>Fraternity Pages</i> | |
| - Chhattisgarh | 8 |
| - West Bengal..... | 9-11 |
| - SWA, Telangana..... | 12 |
| - AIPSKA | 13 |
| - Kalam Snehitulu..... | 14 |
| Talent Corner | 15 |
| Iky Vedika Round Up..... | 16 |
| <i>Special Supplement</i> | |
| - 100 years of Kharagpur | 17-22 |



All the Best !

Our Sistakaranam community is missing connectivity amongst us and it is the need of hour for us to come together. In today's busy lives, this is possible using computer technology in this electronic era. Sistakaranam Ikyavedika team's steps towards development of our Sistakaranam community is really welcome and worth encouraging. I am happy to support you all for our cause.

- Ms. Sri Lakshmi, popular comedy film & TV actress.

A Few Disclaimers

This newsletter is published by Sistakaranam Iky Vedika Digital Team, a voluntary group from the Sistakaranam Community. Being published by a voluntary group, it has no affiliation to any other association and, in fact, attempts to bring you updates from all associations & groups of our community.

One aspect about this newsletter, which we are still figuring out, is the statutory need for registering it. Our initial assessment is that this newsletter may not need any registra-

tion, mainly due to 4 reasons: (1) It's a digital magazine, for which currently no government regulations exist, (2) It's not a printed magazine, which requires approval of RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India), (3) It's not a commercial venture, but a collaborative voluntary effort from members of our community and (4) It's for private circulation only, meaning that it is meant only for members of the Sistakaranam community. However, we are open for advice in this matter, and reiterate that we shall abide by any stat-

utory requirements, once the same is clear.

As for the content in the newsletter, including advertisements, it is all sourced either through contributions from members of the community, or from resources that are in the public domain, including news media and social media (such as Facebook & WhatsApp), without any financial consideration to anyone. If you have any reservations about the content, please reach out to Ikyavedika Digital team (details on Page 14).

COMMUNITY NEWS

AIPSKA formed

Sistakaranams around the world now have a formal organization to identify with. All India Pravassandhra Sista Karanams Association (AIPSKA),



with its Head Quarters in Raipur, Chhattisgarh State was recently formed and, in no time, has onboarded members from India, USA, Qatar, Oman, Australia, Singapore, Denmark, New Zealand, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The process of registering the association is on, and a team of office-bearers has been announced. AIPSKA has also conducted online events with attendance from around the globe in large numbers.

More in AIPSKA fraternity page in this issue.

Regular updates on AIPSKA's activities can be found on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391899975161310>

Telangana lists Sistakaranams in BC list

The Backward Classes Welfare Department of Government of Telangana issued orders on Sep 9, 2020 (through an amendment to G.O.

Ms. No. 3, BC Welfare (OP) Department, dated 14.08.2014) announcing an updated list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes for the State of Telangana, with the Inclusion of 17 new castes (13 in Group-A and 4 in Group-D).

Our Sistakaranam community is listed under Group D (entry no. 44).

The GO can be accessed at the "Government Order Issue Register" page of Government of Telangana website.

<https://goir.telangana.gov.in/>

Department: BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE

GO NO: 3



AP Govt issues GO forming Corporation

Government of Andhra Pradesh vide its G.O. RT. No. 141 dated 29.10.2020 announced Formation and Establishment of Andhra Pradesh Sistakaranam Welfare and Development Corporation. The Constitution of the Corporation is:

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Smt. Kantimahanti Anusha Patnaik | Chairperson |
| 2 | Sri Pakki Ramakrishna | Director |
| 3 | Smt. Gattipalli Sarada | Director |
| 4 | Sri Sadasivuni Krishna | Director |
| 5 | Sri Vuriti Apparao | Director |
| 6 | Smt. Jagadeshwari | Director |
| 7 | Smt. Dabburu Alekya | Director |
| 8 | Smt. Vadrangi Aruna Kumari | Director |
| 9 | Sri Kantimahanti Chandramouli | Director |
| 10 | Sri Khaspa Ravi Kumar | Director |
| 11 | Smt. Pothumahanthi Nagamani | Director |
| 12 | Smt. Votapalli Radha | Director |
| 13 | Sri Dandu Mahanti Lakshman Rao | Director |

The term of the Chairperson and Directors is for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge.

- Compiled by Narasimha Rao Mantri

"Ikya Vedika" brings Community & Technology together

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." - T. S. Eliot

A group of motivated individuals with sole objective to increase the collaboration and connection of our Sistakaranams have taken upon themselves to start a digital initiative called SKIV.

The group has started a series of weekend meetings with likeminded Sistakaranams on achieving the above mentioned objective. The weekly meeting is currently at #16. what has come out of these intense debates and consultations are 4 sub-initiatives. 1) Conducting of culture events over ONLINE 2) Bring out our community news magazine in digital format 3) "Skills share" - a noble initiative to give something back to the community in the form of online teaching and coaching for the various students/need of our community and finally 4) a "digital data form" for building a data lake of our community members.

Every week the (MoM) Minutes of meeting

are shared immediately with everyone in our separate WA group called SKIV. The transparency in our meetings and subsequent recordings will foster a culture of trust and accountability and hopefully a pathfinder for other groups to follow.

The first sub initiative has made us celebrate August 15th independence day celebrations online for the local chapter of TS. However the 2nd and the latest celebration held of Dussehra had touched 6 states. we had tremendous participation and spurred us to do more of such activities regularly.

What you are reading is the newsletter for Sistakaranams and by Sistakaranam. This we believe is the FIRST PAN INDIA digital magazine for Sistakaranams..aptly named LEKHA we look forward to your readership, contribution of articles and feedback to make it more robust and vibrant.



"WE RISE by LIFTING OTHERS" motto behind our SKILL SHARE initiative. It is an initiative that will cater to the needy students/adults from our community. the resources for teaching/coaching will be drawn primarily from our community and we will reach out to outside professionals as needed. we want every ones blessings and support to this noble initiative.

One of the basic need for the success of any digital initiatives is a requirement of a database of our community members.

Surprisingly we do not have anywhere. All independent SK groups have are in analog (hardcopy) format.

DATA collection form consists of fields that are lesser than what you would submit for a SIM purchase.

This would eventually feed to SKILLS SHARE initiative.

Please join the digital platform SKIV and be part of something bigger than yourself.

- Ravi Karakavalasa

NEWSMAKERS

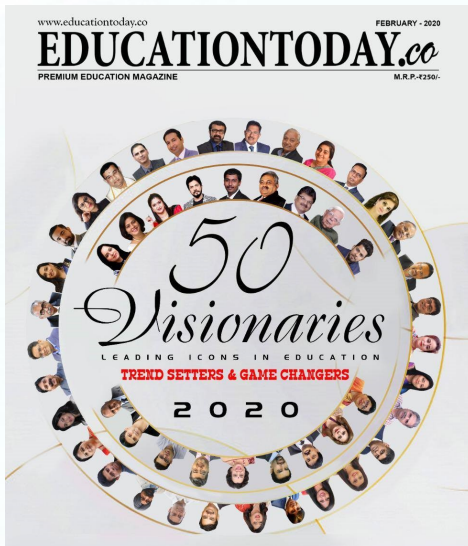
Dr G S Patnaik receives accolades for education

A leading online Magazine, Education Today.co, quite popular among the K-12 (Kindergarten to 12th grade) community, has recognized our Dr. G. Srinivas Patnaik, Chairman cum Managing Director of St. Xavier's Chain of Schools, Bilaspur, as one of the 50 visionaries of education in its February 2020 e-Magazine.



Read more at:

<https://www.educationtoday.co/et/magazine/february-magazine-2020.php>



Most Promising Entrepreneur Pavan Allena

One of the brightest and rising stars in the world of start-ups is our Pavan Allena.

Hailing from Vizianagaram, this young entrepreneur has captured the imagination in our school system with his venture called MetamorphosisEdu. This institution enables entrepreneurial ecosystem in educational institutes thru experimental and case study based learning.

His clientele include Chirec International, Kennedy, DPS among many schools spread all over India.

Inspired by his Idols Jack Ma and Roger Federer, Pavan made strides very early by starting and co-founding Knight tracker (a school bus tracking system) in his teens.

This computer science engineering graduate from VIT has also recently started the M plus (World's First Infotainment OTT platform).

His pioneering work was recognized in the industry by the listed awards below

1. Forbes awarded him as the "Best People Manager"
2. Received the "Young Asian Entrepreneur by Asia One and Deloitte"
3. Economic Times gave him the "Most Promising Entrepreneur of the year



Pavan Allena

2019"

4. 4. Awarded as young vibrant entrepreneur South India 40 Under 40 Best Entrepreneur
5. Recognised by Hyderabad's Top 30 influencers by Times

Please visit the website of his venture:

www.metamorphosisedu.com

We wish him all the best and hope he will keep inspiring everyone for a long time

Young Roop Kanth Tops All India Coding Test

Master Vurity Roop Kanth, aged 9, son of Sri Vurity Sasibhushan and Smt. Swathi of Rajam, studying 4th class in Sri Chaitanya School at Rajam (Srikakulam Dist.) stood first at all India level among 156 children who participated in the test conducted by "LIDO CODING CLASS of Bengaluru" — first round on 16-9-2020 and final round on 18-9-2020 — on ROCKET LAUNCHING PROGRAMS etc by Harvard-Stanford IIT. He will be awarded Rs 1 lakh.

Lekha extends its congratulations to Roop Kanth and his parents.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1555217824521614/permalink/3417600991616612>

K Raja Rao wins Sahitiratna

Kuppili Raja Rao was awarded the Sahitiratna award in the "Jatiya Visishta Pratibha Puraskaralu — 2020" event organized by Adaralaya Charities, and Vedika Creativity, Cultural, Talent & Various Skills Society (Vedika CCTV).



Above news sourced from WhatsApp.

Vedika CCTV links: <http://vedikaevents.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/vedika.cctv.1>

EDITORIAL

What We Have In Our Store

SISTAKARANAMS are known for intellect from the ages. And today we are together to synergize our abilities.

Each Sistakaranam has many things in store - full of talent, skills, vision, aspirations and so on. All these attributes are to be connected and shared for advancement and prosperity. The advent of technology accelerates our energy for fulfilling our ambitions.



Our Sistakaranam associations across the country had contributed and are continuing to contribute to the welfare of our community. Their relentless efforts

are remembered for making our community from forward to backward category. Phonetically it appears awkward, but paradoxically that was the need of the time for getting benefits from the State. All of them deserve accolades with standing ovation. But, those are all statutory requirements. Now we are also to move from backward to forward in terms of success.

At this point of time, it is necessary to throw some light on youngsters as to how they perceive about our community associations. The young generation by virtue of their occupations and relocation nationally and internationally, are moving away from carrying the mantle of Sistakaranam brand unintentionally. If this continues, the generic thread of our basics shall become extinct. Hence, we need to rope our young, energetic generation on a virtual platform for continuance of the legacy on ethnic values and systems. And virtual platform makes it possible anyone from anywhere to contribute at one's convenient time with a backdrop of win-to-win situation.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members". Let us pledge ourselves to be a compassionate member for the Sistakaranam Digital Team.

INTERVIEW

"I believe in greatness of helping hands rather than praying lips"

We know children inherit property from parents. But we see someone in our community inheriting her father's ideology of humanitarianism. She is none other than Smt. Kuppili Keerti Patnaik of Visakhapatnam.



Her father, **Late Dr. Kuppili Trinadharao Patnaik** of Ponduru, Srikakulam, an Ayurvedic doctor by profession, is remembered for his social service serving the poor and downtrodden. Not limiting to

medical necessities alone, he tried to address all problems of the needy in and around, by establishing a trust, Sridevi Vignana Jyothi Parishkar Charitable Trust. He did his best in uplifting the Sistakaranam community too. He got many awards and laurels from prominent personalities in recognition of his services. His daughter remembers her father's remark "our life is to live for others". Having inherited that legacy, the ever smiling face of Smt. Keerti Patnaik is identified instantly as NGO Keerti Patnaik. She is running the trust as an NGO with the same name. Lekha conducted a pleasant interview with her.

What inspired you to carry your father's way of living and thoughts?

I used to see the greatest satisfaction on his face while serving the others. He used to say that we must live not only for ourselves but also for others, otherwise there was no meaning of life. I got motivated at his ideology and am putting the same into practice. My father didn't have sons. I wanted to put a full stop to the doubts expressed by kith & kin as how daughters continue his legacy. I started my services in the Trust from April 28, 2003 and then got registered as NGO in April, 2010. I shifted to Vizag after demise of my father and pursued my M.A. in Psychology from Andhra University for an added advantage of my goal in serving the society.

What does your Trust have now?

We have 25 old aged persons, both men and women, all accommodated in a rental house in a village near Gajuwaka. We take care of their shelter, food, clothing, medicines, etc. We also associate with orphanages, help mentally/physically challenged children and distribute food/food items, clothes, books regularly.

What other activities do you take up?

In 25 villages of Pendurti mandal, we organized free skill development program on tailoring and embroidery to 2500 ladies. It was a 3-month intensive training mostly conducted in Panchayat community halls. On completion, certificates were issued to the participants. This helped them getting company jobs

in dress making industries. Some became entrepreneurs starting their own outlets. This was a great achievement as the Trust came into limelight for creating livelihood for many families.

We provided uniforms, books and notebooks to school children of 150 schools.

We conducted Swatch Bharat in an unused place in Endada and finally built one of the finest community halls. The villagers were also trained in tailoring, embroidery and candle making.

Other activities include conduct of medical camps in villages for the poor. Help in getting ration cards and state pension to the poor and eligible persons.

What are your activities during the Corona lockdown periods?

Moved by the pandemic effects of Corona we jumped into action during lockdown periods. We distributed woollen blankets, rice, medicines and other essentials to old people and workers laying on roads and villages. Food was served personally at Care & Lovely Children Welfare located in Madhavadhara, VUDA colony for mentally challenged. We helped in different ways including giving money to widows, sarees to ladies engaged in sanitary & cleanliness works. Police, municipal staff were served with cool drinks and water sachets in hot sun, and masks & sanitizers. Organized annadhanam programs at different places.

What are the resources for organizing all these activities?

My daughter working as a Team Lead in a software MNC is the first person to allocate her share from her monthly salary. She has the blessings of her in-laws for her support. All the programs go on well by the God's grace, sometimes with the help of donors.

Any message to our Community?

As the saying goes, I believe in greatness of helping hands rather than praying lips. I am trying to build my own family with these old-aged men & women, seeing in them my parents. I am pursuing with AP government for allotment of small bit of land for these homeless, then build a shelter for them so that I can live with them my rest of life.

Lekha wishes Smt. Keerti Patnaik all the best in all her endeavours.



Smt. Kuppili Keerti Patnaik

OPEN FORUM

Corona, a galore of opinions & no solutions

You can choose to be a victim or a warrior of CORONA infection, the choice is yours and will define how you face each day and stay safe.

In this article I share the do's which we need to do on a daily basis

1. Do wash your hands every time you have come in contact with a surface preferably with water and soap alternatively sanitizer can be used
2. Keep adequate distance with other's at all times, preferable distance is 1.5 meters
3. Wear a mask when you are in all out door areas
4. Avoid public gatherings at all possible places
5. Consume nutritious food which are known to boost immunity
6. Take multivitamin containing Zinc and Vit C daily
7. Clean and disinfect touched surfaces using a virucidal solution
8. Exercise caution while sneezing,

sneeze into a hand kerchief or into your own forearm. Wash your hands immediately after sneezing

9. Reduce unnecessary travel
10. Dispose masks and used tissues etc. carefully to avoid spread of infection
11. Seek medical attention in event of any slight symptoms listed below
 - LOSS OF TASTE

- LOSS OF SMELL
- BODY ACHE
- TEMPERATURE RISE
- LOOSE MOTIONS
- DIFFICULTY TO BREATHE
- RUNNING NOSE

- By Dr. Bahadurshaw Venkatreddi



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OPEN FORUM

Atal Pension Yojana

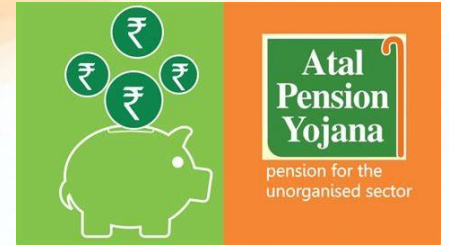
(Minimum investment, Maximum Benefits during old-age)

Atal Pension Yojana is Government backed pension scheme by Government of India (Ministry of Finance) and administered by Pension Fund Regulatory Authority of India. The scheme is focused on all citizens in the unorganized sector.

The minimum age of subscribers should be 18 years and up to maximum age of 40 years. Fixed monthly pension ranging from Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000 per month depending on contributions. Monthly pension is paid to subscribers on completion of 60 years age.

Adhar card, saving bank account (with bank / post office) and valid mobile number are re-

quired to join the scheme. The premium will be deducted from account holders saving bank account through "auto debit" facility. The person would be eligible to join scheme through one saving bank account only.



| Age of Joining | Years of Contribution | Indicative Monthly Contribution (in Rs.) | Monthly Pension to the sub-scribers and his spouse (in Rs.) | Indicative Return Corpus to the Nominee of the subscribers (in Rs.) |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| 18 | 42 | 210 | 5,000 | 8.5 Lakh |
| 20 | 40 | 248 | 5,000 | 8.5 Lakh |
| 25 | 35 | 376 | 5,000 | 8.5 Lakh |
| 30 | 30 | 577 | 5,000 | 8.5 Lakh |
| 35 | 25 | 902 | 5,000 | 8.5 Lakh |
| 40 | 20 | 1,454 | 5,000 | 8.5 Lakh |

For more information visit: www.jansuraksha.gov.in / www.financialservices.gov.in

(You may also reach out to us at Lekha, and we'll connect you with a knowledgeable person in our community.)

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OPEN FORUM

The Gifted Sistakaranams

A pen is an ornament for the Karanams. A Pen is a weapon of the Karanams. A gift from Lord Brahma. A pen is the Karanams' handcraft.

Karanams have a unique place in creation, That's why they are called Creative Karanams, Shrushti Karanams, Sistakaranams.

They are masters of knowledge and practice. And employed accordingly. In the venerable Brahmin sect, the name Niyogas (those deployed) belongs to our own Sistakaranams. They are the Bodhisattavas in teaching. Chanakyas in practice.

Sistakaranams occupy the pinnacles in education, medicine, astrology, science and teaching. That is why the Sistakaranams are respected all over the country. From Anga, Vanga, Kalinga, Kashi, Magadha, Manchala, Saurashtra, Kannada, Kerala to the Asethu Himachalam, Karanams are the most accomplished. There is no region without Karanams, there is no province without Karanams. Called by the names Srivastava, Mukherjee, Patwari, Patel, Patnaik, Lal and Pillay in different regions, they are all our own Sistakaranams.

Karanams are not limited to just school teachers. Every town or village, has none worthier than Karanams in affairs of land. Designers of land records, authority of records, the patta nayaks, thereof comes into usage the name Patnaiks .

The aides of justice, Sistakaranams are also known as the descendants of Chitrugupta.

There's no village untouched by the Karanam high-brow; There's no king who does not bestow; There's no province that does not endow; And, unwritten by Karanam, there's no bond or escrow.

Just as a Karanam is important for the Village, so is the pen for a Karanam. That is the significance of Sistakaranams.

- Compiled by JV Chandra Babu



I happened to see the Chitrugupta temple in the old city area of Hyderabad, having gone there on some company work. Later, our business development took place in the area.

Legend has it that Chitrugupta appeared from the Brahma Kayasta (body), holding a pen. Our Sistakaranams are his descendants. We spread out to different parts of the country, with different names and languages.

Maharaja Kishan Prasad and Chandulal, who worked in the Hyderabad Provinces of the Qutub Shahi dynasty, are credited with building the temple.

One can see Chitrugupta with his wives, Dakshina (on the left) and Iravati (on the right). Giving the details of the darshan and puja, the priests of the temple said that every Wednesday "Chitrugupta Puja" is performed comprising Special Anointment (abhisekam), Ketugraha Dosha prevention, and Child problems. The temple has retained much of its antiquity.

The Chitrugupta temple has 16 stone pillars and a tortoise opposite the sanctum sanctorum, which is also worshipped. The tortoise is said to be Chitrugupta's vehicle. The pillars are simple in style without any decorations. All the pillars are lined in

Sri Chitrugupta Temple



original stone without any decorations. The sanctum sanctorum door is ancient and painted with a bright orange color.

Do visit the temple when you get a chance, and receive the blessings of Chitrugupta Maharaj.

- JV Chandra Babu



FRATERNITY PAGE — Chhattisgarh

A Colorful Dussehra Event



For the last few years, our association in Chattisgarh has been run by many experienced members, and has seen many ups and downs. However the recent Dussehra celebrations, under the Presidentship of N. Maheshwarji has added a new color to the association, which is very commendable.



N. Maheshwar
President

al programmes on 28th October which was "telecast" and viewed by many members across different states, brought together on the Ikya-vedika platform. Artists from our community enthralled the audience with Dancing, Singing and Instrumentals.

Speaking to Lekha, Mr. Maheshwar said, "We look forward to more such colorful programmes and it would be great if there is more participation from the younger generation that will take the association to new heights. It will be our endeavor to make our association



The association conducted an evening of cultur-

reach for the stars, so that we are all proud of it."

About Our Association

Sistakaranam association of Durg-Bhilai-Charoda has a very memorable history that goes back to the 60s & 70s.

An annual feature of the association, during Kartika Masaam, is the Vana Bhojanaalu, that were at one time being organised by collecting Re. 2/- from each family. The elder Ladies & Gentlemen used to cook themselves by collecting firewood from surrounding areas. As heard from the elder members, there was lot of coordination among members. This annual programme continues even now and, over the years, the Kartika Masaam picnic has grown to be large in size. Caterers are being engaged for preparing food, and sound system & other amenities are also being arranged.

Sports & Cultural events are being organised for different age groups.

In the year 2005 All India level Vivaha Parichay sammelan was organised under President Sri. P. Krishna Rao, and Genl. Secretary Sri. Lumburu Srinivasa.

And, in the Year 2018 A grand gala event was organised under Presidentship of Sri N. Maheshwar, and Gen. Secretary Sri Lumburu Srinivasa, in wich Vivaha Parichay Vedika, honouring senior members, & cultural events were organised. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state & the Assembly Speaker had graced the wonderful function.

In the near future, we plan to have our own office building with Kalyan Mandapam for our Community members. A Big Thanks to all valued Senior members Expired or Alive for their Contribution & Support for the development of this Samakhya.



From R to L.... Lumburu Srinivasa, Sri Koppara Ramana Murthy, Sri Sadasivuni Bhogeshwara Rao, Nagumahanti Maheshwar, P. V. V. Kishore

OUR PATRONS





P. Krishna Rao J. U. Bhaskar Rao P. Shankar Rao

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  N. Maheshwar President |  K. Ramana Murthy Working President |  K. K. Patnaik Vice - President |  S. Bheeshma Rao Vice - President |
|  L. Srinivasa General Secretary |  K. Govind Rao Joint Secretary |  P. Appaji Patnaik Joint Secretary |  B. V. S. Rao Joint Secretary |
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|  M. Sundar Patnaik Co-ordinator |  K. Suresh Ex. Body Member |  B. Pratap Ex. Body Member |  R. Ramesh Rao Ex. Body Member |

FRATERNITY PAGE — WEST BENGAL

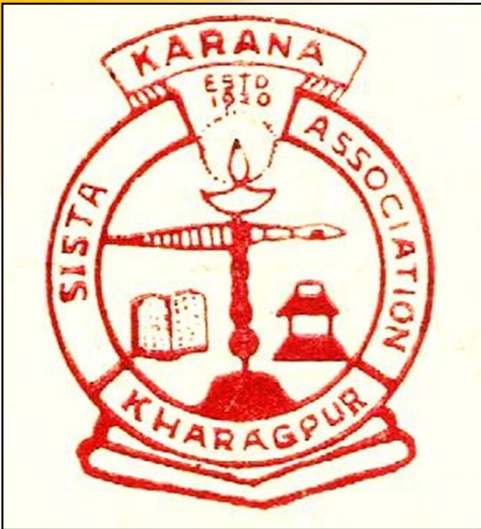


Kharagpur Celebrates 100 Years

The West Bengal town of Kharagpur has a thriving Sistakaranam community, the first of whom probably migrated at the turn of the previous century (1890s, 1900s) in search of employment in the then Bengal Nagpur Railway Co. Ltd. which later integrated into India Railways as the South Eastern Railway.

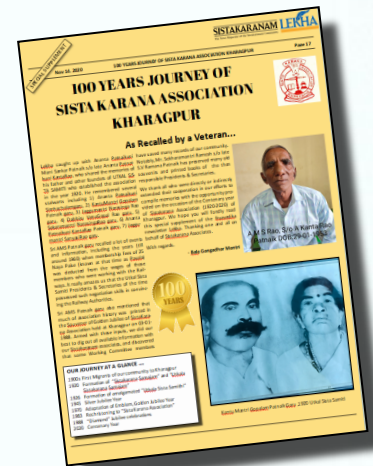
As per reliable sources and some old records, Sistakaranams formed as an association in the year 1920 in the name of "Sistakarana Samajam". Around the same time, another association in the name of "Utkala Sistakarana Samajam" was also formed in Kharagpur. In 1926, these two associations amalgamated into one with a new name "Utkala Sista Samiti". This name continued till 1983 when it was changed to "Sista Karana Association" in General Body Meeting held that year.

Lekha was able to unearth quite a few artefacts related to the association that gives us an insight into its activities over the years that include the Silver Jubilee in 1945, the Golden Jubilee in 1970 and the Diamond Jubilee in 1988. The current year, of course, marks the centenary of the Association and we wish all Sistakaranam members of Kharagpur as Happy 100th anniversary!



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

This issue of Lekha comes with a special supplement that will take one down the memory lane of the Kharagpur Sistakaranam. Read the last few pages of this issue.



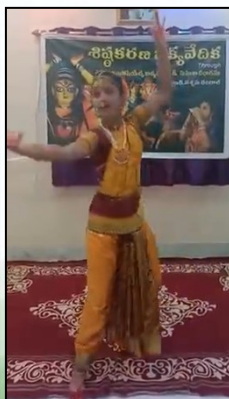
Dussehra Celebrations — West Bengal Steals the Show

Bengal was always known for Dussehra celebrations. Idols of Goddess Durga in various styles and decorations with Poojas and Aratis and chants coupled with music and dance in different styles, fill the air with an atmosphere of piety and joyful celebration, which can only be experienced by being there!

Our WB SK team with epicentre at Kharagpur has given us some of that experience digitally.

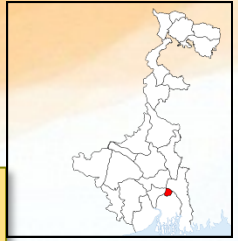
Bengal is synonymous with Passion and our community has fully showcased that with their participation in various events.

The wide spectrum of community events included Ramp walk, Rangoli, Drawing, Dancing, Singing, Fancy dress and speeches. We had over 70+ participation in the above events spread over 3 days. The team has set a benchmark for other locations in terms of participation number and importantly passion in participation.



FRATERNITY PAGE — WEST BENGAL

A Few Active Members from West Bengal



Sri Ampalam
Rajesh Kumar



Sri Ananta Patnaikuni
Manisankar Rao



Sri Ananta Patnaikuni
Ravikanth Patnaik



Sri Balivada
Venkata Apparao



Sri Bahadursha
Manmadha Rao



Sri Dabbiru
Krishna Surya



Sri Dabbiru
Nagabhusan



Sri Dabbiru
Prasad



Sri Jaddhumohanty
Uma Maheswar Patnaik



Sri Jaggumantri
Das Babu Patnaik



Sri Jaggumantri
Venkata Ramana Murty



Sri K Mahanthi



Sri Kallimahanthi
Ramesh



Sri Kanti Mantri
Siva Prasad



Sri Kantumantri
Gopal Babu



Sri Kantumantri
Nagesh



Sri Karakavalasa
Shiva Prasad Patnaik



Sri Kasi Mahanti
Bhusanrao



Sri Kuppili
Dhamodhar Patnaik



Sri Manipatruni
KushRaj



Sri Mantri
Bala Gangadhar



Sri Mantri
Priya Deva (Vishal)



Sri Mantri
RamaKrishna



Sri Mantri
Subhash Sekhar



Sri Mantri.
Suryanarayana Murty



Sri Nagumantri
Prakash



Sri Pakki
Durga Prasad



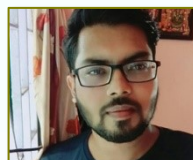
Sri Pakki
DurgaPrasad



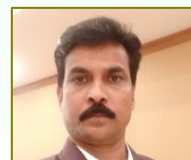
Sri Pakki
Rajanikanth



Sri Patnaikuni
Giri



Sri Potnuru
Shyam (Raja)



Sri Sahini
Chandra Sekhar Rao



Sri Sekharamantri .
Bharath Kumar



Sri Sekharamantri
Ramesh



Sri V N Babu
Sekhara Mantri



Sri VenkataRamana
Patnaik



Sri Vuriti
Tarakeswar Rao

Moving Forward for United Development

Marking the completion of 100 years of our Sistakaranam community in Kharagpur, the resident sistakaranams along with their children have demonstrated the reach of our community in all parts of India through their Dussehra celebrations conducted on the platform of Sistakaranam Ikyavedika. We also go to know each other from different parts of India through introductions and greetings on the platform. The affections and intimacies of our sistakarana members are a God given gift to us. Without limiting ourselves to sistakaranam associations and societies, we should strive for success in the fields

of politics, acting, business, education, medical, engineering, all fields for all students brilliant or average, banking, software, hardware, central employment, in the field of law as the pleader under the tree, the lawyer, advocate to judges of high court and supreme court. With initiatives for skills development, small business development, family development and the development of our society in general, helping those who are just entering into their professions with advice and teaching from the well established members, let us pledge that we will go

hand in hand to work for our community development. We shall look forward to the enthusiasm of talented sistakaranam youth from West Bengal and from other states, to be part of Ikyavedika started in 2020 to help us in moving forward for united development of our community.

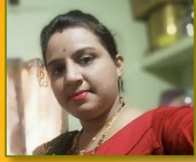
- Mantri Bala Gangadhar

Kharagpur, WB (from Sistakarana associates on behalf of SistaKarana Association)

FRATERNITY PAGE — WEST BENGAL



A Few Active Members from West Bengal



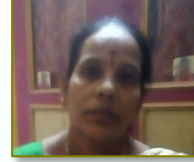
Smt. Ampalam
Sarita Patnaik



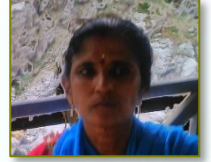
Smt. Dabbiru
Anuradha



Smt. Dabbiru
Malati



Dabbiru
Mohini



Kallumahanti
Manjulata



Smt. Karakavalasa
Usha Patnaik



Smt. Kuppli
Usha Rani



Smt. Mantri
Malliswari



Smt. Mantri
Sireesha



Smt. Mantri
Sri Satya



Smt. Nagumantri
Padmaja Ram



Smt. Nagumantri
Padmalata



Smt. Nagumantri.
Madhurvani



Dr. Narshipuram
Padmaja Patnaik



Smt. Pakki
Lata



Dr. Parvati
Patnaik



Smt. Patnaikuni
Vanaja



Smt. Patnaikuni
Vandana



Smt. Rajamahanti
Neeraja Patnaik



Smt. Sadasivuni
Madhavi

Women's contribution to our community

West Bengal Sistakarana Women's Division, with Kharagpur as the center, are playing a prominent role from our Sistakarana families. Some working as Teachers, some as doctors, some working in the railways and various state government departments, some as bank employees, some as housewives performing traditional rituals of worship, ceremonies and spiritual routines, they bring home the charm & pride of Telugu people in our community. Their recent participation in Dussehra

celebrations, draped in traditional attire, in the cultural events of dancing, drawing, rangoli and singing and encouraging their children in participation is really exemplary. One can say that the completion of Kharagpur Sistakaranam association's 100 years (1920-2020) has triggered the Sistakaranam Women Power in 2020. The West Bengal Sistakarana Women's Division has conveyed that they will take the lead in working for development of Sistakaranam women with



Smt. Sahini
Shyamala



Smt. Vuriti
Vimla

their special interests & talents, leveraging the Sistakaranam Ikyavedika platform marking 100 years of our community association.

FRATERNITY PAGE — SWA

SWA, Telangana holds Elections



In an event that received wide coverage in the local print media, Telangana based **Sistakaranam Welfare Association** conducted elections for its office bearers on 18.10.2020 between 10 AM and 12 Noon through Zoom App.

- Nominations for contestants were called up to 16.10.2020 ,online.
- Withdrawal of nominations was allowed up to 11.30 AM on 17.10.2020
- Finalization of candidates by Returning Officer was done at 5.00 PM on 17.10.2020
- List of candidates in the election were announced at 6.00 PM on 17.10.2020
- Election was conducted on 18.10.2020 between 10 AM to 12 Noon through Zoom App
- The Returning Officer was D. Parthasaradhi.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| President | Dabbiru Venkata Krishna Rao |
| Chief Secretary | Barli Vijayakumar |
| Working President | A.R.K.Rao |
| Chief Vice-President | S.V.Rao |
| Vice-Presidents | Haragopal R.Seshagiri Rao |
| Treasurer | Uriti Pravateeswara Rao |
| Vice-Treasurer | K. Chanduram Prasad |
| Special Secretaries | Donkada Ananth Prasad Moturi Narayana Rao |
| Joint Secretaries | Arasada Satyalakshmi (Women Div) P.R. Prakash Rao B.T.Ramesh |
| Organizing Secretaries | K. Chamundeswari (Women Div) Kallepalli Srinivasa Rao (Finance Div) Alluvada Hari Kishore |
| Secretaries (Publicity) | Kottakki Venkateswara Rao K. Murali Sharma M. Jayasree P.R.S.N. Murthy |
| Secretaries (Technical) | D. Sanoth Patnaik Ch. Durga Prasad Nagumantri Vijay Patnaik |
| Secretaries (Cultural) | T. Pratap Raj M. Shankar Patnaik |
| Chief Advisor | Dabbiru Parthasaradhi |
| Advisor | Lion B.V.Ramana Prasad |
| Legal Advisor | Polaki Tirupathi Rao |
| Executive Members | R. Anand Ravi Kumar Patnaik Kota Sesharatnam P.N. Murthy Pakki Delhi Shankar Patnaik |



Dabbiru Venkata Krishna Rao
President Elect



Barli Vijaya Kumar
Chief Secretary Elect



FRATERNITY PAGE — AIPSKA



Office Bearers Appointed

The newly formed All India Pravasaandhra Sistakaranams Association, in a series of posts on its Facebook page, announced names of several members appointed as its office bearers.

With members drawn from various states all over the country, the team represents the truly pan-India reach that the association has.

Lekha wishes the appointees all the best in their endeavors.



B. Ramesh Patnaik
President



V Uma Maheshwara Rao
Working President



B Hari Mohan Patro
General Secretary



P Murali Krishna
Treasurer



Chowdari Prasad
One of the Vice Presidents

President

Behara Ramesh Patnaik, Raipur

Working President

Vadada Uma Maheshwara Rao, Kharagpur

Vice Presidents

Munagavalasa Srinivas Patnaik, Jamshedpur

U Ravi Patnaik, Raipur

Patnayakuni Mahesh Patnaik, Rayagada

Chowdari Prasad, Bengaluru

Mandakuriti Murali, Kharagpur

General Secretary

Balivada Hari Mohan Patro, Bhubaneswar

Joint Secretaries

Mantri Sandhya Raj, Raipur

Dabbiru Krishna Kumar, Nagpur

Hari Krishna Patnaik, Berhampore

Poornachandra Patnaik, New Delhi

Choudari Tirupati Rao, Raipur

Mandakuriti Gopal Rao, Khurda Road

Treasurer

Pakki Murali Krishna, Nagpur

Co-opted Members

Pakki Madhusudhan Patnaik, Jabalpur

Raghupatruni Divakar, Kharagpur

Shridhar Dabberu

Executive Members

Behera Shashank Patnaik, Ahmedabad

Behera Govind Patnaik, Chennai

Sekharamantri Gurunath N Patnaik, Nagpur

Behera Kali Prasad Patnaik, Bengaluru

Pooja Patnaik, Himachal Pradesh

Patrons

N.R.B.Patnaik, Bengaluru

Vadada Raman Gopal Patnaik, Kharagpur

Parwati Patnaik, Kharagpur

Kondavalasa Srinivas Rao, Raipur

Rajkumari Patro, Raipur

Shri Ramashankar Patnaik, Bhubaneswar

Note: Information presented above is not an official communication from AIPSKA, but a compilation from members of the AIPSKA Facebook group. Lekha does not vouch for the authenticity or completeness of the same. Please reach out to AIPSKA for verified information.

Raga Tarangini

RAGA TARANGINI, the maiden Online Musical Event of AIPSKA Members for Sistakaranam Families across the Globe was held on 10th October, 2020 for 5 long hours.

More than 70 participants between the age of 5 and 75 years, male and female, exhibited their singing talents from

12 Indian States, USA, Australia and Oman / Dubai.

It is remarkable that AIPSKA has not only reached out to so many members in a very short time, but is fostering an environment for inspiring Sistakaranams across the globe to come together and celebrate our togetherness as a community.



Read more at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391899975161310/permalink/404526637231977/>

Natya Tarangini

There were the Classical Nartakis. There were the Little ones. There were the Graceful Duos. There were the Semi-Classical Divas. And, there were the Western Dance Heroes!

In a memorable event conducted on Sunday, Oct 24, 2020, on Zoom, Sistakaranam Dancers from all over the world enthralled the audience.

The event started off with a "Deeparadhana" and an opening song. The dance performances that followed, were interspersed with motivating speeches by AIPSKA leaders and a few songs. The icing on the cake was a message from 75 year Smt. D. Sugunavati delivered in our native tongue, the "Karanam Basha".



Read more at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391899975161310/permalink/429288978089076/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391899975161310/permalink/421318138886160/>

TALENT CORNER



These beautiful creations are by eleven year old Neelima Tamirsi (daughter of Pratapraj and Renuka) from Hyderabad, Telangana.



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IKYA VEDIKA ROUND UP

Embarking on a Few Initiatives

Calling themselves the Sistakaranam Ikya Vedika Digital Team, a few tech-savvy individuals have come up with this platform called Sistakaranam Ikya Vedika, on which several initiatives have been taken up for the benefit of our community.

Skills Share: This initiative targets the 8+ class to PG students in the community, focusing on Academic & Non-Academic aspects of skill development by giving inputs covering Academic Counselling, Entrepreneurial Competencies and Job oriented Skills,

Data Collection: An online data collection form has been put in place, where commu-

nity members can enter their and family information, which is expected to be of great help for all initiatives, especially the Skills Share initiative.

Community Newsletter: The fact that you are reading this is proof that this initiative has had a very successful beginning. This would be a perpetual project and will hopefully sustain in the long run.

Digital Get-togethers & Celebrations: Ikya Vedika maintains a connect with our community members through weekly meetings on Saturday. Averaging 20-30 per week, over 150 members have so far attended in 16 meetings held so far. And, then there

were the festive celebrations of Independence Day and Dussehra that attracted nearly a 100 members, extending Ikya Vedika's connect to well over 200 Sistakaranams.

Website Implementation: A modern, visually appealing, featured filled website implementation is underway. This should make ours a truly global community with invaluable resources for one and all.

Other initiatives in the pipeline include: Job Opportunities, Business Opportunities, Reaching out to the less privileged in our community, and a Digital Swayamvaram!

Lekha will keep you updated on all new initiatives & progress of existing initiatives.

Ikya Vedika Digital Team



Naresh Dashimantri



Ravi Karakavalasa



Narasimha Rao Mantri



Naraharinath Sekharamantri



Suresh Dabbi



Dr. Bahadurshaw Venkatreddi



Lekha Calls Out To You

The Idea behind the newsletter is to rebuild the connect among all our community members and build on our sense of pride/togetherness. The newsletter will act as platform for expressing our views, success and sharing news.

The newsletter comes in a PDF format only, and we request you all to propagate it among our community members once you receive it.

Everyone in our community is welcome to contribute to the newsletter. If you have anything that you would like to share, or would want to contribute regularly, please reach out to us.

Editorial & Publishing Team

Naraharinath S
Ravi Karakavalasa
Narasimha Rao M

98814 03533
96522 33372
87127 15448

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| | |
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| Chandrababu JVC, Hyd (Telangana) | 80748 00939 |
| Gangadhar M, Kharagpur (WB) | 90467 86101 |
| Maheshwar N, Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) | 98930 31580 |
| Srinivasa L, Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) | 78694 79400 |

naraharinath@hotmail.com
GE.Kravi@gmail.com
mantrinrao@gmail.com

100 YEARS JOURNEY OF SISTA KARANA ASSOCIATION KHARAGPUR



As Recalled by a Veteran...

Lekha caught up with Ananta Patnaikuni Mani Sankar Rao s/o late Ananta Patnaikuni KantaRao, who shared the memories of his father and other founders of UTKAL SISTA SAMITI who established the association in the year 1920. He remembered several stalwarts including 1) Ananta Patnaikuni Simhachalamgaru, 2) KantuMantri Gopalam Patnaik garu, 3) Jaggumantri Narasinga Rao garu, 4) Dabbiru VenuGopal Rao garu, 5) Sekaramantri NarasingaRao garu, 6) Ananta Patnaikuni KantaRao Patnaik garu, 7) Jaggumantri SanyasiRao garu.

Sri AMS Rao garu recalled a lot of events and information, including the years (till around 1960) when membership fees of 25 Naya Paise (known at that time as Pavala) was deducted from the wages of those members who were working with the Railways. It really amazes us that the Utkal Sista Samiti Presidents & Secretaries of the time possessed such negotiation skills in convincing the Railway Authorities.

Sri AMS Rao garu also mentioned that much of association history was printed in the Souvenir of Diamond Jubilee of SistaKarana Association held at Kharagpur on 03-01-1988.

Armed with these inputs, we did our best to dig out all available information with our

Sistakaranam associates, and discovered that some Working Committee members have saved many records of our community. Notably, Mr. Sekharamantri Ramesh s/o late S.V Ramana Patnaik has preserved many old souvenirs and printed books of the then responsible Presidents & Secretaries.

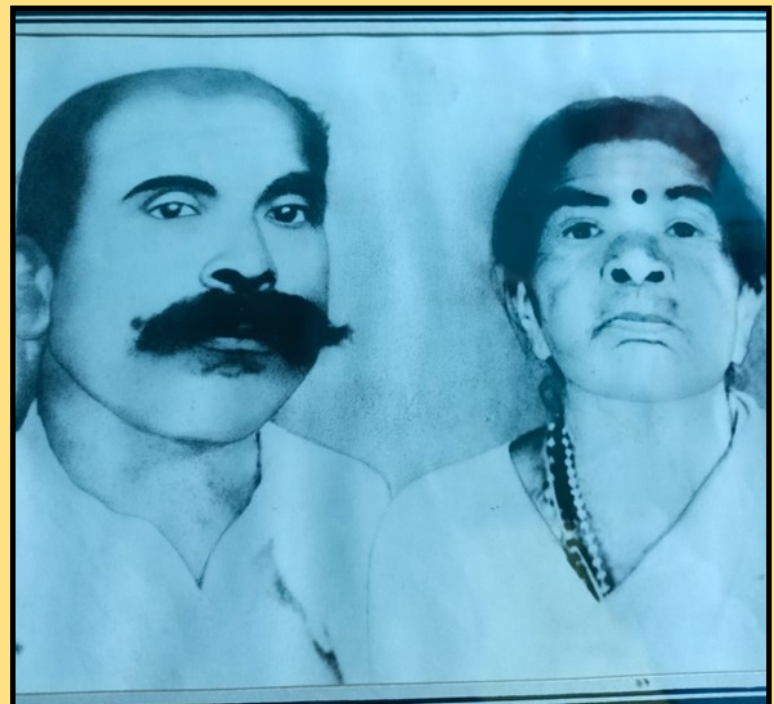
We thank all who were directly or indirectly extended their cooperation in our efforts to compile memories with the opportunity provided on the occasion of the Centenary year of Sistakarana Association (1920-2020) of Kharagpur. We hope you will fondly read this special supplement of the Ikyavedika newsletter Lekha. Thanking one and all on behalf of Sistakarana Associates.

With regards.

- Bala Gangadhar Mantri



A M S Rao, S/o A Kanta Rao Patnaik DOB:29-01-1953



Kantu Mantri Gopalam Patnaik Garu ,1920 Utkal Sista Samiti

OUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE ...

- 1900s First Migrants of our community to Kharagpur
- 1920 Formation of "Sistakarana Samajam" and "Utkala Sistakarana Samajam"
- 1926 Formation of amalgamated "Utkala Sista Samithi"
- 1945 Silver Jubilee Year
- 1970 Adaptation of Emblem, Golden Jubilee Year
- 1983 Rechristening to "Sista Karana Association"
- 1988 "Diamond" Jubilee celebrations
- 2020 Centenary Year

STALWARTS FROM YESTERYEARS



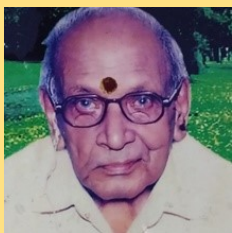
Ananta Patnaikuni Kantarao Patnaik garu, DOB: 1-7-1921, DOD: 6-12-1995 was a President of Utkal Sista Samiti. He was the designer of the association emblem. He was a historian of sorts, and it is under his stewardship that the association celebrated the "Diamond" Jubilee in 1988 when a souvenir was brought out capturing the association history.



Jaggumantri Sanyasi Rao s/o J Venkata Swamy, DOB: 01-07-1925, DOD: 23-05-1998 was working in the Railways and was one of the strong pillars of the association as General Secretary, during those days where 1000 families of our Sista Karana were residing at Kharagpur 40 years back.

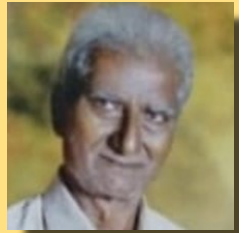


Late **Venkata Dhasarathi Kanti Mahanathi garu** s/o late N K Mahanti, DOB 26-05-1926, DOD: 3-12-2012. He was working in Railways at Kharagpur & retired on 31-05-1984. He was elected President in the AGM in 1992 & continued up to 1994, taking over from Dabbiru Sabhapathi garu. His tenure saw the development of our Laxmi Ganapati Temple in Kharagpur, and witnessed activities like Annual Sports and Collection of SKA member ships. On completion of his tenure, as per the constitution AGM was conducted in 1994, but he refused to renominate himself as the president. He remained an advisory member. He held the constitution of SKA in high regard, and earned respect in our community. His elder son S K Mahanti (Giri) Retd Rly Employee still does social service.



Sri N B V V Krishna Rao garu s/o late Nagumantri Laxmi Narasingarao garu, DOB: 05-02-1948, is a skilled teacher. He joined Railways on 24-11-1969 as a Hindi Lecturer & Supervisor, spreading the wisdom in South Eastern Railway as well as in our community. Many remarkable social activities were organized for our community betterment during his tenure as General Secretary. He is one of the heroes of the Diamond jubilee celebrations of Sista Karana Association held at Kharagpur on 03-01-1988. The souvenir released on the occasion features his report as General Secretary of the association. Activities taken up during his tenure include: 1) Sympathy Pensions each 20/- paid for poor women and widows of our community, 2) Distribution of Sewing machines the poor people in our community, 3) Grinding Ma-

chines given to those who ran Idli hotels, 4) Merit awards for meritorious students of our community, 5) Free supply of books to poor students, and 6) Community activities like Cultural programmes, Sports and Picnics. He reached the peak of his career in 2003 when he was promoted as an Officer with Gazetted Rank and posted to Khurda Road, East Coast Railway, Orissa. In his farewell, he was hailed for his services to our community as someone who will be remembered forever. He retired on 31-12-2009 and now leads a peaceful life in Khurda with his family. He continues to teach students and serve our society.



Sri Sekharamantri Venkata Narasinga Rao garu, DOB: 14-01-1940, s/o Late S Narasimha Murty, born & completed his Education in Kharagpur, joined Railways on 26-08-1964, and retired in 2000. A very simple man, he used to walk to Office, and after office hours he extended his social services amongst our community. Those days, of no communication technology, he would keep in touch with all members visiting their houses by walk. During his service till 60 and for another 10 years, he rendered yeoman service to the community in activities like construction of our community Laxmi Ganapati Temple. Fondly called BABU MAYA, he joined Utkal Sista Samiti at the young age of 20 in the year 1960 & held many key posts of our association. He held the post of President from 2005 to 2009 and conducted the Annual General Body Meeting with all community members in the year 2009.



Sri Sekharamantri Venkata Narasinga Rao garu was succeeded by his childhood friend & colleague, **Sri Kantimahanti K Vithal garu** who was elected in the 2009 AGM as President. Mr. Vithal, now aged about 81 years retired 21 years ago from South Eastern Railway. He is an ex-President of the association elected in Annual General body meeting (AGM) held in the year 2009 and he completed his tenure period of 2 years From 2009 to 2011 respectfully maintaining the constitution of our Association



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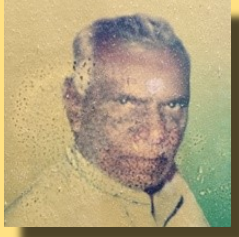
STALWARTS FROM YESTERYEARS

... Continued from previous page ...

Karakavalasa Surya Prasad Patnaik (pictured with spouse late Smt. Laxmi Narasamma) s/o Late K Apparao & Late Kanthamma garu, DOB: 01-04-1922. He came to Kharagpur in 1938 from Kollivalasa. He was appointed as Steam Engine Driver in Kharagpur Division, and was later elevated when Indian Railways launched Diesel Engines. He operated the first rake of COROMANDAL Express launched by Indian Railways on 06-03-1977 from Howrah to Madras. In difficult times, like the 1974 general strike, the Emergency, Floods and other disasters, he used to help the needy distributing Rice, Vegetables & Clothes from the Loco Running Staff Association. He also had a devotional facet, leading the construction Kali Temple & Prana Prathista at Old Settlement, and Santhi Seva Samajam Shiv Temple Shivlinga prana prathista at Old Malancha of Kharagpur. He still gives his services and donations to the devotional cause.



Sri Sekharamantri Ravana Patnaik garu, s/o late S V Ramanayya Patnaik, DOB: 18-10-1930, DOD :02-06-2009. He was a Railway Employee and was the Zilla Pracharak of Rastra Bhasha Prachar Samity. Also a Poet in Hindi, he participated in Viswa Hindi Kavi Sammelan held at Nagpur. He was known for activities like Sports, Drama, Spiritual and his acknowledged as one of the best cultural committee members ever according to the Souvenir of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

An AGM notice was circulated in the year 2011 to all community members. In this AGM Mr. S V Narasingarao garu was elected, witnessed by the attending House at Andhra High School of Kharagpur, Unfortunately, no formal handing over of charge happened from the out going committee, and since then no AGM has been conducted. It is more than 8 years now and we hope that an AGM will be conducted soon for smooth functioning of our Association, marking our glorious journey of 100 years.

BALL BADMINTON ENTHUSIASTS



Ananta Patnaikuni Kantarao Patnaik



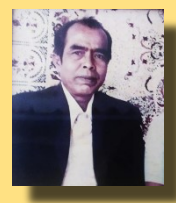
Jaggumantri Sanyasi Rao



Jaggumantri Sanyasi Rao



Sekharamantri Ravana Patnaik



Kantu Mantri Narasinga Rao

Sri Jaggumantri Sanyasi Rao garu s/o Late J Narasinga Rao garu retired from Railways as Sr Instructor at System Technical Centre of S E Railway Kharagpur 32 years ago. He gave his services for Utkal/ SistaKarana Association during the period 1960 to 1990. He was some times stood as an activist and some consecutive years as an office bearer, or an Executive member. His contributions are well acknowledged by our community members.



Indulging in sports is not uncommon for our community members, and Ball Badminton was a very popular pastime among Sistakaranams, who would play at the Jolly Brothers Ground located at PLC Rly Colony, Kharagpur. Names of the sportsmen are given alongside, with photos where available.

- Kantu Mantri Sattipantulu
- Dasamantrao Sanyasi Rao
- Kuppili Ramarao



DIAMOND JUBILEE ARTEFACTS

Sri N B V V Krishna Rao's Secretary's Report and other artefacts from the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



SISTAKARANA ASSOCIATION-KHARAGPUR SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the very outset on behalf of the committee of management of the Association I wish you all a very happy new year and many happy returns of the day.

The Association was organised in the year 1920 with a view to have an identification of its own and safeguard the cultural values of Sistakaranams by bringing unity and oneness among its members and with the following objects :-

- a) To grant educational aids to the children of poor families of our community.
b) To render financial assistance to deserving poor members of our community and also in deserving cases to meet funeral expenses.
c) To promote literacy, cultural activities etc. amongst the members.

With its limited financial resources viz. subscriptions and donations the association has been able to meet the grants and aids for the above activities.

The grants and aids were being extended to our community people at outstations also for about more than four decades as there were no associations of our community elsewhere.

After few years the association was affiliated to All India Sistakaranam Association which is stated to have been established and got registered in the year 1925.

During the period of last over six decades our Association conducted 55 General Body Meetings to transact the business on various aspects. It

Table listing Diamond Jubilee donors and special donors with names and locations like Hyderabad, Kharagpur, etc.

had its Silver Jubilee held in 1945 under the presidentship of Late Dr. R. M. Patro of Ichchapuram and Golden Jubilee in the year 1970 with Sri P. S. Prakasa Rao Patnaik, Advocate, Parvatipuram as its presiding official.

- a) Educational Aids for children of poor families Rs. 6000-00
b) Mutual (financial) Aids 10500-00
c) Funeral Aids 2500-00
d) Sports, Social and Cultural activities 10000 00
e) Value of assets granted on loan basis under self employment scheme 3000-00

The total number of persons involved for being aided vide items a, b & e above were approximately 400.

Now with the changed circumstances our association stepped into certain advanced activities within the meaning of social and cultural activities as detailed below :-

Merit Awards :- Consequent on introduction of free education system by the State Govt., the claims for educational aids have been reduced considerably. However, in lieu there of Merit Awards are being presented to meritorious students upto class IX i. e. one class below the public examination every year.

Mutual (Financial) Aids :- Monthly financial aids are being granted to needy widows of our community in the shape of pension regularly since 1984 to the extent of funds available.

Funeral Aids :- Funeral aids are being paid at the rate of Rs. 150/- per head in deserving cases from the regular funds of the Association.

हमारा कर्तव्य - A collection of articles and photos discussing community service, education, and social issues.

A HISTORICAL RECORD OF OUR HISTORY



Late Sri A. Kanta Rao Patnaik, ex-President of the association, and designer of the association emblem, once donned the role of a historian and produced the below piece.

Brief History of Sistakaranam Association KHARAGPUR

The Sistakaranams at Kharagpur, West Bengal, who originally belonged to Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts of Ex Madras Presidency - present Ganjam and Koraput districts of Orissa and Srikakulam, Viziansgar and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh — perhaps came in the last decade of 19th Century (when Kharagpur was in Ex Bengal Province) in search of employment in the then Bengal Nagpur Railway Co. Ltd. — now called as South Eastern Railway. A few families of these have settled down themselves here at Kharagpur permanently by acquiring immoveable properties.

After few years, the said Sistakaranams organised an association in the year 1920 in the name of "Sistakaranam Samajam" as per information available from the old records for the year 1924. This organisation was initially started with Sarvasri Dabiru Venugopalam Patnaik (Native of Jalumuru) and Dabiru Narasimha Sarma (Native of Dimili) as its President and Secretary respectively. Thereafter it is revealed from the annual report of the Association for the year 1925 that there were two associations with the names of "Sistakaranam Samajam" and "Utkal Sistakaranam Samajam". In course of time these two associations were found to have been amalgamated into one and renamed as "Utkal Sista Samiti" in 1926 and continued to be functioning under the same name upto the end of 1983 when the name was again changed to that of "Sistakaranam Association" as per resolution adopted in the 50th General Body Meeting of the Association held on 6-11-83.

In its infancy, the association used to raise funds by collecting rice from door to door of the members once in a week and selling the same. After some years the association adopted the system of collecting subscription monthly from its members instead of collecting rice. When the system posed a problem, the committee of Management approached the then Indian Institute authorities of Bengal Nagpur Railway Co. Ltd., Kharagpur — present Rabindra Institute of South Eastern Railway — on 17-7-1927 with a request to arrange for the recovery of subscriptions from the salaries/wages of its members alongwith Indian Institute membership recoveries, as almost all the members of the association happened to be employees of the Railway. Thereupon the Institute and Railway authorities conceded to this request and started the recoveries of subscription from the salaries/wages of the

members with effect from the year 1927 itself for which the association used to pay a considerable amount as clerkage to the said Institute authorities. But unfortunately, it was withdrawn from December 1956 by the Railway authorities since such recoveries were stated to be against the principles of payment of wages Act 1936.

Finding no alternative, the committee of management had to restore door to door collection of subscriptions but this system again posed to be a severe problem in course of time. Then the committee of management resolved to introduce enrolment of life members on payment lumpsum at a time with a view of curbing the problem and ensuring the existence of the Association. This system when introduced in the year 1977 gave a positive response and improved the economic conditions of the Association.

Though the Association has been functioning since long it had no emblem of its own to establish its identity. As such in the year 1970 the committee of management held the opinion of having an emblem for the association and accordingly a monogram was designed by depicting there in the combination of "Pen-Ink-Book-Jyoti" which would reflect the traditional and professional identity and ethics of the community. This was in fact, designed by Sri Anantapatnaikuni Kanta Rao Patnaik, the then member in the committee of management and the present President of the Association and finally accepted by its members for adoption. Accordingly it was adopted for use starting with the function of Golden Jubilee of the association held on 27-12-70.

It is worth mentioning here that we have a few writers and poets in our association at Kharagpur. Amongst them the most prominent were Late Uriti Janakiramayya Patnaik, Late Uriti Laxmana Patnaik and Late Kuppli Janakiramayya Patnaik. Sarvasri Raghupatruni Rama Rao, Mantri Appa Rao (M. A. Rao) and Balivada Appa Rao are also prominent in the present.

In the light of the above, we can see that the association grew from size to size and we are now proud of serving in such oldest association of our community at large.

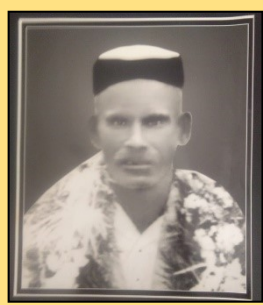
(The above are collected from the old records of the Association and published on behalf of the committee of management for information of all the members)

J A I H I N D

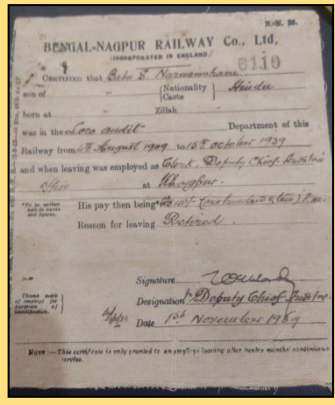
A. KANTARAO PATNAIK
President
Sistakaranam Association, Kharagpur

Our Own Columbus?

In what proves the adage that "It's a small world", it turns out that the paternal grandfather of Ikyavedika Digital Team member Sekharamantri Naraharinath could well be the first Karanam to have migrated to Kharagpur.



Mr. Sekharamantri Narasimham Patnaik retired from Bengal-Nagpur Railway on 15 -Oct-1939, as found in some old documents with his son Sekharamantri Sanjeeva Rao (and father of Naraharinath).



On his retirement, the Farewell citation from Utkal Sista Samiti mentions that he was "the 1st member of our community" to go over to Khargpur and also the first to retire from there.

