

Ramesh Pai

— *An Assessment*



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FOREWORD

Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai, a remarkable man by any standards, completed 70 years of age on October 22, 1994. A few weeks before, several friends of his decided to celebrate the event in a simple, dignified manner. The object was not only to demonstrate the affection and regard many had for him but also to heave a collective sigh of relief at the expected end to the energy-sapping family dispute. The friends also decided to bring out on the occasion a book to be named Ramesh Pai - An Assessment.

The 'Assessment' was to be just that and not a collection of compliments. In the case of lesser men, panegyrics would perhaps be in order. But for Ramesh Pai, who has been recipient of accolades in various fora in various parts of the world, it would be superfluous and even stale. What was aimed, therefore, was to collect from his friends and well-wishers a fair assessment of his contribution in the fields of Education, Medical Care, Banking & Finance, Industry and Community Service through Rotary and otherwise. The friends hoped that the book would help Ramesh Pai chart out the course of the autumn of his life which, as Lin Yutang says, is a period of 'mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age'.

In compliance with the desire of friends I wrote to a selected number of Ramesh Pai's friends (the selection itself was a time-consuming process; his friends are literally innumerable). Practically everyone responded, albeit over an extended period of time which threw our schedule out of gear. This book contains all the responses. It makes interesting reading.

Most of the letters received from the friends of Mr. Ramesh Pai contain fulsome praise. To that extent they fall short of a fair assessment. But, then, when virtue far outweighs vice, to ignore the latter is natural. It is nobody's case that Ramesh Pai is a perfect human being. It can, however, be said with confidence that he is as good as they come. One wishes, the Country had many more Ramesh Pairs to lead it to the heights it deserves to occupy.

At my request, Mr. A.S. Pai, a freelance writer has attempted a biographical sketch of Ramesh Pai. While it is factual, he too has fallen prey to the magic of Ramesh Pai's personality.

As the editor of this volume it is my duty to thank all the distinguished contributors. Their encouragement and affection will keep Mr. Ramesh Pai steady on course of service to humanity.

Vijayadasami, '95

Hyderabad

Y.V. Pai.



The portrait of a thinker.



Ramesh and Shanti.

RAMESH PAI OF MANIPAL THE UNASSUMING COLOSSUS

A.S. PAI

Shri A.S. Pai is a freelance journalist based at Hyderabad. Currently, he is also reviewer of books for Deccan Chronicle.

Locale of this narrative is the tranquil environs of Manipal, the cute little town atop a plateau nestling between the azure Arabian sea and the bottle green Western Ghats, in the vicinity of Agumbe and Udupi, sixty odd kilometers from Mangalore. Some seven decades ago this place had only the awesome beauty of a barren hamlet devoid of any bustling human activity and haunted by lurking wild leopards behind the dark curtain of nights. Then an idea, that had only been a dream, began to shape itself into a reality, massive in conception and masterly in execution. And, the place underwent a spectacular transformation virtually beyond imagination, beyond recognition.

The maze of buildings perched on the higher altitudes yield a grandstand view. They house a variety of institutions: primary and secondary schools, medical and engineering colleges, colleges of dentistry and pharmacy, nursery and catering, management and law, arts and culture-studies and so much more that it can today be rightly called a melting pot, a crucible, of education. Is that all ? Nay, it is also a beehive of multi-dimensional

endeavours linked with commerce, finance and vocations. A burns centre and a health club, for instance, rubbing shoulders with a printing press, banks and diverse other institutions: a kaleidoscopic transformation indeed! The wizard entrepreneurs and social benefactors who founded, nursed and operated these institutions for the welfare of the people hail from an illustrious Pai family of which Tonse Ramesh U. Pai, the successor of panchromatic pantheon of personalities, is presently the septuagenarian patriarch.

Two famous biographers have researched and written books on this family which give insights into its origin and evolution as well as the story of their endeavours and contributions for the betterment of Manipal and the country at large: first is THE PAIS OF MANIPAL by Selden Menefee, an American professor and writer and the second THE INNOVATIVE BANKER by veteran journalist M V Kamath, a former Editor of the Illustrated Weekly of India and author of biographies on many colourful personalities of the country. The first book mentioned revolves primarily around Dr T.M.A. Pai and the second focuses on T.A. Pai. A fullfledged biography of Ramesh Pai is yet to be written.

Both these authors have traced out the historic background of this famous family, the descendants of Vedic-time Gowda Saraswat Brahmins who had lost their moorings and become migrants after the river Saraswati became extinct. They could trace out the roots of this Pai family to Ranga Pai, son of Manja Pai, a prominent businessman of village Tonse who came and settled in Brahmavar, one of the one hundred and fifty - eight villages in Udupi taluq, late in the nineteenth century. Brahmavar is on one bank of Suvarna river while on the opposite bank is Kallianpur. Ranga Pai held about 20 acres of fertile paddy lands and spawned a dense joint family with some fifty members of three generations living in a capacious two - storied house. One of Ranga Pai's sons, Mukunda Pai, migrated to Cochin in 1916 to become the manager of a temple. Of Ranga Pai's seven sons and three daughters, the seventh son Anantha married Yashoda Baliga of Kallianpur and became prominent after the birth of four sons and a daughter, everyone of whom proved to be a gem or a genius annexing glory to the family. The first son Purushotham or P A Pai started a shop selling cutlery, stationery and books at Udupi and gradually

got involved in Congress movement for achieving independence for the country. In his own way he helped the weavers to start a co-operative society in 1939 which came to be known as the Udupi Weavers' Co-operative Production and Sale Society. His younger brother, Upendra, worked in tandem with his elder brother, like two riding the same bicycle with two sets of pedals. It was Upendra's interest and commitment for the cause of handloom weavers that led to the formation of the joint stock company called the Canara Industrial and Banking Syndicate Limited. Like Purushotham, Upendra too was inspired by Gandhiji and his freedom movement. Gandhiji had advocated abolishing conventional schools and establishing 'national schools': Upendra took initiative, set up one such school in Udupi and became its Secretary. Upendra built some seventy-five houses for the community and has had the distinction of employing a Chinese carpenter ! He built a cinema hall by name Ramakrishna Theatre and published a film monthly called Chitrakala.

Upendra was Ramesh Pai's father and Parvathi, daughter of Mulki Gopalakrishna Kudva, his mother. His elder brother T.A. Pai, who later brought many laurels for his family and the country, was born on 17 January, 1922 while Ramesh was born on 22 October, 1924. Then followed the birth of four daughters and two more sons to Upendra. Upendra's younger brother Madhava (T M A Pai) was destined to be the greatest scion of this clan synonymous to Akbar of the Mughal dynasty. He was endowed with creative imagination and a foresight to perceive a future teeming with opportunities and he had also the readiness and presence of mind to seize every tide of opportunity at the floods. When Dr. TMA Pai was studying at St. Aloysius College for graduate study, the Hindu Higher Ele. School at Kallianpur where he had his primary education was going to be closed because of financial difficulties. He gave up his education, went about with the begging bowl even to Bombay, collected about Rs. 5000/-, paid off mortgage debt on the school building and worked as teacher/ manager for one year without any salary during which period he also wrote text books on mathematics for 6th, 7th and 8th standards and then joined the Madras Medical College for his medical studies to become a doctor. He was soon to become renowned as Dr T M A Pai, the true backbone of Pai family glory. The fourth son, Raghunath,

carved out a career for himself in insurance and also edited a journal, HUMAN AFFAIRS, for more than a decade. The only daughter of Anantha and Yashoda by name Marthi born after two abortions had an unhappy marriage; she had no children and she died in 1956.

This is the backdrop and cluster amidst which Ramesh Pai was born. When his life of crawling, toddling, sprinting and playing was completed Ramesh did his schooling alongside his elder brother. Not only did he resemble T A Pai in appearance so that they came to be considered as twins, but he also did cherish great love and admiration for him. Ramesh was ever willing to co-operate and collaborate with T A Pai in all his ambitions, aspirations and endeavours. Thus, when the school put on a play in which T A Pai acted the role of Krishnadevaraya, Ramesh appeared and acted on the stage as the son of Tenali Ramakrishna. Similarly, when T A Pai joined the music class, Ramesh Pai too joined it although he preferred to practise a different instrument, namely, violin; he had virtually not much taste for music but he was doing it just for the sake of giving company to his elder brother. M V Kamath tells about this brotherly co-operation in his book: " Anant (T A Pai) provided the ideas and often Ramesh was the faithful executor. The two worked in tandem on projects of mutual interest, Ramesh giving his time and attention to his elder brother though not without a murmur of protest if he thought Anant was on the wrong track". Once, when he came to know that T A Pai was clandestinely smoking beedis, he confidentially reported the matter to his mother and got him admonitions. The phrase 'working in tandem' fits like a cliché for this family: that motto held the family bonded together and that unity became its strength. Ramesh Pai's leadership qualities were recognized by his scout teacher when he was in the school and he used to be put in charge of controlling the crowds in Krishna Temple. Ramesh passed his S S L C in first class and was rearing an ambition to go in for an engineering career. At that crucial juncture he had to undergo an operation and by the time he was healed and he came from Bombay it was too late and the admissions were already closed. Crestfallen, he returned to Manipal. Noticing a cloud of despair on his face his uncle T M A said, 'Why don't you become my secretary ?' Dr T M A Pai had started his medical practice at Udipi in 1925 when Ramesh was just one year old. After ten years of practice there he moved to Manipal. He was as much a financial prodigy as he was a

medical stalwart and he became more and more involved with the work of Canara Industrial and Banking Syndicate in combination with his medical practice. Dr Pai's small deposit idea named 'Pigmy Plan' was taking banking to the grassroot levels and he was mobilising even the smallest savings of just 12 paise per day (two annas of those days) from workers and fisherwomen. This populist and down to earth approach not only impressed but also increased the bank's clientele by leaps and bounds and its branches started proliferating and spreading over even to the neighbouring states of Madras, Kerala and Andhra. In 1939 Dr Pai became the Managing Director of the Syndicate Bank. When he asked Ramesh Pai to become his secretary he had just pioneered the establishment of the Academy of General Education with the avowed objective of primarily making available technical and commercial education which included a melange of disciplines ranging from agriculture and marketing to farming and bee-keeping, types of engineering, cinema projection to nursing and mid-wifery, wireless telegraphy to journalism, advertisement to office management and music to typewriting. After drawing up a complete blueprint of this grand project he invited a group of leading citizens from Udupi and the surrounding areas to meet in his home in Manipal on September 18, 1942. Prolonged and protracted deliberations later, Dr Pai's recommendations were enthusiastically adopted and the Academy was eventually founded. Easier said than done : although there was a governing body of 31 members it was Ramesh Pai who handled the day-to-day affairs of the Academy right from its inception. Ramesh set up his first office on the verandah of Dr Pai's house. He not only handled the correspondence and accounts but also solicited membership. The handful of membership in 1942 rose to 12,000 by 1967. Ramesh was ever ready to lobby the world on behalf of the Academy. It took six years after the formation of the Academy to start the first educational institution, the Manipal Secondary School. Then came the real acid test: starting of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College, Udupi. It was with great strain that finance could be arranged. Finally it materialised and started functioning in June, 1949. There was another hitch : among the first batch of 97 students, 10 were girls. The Madras University authorities remonstrated that girl students should not have been allowed to register and it also warned that the girl students should not be enrolled in future. Dr T M A Pai discussed the matter with Ramesh Pai who was a member of the

Madras University senate. "What is this?" he mused. "Why should girls not be given as much opportunity to attend college as boys? Why should we have to get special permission in advance from the University to admit a girl student?" . After this discussion Ramesh Pai made an appeal against this ruling which was responded to by the University with an unconvincing alibi that the age between 16 and 18 was a dangerous period for the morals of the young girls! Ramesh Pai was determined to take up the cudgels on behalf of girl students because he, like his uncle, believed not in the subjugation but in the education and empowerment of women. Soon a women's committee headed by Mrs. P S Acharya was formed and the women campaigned from door to door. They called upon any girl to come forward and fight the issue in a court of law. Miss Shanta Shenoy came forward and filed a writ in the Madras High Court. When Justice Subbarao of Madras High Court gave a verdict in favour of Shantha, the University of Madras filed an appeal to the Division Bench. Since Ramesh thought it is a long drawn legal battle which may entail lot of financial expenses, he sent Shantha's appeal to the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice President of India Dr. Radhakrishnan, and Health Minister Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. Ultimately, it was Smt. Indira Gandhi who was responsible in making the Prime Minister write to the Governor of Madras, Shri Sriprakasha, to intervene with the university who gave his historic decision that girls may be admitted till separate Women College came up.

The founding of the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal posed another kind of problem. After a ding-dong tussle for acquiring vast acres of land required, Dr Pai applied to Karnataka University for affiliation. The University sent a Commission headed by B N Datar for a field inspection. Finding the hilltop quite barren Datar jocularly remarked : "Except for Dr Pai's enthusiasm there is nothing here for us to see". Finally the Commission Chairman enjoined that atleast the Anatomy Block should be completed within six months. There was resource crunch. The Academy decided not to employ any contractor with a view to reducing the costs. Menefee states in his book as to how the construction went on: " The entire Pai family was rallied daily to the work of breaking 'jelly' (granite) stones for mixing concrete. The doctor, his wife, his brothers, children, nephews and nieces were all given hammers and put to work. Highschool children were recruited to the task for 45 minutes of their lunch period". For a while even Ramesh

was not convinced: " I thought it was rather silly at first. How could breaking of few stones build a college?" but then he saw the sagacity of his uncle; he realised that this community effort is having a great psychological impact on the workers. They produced atleast 20 percent more than they normally would have. On top of it, the people of Manipal got a feeling that they had a personal stake in the college, a sense of belonging.

When his uncle Purushotham Pai died in 1942 Ramesh was asked to take charge of that business as well. At the outset he knew nothing about it and he had to learn from the scratch about bleaching, dyeing, weaving and other aspects of the Handloom industry. So he went to Bombay and spent three weeks in the laboratory of the Imperial Chemical Industries. In due course he became fully involved with that trade and even became the President of the Handloom Owners' Association at Udupi. In 1953 he was selected as a delegate to the South East Asia, particularly to Japan, which afforded him his first opportunity to go abroad, that too, in the company of the top industrialists of the country. These opportunities have greatly helped in shaping Ramesh Pai's life. In the meantime, more and more institutions came to be set up: Kasturba Maternity Centre, Manipal, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Mady Primary School, Nehru Memorial Library, Manipal, Manipal Engineering College, Udupi Law College, Academy School of Music and Fine Arts and School of Crafts. One of the things happening at that time was the indoor tussle between Dr T M A Pai and T A Pai in regard to the affairs of the Syndicate Bank of which T A Pai was director. On such occasions T A Pai would not only threaten but also send in his resignation. Later, T M A would discuss the matter with Ramesh Pai on whom he had faith and then Ramesh would bring about a rapprochement. The Pais charge a capitation fee for admission to the professional courses and many quarters levelled criticisms against the Academy on that score. Ramesh had this to say in defence thereof: " It is obvious the government cannot provide education for all. Private effort can meet the gap. Why then should not parents, who can afford it, share the cost of providing education to their children particularly when higher education is an investment ?"

Once an American by name Harry Plissner came to know of the Manipal institutions; the year was 1958. He wrote to Manipal offering his help in sending books and magazines for the college libraries. Plissner was

organising in the U S A what was called 'friendship through magazines'. Towards the end of the year Plissner shipped 5 tons of books and the 58 - years old Floridian was invited to come to India which he did with his wife at his own expense. Plissner was given a warm welcome and made an honorary Fellow of the Academy of General Education in a colourful ceremony held at Manipal. After a few months when Dr. TMA Pai made his foreign tour as member of the delegation of the doctors of the visiting hospitals and medical colleges in Europe, Mr. Harry Plissner came to know of his trip and wrote to Ramesh suggesting that both of them could come to USA for a month where both he and his wife would give their entire time and look after them. The Pais landed in New York and Plissner and his wife were there at the airport to receive them. Accompanied by Plissner, the Pais subsequently flew to Miami. Selden Menefee describes what transpired : " They (Dr Pai and Ramesh Pai) were dumbfounded when they were met at the airport by the Mayor's Cadillac and escorted by mounted traffic policemen into Miami beach where the tallest building was flashing an electric sign with moving letters saying welcome to India's Dr. Pai. The Mayor gave Dr. Pai and Ramesh Pai "the key to the city" and held a television interview with them in his office. Plissner and the Miami Civic League had arranged a dinner reception with 350 people attending that evening, and the Delano Hotel Miami, hosted the pair for a week. It was an experience that they never forgot."

When his brother T.A.Pai was slowly making his debut in politics Ramesh had no time for it as he was fully engrossed in the management of Manipal institutions. T.A.Pai first became the youngest member of the Madras Legislative Assembly and served it from 1952 to 1957 while Ramesh Pai spent most of his mornings working without pay as Secretary of the Academy of General Education.

Ramesh Pai married Shanti, third daughter of B Vaikunta Baliga, a leading lawyer of Mangalore Bar who became Minister of Law and Labour of Mysore Government and became the Speaker of Karnataka Legislature for three terms. They have two sons and two daughters and his matrimonial life has been tranquil and fulfilling unlike in the case of his brother, T A Pai, who was ordained to encounter turbulent storms in his marriage with Prema

which culminated in divorce and his second marriage with Vasanti. Ramesh Pai's first son Sudhakar is an engineer and the second son, Shantaram, a doctor. His two daughters, Shobha and Sheela are married and well settled abroad. Ramesh Pai and his family live in their cosy house at Manipal which was named as CHITRAKALA, the name of the film monthly magazine which his father Upendra used to edit and publish.

Ramesh Pai grew in stature and expertise even as the Manipal Academy grew from strength to strength. While the policies were carefully thought out by Dr.T.M.A.Pai, the task of implementing these were on the shoulders of Ramesh Pai. Together they were instrumental in establishing some 45 centres of learning right from kindergarten to professional colleges. Ramesh Pai personally attended to most of the public relations work of the Academy. He always responded warmly to the descending droves of visitors and took them around the institutions and sights of Manipal which occupied a big chunk of his working day which commenced early morning at eight and extended to late at night. Yet the busy schedule never vexed him nor he felt exhausted when he finally hit home. He is a man ever willing to go all out to achieve the goals of his life. His phlegmatic temperament and impassive style have helped him weather many a storm which buffeted him in the organization. The fact that he has been slightly less talked about than Dr.T.M.A.Pai or T.A.Pai has not posed any handicap for him in steering the Ship of Manipal. Ramesh Pai was Dr.T.M.A.Pai's anointed heir. During the General Body Meeting of the Academy held on 30 June, 1978 Dr.T.M.A.Pai paid compliments to his nephew in following words : " He (Ramesh Pai) has been the one man who has been always trying to see in and out of the working of these institutions. We only discuss policy matters and I say O K and the rest of the things are done by him. If anybody comes and asks me, I will say I do not know, Mr Ramesh Pai knows everything. That is the depth of confidence I have reposed in him and I have not been sorry for it. Generally you will find in any institution one man toiling and toiling. In the lamp it is the wick that is shedding light. If the wick is not there whatever may be the amount of oil you put, there will be no light. So Mr.Ramesh Pai has been the wick and all of you have been putting oil and the wick has been shedding

light. I am very happy for publicly thanking him for all the toil that he has been doing".

Not only in Manipal and Udupi but they also set up educational and other institutions in remoter locations such as Mangalore, Karkala, Perdur, Kallianpur, Kundapur, Mulki, Alevoor, Moodubidri, Sringeri and Agumbe. Incidentally, all these educational institutions are among the best in the country and have earned a reputation for their uniqueness. Ramesh's competence alone marks him out as a leader, infact a marvel of efficiency and proficiency, yet he never sought limelight and conceded all the glory to his elders and knew that he was engaged in the task of translating the dreams enshrined in the Manipal institutions. But being a realist he adopted down-to-earth plans while implementing the policy decisions. Prof. K.S.Haridas Bhatt states in the booklet RAMESH PAI OF MANIPAL that the "present size and tempo of Manipal's growth are attributed to Ramesh Pai's sagacity and wisdom in the matter".

It was Ramesh Pai who enabled his elder brother T.A.Pai to take up prestigious assignments in the government: "Don't worry, I am there to look after these babies. Go and do the work of the government with peace of mind" he seemed to reassure. During 1964 and 1965 T.A.Pai was asked to organize the Food Corporation of India and in 1970 he was appointed Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Between 1972 and 1973 he served as India's Railway Minister. Subsequently till 1977 he held other portfolios.

When the Indira Gandhi government nationalised 14 scheduled banks in 1969, Syndicate Bank was one of them. As a compensation to the stock holders of Syndicate Bank the government had paid Rs.36 million in bonds redeemable at par after 30 years carrying 5 1/2 percent interest. They had two options : either they could keep those bonds at a relatively low rate of interest or they could sell them and pay high capital gains taxes to the government. Both these options were disadvantageous but a wayout was soon found. Let me quote Selden Menefee again : "With typical Pai shrewdness and insight Dr T M A Pai and his nephew T Ramesh U. Pai offered the stockholders a third wayout...They proposed to the shareholders that they keep their organisation intact but change its name and functions to concentrate on industrial development". It was thus that Ramesh Pai became the Founder Chairman of the Industrial Credit and Development Syndicate. One of the

new Company's first acts was to invest in a modern office building, five storeys high, called 'Syndicate House'. Ramesh Pai built up the ICDS Limited working for the first 12 years without getting any remuneration and the next 10 years as the managing director and made it one of the outstanding, non-banking financial companies during which period he was responsible in building up one of the finest shopping-cum-office complexes known as 'Manipal Centre' at Bangalore.

In 1959, when Ramesh was in Europe he realised that entire automobile seat cushioning was made of rubberised coir by importing curled coir from Sri Lanka. He was keen to adopt this technology since that would create lot of rural employment, particularly in the states like Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh where there were no retting facilities. This process was used in Kerala to convert their green husk into coir for manufacture of coir mattress and matting. Ramesh established a factory at Arsikere for extraction of fibre and to manufacture curled coir and the rubberised coir factory at Bangalore became one of the biggest such factories getting a market share of mattresses of over seventy percent.

Not only that he has been the fulcrum of the family but he played several other social roles. His association with the Rotary Movement spans over thirty five years. When Dr. Pai was the District Governor elect he went to the US for the second time in his life and Ramesh Pai accompanied him. They attended the Rotary Convention at Toronto, Canada and the International Assembly at Lake Placid, New York. Ramesh Pai had established the Udupi Rotary Club at a time when South Kanara had only one club in Mangalore. He served Rotary in various capacities leading to his unanimous election as Governor of the District 317 in 1969. Consequent to redistricting he also took charge as the first Governor of the District 318 in July, 1970. His awareness of the community needs prompted him to gear the Rotary movement for service to the people. He concentrated on rural areas 'where organized efforts in rural shortcomings were absent'. By sponsoring ten clubs in rural and semi urban centres, he strengthened the membership base in his district. His campaign for Family Planning and Nutrition in rural parts of South Kanara district is legendary. He had seen how mal-nutrition was playing havoc on the lives of children and was convinced that India's children cannot eternally depend on the charities of

CARE and UNICEF and so he founded the Milk Co-operative Union at Manipal which enabled rural families to own milch cattle. Today it operates in about 50 villages and supplies wholesome milk of over 14,000 liters per day. Rotary International appointed Ramesh Pai to R.I Extension Committee for a period of three years in 1978. Ramesh Pai has been the guiding spirit behind numerous eye camps and dental camps conducted in South and North Kanara districts. Udupi Rotary's dental care campaign covered 10,000 school children.

When Ramesh was to undergo a bye-pass surgery in Houston, the previous day he went round the campus of the University of Houston. There he saw a beautiful building, "Hilton College of Hotel Management". He visited that institution and found that they had a 50-room teaching hotel. Ramesh thought why not start a similar college of hotel management at Manipal with the "Valley View" as a teaching hotel ?. He met the President of the University of Houston and got their guidance and offer of support. He invited one of the retired professors in Hotel Management who stayed at Manipal for 3 months and prepared a complete blue print for the first college in the country leading to degree in hotel management and the famous Welcom Group offered to join hands providing the experts to fill up the various teaching posts. That was how the Welcom Group Graduate School of Hotel Administration came into existence. Today, it has gained a great reputation as one of the best colleges in the country in this field.

When Ramesh Pai was elected as the Director nominee of Rotary International for 1992-94 the magazine CONCORD brought out a special issue. Some of his personality traits were mentioned there: "a large heart, indomitable will, an incisive mind, feet like springs, steadfastness in speech, resolution in the eyes". Justice VR Krishna Iyer former Judge of the Supreme Court offered eulogies to him: "Your great dedication to the humanitarian services finds its finest hour when opportunities offer themselves for doing good overflowing the country and expanding into wider portions of the geography. Where human service is, there Ramesh is !".

One cannot perhaps list out all the credentials, awards and recognitions Ramesh Pai received from time to time because they were so numerous but the prestigious Presidential award like 'Padma' which both his uncle and elder brother received has so far eluded him. One reason could be because such

awards have been discontinued for the time being by the government. He has been honoured with membership of Senates of Madras and Mangalore Universities, Syndicate of Mysore University and now he is a member of the Court of Goa University. He is the President of Udupi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of All India Manufacturers' Organisation. He had been Vice Chairman of the Coir Board, Cochin. Inspite of his multifarious activities in India he also found time to tour abroad as a member of various official delegations. To mention some of them, he went to the U K, U S A and Japan as a member of the Productivity Team of Government of India. As an Industrial Delegate of the All India Manufacturer's Association he visited South East Asia and Japan. As Vice Chairman of the Indian Coir Board he led a delegation to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan. He was a member of Indian delegation to Italy. He visited Russia and many East European countries under the auspices of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society. He has also covered other countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philipines and United Arab Emirates.

Those who have moved very closely with Ramesh Pai might have come across some of his favourite apophthegms but no one has kept a record. Aphorisms and apophthegms are the butter of concentrated wisdom a successful man can pass on like a torch from generation to generation. He himself believes in the philosophy behind Tippu Sultan's inscription on the Kannambadi Dam in Mysore: "It is for me to begin and for Allah to end". On these lines Ramesh Pai says "Some of the projects contemplated would not have reached completion but you must conceive, make a beginning and go ahead to the best extent possible". A constant self renewal enables institutions to survive and respond to changing challenges. His advice in this regard is : " There is nothing which cannot be improved upon. Try, if it does not work drop it. If it works , adopt it ". Ramesh Pai believes in delegation of responsibility : " Once we have picked up a man and given him the responsibility, we did not wish to do any more backseat driving as long as he was able to produce the result". Commenting on the Academy's role he once said that it has all along been that of a catalyst : " The Academy never wanted to run these institutions by itself. Many people think that the Academy is

running all these institutions. No. Academy only created these institutions, built an infrastructure, handed it over to the community and acted as a sort of consultant. And Academy gave initially the money, when they did not have, advanced some interest-free loans which later on they were to repay...". The concept of education according to Ramesh Pai is to impart skill and knowledge to enhance a person's productivity and income so that education eradicates poverty much faster.

One of the greatest influences in Ramesh Pai's life had been his grand mother, Yashoda Baliga. She had become a widow at a very young age. She could not continue to stay at her paternal Baliga home as its fortunes dwindled and she was compelled to fend for herself and bring up her four sons and daughter who were all knicker-clad kids. Yet heroically she held the family together thereby teaching the younger generations of the Pai family the great lesson of courage. One of her aphorisms is remembered and respected even today like a preamble to their code of life:" The future is full of surprises. Our part is to try to be a hero in every situation that arises. We are judged by this. So be good and face each problem as best as you can". It was this message that prompted Dr.T.M.A.Pai to start so many ventures which succeeded; it was this message that took T.A.Pai to towering heights of glory in the government of India and it was this very message which spurred Ramesh Pai on to pursue the wheels of development.

MEMORIES OF A BYGONE AGE

VIMALA R PAI

Mrs Vimal R. Pai is wife of Shri T R A Pai, youngest brother of Ramesh Pai's father Upendra Ananth Pai.

Once upon a time there lived a young mother. She had four sons and one daughter. She had to bring them up almost single-handed as she lost her husband when her youngest was about seven months old. She herself was 30 years then. Her name was Yashoda Bai.

A woman of great grit and gumption was Yashoda Bai. Even when her husband, Tonse Ananth Pai was living, hers had been a difficult lot. Ananth Pai was a pious saintly man, too good for this world. When his father's property was being divided, Ananth Pai refused a share. Instead he offered to stay with and work for each of his six brothers in rotation.

Poor Yashoda ! Imagine her having to live and slave in the houses of her brothers-in-law for their daily bread and, that too, with a brood of kids when she could just well have a place of her own and be totally independent. But Yashoda with her robust mind in a robust body put up with every adversity.

Yashoda served her father-in-law in his last days with single minded devotion. The old man was so moved he gave her all he had : a big God bless from the depths of his heart. He said to her, "Your children will become great." Till the end, Yashoda believed that her children's good fortune was because of the blessing of her father-in-law, Ranga Pai. Whatever that may

have been, it is a fact that P A Pai Bros. (as Yashoda's sons came to be known) were by far the most distinguished and most well-known of all Ranga Pai's grand children.

It was as mother Yashoda's youngest daughter-in-law that I stepped into the ancestral house in Mukund Nivas in 1931. It was a sprawling house, set in sylvan surroundings with scores of mango, jack and cashew trees, coconut palms, a few scattered buildings and lots of empty space. The P A Pai Bros., all four of them, lived with their mother and their wives under the same roof.

Purushotham, the eldest, was the head of the family. A good upright man, his word was heeded to and accepted by all his younger brothers and family members as well as by his acquaintances and towns folk. His textiles were famous for fast colour and durability. His wife Shantha Bai was a good, stately and handsome woman.

Upendra, the second brother, was a man of few words, varied interests and a tolerant and considerate nature; fond of reading, solitude and long walks and all with a very bemused expression on his face. He founded three banks, a cinema house and a place of worship. He was in building construction too. His wife Parvathi, was a lively and remarkable woman with a great talent for management and organising. She was fond of growing vegetables and flowers, roses and jasmynes especially.

The third among the brothers was Madhav, a dynamic person. A man of vision and natural leader, he took on the whole world at the slightest suggestion of a 'no' from any quarter and did not stop till he had converted the "no" into a positive "yes". A doctor with an unfailing gift for healing, he gave up medicine to promote the Syndicate Bank and then went on to found educational institutions including all professional colleges and the medical complex in Manipal.

His wife, Sharada, was a patient but fitting help-mate to him.. Of necessity she had to keep a low profile what with her brilliant husband outshining everyone.

The youngest, Raghunath, is my husband. Very much younger than the other three, he worked with all three brothers initially and helped the eldest with the textiles, the second in the bank and the doctor in his clinic. Later, Dr T M A Pai founded a mutual life insurance co. My husband ran it till life



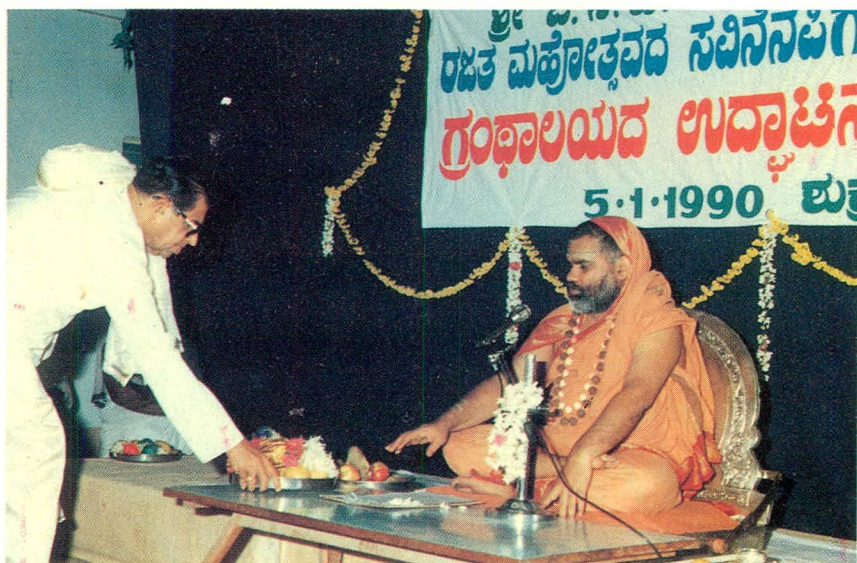
With His Excellency Jayawardane former President of Sri Lanka.



With a leading official of the Government of UAE and M M Rai.



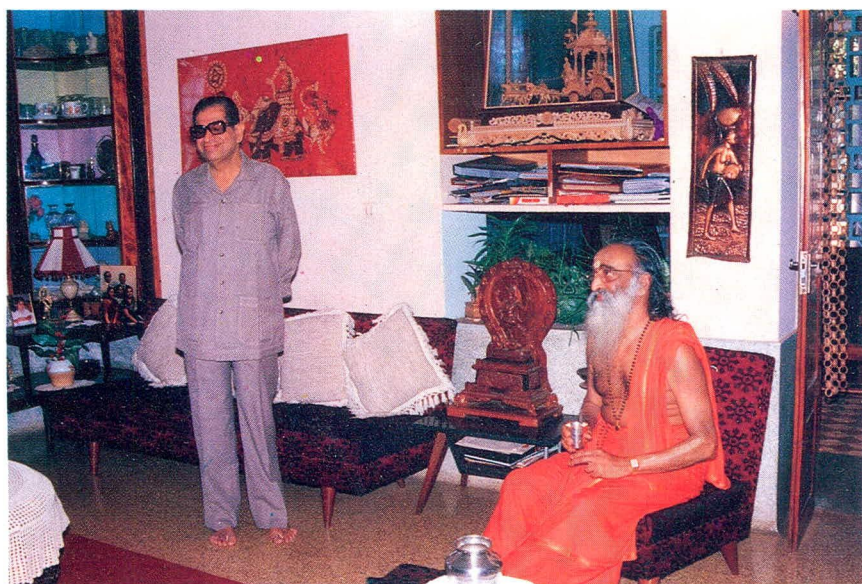
Mrs. and Mr. Ramesh with the Swamiji of Hariharapura Mutt - inauguration of the new building of High School at Agumbe.



Paying obeisance to Shringeri Swamy.



With Padmabushan Netradani Dr. M. C. Modi, famous eye Surgeon.



Ramesh with Swami Chinmayananda.



Flanked by Zail Singh, former President of India and Ramkrishna Hegde, former Chief Minister of Karnataka.



Ramesh with Veerappa Moily, former Chief Minister of Karnataka.

insurance was nationalised. He retired from the L I C as the Dy. Zonal Manager of the south zone. His interests in life are psychology, philosophy and religion.

Such were the four P A Bros. They had different kinds of talents and very strong personal convictions. Naturally difference of opinion was there amongst them - almost at each and every step. But they respected each other too well to nurse grievances. Whatever their differences, the bond of affection made them sink their differences, work together towards a common goal and present a united front to the world. A very very closely knit unit was P A Pai Bros.

Then there was their sister, Marthi, a cheerful buxom person, with a very good voice and a heavy leaning towards religion. She and her queer-tempered husband lived within walking distance of Mukund Nivas.

In 1931, there were about three children in the house - Balkrishna aged 9, Ramesh aged 7 and their five year old sister, Saguni (all of them U A Pai's)

I remember Balkrishna used to be annoyed with his mother if she asked him to fetch anything from the market.

"It's always me who has to do all the running and fetching for you !" he would grumble.

"Why, whom else can I send ?" his mother would protest. "Ramesh is not well and Saguni's too small."

"Why, Vimalpachchi's here now," he would counter "Why don't you send her ?"

"I can't," his mother would explain. " She's married and --"

"You don't have to tell anyone she's married. She's so small nobody'll know she's married unless you tell them."

Parvatekka would shake her head, look at me, cover her mouth with her hand and flash her typical smile.

To Ramesh, though, who was only two years younger than his elder brother, I was very much an adult. He was in very indifferent health that year. To help him while away the long hours in bed, I used to sit by his bed-side

and tell him stories. Sometimes, on his request, I used to carry him out to the verandah - this only when his mother was out of sight ; because she was afraid exposure to outside air would make him worse.

One day he asked me "Supposing, Vimalpachchi, my uncle (P A Pai) goes to the forest, does 'tapas' and God appears to him and says, "I'm pleased with you. Ask a boon and it shall be granted. And suppose uncle asks God to make Ramesh well, then I will surely get well, won't I ?"

I was very much taken aback by this query. But may be not more than Ramesh himself by my reply.

"If you're ill, why should your uncle go to the forest ?" I asked him. "Why not your father go ?"

Ramesh was 7 years old then and I seven years his senior.

Ramesh recovered soon enough. He was perfectly normal during our family visit to Bombay for Dr A V Baliga's wedding in 1933. All of us were very much excited about the wedding, about Bombay, about the voyage, about everything in fact. Once on deck, I found myself violently sea-sick. I was a young mother at that time with a baby in arms. Walking to the wash-basin to clean the baby's feeding bottle posed the biggest problem to me on board the ship. And there Ramesh and Balkrishna came to my rescue. Willing volunteers both, vying with each other in fact, they took turns to clean my baby's feeding bottle.

Even after all my brothers-in-law constructed their own houses and shifted to Manipal, Balkrishna, Ramesh and Saguni continued to stay with us in the Mukund Nivas house till they finished school. After matriculation, Balkrishna left for Bombay for higher studies. Saguni got married. Even though Ramesh stayed with his parents in Manipal, he was close to us. For one thing, his office was just next door. And at least once a day, he dropped in and spent some time, bringing us up to the minute, so to say, with his amusingly hilarious narration of all that happened in the past twenty-four hours. Then there were the picnics and the outings with Ramesh in the driving seat.

I remember one particular picnic to Malpe. As we went up the narrow Adi-Udupi stretch of road, there were Balkrishna and his wife Prema ahead

of us - in their brand new imported Sunbeam Talbot driving at snail's pace, talking to each other and gesticulating.

"Let's overtake them, Rameshanna, please," cried the children. (We were in an old Ford) Ramesh accelerated and went on horning. So engrossed was Balkrishna in his discussion, he did not notice who was clamoring for way from behind. Only when we overtook them, they found out who were in the other car. A bit chagrined, they tried to overtake us, but failed and drew up as we were carrying our picnic basket and things to the sea-shore.

"If I'd known it was you," Balkrishna flared at Ramesh, "I wouldn't 've given way. I assumed he was a drunk the way you kept on horning and I was afraid for the safety of my new car. Otherwise..... "

"Only now, you know, don't you, Anna, that it wasn't anyone drunk, but one who'd come here to drink".

At Ramesh's cool reply, all of us burst out laughing. Even Balkrishna couldn't keep a straight face. That was one instance I saw where a gentle reply did turn away wrath.

He had and still has a way with him, Ramesh has. He does not tread on anyone's toes. Even when he teases - and he can be a big tease, at times -- one cannot get annoyed with him.

Over six decades have passed since I joined mother Yashoda's household. Much has happened in between; much has changed. But through all the vicissitudes of life, Ramesh has stood by us through thick and thin. I know we can rely on him always. May God bless him.



All brothers and all sisters --

Satish, Ganesh, Ramesh, Anant, Suguna, Varada, Lilly, Taram.

RAMESHANNA AS I SEE HIM

TARA KUDVA

Mrs. Tara D Kudva, youngest sister of Ramesh Pai.

It is but natural for each and every younger sister to have special feelings for her elder brother even were he not such an extraordinary person. But when that elder brother is Rameshanna with his engaging manners, obliging nature, unruffled temper under all circumstances, his heart-warming concern for others, his sense of humour at times though he is preoccupied, his humility and self-effacement, then you know what Rameshanna is to me, his youngest sister.

Personally I am not surprised that to lots and lots of other people, too, Rameshanna is someone very very special. The reason is Rameshanna meets and treats everyone as if he or she were someone special to him.

I think I began to have a better understanding and appreciation of his personality 41 years ago in June 1953.

Kasturba Medical College was just being founded then. Ofcourse I had seen him working on that project since the preceding so many months. But when KMC became a reality, his involvement with it was total. He was busy from dawn, receiving the professors, inviting them for breakfast or lunch and taking them to their new quarters. These highly qualified specialists were used to city life and conveniences. Rameshanna personally attended to the thousand and one small but essential details of getting these doctors settled

in Manipal - an almost primitive Manipal then and in the full fury of the south-west monsoon.

Mattresses for this professor's house; Okay, they were sent from the house. No water in another's house; provision was made for it immediately. One complained of a leaky roof; a second of stuck window shutters and a third of something else, on and on it went ad infinitum. Finally, after every single need was met and every complaint attended to, Rameshanna returned home in the evening. Shantivanni met him at the door and said, there's not a drop of water in the house and the taps aren't running. "God" Rameshanna heaved a sigh and exclaimed "Shanti, you, too!" which reminded you of Julius Caesar's "Et tu, Brute".

I am sure most of the professors still remember that first year of KMC and most of the students too. For Rameshanna cared for them, too, and attended to their needs just as conscientiously as he did to those of the teachers. Professor or student, he listened to their complaints patiently and set about solving them.

If the student happened to be the child of someone known to Rameshanna or Shantivanni, then there was no limit to the liberties such students took in their house. It was open house to them. They dropped in, made themselves comfortable, got busy on the phone without so much as a "May I?" etc., and ofcourse, partook of food. If a lady student is homesick she is at Rameshanna's house. A student depressed; Shantivanni promptly took him or her to the Sri Mahakali Temple at Ambalpadi.

I remember a day when I walked into Rameshanna's house when a party was in progress. Rameshanna, Shantivanni and the children were singing "Happy Birthday". It turned out that the birthday was that of a medical student. "They are so far away from home and their parents. We are just trying to make things less difficult for them". Rameshanna or Shantivanni would explain. It looked as if they had adopted the students, so completely did they belong to the students and the students to them.

Recently, I had occasion to meet Dr Jaya Bhat, now working in Manipal Hospital, Bangalore. She narrated some of her recollections of Rameshanna during her stay in Manipal as a KMC student - his readiness and willingness to help, his easy accessibility to all students in his house at all hours of the day and innumerable speeches of his, which she had listened to.

He invariably mentioned his deep sense of indebtedness and extreme good fortune in working with and for Dr T M A Pai, T A Pai etc. She said she marvelled at him and his humility. She happens to know that his own contribution to all Manipal institutions, commercial and educational, is considerable.

Not just students and professors alone, it was everyone, every single one Rameshanna met that he felt kinship with. And in this, Shantivanni has been his true 'Ardhangi'. I remember an occasion when we got news of a bus accident near Manipal. Shantivanni immediately sent her children to the accident site to check if any help was needed and to donate blood if necessary.

I have not seen Rameshanna lose his temper even once. Nor have I heard him utter a harsh word - not even to servants. However trying the situation, he keeps his cool and keeps smiling. If the driver is not on the spot when needed, without any ado and without a word of complaint, Rameshanna gets into the driving seat and starts the vehicle, all the while keeping a lively conversation going if there is company.

Rameshanna has always been a sort of Public Relations Officer for the Kasturba General Hospital. "Come to Manipal" he invites whosoever he meets and explains about the medical facilities, the beautiful weather and other side attractions like proximity to the temple at Udupi where Madhavacharya installed the Sri Krishna idol, brought all the way from distant Dwarka; Sri Shankaracharya's Mookambika temple at Kollur, the Sharada one at Sringeri. "Come for a health check-up to Manipal" Rameshanna would insist "and enjoy all the sight-seeing in the neighbouring places". Everyone says it is an interesting and enlightening experience if one accompanies Mrs. Ramesh Pai to the 'Anatomy Block'.

I have always loved to cook and serve food to Rameshanna. I have had this good fortune lots of times and every single time it has been a privilege and a pleasure. Not only does he appreciate and relish every single item, he explains about the nutritional content of the dishes. It is so relaxing to hear him at the dining table.

Rameshanna is gifted with a great sense of humour-whether at small and select get togethers or at big parties and functions, he makes others laugh. He always has a store of humorous episodes to entertain his audience with.

In the good old days of my childhood, marriages used to be a leisurely affair spread over a period of two to three days. I remember many an occasion when he involuntarily burst into the appropriate songs at the relevant time of the rituals. Rameshanna used to be the life and soul of the close family gathering during such ceremonies. He even used to conduct a Hari Katha Kalakshepa with film songs strung into the narration. He had everyone in splits over the ludicrous twist he gave either to an episode or meaning of a song. Of course he is very much at ease meeting people and chatting with them, be it an infant or a child, an adult or an elderly person, someone in high position or low. He can carry on a conversation with any one and on topics of his or her individual interest.

Any one in his circle not feeling too good ! Rameshanna at once takes him to the hospital and arranges with doctors for full investigation and treatment. I had this experience once.

Rameshanna and Shanthivanni still keep open house. Call on him in person and he comes out instantly without waiting to put on his shirt or run a comb through his hair. Call him on the phone and he takes it, whether it be the middle of night or he be at a meal or in the midst of party or meeting. Write to him and back comes an answer. It is almost like dropping a coin into one of those modern machines, where you collect your weight card or milk or whatever.

Scores of friends and relatives receive Rameshanna's greeting cards promptly on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries so much so, my husband used to remark that if he did not get a card from Rameshanna on his birth day he would seriously start doubting whether it was his birth day at all.

Mention a problem to Rameshanna and he has a ready solution. A job for someone, a seat in a school or college for someone else, a suitable match for a third or may be just some information for a fourth - the needs may be varied, most of them will be met. And if Rameshanna is not in a position to give the exact thing wanted, he always has an alternative and a second best.

Rameshanna is a blessed person that way. God has not only given him the opportunity and the means to grant favours to others; He has also given Rameshanna a large heart that willingly responds to any appeal from anyone.

He is one person, of whom one may say in the words of Abraham Lincoln "with malice towards none and affection towards all."

All his life Rameshanna has been at it - helping others at all times and in all ways he can. The true boy scout that he is, he is prepared always. "Work is Worship" he believes. "Nobody is a stranger here, my child" said Sri Sharadamani Devi, the Holy Mother "The whole world is your own". Rameshanna follows this to the letter. He has taken the world to heart. He is a true citizen of the world.

May God bless him. Some people may think I am a hero worshipper. But this is the one blessing that I have got (a gene from late Upendra Pai) my father i.e. to see roses in a plant and not the thorns. Even a bright sun suffers an eclipse.



Dr. T M A Pai felicitating Ramesh as the President of the Rotary Club of Udupi.

TREASURED MOMENTS

NIRMALA R PAI

Mrs. Nirmala M. Pai D/o Sri T R A Pai, youngest brother of Ramesh Pai's father Upendra Ananth Pai.

Whichever way you look at it, Rameshanna is a VVVIP. He is Chairman and Managing Director of big commercial and industrial concerns. He is on the Board of Directors of even other bigger concerns. Committees on which he presided over or served as a member are countless. In business circles of the country he has proved his mettle. In contributing to the field of education he has made his mark. He served as Director of Rotary International from 1992-94. But being important or well-known hardly makes anyone popular.

Rameshanna's greatness is in his simplicity and humility. It is by his good deeds, his gentle words and his endearing ways that he has won love. We all grew up in the same house. He strove all the time to put everyone at ease, to make our little world a brighter, happier place. Effortlessly too, as it seemed. But to begin at the beginning.

The house in which we were born and growing up, Mukund Nivas, was an abode of joy and mirth, of love and laughter, of fun and music and of peace and harmony, too.

Nobody who stayed there in the 30s and 40s is ever likely to forget it. Its very air was soaked with happiness and hospitality. It could have been called Anand Nivas or Sri Nivas; veritably Goddess Sri blessed the house.

We all lived there together - my grandmother and her four sons with their wives and children. The house was always full - what with relatives and

“sambhandis” at the Makara Sankranti, Paryayam and Lakshadeepam festivals, with the Syndicate Bank Directors at Board meeting times, and with relatives of patients (from outside Udupi) admitted in my doctor uncle’s nursing home at all times. Everybody was warmly welcomed. A joyous atmosphere prevailed at all times.

Snatches of song sung or hummed were heard almost as often and as regularly as the peal of the huge bell in the nearby parish church. Bapama’s five children had very good voices and an excellent ear for music. They sang and accompanied themselves as well as others on the harmonium, which they could play with ease new and unfamiliar tunes. Rameshanna’s mother too was an expert harmonium player and so is mine. Music was an integral part of the daily schedule- all kinds of it, devotional, light, classical and lullabies. All had a very fine sense of humour. It was a treat to hear them narrate incidents vividly mimicking and monoacting. Bapama’s own repertoire of proverbs and anecdotes was considerable. There never was a dull moment.

We children especially had a gala time. To Bapama’s four sons and their wives we children were never "yours" or "mine", but always "ours" - to be loved, cared for, guided, trained, encouraged and made much of. When anyone - be he an adult or child- spoke, he or she was to listen with attention.

We are three sisters and I am the eldest. From the beginning Rameshanna has had a different way with each one of us. To me he has always been the affectionate elder brother, unfailingly considerate, obliging and understanding so much so unconsciously I got into the habit of approaching him for favours big and small.

My middle sister, Parimala, and Rameshanna used to behave as if they were equals and of the same age. I remember an incident when we sisters were all school going children. Rameshanna mailed a post card to Parimala from Manipal saying he had some work there and wouldn’t be coming over to Udupi that day. This was because she was a little sore that she did not receive any letters from anyone. A very small gesture in itself.

It showed his thoughtfulness. He understood her need and cared enough to respond. She walked on air that whole day, proclaiming to one and all that Rameshanna wasn’t coming to Udupi that day and that he had written to her to that effect.

With my youngest sister, Leela, he was an altogether different person - he was her baby. At the first sign of her crying in her infancy, Rameshanna would rush to her and placing his head in her lap, pretend to wail "Amma, oh Amma". Forgetting her troubles, she would start mothering him with "What's the matter, child? Why're you crying?" At his wedding, Rameshanna introduced Leela to his bride, saying "This is my little mother, I've two mothers," Later, Shantivanni used to remark jocularly, "I'm more scared of annoying my little mother-in-law than the bigger one."

We children had a lovely toyset of kitchen utensils with which all of us played at house-keeping, cooking etc. To make this pretense game more convincing, I felt I had to be dressed in a sari (I must've been 7 then).

I told my mother I wanted a sari, Bapama and Amma decided that a stitched ankle-length skirt with "pallav" was just the thing for me. It was soon got ready and I was happy in it for a while. But after some time, I wanted a real sari- just like the adults'.

"Bapama", I said as Amma was combing my hair on the circular front verandah, "I want a sari".

And Bapama answered, "You tell your eldest uncle. He has the looms and the weavers". Just then, the car from Manipal drew up outside.

"The stitched things's no good, Mantha," I told P A Pai uncle as he entered "I want a sari, a real sari".

"Why not? you'll have one," Mantha assured me.

Within a week I had my sari; it was a prized possession. Like the P A Pai handlooms advertisement proclaimed: "It's not enough for the sari to cover the body; it must capture the mind". I liked the sari so much to this day over half a century later, I remember its pattern, colour-scheme, border and "Pallav". I was grateful to my uncle for his gift of my childhood wish.

P A Pai uncle was the one who led the evening prayers at dusk in the shrine. After my uncles shifted to Manipal, Amma wanted us, children, to carry on the evening bhajan programme. Under her guidance, we sang daily.

Come summer holidays, Amma sent us to our paternal aunt Marthekka's house to learn more songs. At Marthekka's we would copy out the words of

a new song, learn its tune and practise it - but only as long as she was present. The minute she left to milk her cow, off we'd run down the lane on our way home to play.

Later, at dusk, when Amma wanted us to sing "bhajans" we would demur, "Oh no, not again. We've already finished." But Amma would insist and we would slowly drag our unwilling feet towards the shrine.

"What's this, Rameshanna ?", Parimala would sigh dolefully.

"What's this, Rameshanna ?", she would repeat smiling ruefully.

"What's this, Parimala ?", he would say, a slight suggestion of a smile on his face.

"Oh Rameshanna", she'd laugh.

And, "Oh Parimala", he'd echo.

Whether something that happened pleased Parimala or annoyed her, this exchange was a routine with her since Rameshanna was her confidant.

Rameshanna felt our sense of imposition. He found a ploy to make every one happy.

"You start the bhajan now", Rameshanna told us. "Before you're through I'll be back with ice-cream, which we'll offer as 'naivedya'".

Ice-cream as reward for singing bhajans worked like magic. True to his word, Rameshanna rushed off with a container to the Ramakrishna Theatre where they had bought Udupi's very first ice-cream machine. He was back in a jiffy as the theatre was only a stone's throw away so to say, but by the time the ice-cream was offered to God, ladled into bowls and reached our hands it was little better than flavoured milk. This happened day after day, we were quite happy, but Rameshanna wasn't satisfied. On a day when there was no matinee show, he brought the ice-cream machine home. He and Amma took turns turning the handle with us children looking on entranced. After what seemed an eternity, the ice cream was ready. So heavenly delicious was it that no ice-cream I've consumed since has equaled the thrilling delight I experienced in tasting that first home-made cup.

Around this time electricity came to Udupi. The electric company decorated our shrine-room with small multi-coloured bulbs for a few days. My sister and I did not tire watching this never-ending marvel. We noticed though with each successive day less number of bulbs were twinkling.

This was reported to the electrician. As he was checking the connections his hand must have come in contact with an uninsulated part of the live wire. There he was in the shrine-room, groaning horribly and writhing on the floor. And there we were - Bapama, Amma, my sister and I - rooted to the spot, hopelessly looking on, not knowing what to do. There were no men-folk in the house. Suddenly, Rameshanna entered the house and hearing the commotion came straight to the shrine. One look and he rushed upstairs and switched off the main. I shudder to think what would have happened if Rameshanna hadn't turned up in the nick of time.

End of February 1951, we were all preparing for the exams - three of us Dineshanna, Mohan and myself for the university intermediate and Ramdas and Parimala for the S S L C. For both exams that year "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens was one of the books for non-detailed study. Almost on the eve of our exams, the only theatre in Udupi ran the picture for a single day. It had been a much awaited event what with all schools requesting for the movie to be shown since months. The whole student population was agog. So were literature - lovers and regular movie-goers. Nobody was going to miss it.

In anticipation of the show, the five of us, who had studied the powerfully moving novel could talk of nothing else for days on end. Over and over again we discussed the cruelty of the French aristocrats and the ill-treatment of the poor suppressed which led to the French Revolution; how Dr. Manatte tried to right the wrongs done to his patient and her family and got thrown into the cursed Bastille prison: how his gentle daughter's life was affected and how her righteous husband suffered for no fault of his and the unexpected climax-Sydney Carton's supreme self sacrifice. Our combined study and endless discussions were always carried on in our front verandah, Rameshanna's office-room next door was within hearing distance. He also caught the Tale of Two Cities excitement. What were the details of the story, he didn't know; he acquainted himself with these by asking us.

On the day of the show, all five of us went to the theatre and occupied our seats on the last row upstairs. The theatre was almost full and fast filling up. When Rameshanna with a couple of friends entered the auditorium there was not even a single chair vacant; within seconds they were accommodated

in chairs placed in the aisle. Soon the aisle was filled up too. And still people were coming in. A friend of Rameshanna entered with his wife. The picture had started and was proceeding fast. Audience interest was mounting each minute. Rameshanna's friend's wife managed to get a seat from an obliging friend whose child was shifted to the mother's lap. The husband was leaving promising to pick her up at the end of the show.

Suddenly Rameshanna got up and surrendered his seat to the gentleman who protested over and over again. Rameshanna would not hear of it and firmly pushing him into the seat, left. We, who knew how much he wanted to see the movie were shocked and dismayed. His sacrifice seemed as good as Sydney Carton's, who after all, was but a fictitious character. That's another characteristic of Rameshanna's : without a moment's hesitation or a second thought, he gives up what he has and never mentions it again.

Swami Swahanandaji, President, Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, Hollywood centre, who met Rameshanna for just a few minutes was very much impressed by Rameshanna's interpretation of the Puranic episodes and his descriptions of the gods and goddesses. A learned scholar and a double M.A. himself, Swamiji said, " Ramesh Pai's ideas are so original I've not heard anything like it from anyone before. It was so new, so refreshing I'd love to meet him for a longer time and hear his views".

Asked what these descriptions were, Rameshanna said, "First is Lord Ganesh, who is the remover of obstacles. Ganeshji is described as having a human body topped by an elephant head. You know man is the only intellectual amongst all God's creation and elephant the strongest. Ganeshji combines the physical might of the elephant with the intellectual faculty of homo sapiens.

"Why then does Ganeshji not have an elephant body and a human head? Because one must speak less and hear more and this purpose would be defeated if Ganeshji had a human head and a human tongue with the elephant head. He cannot talk, but listens to everything through his extra large ears.

"India is a land with an agricultural economy and rats are the pests which destroy the harvested crops. They must be kept under control. That is why a rat is Ganeshji's selected conveyance - He rides it and it is kept under check. Also, Ganeshji has a cobra - double checking the rat - at hand, wound right

round his ample waist. So Ganeshji signifies the best in God's creation - man's mind and animal might. Obstacles disappear in His presence. Prosperity will be a certainty - you have only to look at his full stomach.

Next comes Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. She is pictured as standing in a lotus in water. Does it not show the unstable nature of wealth ? How long can a woman balance herself standing in a lotus in water ?

In contrast is Saraswathi, the goddess of knowledge, who is always pictured as firmly seated on a rock - surely no other base could be steadier. She has a book in one hand and a "Veena " in another. She is goddess of not knowledge alone, but of music and all the fine arts.

Rameshanna has that graceful Midas touch which transforms the unpleasant into the pleasing, the difficult into the easy, the hard into the soft, the unbending into the pliable. He is so natural, outgoing and helpful all tensions just seem to loosen their hold on their own in his presence. It is like removing a blinding veil from one's eyes. One wonders what the hassles that haunted one were and where they are now.

Around a year ago, Rameshanna rang from the Madras airport and told me where he had come from and where he was going before returning to Manipal only to fly to USA via Bombay. Even to me, used as I am to his busy travel schedules, his itinerary was dizzying. ●

"Tell me, Rameshanna", I asked him, "Don't you find all this a bit hectic?"

"No, not at all," he said firmly and went on to explain, "Actually, you know, I do all things very, very leisurely, only," he added almost lamely as it were, "Only the plane flies fast." Shaking my head, I could only laugh. That was Rameshanna all over.

Rameshanna is a blessed person. He is that one individual who has the means, the inclination and the opportunity to help others at all times. There seems to be a 'seismoscope' like instrument oscillating somewhere in his personality. Otherwise it is difficult to explain his uncanny gift of sensing other people's mental upsets or emotional turmoils. He responds and responds promptly. He goes all out to soothe, to relieve, to solve and to cheer and unobtrusively too. Only the beneficiary knows and calls down Heaven's blessings on Rameshanna as I have done again and yet once again all my life.



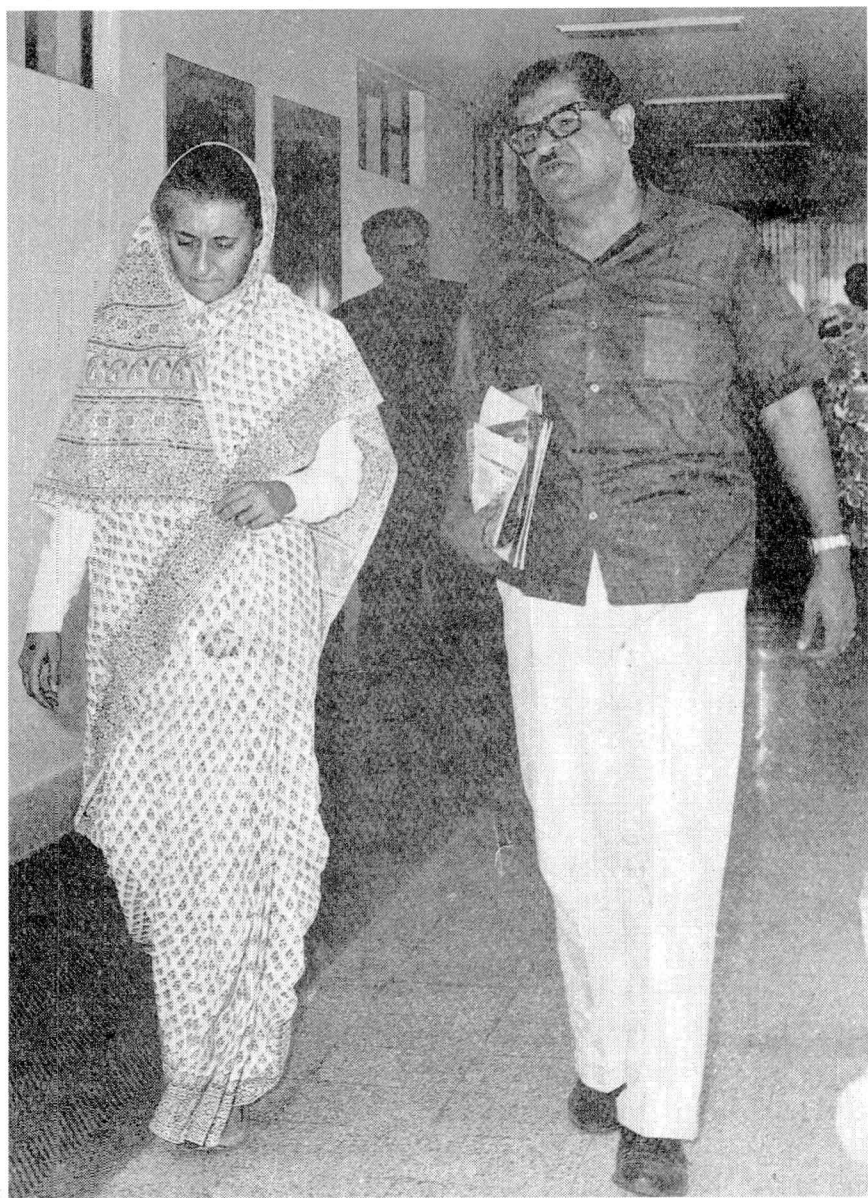
Sri B. D. Jatti, former Vice -President of India being garlanded by Ramesh Pai.

RENDERED YEOMAN SERVICE

Dr. B. D. JATTI

He was Governor of Orissa during 1972-74. He held the august post of Vice President of India from 1974 to 1979. He was the acting President of India from February to July, 1977. He now lives in Bangalore.

I know Sri T. Ramesh U Pai almost for the last 3 decades. I am glad to know that you are going to felicitate Sri Pai on his completion of 70 years of useful life. He has rendered yeoman service in the fields of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance, Industry and Community Service through Rotary and other various institutions. I came in contact with Dr. T.M.A. Pai and Sri T. Ramesh Pai in connection with starting a Medical College at Manipal, when I was Deputy Minister for health and Labour in the erstwhile Bombay state. He is kind and generous in his out-look. I wish him long life, sound health and prosperity for serving the Nation and the people in general for many, many more years.



Ramesh with Indira Gandhi visiting Manipal.

MULTI - FACETED ARE HIS TALENTS

V. R. KRISHNA IYER

V.R. Krishna Iyer has been a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, during 1973-80. He was Minister for Law, Home, Irrigation and Power, Kerala State during 1957-59. He was Judge of Kerala Highcourt from 1968 to 1971, Member of Law Commission during 1971-73

Dr. T.M.A. Pai was a person with creative vision and infinite capacity to implement his apparently impossible ideas and plans. But during his time he showed the way to fulfil selfless ambitions for society's well-being. Ramesh Pai truly carried the torch forward, pursued the same path and demonstrated how great things could be accomplished provided one had the commitment and capacious faculties. Sri Upendra Pai, brother of Dr. T M A Pai, was one of the two early founding fathers of Manipal Complex Institutions.

Ramesh Pai completed 70 years of life and has long years to go in the journey terrestrial. I have often wondered how Ramesh, in partnership with Ramdas, had made dreams come true. The spiritual orientation of Dr. T M A Pai is the secret of Ramesh - Ramdas success vis a vis the medical college which has made Manipal famous. The role of Ramesh Pai in this humanist adventure will be remembered as a wonder. I am reminded on this occasion of the great words I often quote from Robert Kennedy :

"Some men see things as they are and say why ? I dream things that never were and say why not ?"

The gratitude of the people is earned by hardwork devoted to their work, wealth and happiness. This was the ideal Shri Ramesh Pai had before him. He did not stop with being a visionary but moved with passion to achieve things which might look to ordinary persons as beyond reach. The Kasturba Medical College and Hospital with its many multi-dimensional expansions is breath-takingly astonishing. His personal and extra-ordinary familiarity with the developmental directions in the medical field often drew my admiration. He never bothered about ill-health or age but his health was part of the sacrifice he was willing to make to redeem the tryst with destiny that Manipal (if I may name that noble institution that way) had set for itself. Today, a marvellous service-oriented institution of health education and medicare caters to a large community of the rich and the poor who are treated alike with skills which are rare and institutional attention beyond the grasp of the middle-class Indian. The two great cousins have done Manipal proud.

Nor was Ramesh Pai confined to the Manipal magnificence. Beyond the field of education and medical care, his indelible and creative hand shaped banking and finance as well. Indeed, Shri Upendra Pai and Dr.T.M.A.Pai were a paradigm in the field of banking as well, and Ramesh proved that he could fulfil the wishes and vision of Upendra and T.M.A, the great Pai brothers. Multi-faceted as his talents were, even in industrial enterprises, Ramesh Pai made contributions altho' I am not particularly familiar with that department of his activities. But I do know that ' service above self ' which is the motto of the Rotary International was actively adopted by Ramesh Pai in versatile ways. Of course, community service was in his blood and the Rotary movement claimed his energies in large measure. He became Rotary Governor and remains one of the great Rotarians of our country, pursuing in spirit and work the essence of that humanitarian international movement.

When oft I have met him at airports and other places he has regaled me with instructive conversation, lofty ideas of Indian developments and plans for the future of the country in this competitive world.

This fine human being is a close friend of mine. I like him, love him, admire him. Ramdas, his close cousin did strive with him to make "Kasturba" a medical giant. I must conclude with what commonly occurs to me when I think of great human beings and their achievements :

"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form, in moving, how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! " (Shakespeare)

I know the mellowed wisdom and finer faculties of Ramesh are the need of our nation and I am sure that, with all the limitations and hassles of life, he is spiralling forward with spiritual insight and methods of material transformation of ideas and ideals. May he live long as all of us have a vested interest in his successes which are dedicated to society in general.



Ramesh in Moscow - As a guest of the Soviet India Cultural Society (1961).

A GREETING

DHIRUBHAI H. AMBANI

Shri Dhirubhai Ambani is the Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited.

"You are a many splendoured personality, a helping hand, always smiling and a caring heart. Shanti has contributed a lot in all your achievements. May God shower His choicest blessings on you both on this day and you live for many more fruitful years.

Kokila, Mukesh, Anil and all others in the family join me in wishing you happiness and may God continue to shower health, happiness and contentment."



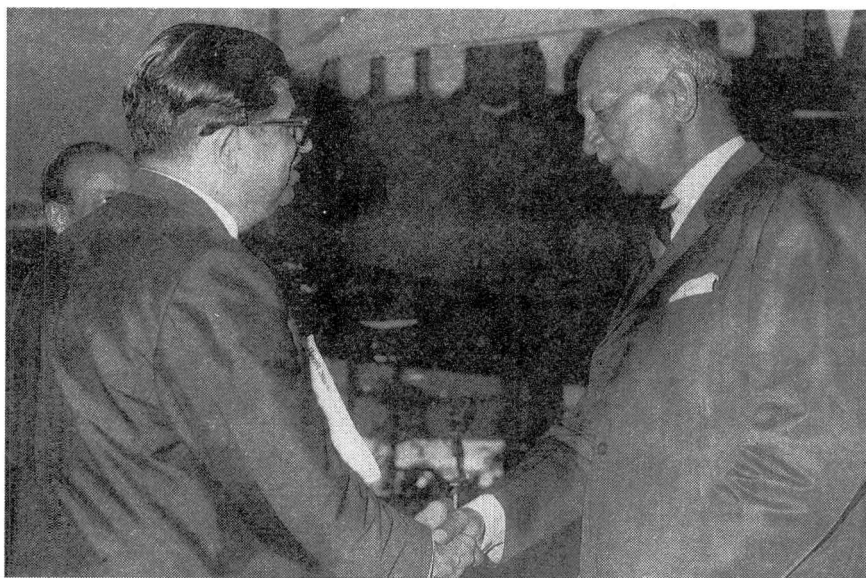
Sri Dharma Vira, Governor of Karnataka along with Sri Ramesh Pai.

A VERSATILE PERSON

K. M. MATHEW

Mathew is the Chief Editor of Malayala Manorama Publications. He has been part-time Chairman of Press Trust of India and INS and Director of Samachar. He is a member of Central Press Advisory Committee, Press Council of India and founder trustee of Press Institute of India. He lives at Kottayam.

My association with Ramesh Pai is more than quarter of a century and I found him a versatile person brimming with new ideas not only in business but in almost every field. He showed his remarkable capacity in developing with his relations a big empire. It has to be specially mentioned that many of the business institutions are also service oriented and the Pai family as a whole has a desire to help the people at large. His name will be remembered as a pioneer in many ways.



With Gen. Cariappa, First Commander in Chief of India.

INDUSTRY AND RAMESH PAI

MALCOLM S. A. DISESHIAH

Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah was Asst. Secretary General of Unesco Paris. He was the Director of Madras Institute of Development Studies from 1971 to 1978 and lately became its Chairman. He was Rajya Sabha Member from 1978 to 1984.

The country's industrial development has been a remarkably rapid one over the four and a half decades since our Independence. The main economic factors responsible for this unique development include the industrial policy resolution of 1952 and 1980, the plan priority given to industrial development in the 60s, 70s, and 80s, the rapid capital formation helped by the increasing high rate of savings and the growth of education, particularly in engineering and management through IITs and IIMs and other such efforts as those at Manipal.

This rapid industrial development took place in the face of proliferating state controls through permits, licenses and regulations of almost every aspect of industry. By the early 80s, the prolificacy of controls was recognised to be self defeating, serving to promote a bureaucratic stranglehold on the economy, and offering a tempting seed-bed for widespread nepotism and growing corruption. Hence the movement for the decontrol of the economy was begun in the early 80s and liberalisation of the economy, which applies in particular to industrial production, marketing, exports and imports and the opening up of the economy in general.

This macro economic picture should be filled out and supplemented by micro economic programmes, particularly in the industrial field. In this Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were the lead parties. But this is still a rather wide coverage of industries. Under the able entrepreneur leadership of the Pai family, the Manipal division of modern Karnataka state developed as an important and striking island, promoting the savings tradition of the local people, developing fast expanding banking and insurance policies and instruments, and make cost effective feasibility studies leading to the establishment of industry at all three levels - tiny and small, medium and large. In fact Manipal is in the forefront of local area initiatives which promoted the integrated growth and development of industry and banking as an example and model which other local areas in the country and state have attempted to follow.

In this effort Ramesh Pai stands out for the care and attention he gave to every detail of the integrated development of banking and industrial finance in Manipal and the Bombay area, promoting the growth of education from the school to the university level, and in the setting up of a high quality medical care system which has today been taken up by the corporate sector of the country and its patrons, the NRIs. For all this, we owe an unrequitable debt to Ramesh Pai who completes his 70 years and whose work and contribution to the several facets of Indian society will continue to serve as an example to all of us for a long time.

A NATURAL LEADER

S.JAGANNATHAN

Shri S. Jagannathan is ICS (Retired) and now living in Madras. Among the senior positions held by him were as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and as director of IMF.

Shri Ramesh Pai is one for whom I have the highest regard and admiration; I particularly value my longstanding friendship with him. In addition to unfailing inherent courtesy, a natural unvarying consideration for others and their points of view, he has all the other qualities which win him friends in every part of India and the world over and drawn from all walks of life. He is a natural leader in his part of India, holding the unswerving loyalty of all his community as I may loosely refer to them all. He has admirably shouldered, in his turn, and ably continued his family's ("The Pairs of Manipal") outstanding yeoman service to the Manipal region in numerous ways, most notably in the fields of education and medical care where not many, at best only a few Captains of Industry, have made a contribution. As I know personally, he is undoubtedly a person who always has the consideration in mind to avail every opportunity and be of help to others whenever he can. I am sure the number must be legion who have received help from him and remember it thankfully. I would also like quickly to mention his outstanding successes in the fields of Banking, Finance and Industry where his unsurpassed reputation for integrity and dependability and natural shrewdness and sagacity have helped him to make a mark. His has been a contribution of great significance in what has proved literally to be a transformation of Manipal.



Sri S. Nijalingappa, a veteran leader of Karnataka honouring Ramesh Pai.

CAN I ASSESS RAMESH ?

RAJENDRA K SABOO

Shri Rajendra K Saboo was President, of Rotary International 1991-92 He is a resident of Chandigarh.

One of the best statements to describe Ramesh, I heard, was, "When Ramesh starts on something there is no stopping". Everyone knowing Ramesh will endorse the statement whole-heartedly. Whether it is an industrial activity, or a humanitarian project, or development of Manipal, or even a personal pursuit of a cause, once he starts he would refuse to be side-tracked or slowed down. Even in story telling, his favourite pastime, once he gets on then even his wife Shanti's signals are ineffective on him. Seriously, Ramesh is a dreamer and goes out single-mindedly to make the dreams come true.

I was club president the year Ramesh was a Rotary District Governor. I had not known him then but had heard of him as a very persuasive and result-oriented Rotary leader. When I finally met him in early seventies I found this unassuming simple personality had something uncommon, out of average friendly attraction.

I have been in contact with Ramesh for long time; to my pleasure, last few years have particularly brought us closer. I have seen him in action in various areas. As an educationist, his commitment is unswerving; as an industrialist, his optimism is infectious; as a social worker his sincerity is

transparent; as a thinker his views and voice are candid; as a speaker he is full of wit and humour; his simple living is an example and his feet are firmly rooted to the ground. I have seen him taking visionary flights and one such occasion is when he thinks of Manipal; he is full of passion when he talks of this once-bald-hill. I have seen him working as a Rotarian and as a leader he is a team player. If you happen to be celebrating your birthday in his presence his joyful excitement will be so great that he would sing all the verses of "Happy Birthday" to you. I have found him drawing his strength from his faith and spiritual learnings in which his wife is a great influence on him. In fact, simplicity personified, Shanti is Ramesh's true life partner who completes his personality.

How can I assess Ramesh ? He is not just what he is - to me he is more than that - he is a friend. And his friendship I value. And yet when one realises the depth of his knowledge and wisdom one understands that he is the product of years of hard and meaningful work. He has earned the milestone of his life journey well. May God bless Ramesh to cover many more milestones happily and healthily.

VERILY A LION IN WINTER

KALYAN BANERJEE

Shri Kalyan Banerjee is the Director of. M/s United Phosphorus Ltd and currently he is a Director of the Board of Rotary International (1995-97.). He lives at VAPI Gujrat.

I have known Ramesh Pai well only for the past 3 years. Before that I had known him from a distance - as the scion of a great family.... But over the past 3 years, I have come to know and admire and love some rather different facets of the man. I know him now as a warm, humorous, compassionate, perceptive and unassumingly simple man - a person who is eager to share his vast storehouse of knowledge and experience in fields of education, medicine, finance, industry and service. He has been a fine leader of men. If there were only a score of persons like him in the country, perhaps the scenario in the fields of education and health care would have been different. His gift for starting institutions - be they financial or industrial - is god-given. Equally admirable is his ability to nurture such institutions to maturity and then to hand them over to others to run, though keeping a benign eye on them, even as he seeks to initiate other ventures.

It has been a privilege to know him and to call him a friend, to learn from him and to marvel at his multi-faceted personality.

Verily, he is a Lion in winter. May it be a long, long winter.



Sri D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari, Dharmasthala honouring Ramesh Pai on his 60th birthday.

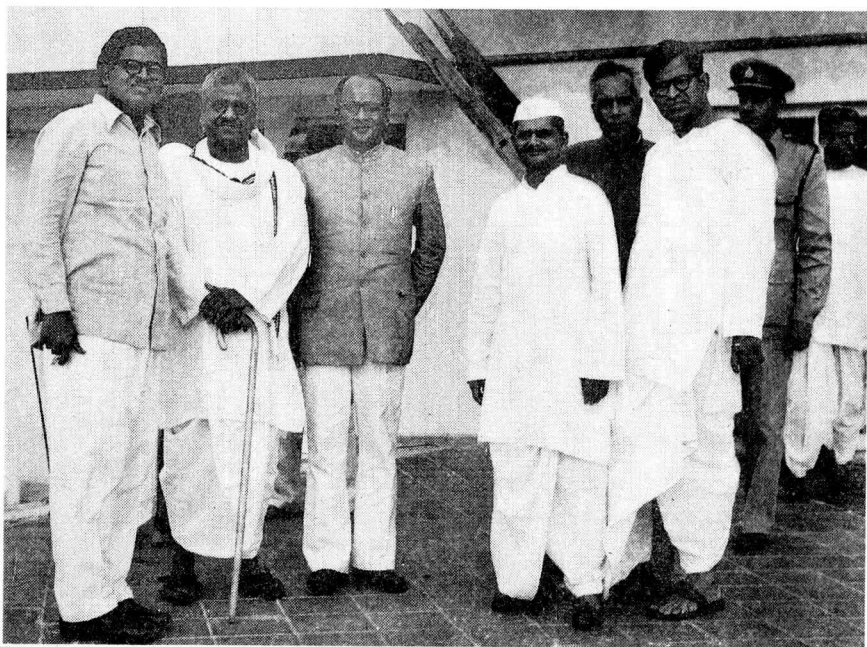
EXEMPLIFIED THE BEST IDEALS OF ROTARY

M. V. ARUNACHALAM

Shri M.V. Arunachalam is Chairman, EID Parry (India) Limited and is based at Madras.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr Ramesh Pai for the last several decades. We were Governors in our respective Rotary Districts in the year 1970-71. Ramesh was the Charter Secretary of the Rotary Club of Udupi when it was established in 1958 and the late Dr.T.M.A.Pai, uncle of Ramesh, was the Charter President. Ramesh's life and work exemplified the best ideals of Rotary and it is no wonder he rose to be Rotary International Director during the years 1992-94. The Pais of Manipal have become a legend. Ramesh continued the good work of his uncle, the late Dr.T.M.A.Pai and his brother, Mr.T.A.Pai in not only establishing but also running, very efficiently, a number of educational institutions in medicine, law and management. The services of the Pai family of converting a rocky place on the West Coast, which was barren, into a veritable centre of excellence in higher learning in medicine, engineering, law and education are indeed commendable. The industrial and financial institutions, with which Ramesh has been associated, have continued to prosper and grow, thanks to his leadership. I have always felt that Ramesh has held that leadership does not confer rank but entails responsibility. He has been diligent in the discharge of such responsibility. He has been fortunate in having the unstinted support of his wife, Shanthi.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish him many more years of health, happiness and prosperity.



With Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister of India.

HIS PROGRESSIVE ORIENTATION

K. L. CHUGH

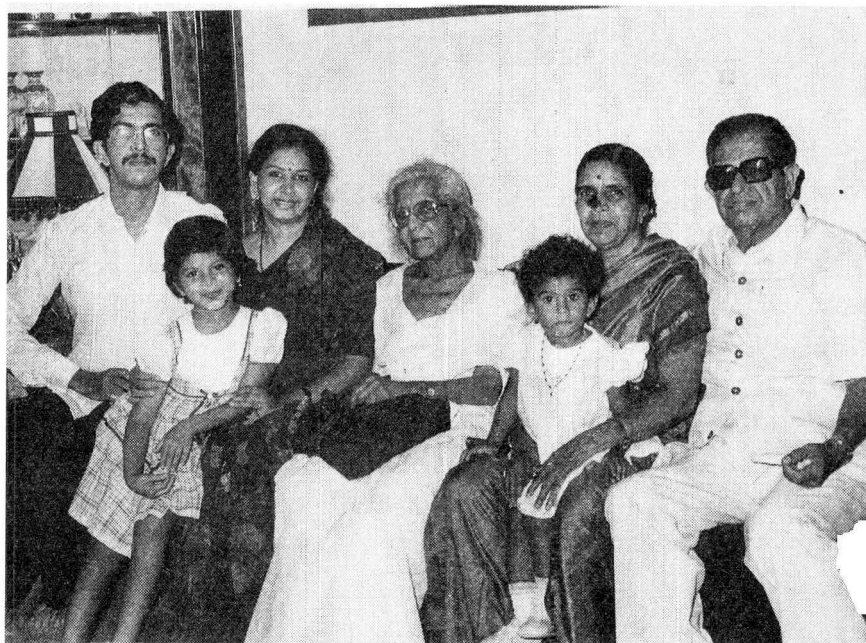
Shri Kishen Lal Chugh is Chairman of ITC Limited based at Virginia House, Chowringhee, Calcutta.

It has been a great privilege for me to know Ramesh Pai over the past years, particularly on account of our association with Manipal.

Like T.A. Pai, the present patriarch of the well-known Pai family, Mr. T. Ramesh U.Pai, has carved a distinct niche for himself in the annals of history through the glorious growth of the Manipal Group of Institutions. He shares certain family traits with his uncle, brothers and cousins in terms of a spirit of enterprise, a progressive orientation, a good application to work and refusal to admit defeat. Ramesh Pai has been a continuity to the philosophy of the founder of Manipal in that "all well-conceived ideas implemented with great dedication, devotion and dynamism get people's support and co-operation".

In the last decade, he has provided a keen leadership in the diverse fields of education, healthcare, finance, industry and community service. His sense of humour and human values has endeared him to one and all.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the ITC Group, I extend well-wishes to Ramesh Pai on his 70th birthday. May this occasion bring a new dawn to the recent past such that the Pairs of Manipal can continue to be emulated in the Indian social development context. As philosophers, humanitarians, visionaries and educators they have indeed been a testimony to the power of self-regeneration ingrained in the traditional society of our country.



Ranesh and family with renowned freedom fighter Aruna Asaf Ali.

HIS KEEN INTEREST IN SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

VASANTRAO S. DEMPO

Shri Vasantao S. Dempo is Chairman, Dempo Group of Companies and headquartered at Dempo House, Panjim, Goa.

When I think about Mr. Ramesh Pai, thoughts regarding his multifarious activities dominate my mind. Nerve-Centre of these activities is at well known Manipal which is combination of great centres of learning, ultra-modern medical facilities, Banking and Finance, Industry, Social Service etc. This unique complex is very well managed under Mr. Pai's able and foresighted leadership.

Manipal, which was originally a rocky land, was systematically transformed into a place of learning by the great visionary Dr.T.M.A.Pai. In fact, visiting Manipal Complex of Educational institutions which is a mini-university, is like accomplishing, a sojourn to an inspiring place of temples of learning which has produced men of eminence, who have been serving with distinction in their respective fields of activity within India and outside.

Managing the Academy of General Education and its institutions is really a monumental task. The magnitude of this work, planned efforts made and the amount of pains taken by the devoted band of untiring worthy colleagues led by Mr.Ramesh Pai are certainly commendable. One has to see to believe this. Spreading knowledge through private institutions in addition to Governmental efforts is essential in a developing country like ours.

Continuous flow of ailing persons from various parts of the country to Manipal to avail of specialised medical care is the testimony of how meticulous Mr.Pai's devoted colleagues and well managed set-up are in extending such required facilities with expertise and sympathetic touch which provide solace to hundreds of beneficiaries. It has become a most reliable place for availing of best medical services available there.

Banking and Financing activities managed under his guidance are another best example of efficiency with which Mr.Pai's organisation of talented men have excelled in their performance so as to ensure the place of prominence to the respective institutions.

Industrial activities undertaken by Mr.Pai's group, their objective of fulfilling social responsibilities and equipping people to face the emerging challenges are certainly laudable. Their performance in every sphere speaks for Mr.Ramesh Pai's wisdom and foresight.

It is happy augury to observe Mr.Pai's active participation in community service programmes and keen interest that he takes in Rotary Movement, Dr T M A Foundation's socio-cultural activities and other community services.

The Vidyadhiraj Award for the year 1992 given to him by His Holiness Shrimad Vidyadhiraj Teerth Shripad Vader Swamiji of Shri Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Mutt, in recognition of his meritorious services to Society in socio-economic, industrial and educational field was indeed a well deserved honour to a person of Mr.Ramesh Pai's stature.

HE IS A VIDWAN, A UNIVERSITY IN HIMSELF

K. MANMOHAN SHENOY

Shri Manmohan Shenoy is a former Chairman, UCO Bank and now lives in Madras.

As I pin down myself to pen down what I feel about Ramesh Bhavaji (as I always affectionately call him) I recall the famous words of Shakespeare :

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them ". And here is Ramesh Bhavaji who is a living example of having achieved the greatness in his own imaginative way.

It was in 1953 when I was just taking my first step to the long corridors of legal profession in the office of his father-in-law, Shri.B.Vaikunta Baliga, that I met Ramesh Bhavaji. At the time he was a modest humble and shy young person but his glittering eyes exhibited the make of a model man. With the passing of time and aquisition of name and fame, he shed his shyness but retained his humility and modesty.

Shortly thereafter I had an occasion to stay in their house "Chitra Kala Mansions" where I met his father Shri Upendra Anantha Pai who was an embodiment of simplicity and sincerity. Under the able and efficient guidance of his uncle Dr.T.M.A.Pai, Ramesh Bhavaji imbibed all the noble qualities of these great men and perfected himself in radiating the virtues of his sincerity, capacity, ability, sagacity, integrity and ingenuity all throughout

his life. He had a rare acumen of combining the oratorical skills of his father-in-law, Shri Baliga, simplicity of his father Shri U A Pai and the dynamism of his uncle Dr.T.M.A.Pai. True to the saying " A pessimist is one who sees problems in the opportunities and an optimist is one who sees opportunities in problems" , Ramesh Bhavaji saw plenty of opportunities in every problem that he came across and converted the same into an ever cherishable project of his dream world. Perhaps this quality in him enabled Ramesh Bhavaji to take from Dr.T.M.A.Pai the mantle of expanding the ever growing educational institutions of South Kanara.

Behind this towering strength of insatiable passion and dynamism for achieving the best in everything he undertook, Ramesh Bhavaji had a noble heart and mind to the suffering. He regularly visited the Kasturba Hospital to bring cheer to the in-patients of the hospital. As a Rotarian he rose from President of the Club to the Governor of the District only to become an international office-bearer.

His contribution to the growth of financial institutions, educational institutions as well as philanthropic outlets in and around Manipal is exemplary. I can only consider Ramesh Bhavaji as a university in himself as in these five decades of his march to success he had become a versatile man, an educationist, a financial wizard, an industrialist, an astute businessman and above all a noble social worker.

Nothing is new to know the secret of Ramesh Bhavaji becoming an international figure because : 'Vidwan Sarvathra Pujiyathe' and I have no hesitation in calling Ramesh Bhavaji a Vidwan.

As the saying goes, behind every great man stands a great woman and in this case it is Smt.Shanthi R.Pai (I call her Parvathi-in her maiden name) and they were complementary in all their activities. Ramesh Bhavaji owes much to her for what he is today and every person who has met this couple only say " They are made for each other". By harmonising the intellect, intuition, emotion and action, Ramesh Bhavaji has attained a star studded place in the galaxy of Sons of South Kanara and who will ever remain a cherishable role-model for many youngster. Oldest living persons may not be able to recall the likes of Ramesh Bhavaji, the youngest, however long he may live, may not be able to meet the likes of Ramesh Bhavaji.

A WARM-HEARTED HUMAN

S. J. COELHO

Shri S J Coelho IAS (Retd..) is Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Amar Dye-Chem Limited and is headquartered in Bombay.

Mr. Ramesh Pai has contributed immensely in the field of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance. Words cannot adequately describe or assess the contribution. The institutions which he has fostered and built with loving care, dedication and commitment will always stand as a lasting and monumental tribute to his foresight and leadership.

It is Ramesh Pai as a man who draws out respect and admiration of all those around him. As a friend and well-wisher, Mr.Pai has extended a helping hand to those around him and always with a smile. The depth of his friendliness, the spontaneous gestures of goodwill, understanding and graciousness will always characterise him as warm hearted human-being,a model for others to emulate and follow.

A TRUE ROTARIAN

F. T. KHORAKIWALA

Shri F.T. Khorakiwala is Chairman, Akbarally's and is headquartered in Bombay.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Ramesh Pai for quite some time. He put up an educational complex at Manipal and made it not only known nationally but even internationally. He could show through Manipal, how education can be successfully managed in the private sector. Similarly for medical care, he had successfully shown that medical care and hospitals can be efficiently managed in the private sector. Similarly his contribution to banking and finance, which is also service oriented, has been substantial.

He also took out time to do community service through Rotary. He is a true Rotarian and because of his work through Rotary he was elected to the prestigious position as Director of the Rotary International.

In India we do not find many of the successful businessmen taking out time for social work and provide that non-political leadership in other areas of social welfare and development. Mr. Ramesh Pai is an exception. In the present environment it is necessary that independent leadership should be provided for areas in education, family planning, rural regeneration, culture, sports, etc. This could be done very effectively by businessmen who must take out time. Business is funding most of the social causes. They should provide social leadership which with their expertise in management and experience of maximum utilisation of available resources would go a long way in meeting the needs of the society in non-political areas.

Such programme by the businessmen would help improve their own image and create goodwill in the society which is badly needed.

HE HAS AMAZING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

PADMASHRI C. NARASIMHAM

Padmashri C Narasimham I. A. S. (Retd) was Commissioner of Madras Municipal Corporation during 1947-53, Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1955-64. He was Managing Director of Food Corporation of India during 1965-66, Director of Corporation Bank during 1970-80, Chairman, High Power Committee on Panchayat Raj from 1971 to 1981. He received Padmashri in 1962. He now lives at Hyderabad.

Ramesh Pai is one of God's good men, ready to help and to enjoy sense of participation with others particularly those in need. He is a many faceted personality with amazing knowledge and skills in the fields of education, medical care, banking and finance, industry and community service and is ever ready to extend his helping hand.

I first came to know him through his beloved brother Sri. T.A. Pai, a great son of India known as an innovator and inventor. He displayed his courage by refusing to compromise on ideals and adhering to truth like Gandhi. Ramesh and I came closer when we were both directors of the Corporation Bank. He and I were both happy that we were able to contribute our mite to the fast growth of the bank in all important sectors.

Many of us who have high regard for the Pai family and great respect for the manner in which their concerns have been managed are shocked at the

recent unhappy developments in their families and their concerns. It must be a revelation to Mr. Ramesh Pai that smouldering embers have become consuming fires. It is still the hope of their wellwishers that they will appreciate the truth, "united they stand and divided they fall". May God guide them wisely so that memories of their half a century's devoted service will not be wiped out.

May God grant Ramesh strength and peace to face the current situation and emerge unscathed like Divine Mother Sita Devi out of the fire-ordeal.

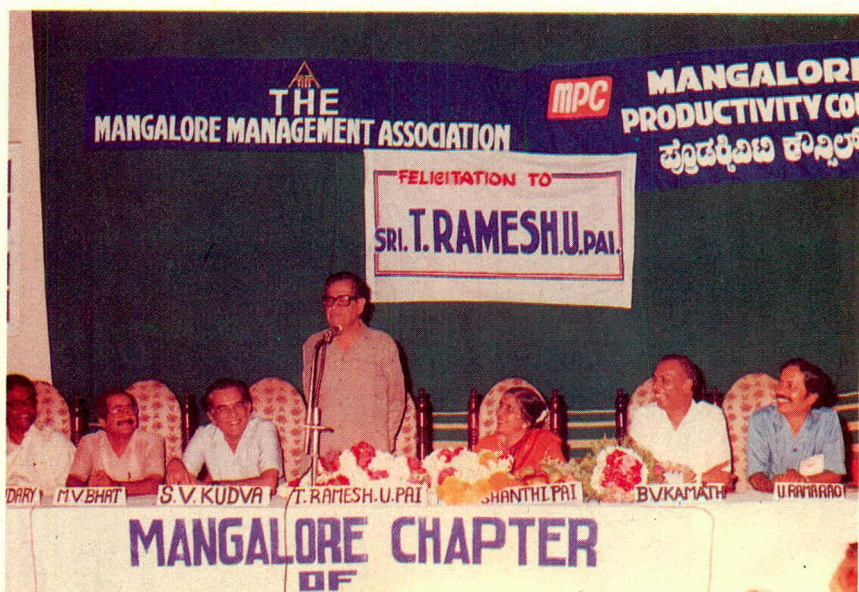
Three score and ten is enjoyed by most of the senior citizens nowadays. I am passing thro 91 and still feel quite normal all by the grace of God.



Ramesh with veteran journalist Mr. M. V. Kamath.



A word with Smt. Nagamma Keshava Moorthy, the then Minister of State for Primary Education.



At the Mangalore Management Association meeting.



Prof. Savadatti, Vice Chancellor of Mangalore University with Ramesh at the convocation of the KMC.



Ramesh Pai with Mr. Don Quayle, Vice- President of United States of America.



Ramesh Pai with his colleagues on the Board of Rotary International (1993- 94)

CONSTRUCTIVE IN HIS APPROACH

B. P. BERI

Mr. B.P. Beri is a retired High Court Judge. A member of the Rotary International he had been Governor of District 305 between 1970 and 1971. At present he lives in Jaipur.

Ramesh Pai was my class-fellow at Lake Placid as a Rotary Governor. Amiable, quiet and constructive in approach he has rendered great service to the cause of Education to ensure a bright future for the country and dedicated his efforts to wipe out tears of suffering humanity afflicted by disease. He is a financial wizard but what will perpetuate his name will be continued service to India's tomorrow. May he live on and on to continue his mission.

HE HAS FRIENDS IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD

G. VASANTHA PAI

Shri G Vasantha Pai is Senior Advocate of Supreme Court who lives in Gandhinagar, Madras. He was a member of Madras Legislative Council.

Soon after we attained Independence there was a Conference of the E.C.A.F.E in Aranmore Palace at Ootacamund. I was anxious to hear Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, my childhood hero, who was inaugurating it. After Mahathma Gandhi in rank came Panditji and Sardar Patel. They were national heroes and their love and aspirations exceeded all limits of narrow party feelings. They were freedom fighters with one difference that they never asked anything for themselves. Neither did they encourage the spoil system of Walpole, imported into America by President Andrew Jackson. They held the Services in esteem and insisted on their being above party politics.

When I went to Ootacamund and checked into Hotel Dasaprakash I found the names of two other Pairs who had checked in before me. That was my first acquaintance of Mr. Anant Pai and Mr. Ramesh Pai. We had a common purpose namely the inauguration of the ECAFE and we steered our way to the Aranmore Palace. That was the beginning of a friendship which has lasted these years. Both the brothers were the sons of Mr. T. Upendra Pai

direct brother of Dr. T.M.A.Pai, the Founder of Manipal. Mr. T.A. Pai extended his help to me in the Statewide election to the Non-Party Graduate's Constituency to the Madras Legislative Council. He introduced me to a number of members of the Legislature and requested them to support my candidature. Thereafter I met him only on one or two occasions, the last one after he became a Minister and was felicitated in Madras. I also met him after his resignation at the residence of his brother and in a discussion he stood his ground justifying it, though his uncle was not happy that Balakrishnan (T.A.Pai) should have resigned from Smt. Indira Gandhi's Cabinet and expressed to me his conviction. Despite the hopes that Shri Sai Baba gave him, Mr. Anant Pai for the first time lost in the General Election and this hastened his death.

I have taken so much time to dwell on his brother to strike a contrast between him and Ramesh - Ramesh was a regular visitor to us after my marriage in 1963 and on no occasion did he come to Madras without looking us up. We were very happy to have him amidst us. What strikes one is the total absence of politics in him and dedicated service in the fields of education, medical care, banking, industry and community service. I cannot dwell on the details except what is in public knowledge. But as a Rotarian his friendship and connections were enormous. From 1971 my wife and I have travelled throughout the world except the North and West Coast of Africa and some neighbouring countries. You have only to give the names of the countries you are visiting and Ramesh will promptly send you a list of his friends and acquaintances who will be helpful to you on your visit to those cities along with copies of his letters to them, on our intended visit. Very often the existence of such friends gave you a sense of security in the countries you visited, and most of them were really helpful.

My wife and I were very glad to hear that Ramesh completed his 70 years on 22nd October, 1994. Ramesh has been a most affectionate friend to us. We wish him godspeed and success in all his endeavours no matter that he may experience some temporary set-backs due to frictions in the family which is to be anticipated and surmounted. We have no doubt that everyone of the Pairs of Manipal will soon gather together under one banner and hold aloft the traditions that Shri Tonse Madhav Pai had set for them.

A SUPERB AND IMPRESSIVE SPEAKER

GYANENDRA KUMAR

Shri Gyanendra Kumar is a former Justice of Allahabad High Court . He was District Governor of RI District 312 during 1970-71 and a member of the Council on Legislation'86. He resides at Allahabad (U.P)

Ramesh Pai belongs to my batch of Rotary Governors for the year 1970-71, who had attended the Rotary International Assembly at Lake Placid, U.S.A., during May 1970. Almost at the very first sight Ramesh impressed me as a genial and kind hearted friend. Hence my wife Krishna and I became quite friendly with Ramesh and his spouse Shanti during our sojourn at Lake Placid.

With the passage of time we came to know the Pai couple more intimately, as we met frequently at various Rotary functions, particularly the Rotary Institute at Delhi, Bangalore, Bombay and Agra. To my regret I could not attend the Rotary Institute at Manipal, inspite of pressing personal invitations from Ramesh and Shanti, on account of protracted illness of my wife who, unfortunately, passed away on 10th of Sept'94.

Ramesh Pai is really a towering personality of various facets and interests and has been primarily responsible for bringing the name of Manipal on the world map of Education, Medical Care, Banking and Finance apart from

various industries which are now dotting the face of Manipal which, at one time, was a mere distant town in the heart of Karnataka, not even served by a railway line. But this was achieved by his constant and devoted application of his skilful creativity, where now stand the prestigious Educational, Medical, Engineering, Banking, Financial and Industrial Institutions which serve as monumental testimony to the many fold qualities of his genius in all aspects of human qualities and concern for the welfare of the society and mankind at large.

In the field of Rotary service, Ramesh Pai's contribution and rise have been meteoric, having served with distinction in almost all important Rotary offices, culminating in the coveted position of a Director of Rotary International which he is now adorning with dignity and distinction.

Ramesh is a living legend in the Rotary World of India and abroad and is a real friend, philosopher and guide to all the Rotarians around him. He is a superb and impressive speaker at Rotary functions and Fellowship get-togethers.

His helping nature and concern for a friend is borne out by a small incident which occurred at Lake Placid in May 1970. During one of the days of International Assembly it was announced by the authorities concerned that in the evening function everyone should appear in his national dress. Unfortunately, I had only taken 3 piece and 2 piece suits with me and did not know how to conform to the dress desired by the management of the International Assembly. Seeming somewhat perplexed he approached me to enquire as to what was my embarrassment, which I related to him in a helpless tone. Initially Ramesh told me that he had brought two buttoned-up coats, one of which I could select for my use on the occasion as national dress. Needless to say that I jumped at his offer and Shanti Bai promptly adjusted the coat buttons to fit me better and look as if it was my own ! I can never forget this act of human kindness and concern for a friend in need. I happily recount that in one of the important Rotary functions I had described the Pai family as the Birlas of Karnataka.

May God grant long life and greater glory to Ramesh Pai !

GROWS OLD BUT NEVER LOOSENS LIFE'S ZEST

SOM N DHINGRA

Dr. Som N. Dhingra, an entrepreneur engaged in Bulb Industries and based in Dehra Dun was Rotary Governor of District 307 in 1970-71; a recipient of Distinguished Service Award.

Having known Ramesh Pai for the last 25 years I have always felt of having a valuable friendship with a person who has dedicated himself for improving the quality of life of all those who have ever come in contact with him or through his Institutions of Education, Medical Care, Industry and Banking and specially for those near Manipal Area. Persons like him have been described by Phillip Bailey as under -

" We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart - throbs.

He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best. " Ramesh has the capacity to believe about the visions that he has for education, medical care, community services, industry and concern for others. This belief makes him what he is and the things that keep him going in face of untoward circumstances and give him resistance and drive.

As educationist his work at Manipal Institutions like the Management College is a living example. The medical facilities created at Manipal and the health care that has been provided alongwith quality medical education is an achievement which is envy for many.

His work through Rotary brought him to the status of International Director of Rotary International - the Premier Service Organisation of the World. This could only be achieved because of his dedication for removal of sufferings and upgrading quality of life of the common men.

He always believes in the words of Hanery Dyke :

"I shall grow old but never lose life's zest

Because the road's last turn will be the best"

My prayer to the Almighty is always that my dear friend Ramesh may continue his quest for happiness to all human beings and may he be blessed with long and healthy life to achieve his goal.

IN TRUE SERVICE TO THE NATION

P. K. TARE

Shri P.K. Tare is retired Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court; before retirement he was also Chairman of M.P. Law Commission and Lokayukt. Above all he was a freedom fighter. He lives in Bhopal.

It is really a pleasure to recount the good work by Shri T Ramesh U Pai in various fields, namely education, medical care, banking and finance, industry and community service through Rotary International. I have known of his excellent work in the sphere of education and community service through Rotary International. He deserves all praise for the same and thereby he has rendered unstinted service in the cause of the nation. I wish him long life so that he may still serve the nation by his various activities.

JAI HIND

HAS DEEP INTEREST IN PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

K. S. RAME GOWDA

Dr. K.S.Rame Gowda is former Director of Planning in Karnataka. He lives in Bangalore.

I came in close contact with Sri.T.Ramesh U Pai, popularly known as Ramesh Pai, as Director of Town Planning, continued to be an ex-officio member of the Karnataka Housing Board in 1968. Sri Ramesh Pai was appointed by the Government of Karnataka as one of the non-official members of the Board for a period of 3 years, from 1968 to 1971. He regularly attended the meetings and felt embarrassed about the way in which built houses were allotted to the applicants of different towns and cities in Karnataka. He used to request the members to be "fair" in selecting applicants for allotments instead of adopting arbitrary methods of allotment. He tried to convince the other members about the necessity to adopt some norms while allotting houses to deserving applicants. I used to appreciate his point and plead with the other members to adopt a rigid policy. But in committees, where majority opinion prevails, individual members should either accept the decision or record their dissents. The other alternative is to quit the Committee. Sri Ramesh Pai, after attending meetings about one year or so,

felt that his presence in the Housing Board as one of the members did not serve any purpose and resigned from the Board. This is an instance which indicates his sincerity of purpose. I pleaded with him to reconsider his decision, but he did not withdraw his resignation. Thus we lost the services of an able member, probably in 1969.

I had no direct contact with Sri Ramesh Pai afterwards, except reading in newspapers about his stewardship of various educational, health, financial and industrial undertakings. In 1993, the Government of Denmark (Danida), in collaboration with the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka, started the sustainable development project in Dakshina Kannada through "Environmental Master Plan Study" for the district, and I was appointed by Danida as an urban planning expert for the project. During the preparation of a 'Status Report on Urban Development and Environment in Dakshina Kannada' I contacted many institutions and leading personalities of the district, the important persons among them being Sri Sugunendra Thirtha Swamy of Puttige Mutt, Udupi, Sri T Ramesh Pai of Manipal Educational Trust, Manipal and Sri Kuranji Venkataramana Gowda of Educational Academy, Sullia.

I met Sri Ramesh Pai in his office at Manipal on 15th June 1993 and it was a pleasant surprise for both of us to meet without prior appointment after a very long time. Our team of experts were courteously received by Sri Pai and after exchanging pleasantries we discussed about environmental improvement needed in Manipal, Udupi and Malpe. I could appreciate the interest he had about health, education and recreation of the people in the region. Without going in to details, I wish to mention two key issues he posed for the Danida project to consider.

The first one pertained to employment for women, who had high level of education in Dakshina Kannada. He suggested that the Danida project should recommend for starting of safe industries like electronics, computer and allied industries which need skilled labour. He expected that women in Dakshina Kannada will switch over from labour intensive jobs to skilled work. Later, I checked up from Census figures of 1991 and found that Dakshina Kannada District had registered the heaviest decline in the proportion of workers in

household industry to main workers, i.e. from 16.4% in 1981 to 2.04% in 1991 (-87.23%)! I appreciated the forethought of Sri Ramesh Pai and included this aspect in the Status Report.

The other issue pertained to his concern about the environmental aspect in Manipal and the surroundings. In order to demonstrate his concern, he took us from his office to the 'Mannupalla' or Clay-Pond situated to the south of the Educational Trust and explained the necessity to protect the large water sheet from pollution and use it for recreation. We could observe that the natural lake needed deepening and also protection by diverting sullage from the built-up area entering the lake, by constructing check drains and by afforestation of the lake shore. Sri Ramesh Pai spent considerable amount of time with us on this unscheduled visit. It shows the deep interest he has on the general welfare of the people and protection of environment.

I am happy that activities like education and medical care are continued by Sri Ramesh Pai in Manipal, as contemplated by the founder, late Dr.T.M.A.Pai, a household name in Dakshina Kannada. I wish Sri Ramesh U.Pai long life, peace and tranquillity.

NOBLE, FRIENDLY AFFECTIONATE

T.H. CHOWDARY

Shri T.H.Chowdary is Director and Member, Governing Council, Centre for Telecommunications Management and Studies. He was formerly Chairman and Managing Director of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Electronic Development Corporation, President I.E.T.E., Governor INTELSAT Washington. He lives at Hyderabad.

It was in 1971 that I met Sri Ramesh U. Pai at the instance of the late Mrs. A.V. Baliga, in Bombay. My son was to join the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. Dr. Baliga was my mentor in the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society. Smt. Baliga spoke highly of Sri Ramesh Pai. The first impression I got was that Rameshbai had Sri Rama's noble quality of being "PURVABHASHI" the first to converse. That puts you at ease ; that indicates the modesty and friendliness of the person, to one and all. I was the Deputy General Manager of Bombay Telephones in 1971. He invited me to visit Manipal - not merely to admit my son but to see the educational institutions, to understand how private initiative and enterprise could be beneficial to society and of course, to oneself too.

When I went to Manipal, he and his wife Shantaji invited me and my student son to their home. Smt Shanta Pai was and ofcourse is as noble, friendly and affectionate as Sri Ramesh Pai. They told my son that he could

be deemed to be a member of their extended family and advised him to come upto the expectations not only of his parents but that of Dr. T.M.A. Pai, the visionary educator and institution-builder. I was happy to report later to Sri Rameshji and his noble wife that my son Dr. Prabhakar did his M S in Pune and together with his doctor wife, Bharathi, had set up his own Nursing Home in the most back-ward district town of Mehboobnagar and that they are doing well and are thought of well, having given direct employment to 60 and treating, healing and curing thousands of the ailing and stricken. The Pais were immensely happy to learn of it. I could see how satisfied they were that one of their boys has come upto their expectations.

In 1992, Shri Ramesh Pai and Dr.Alladi Prabhakar, the Principal, invited me to deliver the convocation address to the Manipal Institute of Technology. My wife had met Rameshbhai but was always eager to see the famous Vidyakshetra (place of learning), Manipal. My 8 years young grandson, Aditya, Dr.Prabhakar's son learning that we would go to Manipal, where his father studied, insistently wished to come there. Shri Ramesh Pai and his wife Shantaji were delighted to see the inquisitive child of their product. On the day of our departure, at breakfast Aditya told Rameshbhai, " Sir! My grandfather was busy. He did not show me the class rooms and labs where my father studied" . Rameshbhai immediately took the boy and us around the entire campus and township and showed the Anatomy Museum, himself explaining several exhibits to the eight-years old ! What affection, what patience and what mission to inspire the inquisitive ! We were suprised but knew that it was affirmation of Rameshbhai's real commitment to arouse and nurse excellence. What is more ! The 8-year old boldly and matter-of-factly said, " Sir ! I also want to study here ". Then Rameshbhaiji told him "Babu ! you must get over 80% marks to get admission. Study well and you will come here " . The child said, " I will". And what magic this conversation, this advice and assurance, is having on the child ! On return he has become more studious. He told his father: "Daddy ! I got a seat in the Medical College in which you studied. I have to get 80% and Ramesh Pai Sir told me I could be there."

Besides the convocation address, he asked me to speak to the Rotary Club. I spoke on the subject which is dear to him and conforms to his ideas -

demonopolisation of and competition in telecoms, which would allow private sector to develop the telephone system and enable subscribers to be customers and get liberated from monopoly's abuses.

These incidents, I have narrated to many. My regard for this family of Pais is great. They have demonstrated the triumph of convictions and faith in private initiative for promoting social good and welfare. The same spirit that built up the educational institutions which are not only all-India in character but are, of late attracting students from foreign lands, has also founded a string of successful commercial enterprises - the best printing press, and beneficial financial institutions. While ideas may spring in one person, their realisation requires several associates who are as dedicated and actually more capable even. Sri Ramesh Pai and his wife Smt. Shanta Pai are examples of Bharatiya Culture who could live in and demonstrate the thought VASUDAIVA KUTUMBAKAM, the whole world is one family. They are of noble culture, Arya in behaviour and a delight to converse with. His enthusiasm is infectious. His optimism elevates. Rameshji and Shantabehn would be looked upon as dear, caring and benign persons. May God give them a long, healthy, happy, tranquil life of more and more achievements in the service of society.

HE DEVELOPED NEW INSTITUTIONS AND DEPARTMENTS

B. U. NAYAK

Dr. B.U.Nayak is Deputy Director and Head of Ocean Engineering Division, National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa.

I would like to touch upon only a few aspects of Ramesh Pai's personality which impressed me most. I find him very large-hearted, humanistic in approach and unassuming in behaviour. From early morning when he entertains visitors at breakfast until late in the night, Ramesh Pai has continuous and diverse programmes. I have great admiration towards Ramesh Pai at his punctuality, patience, indomitable will power, love, ability to handle all types of problems associated with diverse fields such as education, finance, banking, industry and community service with a cool and balanced mind.

To me, Ramesh Pai is a great human who has extended his helping hand whenever I was in difficulty. Coming from an extremely poor family, I had the great privilege and good fortune of having my education from the primary level to Bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Manipal and then start my career as a teacher at Manipal Engineering College, for about 8 years. Ramesh Pai has always been very kind to me and helped me every time I have

approached him. Because of his encouragement I could go to Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for my M.E. degree and then to University of Hawaii, Honolulu for my post graduate studies leading to Ph.D. degree under an U.S. Fellowship Grant.

Each time I visit Manipal, I get thrilled and filled with great joy and pride, being fortunate of watching Manipal being converted from a barren, unproductive land to a booming centre of excellence in education in diverse fields, healthcare, banking and financial services. We should all be proud that after Dr. T.M.A. Pai, the Founding Father of Manipal, Shri. T. Ramesh Pai shouldered the responsibility of not only efficiently managing all the Institutions founded by his uncle, Dr. Pai, but also in developing new and innovative institutions and departments which ultimately led to the recognition of Manipal educational campus as a deemed university. Leadership and entrepreneurship set in action by Dr. T.M.A. Pai in Manipal, enhanced by Shri T. Ramesh Pai and others in the Pai family has made Manipal a shining star on the World Map of today.

My wholehearted prayer is "May the Lord Almighty bless Ramesh Pai and his wife Shanti with many more years of healthy, happy and active life". Ramesh Pai's devoted and loving wife Shanti who has stood by him steadfastly would indeed deserve full credit for the success of her beloved husband.

A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

P. DAYANANDA PAI

Shri P. Dayananda Pai, a prominent businessman, lives in Bangalore.

Mr. Ramesh Pai has been throughout a source of inspiration to me. I always used to admire his simplicity and his nobility and his farsightedness. Meeting him and talking to him always gave me more strength and inspiration.

He used to be always a guide and philosopher to me. He is one of the few persons responsible for my success in life.

I pray God for his good health and happiness and I wish him long life to serve the people. Always my prayers and good wishes are with him and his family.

RAMESH IS LIKE A MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN PEAK

KRISHNAKUMAR N. PAI

Shri Krishnakumar N. Pai is a prominent Rotarian associated with automobile and transport company and resides at Belgaum.

"The Mass of Men" the American philosopher Henry Thoreau said, "lead lives of quiet desperation". While that may seem an overtly dramatic way of putting it, there is little doubt that many of us are often dissatisfied with our lives. We have the suspicion, too, that life is passing us by, that we are missing out on a great adventure. At the same time we sense that if only we knew how to go about it, our lives could become so much more satisfying and fulfilling.

There is no reason why Mr. Ramesh Pai should fall in this category. In fact, his satisfied life full of achievements has been a result of his devotion and dedication to life's ideals, his unbounded capacity for friendship, his keenness of perception and his uncanny ability to visualize the future coupled with his genuine appreciation of current problems. It has made him great. Whenever privileged to be with him, I was inspired by the burning enthusiasm which, despite his extremely busy business - schedule and health - limitations, carried him on in his fulfilling commitments.

I recall an incident where Rtn. Ramesh exhibited his firmness in fulfilling his commitment. It was in 1990, I was President elect of Rotary Club of

Belgaum and was to shoulder this responsibility during 91-92. This was made still difficult as that was the year of our Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Ours being a very prominent Club in our district, the responsibility of deciding a Chief Guest worthy of this occasion was entirely on me. Knowing Ramesh Pai's dedication to Rotary, I had no hesitation in meeting him in August 1990, and requesting him to be the Chief Guest on this occasion which was to be celebrated in December 1991. Rtn. Ramesh after opening his diary and after a minute of silence said "Yes". I tried to tell him with a bit of hesitation that this function was going to be held exactly after 15 months from then. He had a smile of confidence and said "Yes" patting on my back.

It was to my luck, Rtn. Ramesh was elected to the Rotary International as a Director nominee for 1992-94. I immediately made up my mind to felicitate him on his election, during my presidentship, that is in the month of July 1991. Believe it or not, Rtn. Ramesh successfully fulfilled both his commitments. His ever growing enthusiasm to meet Rotarian friends brought him to Belgaum from Manipal. In spite of discomforts and hardships enroute, Rtn. Ramesh Pai joined us with smiling face. He transacted Rotary Business with cheerful disposition and spontaneously expressed his provocative thoughts.

Rameshmam has fully realised that there are great riches in lasting friendships, harmonious family relationships, sympathy and understanding between business associates, and inner harmony which brings peace of mind measurable only in spiritual values.

Rameshmam believes that excellence implies more than competence. He knows that it implies a striving for the highest standards in every phase of life. He has practised individual excellence in all its forms-in every kind of creative endeavour, in business, in education, in industry, in our spiritual life in short, universally. He, in his work, family life and in his public behaviour has seen himself as builder and maintainer of the values of society. He has always cherished, "The habitual vision of greatness". He has raised his sights, striven for excellence, dedicated himself to the highest goals of society. Thus reaching toward the most exalted goals he could conceive and strive

impatiently and restlessly for excellence, and he has achieved religious insights, and has set standards of conduct that heighten our sense of pride-and dignity as a human being.

Yes, the guardian of Manipal group of concerns is a simple man, but one with a great vision-peace and a truly neighbourly world. To aid in its implementation he has travelled extensively meeting and appreciating men and making friends everywhere he went. He is a normal lovable human being, balanced, competent, friendly, with a supreme confidence that just such ordinary human qualities would work wonders among men.

Getting introduced to a new person is not very difficult. However developing the mere introduction into a close intimacy in short period requires a very special nature . Mr.Ramesh possesses this special nature. I have never come across any other person expressing such deep concern for his friends over a short period of association. It is an invaluable treasure for any one to have Ramesh as his friend. No doubt this is why he has so many friends not only at home, but overseas too.

With most of his time and energies harnessed to business and social activities, Mr.Ramesh Pai has meticulously managed to devote time to religious activities. That is how, His Holiness Shri Shrimad Vidhyadhiraj Theerth Shreepad Wader Swamiji of Shri Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math was present to bless his disciple, Ramesh, on the occasion of celebrating his 70th Birthday in Bangalore recently.

The noble character of Mr.Ramesh is manifested through his involvement in business and social activities. He has indeed set an example for others to follow. It is not very often that we come across a person with whom success has always associated itself.

Rameshmam, to me is like a Majestic Mountain Peak. No matter from which direction you look at him, the view is not only impressive but leaves you with a sense of pride and satisfaction for his association, however deep or small it may be !

A POETIC PORTRAIT

RAJNI C THACKER

Shri Rajni C Thacker, Past District Governor of RI Dist.3060 1070-71 lives in Surat.

I have penned down a few lines I came across which are true reflections of Ramesh and Shanti as we have known them over last 25 years :

He is a simple man, always down to earth,
Oasis in a desert, when such person in dearth.
A great organiser, very noble at heart,
Exemplary for others, as living art.
Opportunities galore, but honest to the core,
For luxurious living he is never sore.
In various Institutions, he worked as a head,
They would not have prospered but for his aid.
For Rotary, he is a driving force,
For Institutions, he is an inspiring source.
Sincere Social Service, his life's goal,
Always prepared to play his role.

He is lucky to have a co-operative wife,
She never grudges, for their hectic but simple life.
Always smiling, meets big and small,
That is the reason, he is loved by all.
Rotary International's Directorship a feather in his cap,
Deserves our congrats, kudos and claps.
May God give him and 'Shanthi' good health and long life,
To remove from people, agony and strife.

HE IS THOROUGHLY SECULAR AND HUMAN IN OUTLOOK

O.P.SAPRA

Shri O.P. Sapra was Rotary District Governor (of 3100), 1988-89 leader of GSE Team to Brazil in 1992 and member of R.I. Task Force Committee.

Shri Ramesh Pai is a well known personality not only in the state of Karnataka but in the whole country and internationally also, particularly in the field of education, medical care, banking and finance besides industry. He has been engaged in multi-splendoured activities associated with various welfare and educational institutions. His interest in these fields is unmitigated and whole-hearted. He has been working for the same with great devotion and dedication.

I came more close to him when he was elected as R.I. Director. Age did not deter him from putting his heart and soul in the activities of Rotary International in his capacity as R.I. Director and undoubtedly he proved to be one of the best directors we had. His organizational skill is unmatched. He impressed with his words of wisdom and delighted everyone while addressing various conferences of Rotary International with his wit and humour. His contributions in the Rotary field are really great.

He is thoroughly secular and human in outlook and his action overcomes the barriers of religion, region and language without discriminating between person and person. I found him always optimistic.

I wish him a very long and healthy life so that he continues to serve the humanity.

HIS MONUMENTAL PROJECTS

B. MACHANDER RAO

Shri B. Machander Rao is Ex.M.L.A. living in Secunderabad. He was also previously a Director of Syndicate Bank.

Shri Ramesh U Pai is known to me personally since decades. I found him to be an eminent banker, a reputed industrialist, a renowned educationist and a great contributor in the field of Medicine. He has done valuable service to the needy people. His services are always appreciated and recognised by one and all. He started Engineering College, Medical College and other Educational Institutions. His contributions in the Medical field are immeasurable. He is one of the main founders of Kasturba Medical College and Hospital which are doing a great service to the people.

All his projects have become a monument which will be remembered in this world always.

STANDS TALL AS A VISIONARY

R. PRABHAKAR RAO

Shri R. Prabhakar Rao is a retired officer of the Indian Police Service as D.G.P and is settled in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Even with people like me who have met him only a few times, Sri Ramesh Pai establishes an unforgettable rapport. There is an instant and direct communication of his immense energy, consuming zeal and transparent sincerity of purpose. These are the qualities which have inspired so much confidence in his leadership in fields of Banking, Finance and Industry and made him a pioneer who guided the course of development of financing sector after the Nationalisation of Banks. His efforts in providing quality education and medicare of world standard again broke new paths winning innumerable admirers, grateful patients and brilliant students.

In the true spirit of a Karmayogi he utilised his talents and immense goodwill for community service.

As events have shown he was way ahead of his times and his mottos have become today's buzzwords for entrepreneurship and management. He had courage and vision to tread the path of initiative, innovation - for a long time all alone. Many have subsequently flattered him by following the trail blazed by him in these fields. He stands tall as a visionary.

At 70, he has his best year of leadership yet to give to our society. May we have the wisdom to utilize the same!

EXCELLENT IN TIME - MANAGEMENT

H. J. DORA

Shri H.J. Dora, I.P.S. is Addnl. D.G.P, Andhra Pradesh.

I have known him (Ramesh U.Pai) for the past few years and found him to be extremely humane and warm hearted person. What impressed me most was his excellent time management on any day. I had been to Manipal twice and both the times I could see how perfectly organised he was. There were several VIPs, each time, when I went to Manipal and Shri Ramesh Pai organised their itinerary, joined them on certain occasions and then saw that they were taken round by different people without any waste of time.

Unless a person is well organised and has clarity of thought, the priorities cannot be properly set. A successful person is one, who has this clarity and can organise his day properly, so that his time as well as others' time is not wasted. This is something which others should emulate and become successful. I pray God for many more happy years of service for Sri & Smt. T. Ramesh U.Pai.

STRIKING SIMPLICITY AND HUMILITY

A.B.DATAR

Shri A.B. Datar IAS (Retd) is a former Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka and is now living in Bangalore.

It is indeed difficult to write about a multi-faceted personality like Mr.T.Ramesh Pai. His achievements have been in so many different fields that it would be a Herculean task to compress them into a short personal assessment of his outstanding personality. He has excelled in many walks-of-life : education, finance, real estate, rotary and medical services to name only a few. He has continued the illustrious traditions of the Pairs of Manipal who have, through their various activities over the past few decades, transformed an unknown place like Manipal into a hub of financial and educational activity. I have had the pleasure of first meeting him when he visited Chickmagalur, as Rotary Governor, where I was posted as Dy.Commissioner in early 70s. Since then over last quarter of the century we had many occasions to meet and interact. What is striking about this unique person is his utter simplicity and humility, which indeed is a great quality. He wears his many achievements very lightly on his broad shoulders. I wish him many more years of useful work to the society. The country needs many more illustrious sons like him.

HE DESERVES TO BE HONOURED

T. PARAMESHWAR

Shri T. Parameshwar was Managing Editor of Readers Digest. He is now the Joint Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, founded in 1938 by Kulapati Dr. K.M. Munshi. They are the publishers of Bhavan's Journal, a Gujarati monthly Samarpan and Hindi monthly Navneet. He is living at Bombay.

Both my wife and myself have known Ramesh Pai personally since 1964 when we first met him in Manipal. However, our personal relations and friendship continued without our getting involved in any of his business activities and, therefore, it is very difficult for us to write anything sensible about Ramesh Pai's multifarious activities, economic progress etc. The very sight of Manipal and its surroundings today compared to what it was 30 years ago, is the greatest tribute one can pay to Shri Ramesh Pai. He is certainly a great man and a person who deserves to be honoured by Indians all over.

A PRACTITIONER OF DESIRELESS ACTION

Dr. B.V. RAMAN

Dr. B.V. Raman is Editor of the Astrological Magazine and is based at Bangalore.

I have the good fortune of knowing Sri T. Ramesh Pai for nearly three decades, ever since the day I lectured at the Manipal Medical College, at the invitation of his revered uncle, late Dr. T.M.A. Pai. I have also shared with Mr. Ramesh Pai, a common platform on one or two occasions.

What impresses me most is his sincerity, love of the motherland, regard for all that is best in our ancient culture and concern for the poor and suffering. His work in the field of efficiently running a great educational institution is well known. As an industrialist, his contribution to the banking and economic growth is also well known.

He appeared to me as a practitioner of Nishkama Karma or desireless action where the individual interests are subordinated to the interests of the society.

Mr. Pai is a rare personality and above all a human being touched by the sufferings of the less fortunate and working for the welfare of the community as a whole.

Mrs. Pai's silent role in enabling Mr. Pai to achieve what he has achieved is equally admirable.

I pray to God to confer on Mr. T. Ramesh Pai and Mrs. Pai a long, peaceful and healthy life so as to enable him to continue to serve the cause of the community and the people.

A REAL GUIDE, PRECEPTOR, MENTOR

V. N. KAPOOR

Shri V.N.Kapoor was Governor of Rotary District no.311 - 312 and is a meritorious awardee. He lives in Lucknow.

Age is a reward from Almighty to righteous Karam Yogis and is heritage of those who fear the name of Lord undertaking all their ventures with one aim i.e. "living for others". Ramesh Bhai is a personality who is rare combination of qualities of head and heart and who has not only maintained but widened the circle of "Service to Humanity", keeping up the old traditions set by his worthy ancestors. How far-sighted "PAIS" must be when they chose "MANIPAL" - a place though barren at that time but was a sacred land near Gods with complete solitude. Later they worked so devoted by and with such planning that today it is "Heaven on Earth" with its multifarious humanitarian projects. As an education centre it is unique with so many colleges, schools and is one place where there is no illiterate at all. In medical relief, they have nearly 2000 bed hospital with all modern techniques attached with medical college with best expertise of the globe, rendering most valuable services to students as well as giving succour to hundreds and thousands regularly. Manipal institute of technology is talk of the town - both the medical college and M.I.T are producing jewels of fresh doctors and engineers which is real service to our country. These institutions are of international reputation. The

aim behind their Syndicate Bank, business, finance and renowned industries is to provide maximum relief to rural areas. India lives more than two-third in rural surroundings and only a fraction in towns. So all told it is India which is being benefited by PAIS' laudable undertakings.

I had met Ramesh Bhai on a couple of occasions earlier but the man - the real man I met was at Lucknow Rotary District Conference where both he and Shanthi Bhabi were representing R.I. Presidents Per. Rep in 1981. It was love at first sight. I had a very close personal rapport with him. During that conference his appearances thrice were sixers everytime. He is a piper and got himself mixed up with every one as if known to each other for many many years. His words of wisdom to the audience were thought-provoking, illuminating and inspiring. I was so fortunate that he agreed to pay a visit to my humble abode which was till then known as "KAPOOR VILLA". It was Ramesh Bhai who baptised it to 'ROTARY VILLA' to the delight of all my family.

Whenever we met later on, I found in Rameshji a real guide, preceptor, mentor and reservoir of experience and accumulated wisdom. It is difficult to enumerate combination of the great qualities he possesses - in short he is deeply religious, modern in outlook and catholic in tastes. He is ideally suited to link old and new values and thus involve alike the old and the young. As a friend, he is your true well wisher - you will receive his greeting cards whether on your birthday, anniversary or new year without expecting any return gesture. I would call him a man of steel and velvet both - in times of adversity he has virtues of courage, tolerance, discrimination and above all fair judgement.

Now that he is three scores and ten, we look forward to his shining example and may Lord bestow upon him all joys of old age and may we, his friends, be receiving his Beacon Light for many many more years. His saintlike nature will now feel pleasure to witness the golden colour brilliance of the evening which has its own "CHARM".

A THOROUGH GENTLEMAN

SANTOSH K. AGARWALLA

Shri Santosh K Agarwala is a prominent member of the Rotary International. He was past Governor of District 3250 and was on the Council on Legislation and Polio Plus Immunisation (Task Force) Committee for India. He is based at Dhanbad.

It has been rightly remarked :

"Give a man a fish and you feed him a meal, Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime".

Involved in one of the leading educational institutions of our country, my dear friend, Ramesh is proof of the above.

A warm hearted gentleman, I have always found him to be very helpful towards all. Our association goes way back to the year 1972 and during all these years our friendship has endured and warmed me whenever we have spent time together.

Ramesh hails from an educated, cultured family. A simple man, he is a fine example of a " Thorough Gentleman".

I send my heartfelt wishes for a long fruitful life ahead. Well done Ramesh. All the best always.

A MONUMENT OF VIRTUE

THAKOREBHAI H. PATEL

Shri Thakorebhai H Patel is Governor of Dist.305 and member of the Asia Consultative Group. He resides in Ahmedabad.

Ramesh Pai is a multifaceted personality. I will touch upon only a few of his qualities which have impressed me most. I have come to know more about Ramesh Pai and his total commitment to Rotary since he was unanimously elected as Governor of R.I.Dist. 317 in 1969. He took charge as the first Governor of Dist.318 on 1st July, 1970 and continued for a part of 1971-72. The leadership qualities Ramesh Pai inherited from Rotary brought him many more laurels and he was elected as R.I. Director for the years 1992-94. R.I. Directorship is a challenging job but he met this challenge ably and responded to the call of service to humanity effectively. I am not in the habit of distributing bouquets without due and proper reasons. He has never tried to climb the slippery path to the top through adulation or mutual admiration. Duty stern and duty true has been his guiding star. In his years of high office of R.I. Directorship, he was humble, humane and dedicated to Duty. He really motivated Rotarians by exhorting them to do their best for minimising the hardships of humanity. Shri Ramesh Pai is a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. He has written his name in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of the hundreds he has come in contact with, year by

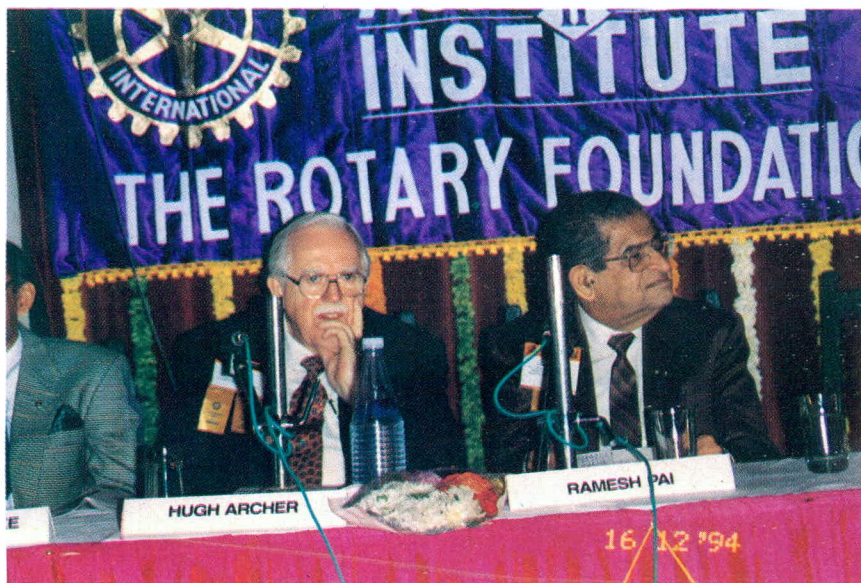
year, and he would never be forgotten. His name and his good deeds will shine as stars of heaven.

I have known that his gracious wife Shanthi has been helpful to him in the excellent performance of his responsibilities as R.I. Director.

According to Ramesh Pai, Rotary is not only "Service Above Self", but also "Service Through Self" the giving of one's heart and mind in the programmes for human improvement. To Ramesh Pai, Rotary Service is Service to Mankind.



Honouring Sri Shankardayal Sharma when he visited Mangalore as Vice President of India.



Ramesh Pai with Chairman of the Rotary Foundation, Mr. Hugh Archer at Rotary International Asia Zone II Institute at Pune.



T. A Pai, Sri Satya Saibaba, Ramesh and daughter Sheela.



Ramesh Pai with Mr. Hari N. Harilela Business Magnate at Hong Kong.



Mrs and Dr. Yvan Silva, Sant Keshava Das and Ramesh.



H. H. Shrimad Sudheendra Teertha Swamiji of Sri Kashi Mutt Sansthan blesses Ramesh Pai.



Ramesh and family at his 70th Birthday - 22.10.1994



Vidyadhiraj Award being given to Ramesh by His Holiness Swamiji of Parthgali Gokarn Mutt.

SIMPLE IDEAS, FATHOMLESS THOUGHTS, PRECISE KNOWLEDGE

ASHOK M. MAHAJAN

Rotarian Shri Ashok K. Mahajan was District Governor for 3140. He lives in Mulund, Bombay.

It's a privilege - an honoured privilege - to have an opportunity to say a few words about R.I. Director 1992-94 Rtn. T. Ramesh Pai.

Born with a service spoon in his mouth, he has elevated service to a Himalayan height and has enriched Rotary by his great achievements.

Brought up in the famous Pai family of Udupi, he has so many interests at heart and all his interests have been so successful that it reads like a fairy tale. He has been a banker par excellence, and educationist par superior, a Rotarian finest, a leader incomparable and an industrialist of repute.

'R' stands not only for Ramesh but for Rotary and his blood has those special cells of service circulating all over. He served R.I. with distinction as director in 1992-94 and his achievements, amplitude, pleasant disposition and characteristic humility have made him a favourite of many R.I. dignitaries.

It is pleasure to listen to his talks - full of humour, simple ideas, fathomless thoughts and precise knowledge. It is a great pleasure to talk to him and still greater pleasure to work with him. He carries an aura of authenticity and a charm of a prince.

In Manipal and Udupi, his name is a household word. Everything he has touched has turned to Gold - truly a Midas Rotarian. And amongst all this splendour it is a surprise to realize that he is a simple, lovable, talkable friend. The pair Shanti and Ramesh truly reflect the ideal in friendship.

It is easy to love him

It is easy to listen to him

It is easy to respect him

It is easy to follow him

It is easy to mark with him

It is, however, impossible to emulate him.

He's a true son of Rot  ry.

HE LOOKS FOR THE BEST IN OTHERS AND GIVES THE BEST HE HAS

D. P. MALOO

Shri D P Maloo is Managing Director of Mangalam Cement Limited, Kota, Rajasthan.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Mr. T. Ramesh U. Pai for almost two decades now. We came in contact through Rotary while I was member of the Delhi South Rotary Club. Ever since then we had been in touch with each other and a few years ago when both of us visited Manipal on a medical health check up programme we had the good fortune of meeting him and as usual he bestowed on us his kind, gracious and affectionate hospitality by inviting us to his home in Manipal.

Shri Ramesh Pai has not only been a very conscientious dedicated Rotarian but he is an excellent specimen of a perfect human being so full of milk of human kindness.

People in his area will always bless him and remember him for his commendable contribution in the field of education, medical care, banking, business, industry and above all the community services through the auspices of Rotary and even directly,

About success it is said:

That man is a success who has lived well,

laughed often and loved much;
who has gained the respect of intelligent men,
and the love of children;
who has filled his niche, and accomplished his task;
who leaves the world better than he found it,
whether by an improved poppy,
a perfect poem or a rescued soul;
who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or
failed to express it; who looked for the best
in others and gave the best he had.

We strongly feel Rotarian Ramesh Pai has achieved success in his lifetime and for which he deserves our hearty congratulations and sincere felicitations.

We wish and pray God grants our dear friend Shri Ramesh Pai longevity, good health, and happiness so that he can continue to serve the humanity as he has been hitherto doing. I should thank you once again for your sending us this unique opportunity and honour to reflect upon the life of our dear friend Shri Ramesh Pai.

A GOOD LEADER

SUDHIR RASHINGKAR

Dr.Sudhir Rashingkar is engineer by profession who was past Governor of Rotary International Dist.3130. He lives at Pune.

"He reaches the top position being totally modest. He glorifies the good qualities of other people and thereby indicates his own virtues. He always works for the benefit of others and thereby projects his own interest, he shuts the mouth of critics by pardoning them. Who would not like to praise such gentleman?"

Past Director Rtn. Ramesh Pai fits into above characteristics. I really came to know more about him at Rotary's Trivandrum Institute, when I was Governor-nominee. I found him to be very simple, easily approachable person. He will start dialogue without much formality and once in it, will never show that he is a wealthy man, he heads a big business group and also (later on) that he is Director of our International Organisation. His language is simple, practical and his speeches full of wits, examples and jokes. I still remember his short speech during Colombo Institute at a banquet when Hon.J.R.Jaywardhane, past President of Srilanka was present. He gave a vivid account of importance of ladies through jokes, poems and so on. Same

was the case during two Institutes that I attended during which he was convenor at Manipal and Colombo. He was at his best during opening and closing remarks. During his Directorship, I was a PDG and hence had no occasion to work under his stewardship but I attended atleast four functions in our own district. When he spoke, and his speeches were always interesting hearing, the main thread of thought was always a concern for education and especially for those women. His theory is that population, poverty and many other social problems are due to the heavy percentage of illiterate women in India. He not only expressed his concern but in his own way has done something within field through various institutes of education in Manipal and other places. He proudly shows, speaks and narrates about the growth of Manipal from a barren land in remote corner of India into a major centre of education, medicine and business. Manipal gave birth to one of the biggest banks of India (now nationalised) and other business and financial organisations. His pioneering contribution in these ventures is to be worth noticing.

Inspite of all this, he devoted time to social work and amongst it, Rotary found main medium, over the years. He developed many many social projects, held many responsible positions and went on to become Director of the most coveted voluntary social service organisation. During his tenure, he had an occasion to visit practically all districts and through his speeches, he emphasised the need for Rotary to be community - oriented and specially to concentrate on women's education. At the same time, he was passing through a critical phase in his business and must be under great tension but he never showed it at his Rotary work. This is a good quality of leader.

During all his travel in business and social field, the support of Anne Shanthi was always an asset. She always cares for others and makes everybody feel at home.

Overall, contribution of Rtn.Ramesh in the particular field of Education, Medical Service, Banking, Business and more important through Rotary's medium will need to be recorded with reverence. We look forward to another opportunity to work with him in Asia Zone - II Institute in Pune.

May God bless him with long and happy life
in Service to the Community.

ADAPTS AND ADJUSTS LIKE A FLOWING LIQUID

C. S. MA

Dr. C.S. Ma is Chairman-Cum-Managing Director and Medical Superintendent of the Combined Rajuma Dental Clinic and Hospital. He is Fellow of the Royal Society of Health, London, Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International, U.S.A.

I recall the days while I was a student of Kasturba Medical College. I went to Mr. Ramesh U Pai for admission of two more candidates. He admitted both of them as well as financed them through Syndicat Bank in my name. Even today, after more than twentyone years, I cannot forget his sharp vision and devotion in the progress of Manipal. By doing this he created :

- a) Personal obligation to me,
- b) Created more funds and interest money for Syndicate Bank,
- c) Filled the required seats according to his condition,
- d) Created more respect for himself,
- e) And projected Manipal organization as more humane.

Mr. T. Ramesh U Pai is a most adaptable person who fits in every rectangle, square or cylindrical shapes and of any sizes and gives a feeling of belonging. Take field of Education , Medical Care, Banking and Finance, Industry, Community Service through Rotary and otherwise, he is a dictionary by himself. However, vocabulary will not be able to assess him properly. He is such a humble soul, a great personality, and a handsome person, who once met could not be forgotten. We will never find a proper and befitting reverence to this man Mr. T. Ramesh U Pai.

A LEADER WHO INSPIRES

G. RAGHUVARAN

Dr. Raghuvaran is an ENT Surgeon and is the present incumbent of Dr. M. Gopala Pillai's Jawahar Hospital, Nagercoil.

The life and achievements of this septuagenarian are awe-inspiring. His contributions to the society in the field of education, medical care, banking, finance and industries are well known. He believes in private sector and it is in a way against all sorts of controls in entrepreneurship. He shares the view that education should not be the monopoly of the state. He is one who wants talents to be discovered and nurtured. All these are in the highest traditions of the 'Pais of Manipal'.

His personality is towering. His character is worthy of emulation. His friendliness is marked by sincerity and his kindness is unfailing.

As a manager and executor, he is meticulous. He is a leader who inspires. He is a philanthropist and social worker. His Rotary career has been long and eventful. He has retired as R.I. Director only in June last - leaving only the Presidential chair still to occupy.

My conversation with him dates four decades back. Memories are ever green and pleasant. He belongs to those few whom I admire most. His life and career should inspire a whole lot of young men of our country. Let me and my family wish him many happy returns of the day.

AN INTELLIGENT INDUSTRIALIST

K.S. JANARDHANAN

Shri K.S. Janardhanan alias Rajan was Municipal Chairman, Alappuzha, Kerala. He has a flourishing Coir Industry there.

I happend to associate with Mr Ramesh U Pai while both of us were members of the Coirboard in the year '82. Even before, I knew the family while I had an occasion to visit them at Udupi when the Kerala Service Society Bank which was run by N.S.S., was takenover by the Syndicate Bank.

My mother who was the Proprietor of an export firm in the name of 'Coir Floor Furnishing Company' had some problem with Kerala Service Society Bank and the matter was settled after negotiation while the great man, Mr. T.M.A. Pai, was alive.

I found Mr.Ramesh U Pai is a hard working and intelligent industrialist, whatever avenues he has ventured he has come out successfully which is really blessing of GOD. When the Syndicate Bank was nationalised they started the New Financing Banking arrangement of the I.C.D.S which is functioning very well and is doing service to the public.

While he was the Governor of the Rotary Club, he had visited Alleppey. Unfourtunately, I couldn't meet him, since I was hospitalised at Madras. Being a past President of the Rotary Club of Alleppey, I was informed about his visit.

Friends like us cannot forget Mr.Ramesh U Pai because he is so simple and a good friend.



