

Thathaiah Award conferred on Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy



Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy, who was presented Thathaiah Award at a function held at Anathalaya premises in city yesterday and was felicitated along with his wife Kamalamba Narasimhamurthy, is seen with (standing from left) Anathalaya Trustee Ramachandra, Anathalaya President C.V. Gopinath, Yuva Brigade Founder Chakravarty Sulibele, Anathalaya Joint Secretary Ashwathnarayan, Secretary V. Nagaraj and Anathalaya former President R. Guru.

Mysuru, Dec. 27 (SPN&DM)-Renowned Indologist, former Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru and former Head of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy, was conferred the prestigious 'Vrudhapitamaha, Daya Sagara M. Venkatakrishnaiah (Thathaiah) Award' at a programme organised by Thathaiah Jayantotsava Samiti at Thathaiah Anathalaya premises on N.S. Road here on Sunday. The award carries a purse of Rs. 25,000 and a citation.

Speaking on the occasion, Yuva Brigade Founder Chakravarty Sulibele said, he was surprised to learn about the towering personality and achievements of Thathaiah, when he happened to read a book about him recently.

Pointing out that though Thathaiah came from a poor family, he did a lot of service for the society, Sulibele said that Thathaiah was instrumental in the establishment of many institutions in the city. Stating that an exhaustive study is needed for understanding the services of Thathaiah, he said that the Jayantotsava Samiti has done good by honouring Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy with the award.

Speaking about the introduction of Anti-Conversion Bill in the State Legislature, Sulibele said that the Bill was inevitable for preventing religious conversions which is witnessing a steady rise in recent days. Observing that unhindered religious conversion would render Hindus a minority in decades to come, he noted that the hues and cries over the Bill were unfounded as there is nothing to worry for any individual or groups if they do not indulge in religious conversions.

Bemoaning that the media failed to report much when some people and groups reportedly expressed glee over the death of CDS General Bipin Rawat and several others in a helicopter crash recently, he also wondered why the media remained silent on where the money came from for farmers who were agitating against the Centre's three farm laws at Delhi's borders, to lead a life of comfort.

Thathaiah Anathalaya President C.V. Gopinath, who is a former Additional Secretary of Government of India, in his address, said that M. Venkatakrishnaiah, who was affectionately called as Thathaiah, had done yeoman services to the fields of education and journalism.

Pointing out that the contributions and services of Thathaiah is a model for the younger generation, Gopinath said it is befitting that Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy, who has contributed a lot for Indology, Numismatics and Ancient History has been conferred

Thathaiah Award.

Speaking after being conferred the award, Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy said, he was delighted to receive the award given in the name of Thathaiah.

Recalling that Thathaiah was born to a poor family at Magge village in H.D. Kote taluk of the district, he said that Thathaiah's contributions and services to the society is hardly matched by others. Observing that a lot of time was needed to study the achievements and feats of Thathaiah, he listed out some of the books written and published by Thathaiah.

Gopinath also announced that Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy has given a cheque for Rs. 50,000 and donated several other articles for development of the Anathalaya.

Dr. A.V. Narasimhamurthy and his wife Kamalamba Narasimhamurthy were felicitated on the occasion. Anathalaya former President R. Guru, Secretary Nagaraj, Trustee Ramachandra and others were present.

COVID curbs spoil party plans for second year

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Speaking to reporters yesterday, Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda said that since the last two years, the hospitality industry was running under severe losses and only now business was looking up. "The night curfew move is disastrous for the hospitality industry as it is the peak season and we had planned to have a gala event," he added.

As there is a night curfew, people will prefer to stay at home and they will not venture out beyond 8 pm. "The Government must tell how a night curfew would prevent transmission of COVID-19 or a possible third wave. Thousands of people are visiting all tourist attractions in Mysuru and they are taking part in various events like Dasara Exhibition and Mysore Palace Flower Show. If they are not affected, how come only people in hotels will be affected," he asked.

The hospitality industry will have to reduce the seating capacity and would have to rework their dinner and party reservations. "We may have to cancel some of our reservations as the number of tables will reduce. I cannot understand why only the hotel industry is being targeted," Narayanagowda questioned.

"We want to request the Government to do away with the 50 percent reservation in hotels and bars. When they allow theatres to function in full capacity, why should they only penalise us," he asked.

FOAM questions purpose of vaccination

Even the Federation of Organisations and Associations of Mysuru (FOAM) has taken umbrage at the night curfew announcement and said what is the point in taking double doses of vaccines if normal events

are restricted.

In a press release, Association President B.S. Prashanth has stated that the entire Government machinery had ensured that double dose vaccinations were taken by a large population. "What is the point in inoculating people when they are restricted from celebrating annual events like welcoming the New Year," he asked.

He appealed to the Government to withdraw the order and help the industry to thrive in peak season. "We too are concerned about the health of the public and we will follow guidelines while observing the festivities," Prashanth added.

Kodagu Home Stays full

Following the sudden announcement of night curfew yesterday, people from Bengaluru and Mysuru are coming to Kodagu in droves and many places in the hill district are reporting traffic jams. "People have booked in advance and they are coming for the year-end parties and since yesterday, we are seeing a spike in enquiries for three to four day stay from Dec. 28," said Vipin Cariappa, a Home Stay owner.

Many IT companies in Bengaluru have declared four to five days holidays for their staff and as there are restrictions on public gatherings on New Year's eve, party-goers prefer hill stations to welcome 2022. Along with Kodagu, Chikkamagalur too is seeing an increase in tourist footfall.

Home Stays in Kadagadalu, Sunkoppa, Bhagamandala, Kutta, Srimangala and Siddapur have reported full occupancy till Jan. 3, 2022. Cashing in on the opportunity, some Home Stays have hiked the tariffs and at the same time also provided complimentary goodies.

Rotary Mysore Midtown's new team



Rotary Mysore Midtown's new team for the year 2022-23 (sitting from left) Rtn. Naveenchandra - President and Rtn. Kumaraswamy - Secretary; (standing from left) Rtn. Elizer Milton, Rtn. Nagaraj, Rtn. Aiyanna, Rtn. Bhaskar, Rtn. Rakeshbabu, Rtn. Ravindranath, Rtn. Srinivasan, Rtn. Venkatesh, Rtn. Pavithran, Rtn. Veeresh and Rtn. Narendrababu.