



# RAINBOW

Newsletter of Priyadarshni Academy

Vol. 1 : No.3

April - June 2006

## From the Chairman



Greetings!

The Academy's Newsletter has been christened '*Rainbow*' which, as you no doubt noticed, is the name it carried in its New Year issue. The Academy too has several hues, with its principal priorities being supporting education and promoting

culture. Both themes came to the fore in the January - March 2006 quarter, with the 'National Integration through Dance & Music' program on January 20, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Literary Awards and Scholarships programme on March 23. Both events are covered exhaustively in this issue.

Mr. Jayantrao Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Planning, Government of Maharashtra, and Mr. Keshub Mahindra, one of India's leading industrialists, did us the honours once again at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual function, and the good things they said about the Academy were indeed immensely satisfying.

In line with the Academy's priorities, we are also pleased to carry a story on I<sup>2</sup>IT, a world-class institution located among IT giants in India's knowledge city, Pune. It is considered the only institution in India devoted exclusively to IT. The Institution was founded by Mr. P. P. Chhabria, Chairman, Finollex Group.

Your Academy achieved a new milestone when it signed an MoU with *Namaste America*, a TV Channel based in New York and devoted to the promotion of India, particularly among Indian Americans and Indians in the U.S., but also aimed at the growing number of Americans who want to learn more and more about India. Under the MoU, the Academy will help *Namaste America* promote the Channel and help its visitors to India with information and contacts, and *Namaste America*, in turn, will provide exposure to the Academy in its Channel.

The Academy will soon finalize the selections for its prestigious Biennial Global Awards programme to be held at the Regal Room of the Hotel Hilton Towers in the afternoon of September 19, 2006. I shall look forward to making the award announcements in the next issue of *Rainbow*.

Sincerely yours,

**Nanik Rupani**  
Chairman

## Priyadarshni Vice-Chairman takes over as IMC President



Mr. Nayan Patel

Mr. Nayan Patel, Vice - Chairman of Priyadarshni Academy, has taken over as President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber with effect from April 22, 2006.

Priyadarshni recognized Mr. Patel's talents early and bestowed on him the Academy's Young Entrepreneur of the Year award and citation as early as in 1996. He received these at the Academy's 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Awards function held at the Regal Room of Hotel Hilton Towers (then known as Oberoi Hotel) from Mr. Manohar Joshi, then Chief Minister of Maharashtra State. As a key member of the Academy, Mr. Patel has shown keen interest in its activities and a special interest in the development of India's youth through training programmes. He believes that the youth needs to be trained in such a way that India can play an increasingly challenging role in the world and find its rightful place among the top economies of the world. Because of this inclination, it is no wonder that Mr. Patel is also connected with educational organizations such as Juhu Parle Education Society, Janseva Samiti's Mahila College, Homeopathic Education Society's CMP Homeopathic College, Surajba Vidya Mandir, and the Excellence Foundation -- an institution to promote excellence in sports.

Young, dynamic and affable, Mr. Patel was born in London, graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Fachhochschule in Konstanz, West Germany. After post-graduating in impact extrusion technology and automation with simultaneous practical training in several reputed manufacturing organizations in that country, Mr. Patel returned to India to take over as the Executive Director of the Patel Extrusion Group. Since taking up this position, he has helped the company grow enormously and transform it into the world's largest manufacturer of printed aluminum collapsible tubes. His company was awarded the Jamnalal Bajaj Uchit Vyavahar Puraskar for the year 1997.

Widely traveled, Mr. Patel has planned and implemented many joint venture projects. He has also made a contribution to the growth of the Indian economy and the industry as well as the scientific development of India through his association as head of industry-related bodies such as Bombay Industries Association, Pharmaceutical &

Allied Manufacturers & Distributors Association Ltd., and Aerosol Promotion Council of India. Mr. Patel is also the Director of Vividhlaxi Audyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra (VASVIK) which is dedicated to the cause of economic prosperity in India through industrial research. It has instituted seven annual industrial research awards and a special award for women scientists. Mr. Patel is a Vice-President of the Bombay Productivity Council. In recent years, he has devoted much of his spare time to the activities of the Indian Merchants' Chamber.

Mr. Patel is a person known for his tremendous organizational capabilities, systematic and meticulous approach to tasks and believes in what is most important today- perfection.

Mr. Patel's theme of the year for IMC is "Bridging the Gap of Globalization".

Mr. Patel will endeavor to create an environment to expose Indian manufacturers to global standards and systems. His vision is to establish India as the manufacturing hub of the world.

He also plans to bring the youth into the mainstream of the Indian economy. Reforms in education, empowering the youth and globalization will be his main focus area.

Priyadarshni Academy wishes the new President of the IMC all success in taking the Chamber to greater heights. It also looks forward to collaborating with the IMC in projects of mutual interest and benefiting from Mr. Patel's important new role in the community.



*Mr. Patel is seen with Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat State, at the Western India Trade Conference held in Mumbai on January 20-21, 2006*

## Priyadarshni Academy signs MoU with Namaste America

Priyadarshni Academy and Namaste America, a Television Network based in New York, signed an MoU on March 10, 2006 to exchange information about India for mutual benefit.

Priyadarshni Academy promotes Indian art and culture, for which it organizes suitable events regularly. At its Global Awards Function which it holds biennially, the Academy honours outstanding achievers whose contributions have made a distinct and positive difference to the lives of many. Each year, the Academy gives many financial scholarships to needy and deserving students in the country, enabling them to reach their goal of higher education. Priyadarshni Academy also contributes to the world of literature in India, through its Literary Awards held every year.

Namaste America promotes information about India and its culture, through its Television Network, among overseas Indians resident in the United States of America and Americans interested in India.

Both Priyadarshni Academy and Namaste America have, as their common objective, the promotion of India and its culture among Indians and Americans interested in India as well as to globalize India.

Towards this common objective, Priyadarshni Academy will share information about its activities with Namaste America as well as attempt to provide what information the latter requests relating to the promotion of India.

Priyadarshni Academy will also render co-operation, by way of appointments and information, to any such visitors to India from the U.S.

In turn, Namaste America will attempt to broadcast information about Priyadarshni Academy's activities among overseas Indians resident in the United States, as well as Americans interested in India.

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## Priyadarshni Academy's National Integration through Dance & Music Programme Lasya & Kalasadan artistes perform ballets

Priyadarshni Academy in collaboration with K. C. College organised a Classical Dance Program on January 20, 2006 at the K. C. College Auditorium, Mumbai under its National Integration through Dance and Music Project.

Over 30 young dancers and 20 accompanying artistes from two institutions participated in the two and a half-hour program which was attended by members, well-wishers and connoisseurs.

While delivering the welcome address, Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy stated that the program was aimed at providing a platform to new and upcoming artistes of Mumbai. He further stated that the objective of the Project was to create greater awareness and deeper interest in India's rich cultural heritage.

Mr. Prakash Dubey, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, and Mr. Bob Harilela, Director, Harilela Group of Companies, Hong Kong, were the Guests of Honour. While speaking on the occasion, Mr. Prakash Dubey and Mr. Bob Harilela complimented the efforts of Priyadarshni Academy in

encouraging promising artistes by giving opportunities for them to perform in front of a stellar audience. Mr. Harilela also released the first issue of "RAINBOW", Priyadarshni Academy's newly christened Newsletter.

Artistes of Lasya and Kalasadan, two leading Dance Institutions in Mumbai performed Dance ballets titled *Ritu Vilasa* and *Ramayana* respectively.

Lasya is a full-fledged professional dance unit and its repertoire varies from the traditional to more experimental dance ventures that address a diverse number of subjects situated in contemporary reality. Mrs. Rajashree Shirke, Founder Director of Lasya and an exponent of Kathak and Bharata Natyam directed the *Ritu Vilasa* Ballet.

Kalasadan is a leading institution in Mumbai serving the cause of India's fine arts with the purpose of preserving and propagating them in their divine and dignified forms. Guru Mani, the Founder Director of Kalasadan has studied Bharatanatyam from veteran Guru Kupiah Pillai.



Artistes of Kalasadan performing the *Ramayana* ballet.



Shri Nanik Rupani presenting an Appreciation Memento to Shri Bob Harilela, Director, Harilela Group, Hongkong



Shri Nanik Rupani felicitating Shri Prakash N. Dubey, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax.  
Shri Kiran Shantaram is also seen in the picture.

**Sponsor Educational Scholarships of Rs. 10,000 each to needy students who wish to pursue higher studies. The scholarships can be instituted in the name of your departed near and dear ones or in the name of Trusts, Contact : Priyadarshni Academy for details**



**Dignitaries at the National Integration through Dance and Music Function.**  
 Seen from left are : Shri V. Ranganathan, former Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra, Shri Prakash N. Dubey, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Shri Kiran Shantaram, Ex-Sheriff of Mumbai, Ms. Manju Nichani, Principal K. C. College, Shri Nanik Rupani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, Shri Murti Adnani, Co-Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, Shri Bob Harilela, Director, Harilela Group of Companies, Hong Kong, Shri Suresh Kotak, Chairman, Kotak & Co Ltd and Shri Mahesh Thakkar, General Secretary, Priyadarshni Academy.

*Ramayana Ballet* was based on the musical composition of Maharaja Swati Tirunal. The Ballet was choreographed and directed by Guru Mani, Natrajopal and Mrs. Sharada Ganesan.

Ms. Manju Nichani, Principal, K. C. College and Mrs. Madhavi Vora, Chairperson, Cultural Committee of Priyadarshni Academy, spoke on the occasion. Mementos were presented to Mrs. Rajashree Shirke, Director, Lasya, and Guru Mani, Director, Kalasadan.



*A view of the audience at the National Integration through Dance Programme at the K. C. College Auditorium.*

**Rainbow released**

The inaugural issue of *Rainbow*, the official Newsletter of Priyadarshni Academy was formally released at the hands of Shri Bob Harilela, Director, Harilela Group of Companies, on the occasion of the Priyadarshni Academy's National Integration through Dance & Music Programme held on January 20, 2006 at the K. C. College Hall. The office of the Registrar of Newspapers of India has approved the title *Rainbow* for the Newsletter.



*Shri Bob Harilela releasing the inaugural issue of 'Rainbow'.*



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22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Literary Awards and Scholarship Function

## Priyadarshni honours five Literateurs

At a glittering function held on March 23, 2006 at the Walchand Hirachand Hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Priyadarshni Academy presented literary awards to five leading figures in the Marathi, Hindi, Sindhi, and Gujarati languages; appreciation mementos to an IT educationist and a senior municipal official; and scholarships to 67 college and school students. The programme was presided over by Mr. Jayantrao Patil, Minister for Finance and Planning, Government of Maharashtra. Mr. Keshub Mahindra, leading industrialist and Chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., was the Chief Guest.

In his address, Mr. Patil said that he "has never seen such continuity of work as related to society, as is done by Priyadarshni Academy in bringing achievers from different aspects of life and from various parts of the world together and making us admire them".

Speaking about Mr. Rajendrakumar Vale, an important citizen who received an appreciation memento later in the evening, Mr. Patil said, "governments, including municipal administration, which have a key role to play, have to manage the cities better". For that, "we need personalities like Mr. Vale, who is an honest official and who has made commendable contributions to cleaning up the environment."

Mr. Patil presented the Abheraj Hirachand Baldota Scholarship to Ms. Kruti Kapadia, second year student of electronics and telecommunications at Vidyavardhini College of Engineering and Technology in Navi Mumbai.

All the five awards were presented by Mr. Keshub Mahindra and every one of the awardees responded after receiving their

respective award which consisted of a cheque for Rs.25,000 each and a Trophy.

Dr. Jitendra Bhatia bagged the Shri Kisharam Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Hindi Literary Award for his book *Agale Andhere Tak* and for his overall contribution to literature.

Ms. Kavita Mahajan received the Priyadarshni Academy's Marathi Literary Award for her first novel *Br*, a touching exposition of the status of women in our tribal society.

Dr. Arjan Sikayal received the Priyadarshni Academy's Sindhi Literary Award for his body of work in the Sindhi language. Dr. Sikayal is 87 years old and is an Ayurvedic Physician by profession.

Two literary figures received the Gujarati literary awards. Dr. Naresh Ved received Priyadarshni Academy's Gujarati Literary Award for his body of work in Gujarati and Mr. Chandulal Selarka received Priyadarshni Academy Chairman's Special Award for his contribution to literature.

Mrs. Aruna Katara, Executive Chair, I<sup>2</sup>IT, Pune, and Managing Trustee, Hope Foundation, and Mr. Rajendrakumar Vale, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, received Appreciation Mementoes for their exemplary service. Mrs. Katara dedicated the appreciation memento to her institute and gave credit for her achievements to the guidance she received from Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Chairman of Priyadarshni Academy's Vedic Research Centre and Founder Chancellor, India International Multiversity.

The response of Mr. Vale, a senior municipal official, was that



Dr. Naresh Ved, receiving the trophy (in the picture on the extreme right) from Shri Keshub Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, for his outstanding contribution to Gujarati Literature. Seen on the stage from R-L are: Dr. Ram S. Tarneja, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy Global Awards Advisory Committee, Shri Keshub Mahindra, Shri Nanik Rupani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, Shri Niranjan Hiranandani, Vice Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy. Recipients of the Literary Awards from extreme left are: Dr. Arjan Sikayal (Sindhi), Ms. Kavita Mahajan (Marathi), Dr. Jitendra Bhatia (Hindi) and Shri Chandulal Selarka (Gujarati).

"Mumbai has one and a half crore population in a small land mass which is not easy to manage. But, with determination, we can continue to bring about small changes". He added that whatever little he had done "had been with the help of NGOs" and that "this public recognition will go a long way in motivating him and his team."

As many as 67 scholarships were given to students doing courses in engineering, IT, architecture, B.Ed. and medical sciences. A majority of the scholarships carried an amount of Rs.10,000. Among the recipients were a number of the disadvantaged who were merited.

Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Co-Chairman of Priyadarshni Academy, a builder extraordinaire and the man responsible for changing the Mumbai skyline, said that "the Perestroika (change) is that India today is known all over the world whereas it was considered a backward country not long ago. It is known as the knowledge center. We are grateful for the progress we have made in various fields. It is because of the respect, integrity, honesty, and other values that we have built for which we are recognized in the world community, and because of the leadership we have created in different disciplines."

While addressing the audience, industrialist Mr. Keshub Mahindra said "education is the most powerful tool and the key to cultural, social and economic progress. But, we have pitiful infrastructure. Various amenities, quality of life, shortage of water, the health sector, all need to be improved." He called upon people like Mr. Hiranandani to take the lead in improving infrastructure. "The government can't do it alone", he added,

"It needs to partner with the business community to make progress a reality."

The program was sponsored by Shri Narendrakumar A. Baldota, CMD of the Baldota Group, an emerging corporate giant in India, with multiple businesses in the fields of iron ore mining, exploration of gold and diamonds, industrial and medical gases, wind power generation, and banking, and now entering the steel business.

Mr. Mahesh Thakkar, General Secretary, Priyadarshni Academy, proposed a vote of thanks.

Rajendrakumar Vale honoured



Shri Rajendrakumar Vale, Assistant Commissioner of Municipal Corporation receiving an Appreciation Memento from Shri Keshub Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. Shri Nanik Rupani, Shri Niranjan Hiranandani and Shri Mahesh Thakkar are also seen in the picture.





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4	Neutron Scholarship for Engineering and IT Students
5	Ram B. C. Scholarship for Medical Students
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9	Ram Tarneja Scholarship for needy persons
10	Shri Abheraj Hirachand Baldota Scholarship
11	Polycom Scholarship
12	Koshi & Dialdas Charitable Trust Scholarship
13	Shri Jiwatram Manghnani Memorial Scholarship
14	Kala Gopaldas Mahbubani Memorial Scholarship
15	Bhagwandas Peraj Memorial Scholarships
16	Radha Kisharam Rupani Memorial Scholarship
17	Devi Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Scholarship
18	The Harilela Scholarship
19	K. T. Shahani Memorial Scholarship

**Financial Support rendered by Priyadarshni**

- US \$ 221 to Mr. Doulat P. Jiandani, Philippines for medical expenses in December 2005.
- Rs. 10,000/- to the Women's Development Cell of Jai Hind College in December 2005 for organizing a seminar on women's development focussing on gender sensitization, counseling, empowerment and entrepreneurship.
- Rs. 30,000 to Hyderabad (Sind) National Collegiate Board for the Sindhi Intercollegiate Dance Competition and Food Festival organised by the Sindhi Association of K. C. College in January 2006.
- Rs.2,000/- on April 5, 2006 to extend support for the Voice (Valuable Offerings in Children's Education) project of the Navyug Parishad in Bhopal. The money will be used for the benefit of under privileged children who are not able to get education because of poverty.
- Rs. 2000 to Mr. Anand Sanzgiri for medical expenses in March 2006.

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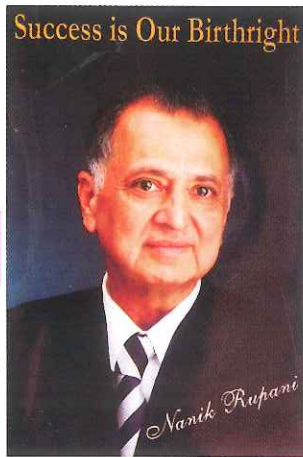
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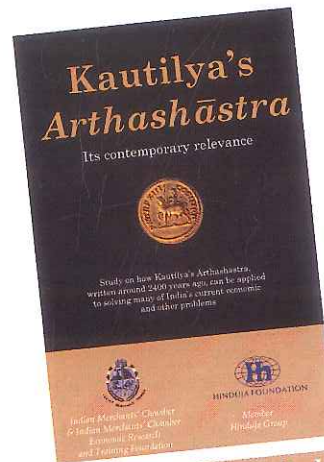
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**Mrs. Aruna Katara felicitated**

Mrs. Aruna Katara, Executive Chair, I<sup>2</sup>IT, Pune and Managing Trustee, Hope Foundation was felicitated on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Literary and Scholarships Function held on March 23, 2006 at the IMC Hall. Mrs. Katara is a key management member responsible for infrastructure creation and maintenance and administration of the world-class IT facilities at I<sup>2</sup>IT. She received an Award for excellence in Education from the Top Management Consortium in Pune. She is keenly committed and dedicated to the cause of education especially for the youth of the country.



*Mrs. Aruna M. Katara, Executive Chair, I<sup>2</sup>IT receiving an Appreciation Memento from Shri Keshub Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. Shri Nanik Rupani and Shri Niranjana Hiranandani are also seen.*



*A close-up of the I<sup>2</sup>IT campus and the Advanced Technology Incubation Centre, Pune.*

Without doubt, the city of Pune, which has always boasted of being a leading educational centre in India and is Maharashtra's knowledge capital, is fast becoming an advanced tech city teeming with leading IT and BPO companies and MNC engineering companies. Tech giants of India and the world are setting up operations and R & D bases in the city, in turn fuelling the demand for IT specialists and IT managers. Part of the reason for that development is the presence of this world-class institution in that city.

Known as I<sup>2</sup>IT, pronounced IsquareIT, the institute is one of the foremost institutes in India exclusively devoted to IT and related education. Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India, dedicated the institute to the nation on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

While technology-focused, the institute, at the same time, aims to provide students with education and training in values and attitudes which will empower them to be successful, productive, and responsible citizens of the world.

The training in the institute is application-oriented. The institute is situated amongst leading IT companies such as Infosys, Wipro, Tata Technologies, and Cognizant at the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park in Hinjewadi, Pune. It is an autonomous institute with the curriculum developed and delivered by leading academicians and industry professionals. Visiting



*A view of the I<sup>2</sup>IT Singapore campus.*

**I<sup>2</sup>IT - World-class IT Institution in Pune**

"I have not seen an educational institute as good as I<sup>2</sup>IT and other institutions are looking up to it as a model" said Mr. Jayantrao Patil, Maharashtra State Minister for Finance & Planning, when speaking about the International Institute of Information Technology in Pune. Mr. Patil was delivering the Presidential address at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Literary and Scholarships Function of the Priyadarshni Academy at the Walchand Hirachand Hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber on March 23, 2006. He added, "IT education will change India's economy".

It is widely accepted and demonstrated worldwide that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been in the forefront of the growth of various countries around the globe. A significant share of the transformation of the economies is due to the role played by Indian ICT professionals. The world is being transformed by ever-accelerating technological advances making technological literacy a pre-requisite for survival and growth. An increasing number of careers now require high-level skills in the fields of ICT.

lecturers from various parts of the world add depth to students' understanding of global culture, a prerequisite to be able to participate, compete and go forward in a rapidly globalizing world.

The school offers fully residential MS and MBA programmes in advanced technology. The institute is an approved centre of the University of Pune for research leading to Ph.D. in engineering.

Collaborating with universities and educational institutions all over the world, the institute has programmes that are internationally recognized and industry relevant. It provides state-of-the-art infrastructure, and excellent research environment. While cultivating values of innovation and leadership, the institute aims to produce the industry leaders of tomorrow. It is this focus on holistic development that is fast earning it the reputation of being among the best technology institutes in India.

The institute maintains a dynamic industry interface program and students get a chance to work on projects with leading companies.

I<sup>2</sup>IT has set up collaborations with various international universities and educational bodies to give a boost to the IT evolution. The institute has signed MoUs with reputed educational institutes around the world to promote a global perspective in advanced IT and management. The collaborating universities offer equivalence to the institute's programs in their home countries. All enrolled students are awarded their degree in the home country of their respective universities. Collaborations are with international universities in the U.S., Canada, Hungary, France, Russia, Thailand, China and Korea.

For the first time in Indo-Russian history, a Masters level joint technical program between the two countries commenced on February 17, 2006 at Moscow State University. The Indian students pursuing MS program in Advanced Information Technology with specialization in Computational Fluid Dynamics at I<sup>2</sup>IT would receive academic training to complete the second semester of the program at MSU. About 6% of the students are from abroad. More than 120 companies participate in the placement and internship process every year. For some courses, students spend internships in universities abroad and vice versa.

Plans are afoot to set up an institute in Singapore where a campus space has already been taken up. This campus will be operational from October 2006.

The institute's mission is to be one of the world's esteemed institutes for advanced education and research in IT and management. The way it has progressed in the less than three years of its inception, the goal seems well within its reach.

## Upcoming Event

September 19,  
2006

Priyadarshni Academy's Global Awards  
Function - Regal Room, Hotel Hilton  
Towers, Mumbai

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### Form IV

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I, V. N. Gopalakrishnan, do hereby declare  
that the particulars given above are true to  
the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/-  
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