



VANAMITRA

NAGARVASI GRAMAVASI VANAVASI - HUM SAB BHARATHAVASI

Tribals: Ray of Hope – VanaVasi Kalyan

India got independence in 1947. The kings of most of the independent states voluntarily agreed to merge their states into the Indian Union. Raja Vijayabhushan Simha of Jashpur was the first among such states. Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, the then Chief Minister of the Central Provinces, was coming to congratulate him. On the way, at Kunakuri, the people of Vanvasi stopped them, displayed black flags and shouted the slogan of "Jarkhand Zindabad, Go Back".

While there was jubilation all over the country as India became independent, the foreign Christian missionaries did not like the fact that India had become independent and had converted the innocent Vanvasi.

The Chief Minister, upset by this incident, contacted the Home Minister of the country, Sardar Patel, and asked for advice. He advised him to seek the guidance of Thakkar Bapa. As per his advice, it was decided to open schools to instill nationalist sentiment in those areas. Balasaheb Deshpande started 108 schools. He invited the Chief Ministers and Thakkar Bapa to visit these schools. When he arrived, the protest areas were decorated with tribal flags and there was a magnificent atmosphere with slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram". This transformation that took place in a year surprised the dignitaries. Later, inspired by Guruji Golwalakar, Balasaheb Deshpande, along with Morubhav Ketya, established the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in Jashpur on December 26, 1952, to protect the Vanvasi from the evil deeds of foreign

Christian missionaries. The faith and confidence of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram grew. In the 1960's, the work expanded to the neighbouring states of Orissa, South Bihar (Jarkhand), Madhya Bharat, Mahakoshala and Assam.

Soon after 1978, the then Sarasanghachalak, Balasaheb Deoras expanded the work throughout the country. Due to this, the Kalyan Ashram took the form of the All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. Today, in many states, people from the Vanvasi community are working as state presidents and secretaries. 800 people are working as full-time Karyakarthis. Currently, 21,829 projects are being implemented in 16,624 places across the country.

The central government is responding well to the direct and indirect achievements of the Vanvasi Kalyanashram. Therefore, in 2021, November 15, Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti has been declared as "National Tribal Pride Day". Steps have been taken to remove the obstacles in implementing forest rights. The election of Draupadi Murmu as the country's first citizen President, Vishnu Sahayji as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, and Mohan Majhi as the Chief Minister of Odisha have increased the self-confidence of the Vanvasi. The Tripura government has carried out a systematic resettlement of the Bru Reang community, who were displaced by missionary atrocities and oppressive rule in Mizoram, northeastern India. On the occasion of the Swatantra amrit mahotsav, the Yuva Wing of Kalyanashram, in collaboration with the National Tribal Commission, organized lectures, exhibitions and workshops on the topic of

"Contribution of the Vanavasi Heroes in India's Independence" in hundreds of universities across the country. Due to this, the history of the martyrs who were behind the scenes became known to the society. Today, from the heart of Jashpur, the Vanagange river flows gracefully across the country. Kalyanashram is taking forward this work with the cooperation of the society and with the determination to develop it rapidly and comprehensively. The divisive strategies of the Left, the influence of certain Christian missionary activities, interference from foreign powers, and jihadi activities have been "effectively" confronted by Vanavasi Kalyan, and the work of Kalyanashram continues to grow and thrive.

There is a growing feeling among the vanavasi's that this organization belongs to them and they are getting more and more involved in the activities of Kalyan Ashram.



***-Sripad Ji (Kendriya
Karyalay Pramukh,
A.B.V.K Asharam,
Jashpur)***



Bhaskar Rao: A Mahatma of our times

This year marks the 100th birth anniversary of Bhaskar Rao, the first Prant Pracharak of Kerala and former national organising secretary of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. "He was a mahatma to Bharatvarsh that we see in the personalities of Mahatma Gandhi and Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya," veteran journalist and former Member of Parliament Shri Tarun Vijay reminisces about his life and contributions

It's difficult to imagine that such a simple, yet stronger than the steel man was amidst us just a few years before. He was a source of strength for thousands of RSS workers who were facing the brutal attacks from the CPM goons, he was a brother to innumerable families who sought his advice and help for matters that included education, medical treatment, marriage, mutual discords and even buying a new house !! He never taught Sangha through books, never discussed shakha when visiting a family, but remained a dear sah??daran, chettan, jeshtan, aniyana, anujan... to all those who were ready to live and sacrifice their lives for Bharath Mata.

He was a living embodiment of Dr Hedgewar's ideals and represented the old school of pracharaks carrying forward the legacy of Dattopant, Seshadri ji, Yadavrao Joshi ji and Suryanarayan Rao.

Such threads of warmth and a Hindu family affinity he had woven that each one of us thought- I am very close to him. And he was close to every one of us- equally.

We would often say- if some one hadn't seen Deendayalji, he could well imagine how he might have been after seeing Bhaskar Rao ji.

He was born in Yangon on 5th October 1919, where his father Dr Shiv Ram Kalambi was a popular medical practitioner and a RSS Swayamsewak. His mother Smt Radha Devi was instrumental in giving Bhaskar the intrinsic values of a Hindu family. Unfortunately his both parents died too early forcing Bhaskar to return to Mumbai with his uncle and pursue studies. He did graduation from St Xaviers College and took LLB degree from Bombay university.

But the destiny had a different field reserved for him. He felt the plight of the Hindus who were struggling for the independence from the British yoke on one side and the attacks of the Islamists and Christian evangelists on the other. He decided to be a pracharak in the RSS and was sent to Kerala in 1946.

It was the most difficult time for the Hindu consolidation in Kerala those days. Muslim intransigence and offensive against the Hindus was on a rise, Christians were forcibly trying to take over many Hindu shrines and their zeal to convert Hindus was unstoppable, Hindu society was deeply divided in caste and community segments, the influence of Sri Narayan Guru, Mahatma Ayyankali, saved Hindus to a great extent, still the flood of assaults on the Hindus was continuing. RSS had hardly twenty shakhas in the entire Kerala region as it was known then as Travancore-Cochin or Thiru-Kochi (1949-1956), originally called United

State of Travancore and Cochin. The Malabar area was a Muslim hub of Jihadist activities, which was the first Muslim majority district carved out by the Communist government led by EMS Namboodiripad (Elamkulam Manakkal Sankaran Namboodiripad).

The Hindus in Kerala needed a strong helping hand to regain confidence that was shattered by the barbaric Moplah violence about which Dr B.R Ambedkar had written, "The Hindus must have the courage and the faith to feel that they can protect their religion in spite of such fanatical eruptions. A verbal disapproval by the Mussalmans of Mopla

madness is no test of Mussalman friendship. The Mussalmans must naturally feel the shame and humiliation of the Mopla conduct about forcible conversions and looting, and they must work away so silently and effectively that such a thing might become impossible even on the part of the most fanatical among them. My belief is that the Hindus as a body have received the Mopla madness with equanimity and that the cultured Mussalmans are sincerely sorry of the Mopla's perversion of the teaching of the Prophet" - B. R. Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Bhimrao. Pakistan or the Partition of India. Chapter 7).



Bhaskar Rao ji with Shri Tarun Vijay, and his mother in their Dehradun house - where an idea of Vanavasi hostel took shape. Behind are his Kalyan Ashram workers (extreme right Dr Tapu Mohanty, editor, Van Swar)

The Kerala that was nourished with the noble teachings of Sri Narayan Guru and Mahatma Ayyankali, had received a brotherly hand of strength and wisdom by stalwarts like Dattopant Thengadi, Madhavan ji, Sukumaran ji, Ranga Hari ji, P Parameswaran ji, Sethu Madhavan ji and many more. K. Bhasakar Rao, or K Bhaskaran or simply Bhaskarattan, had a huge challenge before him to prove worthy of this Sangha legacy, tackle the situation and hold the flood of assaults on Hindus as well as keep the morale of the society high. His focus on the low income groups, making new Sangha swayamsewaks among fishermen, poor artisans, farmers, rickshaw drivers, teachers and students was a big success. RSS grew leaps and bounds in rural areas and among the poorest of the poor sections.

It drew the brutal ire of the communist leadership that saw they're losing ground in a big way. The long list of the martyrs of the Sangh is a testimony to the bewildered CPM leadership that found refuge in killing the young RSS workers. It goes to the credit of Bhaskar Rao that he remained an unwavering source of solace and strength to the bereaved Sangha families as well as creating a new generation of Swayamsewaks who won't be fearful of CPM violence.

When I look at his early years it surprises how a young lad in his twenties would decide to give his life for the society, in spite of having a LLB degree in his pocket in those days when being a solicitor meant a high profile rich life.

Yes, he was in that dreamy eyed age when he left home in Mumbai and joined the ranks of the sangha workers in south-learnt Malayalam and became one with the new environment he was asked to adopt. Consolidating the Hindu society, encouraging dharma and powering cultural threads among the new generation was his main task and soon he became a highly respected household name among the RSS cadre. His simplicity, unassuming nature, an extraordinary ability to bring out the best from the most ordinary

and often 'rejected and dejected' youth- was his forte.

He worked to eliminate the caste barriers and took strong stand to help and support intercaste marriages. The one quality that endeared him to thousands was his transparent behavior that made innumerable swayamsewaks like us to feel he belongs to our family and we can discuss any personal problem with him. He listened carefully, and he advised in most trying situations, often bringing peace and resolving domestic conflicts too.

Bhaskar Rao is the creator of the Veer- Kerala that will not yield before the violence of the anti Hindu forces, keep the fire of Dharma intact with Ahuti of their lives, defeat the foreign funded agencies of the Islamists, proselytizer zealots, insanely brutal Communists democratically and keep on working to build the edifice of a humane, tolerant and a civilized Hindu society, dedicated to Bharat Mata.

The second avatar

His life's second avatar was to join India's largest tribals service organization Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram in 1984. The Kalyan ashram saw best of the service projects, new hostels, medical centres, schools, and late evening literacy classes for tribal farmers under his guidance. I was a full time worker of the Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram during his tenure and had the privilege to seek his guidance and received his affection as a worker.

When he saw my mother was having a difficult time in Dehradun, as she was alone and had seven eye problem that made her helpless, while I was in Dadra Nagar Haveli, he, sent a few tribal students from Assam to be with my mother and also study in local school. The idea later grew into a bigger separate Vanavasi school and hostel that was inaugurated by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He helped and encouraged all, and each swayamsewak never ever felt as if his help is like a 'burden'.

He was kind, soft spoken, suave and too humble. It certainly was a new challenge for him when he was asked to work among tribal people, as organizing secretary of the Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram , which is running thousands of schools, colleges, hostels, all over India- in specifically tribal pockets. It was a new world for him— as tribals form a very distinct fabric of the Indian milieu , brilliant and yet clouded by various inhospitable factors that make them vulnerable to exploitation by the rich urban traders, miners, bureaucrats and of course foreign funded conspiracies of proselytization.

It is often ignored that though the tribals form just eight percent of Indian population, more than ninety eight percent incidents of insurgency, terrorism and foreign controlled activities like conversion through agencies inimical to India's growth occur in the tribal region alone.

Very soon Bhaskar Rao grasped the situation and he focussed on giving quality education to the tribal students so that they become aware of their environment, are able to understand the threats and reduce their vulnerability to fall prey to exploitative forces. You can't awaken a person who wont understand what exploitation means and neither can you teach religious texts to a hungry boy.

Give them good education, nourish their body and the soul and you will see that you have turned him into a brilliant, awakened patriotic Indian , he would say. Good education is the key to not only prosperity and health but also to produce patriotic Indians who can contribute enormously to the growth of motherland.

He said that the education must be such that it must inculcate values of love for motherland, dharma and culture- and they must understand that a conversion to an alien faith not only makes them alien to the very heritage of their ancestors but also cuts all threads that form their cultural and civilizational fabric. First make tribal youth understand what are the values that define his

being, his existence, his tribal social world- then he would stand tall and protect his dharma and culture.

Great ideas were so beautifully explained by him that there was hardly any need for further elaborate or get into a reactionary, offensive mode.

He was everything to us. He was a mahatma to Bharatvarsh that we see in the personalities of Mahatma Gandhi and Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya.

(The writer has worked as full time worker in Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram between 1981-86, Former Editor, Panchjanya)

28th September 2024

Rani Durgavati who taught us the lesson of patriotism and self-respect by sacrificing herself to protect her self-respect and the country. Do listen to this speech of Dr. Rekha Nagar ji about Rani Durgavati.



29th September 2024

Van Gunjan

A collection of inspiring songs that along with the philosophy of tribal society's life, strengthen the feeling of 'you and I are of the same blood' in the society.



6th October 2024

Recently, we have received 70 carton boxes filled with various apparel items, including ladies' bags, from Page Industries (Jockey). These items have been successfully distributed in the HD Kote and Hunsur areas of Mysuru District.

**13th October 2024**

Kamli Tribes stall were put in Sumadhura Sunandanam apartment, Whitefield on 13th Oct and also one more at Mitra Mandal program, Halasuru on 26th October.



10th November 2024

Solar lights were distributed to 80 houses in the tribal areas of Kodagu, where electricity is yet to reach. The project was sponsored by Schneider Electric India Foundation and Uthishta.



18th November 2024

Medical camps were organized in the tribal villages of Kodagu on 17th November in collaboration with NMO, benefiting over 400 people.

The areas covered included Kalathamdu Gotada Haadi, Nittoor Thattekere Haadi, Bedekutthi Haadi, Thithimathi Reshme Haadi, Karekandi Majjigehalli Haadi, Kundha Seetha Colony, Chambeblur, Basavanahalli, and several others.





20th November 2024

Mayuresh Ji and few others met Sri Laxman Singh Ji, Additional Secretary, MP CMO, and the architect of tribal welfare schemes implemented in Madhya Pradesh since 2021. He was the Chief Guest at the National Aerospace Lab for the Janajati Gaurav Diwas celebration. Vishal Ji from our group coordinated this event.

8th December 2024

A Kamali Tribes stall was set up at Suncity Apartments, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore, on 7th December 2024.

KAMALI TRIBES




With support of RAJASTHAN VANVASI KALYAN PARISHAD, Namrata Primary Women Multipurpose Cooperative Society was established in Udaipur in 2018. It is a dedicated unit striving to uplift the socio-economic status of tribal women in the remote areas of Rajasthan.

Our brand, "Kamali Tribes," showcases an exclusive collection of exquisite, high-quality handicraft products, meticulously created by skilled craftswomen. The art of cross stitch embroidery on jute fabric not only adds grace and elegance but also supports small-scale industries. By purchasing these products, you are not only embracing unique artistry but also transforming lives.

Rajasthan's tribal population, particularly women, faces staggering challenges, with nearly 70% living below the poverty line and struggling for basic amenities like healthcare, nutrition, and education. Your contribution will help provide essentials—milk for a child, two meals a day for a family, and education for young girls, allowing them to dream beyond their circumstances.

Together, we are turning the tide. Our efforts have already empowered over 250 tribal women, giving them sustainable livelihoods, preserving their cultural heritage, and enabling them to rise above poverty. Join us in this journey of transformation—your support truly makes a difference.




Bommanahalli MLA Sathish Reddy Ji Visited VKA stall and bought few Kamali Tribes products.

10th December 2024

Yelahanka part baithak took place on 9th Dec, focusing on the introduction of Vanavasi, discussions on contributions to Vanavasi welfare, and the idea of celebrating Foundation Day on 4th January. VKK Team also deliberated on who will join our provincial team for the event on 4th and 5th January.



14th December 2024

A workshop on manufacturing of "cow-based products" was held at Uttarkoppa, Karnataka. Under the guidance of Shri Sripada Ji, Head of All India Office of Vanavasi Welfare, Shri Gopal Kesari, Head of Regional Urban Executive, Shri Naresh, Head of Rashtrottana Goshala Production, Novinenne, and skin oil were prepared by young farmers who had participated in the event. This was the 4th workshop of the year 2024.





Lighting Up Lives



Empowering Communities with Solar Solutions

uthishta

Schneider Electric India Foundation

18th December 2024

In collaboration with Uthishta, we distributed 373 solar light-cum-mobile chargers to tribal communities in Karwar and Kodagu districts! A heartfelt thanks to Schneider Electric India Foundation for supporting us in bringing clean, sustainable lighting and mobile charging solutions to these communities.

#CleanEnergy #Empowerment #Sustainability #Uthishta



20th December 2024

A medical camp was conducted on 20th Dec in Gouduru Village, Raichur District, sponsored by our CSR partner, Wabtec. Over 120 people benefited from this initiative



21st December 2024

- On 21st December, sarees were distributed in Kollur Village, Yadgir.
- A medical camp was organized in Madkal Village, benefiting 115 people.
- Additionally, 38 bicycles were distributed to children in Yadgir, a project sponsored by PwC.





21st December 2024

In collaboration with BIP, Department of Agriculture, Jaivik Kethi Parivar, a workshop was organized at Kalugara in Shirsi district on leaf disease resistance for growing peanut crop, use of organic pesticides/insecticides in growing agricultural crop.



21st December 2024

Bhaskhar ji and Krishna ji were invited to Rashtrottaana Vidya Kendra, Thanisandra on Dec 21 to provide a pravachan on Birsa Munda on the occasion of celebrating Girijan Swaabhimaan Divas



VanaYatra Report

Date(s) of yatra	Location of yatra	No. of participants	Haadis visited No's / names	Homes at the Haadis
26th or 27th October, 2024	Madikere / Sullia	34	1/Thithimatha	45
3rd November, 2024	Ramdevara Betta	52	1/Eeruligas	60
9th November, 2024	Kolavige, Hunsur	37	1/ Kolavige	160
17th November, 2024	Bannerghatta	38	2/Hakki Pikki colony & Annayanna Doddi	290
23rd November, 2024	Ramanagara	47	1/ Halasina marada doddi	120





QUIZ

TIME TO TAP YOUR MEMORY...

By M. Ashok

- 01) In the Ramayana, what is the name of the bridge built by the Vanara (monkey) army to reach Lanka?
- 02) Which sage guided Lord Rama during his exile and provided valuable advice?
- 03) What is the name of the sage who gave Rama the divine weapon called the Brahmastra?
- 04) Who is the loyal friend and advisor of Lord Rama, often depicted as a talking myna?
- 05) In the Ramayana, what role did the vanaras (monkey warriors) play in the rescue of Sita?
- 06) Which divine weapon did Lord Rama use to kill Ravana?
- 07) Who is the son of Lord Rama and Sita, born during Sita's exile in the forest?
- 08) What role does the character Vibhishana play in the Ramayana?
- 09) What is the significance of the Agni Pariksha (trial by fire) that Sita underwent?
- 10) What is the moral lesson often associated with the Ramayana?

Answers:

01) The bridge built by the Vanara army is called the "Setu" or "Adam's Bridge."
02) Sage Vishwamitra guided Lord Rama during his exile and provided him with valuable advice and knowledge.
03) Sage Vishwamitra gave Lord Rama the Brahmastra.
04) Hanuman is Lord Rama's loyal friend and advisor, and he is sometimes depicted as a talking myna named Suka.
05) The vanaras, led by Hanuman and Sugriva, played a crucial role in building the bridge to Lanka and providing support to Lord Rama in the battle against Ravana's forces.
06) Lord Rama used the divine arrow known as the "Brahmastra" to kill Ravana.
07) The son of Lord Rama and Sita, born during their exile in the forest, is named Lava.
08) Vibhishana was Ravana's brother and the king of Lanka who defected to Lord Rama's side, providing valuable advice and support.
09) The Agni Pariksha was a test of Sita's purity and loyalty. She emerged unscathed from the flames to prove her innocence.
10) The Ramayana teaches important moral lessons about dharma (duty), righteousness, family values, and the victory of good over evil.

Want to contribute?

Donors can contribute any amount desired and be eligible for tax benefits:

- How to contribute and make a difference:
 - Participate in Vanayatra to have a glimpse into Vanavasi life
 - Become a member of the local VKK committee
 - Sponsor a Tuition Center (Mane Pata Kendras) – Rs 50,000/- per Year
 - Sponsor a College Student for Rs 40,000/- per year
 - Sponsor education and living expenses of a school student Rs 25,000/- per year
 - Sponsor education expenses of a school student Rs 10,000/- per year
 - Sponsor a school kit for Rs 1000/- per kit
 - Sponsor a health camp for Rs 80,000 per camp
 - Sponsor a Hostel – Rs 15,00,000/- per year
 - Sponsor specific projects like drinking water, solar lighting, infrastructure etc.
- Project-based
- Sponsor a tailoring centre Rs.80,000/-
 - Sponsor nutrition for one student Rs 2700/-



SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

- All donations are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80G of IT Act 1961
- One can make bank transfers as per below account details
- Donations can also be made through crossed cheques
- For 80G receipts, contact **Mr.Keshava +91-94829 84575**

India Resident Accounts

Account Name: Vanavasi Kalyana
SB Account number: 04212160000078
IFSC code: CNRB0011717 (For NEFT/RTGS Transactions)
IFSC Code: CNRB0000033 (For IMPS Transaction)
Bank: Canara Bank
Branch: Kuvempunagar II, Mysore 570 001
Address: 834, New Kantharaja Urs Road,
Kuvempunagar, Mysore.
Branch Phone: 0821 2342 425
Branch Cell Phone: 94498 60428



About VanaMitra



This is an attempt to provide information on the work done by Vanvasi Kalyan Karnataka and to create awareness for the comprehensive development of the tribals of Karnataka. You too can participate as a volunteer. Send your feedback to the editorial board:

VanaMitra Editorial Team:

Sripad Ji, M.Ashok, Mayuresh, Vivek

Reach Vanamitra Team at:

vanamitra@vanavasikalyana.org | www.vanavasikalyana.org