



# RAINBOW

Newsletter of Priyadarshni Academy

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## ANNA HAZARE'S ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT STIRS THE NATION INTO ACTION – PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY CO-HOSTS BABA RAMDEV ADDRESS ON THE SUBJECT

**A**t the time of writing this piece, Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement has captured the imagination of the entire Indian populace. Young and old, from the far corners of India, are thronging in growing numbers and joining the protest movement in traditional and novel ways. And, quite rightly so. India has wilted under the grip of corruption for years and it has affected our growth in all its aspects. We hope that the movement will take giant steps forward, without pause, until we move firmly towards a corrupt-free India to adopt better values and include growth for all of our poor. It is important that all of us get behind Anna Hazare's movement as it will have a tremendous impact on the well-being of our society.

Your Academy, in its very early years, created a slogan, "Corruption is Cancer, Let us Fight It Together" and has publicized it at every opportunity. Recently, its Chairman, Mr. Nanik Rupani, made use of an occasion to be part of the committee which organized a power-packed presentation on the very subject of anti-corruption, by Baba Ramdev, an avid supporter of Anna Hazare's movement. In his address, Ramdevji also spoke about Yoga and its eternal values. The program was held on May 3, 2011 at the Shankukhananda Hall and was attended by a jam-packed audience.

Ramdevji lambasted the government openly and boldly for its failure to bring back black money stashed away in foreign accounts. He spoke in-depth on the subject, citing thoroughly researched figures and statistics. He declared his determination to fight corruption until it ended. His emphatic statement was that the retrieval of black money would save our nation of much misery.

While speaking about Yoga, Baba Ramdev emphasized that Yoga is a mind-body discipline that can change an individual physically, mentally and spiritually. When practiced correctly, it has the ability to heal and transform. He demonstrated a few breathing exercises and focused on the biological significance of the respiration process. He said that through the practice of proper breathing, the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide is attained.

Breath control, he added, links our body, mind and spirit.

Ramdevji said, "Today's life is full of stress. Because of the daily work, and family or financial pressures, we tend to ignore our breathing. Thus, it tends to be fast and shallow. The use of only a fraction of our lungs gives rise to lack of oxygen and may lead to different complications. Heart diseases, sleep disorders and fatigue are some of the effects of

*Continued on page no. 4*



*The distinguished group of guests with Baba Ramdev*



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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The Academy is now adopting new approaches to doing some of its traditional programs. This is as a result of comments received from some of its members and also because it has conducted an ongoing analysis of the programs and recognized the need for change.

One such program that is undergoing a transformation is its 'National Integration through Music and Dance' events. The Academy recently helped organize a dance recital in Australia by Nandini Krishna under the joint auspices of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The dance workshop for all ages which we organized along with Art Feat reflected another example of the change in approach to programs.

The Academy has also identified three established singers who will, in the next few months, perform under its auspices. Two of them are Samir Date and Dipalee Somaiya who made a rousing start recently under their newly-established banner "Impact Communication" with a program "Soul of Rafi". The program was attended by a capacity audience which applauded them right through the show. The Academy plans to organize an event with the duo but with a repertoire that includes bhajans sung by one of India's greatest singers, the Immortal Mohomad Rafi, as solos and as duets with co-singers, in films of yester years.

The other singer who will appear under the Academy auspices is Sarangee Ambekar who is well versed in Hindustani classical music. She is an artist who has won many laurels. She will render, along with her group, a Bhajan Sandhya during which compositions of Sant Kabir, Meerabai, Guru Nanak, and Surdas will be sung.

Both events should be worth looking forward to. One is slated to be held in September and the other in November. Details are being worked out and will be announced to members in due course.

Beginning this issue, we have decided to carry highlights from the history of the Academy. The Academy has gone through difficulties in its early sojourn, as all organizations have, but we have overcome them successfully, and have risen to great heights mainly because of the strength and support lent by our members and well-wishers. Not many today, however, know of the great times the Academy has had, and felt it worth recalling for the benefit of our readers. I hope you will enjoy these vignettes.

Enjoy the issue.

Sincerely,

*Corruption is Cancer, Let us fight It together !!!*

## DANCE FOR ALL AGES

Art defines the very life of many, some just learn, others pass on what they learn. Teaching is indeed divine but teaching music and dance, even more so. Dance is a beautiful form of art and expression -- poise, elegance and rhythm being its very essence, with the wide variety of dance forms for all ages and without the barriers of cast, creed and borders.

There is no age bar for learning dance or music or for that matter any fine art. One only needs to have the zeal and the passion for it.

**Priyadarshni Academy** supported Art Feat in launching an innovative hands-

on workshop, under its annual "National Integration through Dance" project. The programme was conducted by well-known dancers, Ms. Nandini Krishna, Ms Keka Sinha,

and Ms. Shubhada. The participants were from the age group, 10 to 60. The workshop covered the basics of the classical dance forms: Bharata Natyam, Kathak and Odissi.

A stage performance was organized on May 1, 2011



**Participants performing at the end of the Dance Workshop**

at the Ravindra Natya Mandir complex. Chief Guest, Mr. Terence D'Souza, Western India Regional Director of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, was all praise for what the workshop achieved in the space of a short period of time – an excellent introduction to the

different dance forms, and quality absorption by the dancers. An interaction with the participants led to them craving for an advanced programme to enhance their grasp of the dance forms.

*Continued from page no. 1*

oxygen starvation. The negative energy of being restless leads to lesser "prana" inside the body. By practicing deep and systematic breathing through Pranayama, we re-energize our body".

Baba Ramdevi summed up his talk by saying that Yoga

is an effective way to gain and maintain a healthy body. This ancient Indian art is a great way to get rid of extra flab without any side effects. The session with Ramdevji was a journey through the Science of Yoga and its significance for healthy living.

**PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY SHRI ANNA HAZARE.**

**CORRUPTION HAS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE IN ALL SPHERES OF ACTIVITY INCLUDING EDUCATION--IT IS THE POOR WHO NEED HELP THE MOST WHO SUFFER THE MOST.**

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Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman of IMC Mumbai Development Committee, organized an interactive meeting with Mr. Arup Patnaik, Commissioner of Police, Brihanmumbai on "Law and order in Mumbai" on Thursday, June 9, 2011 in Indian Merchants' Chamber



Chairman of Priyadarshni Academy, Mr. Nanik Rupani organized under IMC Banner an interactive meeting with Mr. Rahul Asthana, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, on "Mumbai Development- MMRDA's vision" on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 in IMC.



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## VIGNETTES FROM THE ACADEMY'S HISTORY

A couple of months ago, the Sindhi Circle of Jai Hind College, celebrated its annual function and Priyadarshni Academy co-sponsored it. At the event, the famous Kathak danseuse, Ms. Anila Sunder, and her troupe, performed a beautiful dance ballet "ZAAL...Kadhan Zer, Kadhan Zabar!" depicting the different facets of a woman's life. Veteran members of the Academy will remember that this very Anila Sunder was instrumental in the birth of the Academy, which today stands as a true example of how a socio-cultural and educational organization should function in a developing country like India, with its vast social, cultural and spiritual diversity.

It was 1984. As a talented young artiste, Ms. Anila Sunder was trying to find expression to her talent. She was looking for a platform to showcase her abilities. She approached a group of like-minded individuals such as Mr. Rupani Mr. Murli Adnani, Prof. Popati Hiranandani, Mr. Jamnadas Lalwani, Ms. Kaushi Mirpuri, Mr. Ramkrishan Advani, Mr. Chander Manghnani, and Mr. Madhav Balwani for help. The group felt the need to figure a way out to promote Anila's talent. What resulted was a series of meetings and discussions, and brainstorming. The group came to the conclusion that it was important to found an organization to serve the needs of artists and individuals in diverse fields. The moment of reckoning



*Ms. Anila Sunder performing at the Sindhi Circle function of Jai Hind college.*

soon arrived. The group formed an organization and gave it the evergreen name, Priyadarshni Academy.

Mr. Nanik Rupani, the Founder-Chairman of the Academy, had the inclination to help humanity right from his childhood. He realized that a formal platform is necessary to channelize efforts to serve humanity in a systematic and orderly manner. He has always held the view, "since we have taken so much from society, it is our duty to pay back." True to its name, Priyadarshni Academy adopted the motto, "Service to humanity is the best work of life."

On March 18, 1985, Priyadarshni Academy was formally inaugurated by Dr. V. Subramanian, the then Minister for Housing, Government of Maharashtra, who was the Chief Guest. Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh, who was Maharashtra's Minister of State for Home, was the Guest of Honor. Mr. Deshmukh was all praise for the Academy's ideals. Ms. Anila Sunder rendered an excellent dance performance at the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Ram Panjwani enlivened the occasion with Urdu couplets and Sindhi songs.

Mr. Hotchand Advani and Mrs. Kaushi Mirpuri spoke on the occasion. Mr. Nanik Rupani declared "Our aim would be to give free educational facilities to all those who do not have the means, and inculcate in the younger generation the real values of Indian culture through cultural shows."

*Continued on page no. 7*

## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

With its prime focus on Education, Priyadarshni Academy has been giving scholarships to meritorious and needy students every year right from its inception. During this year, 207 scholarships mostly of Rs. 10,000 each were awarded. It was possible because of the generous contributions by our well wishers and sponsors. It is our dream to increase the number of scholarships substantially in the coming years. Scholarships can be named after any individuals, institutions or in memory of any departed loved ones. Scholarships can be given by contributions year after year or by donating a lump sum amount, the interest of which can be given as scholarship every year.

*Corruption is Cancer, Let us fight It together !!!*



March 18, 1985 - Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh addressing the audience at the Inaugural function of Priyadarshni Academy at Tejpal Auditorium. Seen from left to right are: Dr. V. Subramanian, Mr. Nanik Rupani, Mr. Murlidhar Adnani, Prof. Ram Panjwani, Mr. Ramkrishin Advani and Mr. Devidas Mulchandani

The Academy's beginnings were humble, but the aim was ambitious. Many doubted the survival of the Academy as money was not easy to come by and professionally dedicated resources were scarce. Only internationally supported non-governmental organizations rode the tide. For an NGO to survive, two things are essential – leaders' vision and monetary resources. Fortunately, the Academy had the former in plenty and had the determination to raise adequate resources, as Mr. Rupani always says, "In God's Bank, there is no dearth of funds".



## In Memorium

Priyadarshni Academy lost a noble soul when Sushil Sain died on July 10, 2011. Sain was connected with the Academy from day one and was a pillar of strength for the Academy right through its 27-year history. He was an active Advisor to the Academy's Educational Scholarships Committee until a few years ago when Parkinson's disease made it impossible for him to travel to meetings. Sain was not only bubbling with ideas for the Academy but also contributed generously to its activities. Even during his ailment, he followed the Academy's activities closely and had nothing but encouraging words for all that the Academy was involved in.

Professionally, Mr. Sain left a lasting impact as Chairman and Managing Director of the National Textile Commission. His dynamism helped make a significant contribution to the textile industry and helped take it to its helm. The Academy will miss Mr. Sain, but his name is deeply entrenched in the Academy's history.

## NEWLY JOINED COORDINATORS



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