

Mango treatment plant delayed for want of land

Bosky Khanna

BENGALURU: The Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KSMDMCL) is searching for land to set up hot water treatment plant in Ramanagaram, to speed up the process of treating and exporting mangoes.

The Corporation and mango growers are looking for land in Ramanagaram for more than six months to set up a hot water treatment plant, Kadre Gowda, Managing Director, KSMDMCL told *DH* on the sidelines of the mango-picking tour which was held on Saturday in Kolar and Ramana-

garam. “We cannot acquire farmers’ land for setting up the plant. Acquiring private land has become difficult as many are politically influential. Finding government land has become a major challenge. Some farmers sell their mangoes to private companies for treatment and sale, and some others send it to Innova Agri Bio Park Limited in Malur in Kolar district for treatment and sale,”



Hot water treatment of mangoes is mandatory before exporting them to European and Gulf nations. The Corporation is keen to treat mangoes before fruits hit the domestic market as well.

explained another KSMDMCL official.

Hot water treatment of mangoes is mandatory before exporting them to many European and Gulf nations. The Corporation is keen to treat mangoes before the fruits hit the domestic market also, as

it kills insects and ensures that customers get good quality fruit.

Hot water treatment units are coming up in Chintamani in Chikkaballapur district and Hubballi. But one is needed in Ramanagaram, where 17,000 hectares of land is un-

der mango cultivation, Gowda pointed.

The KSMDMCL has made many requests to the state government, seeking help in identifying land but in vain. Gowda said that though mango production has taken a beating this year because of drought, the export demand has increased because of the quality of the produce. Last year, Karnataka produced 13 lakh metric tonnes of mangoes of which 6,975 metric tonnes was exported. This year, the yield is expected to be around 10 lakh metric tonnes and the KSMDMCL expects to export the same quantity as last year.

Farmers from Ramana-garam and Kolar sold around two tonnes of mangoes to the 200 tourists from Bengaluru at their fields on Saturday. This was the second tour organised by the KSMDMCL this season. Last week, one tour was organised to Chikkaballapur, where consumers purchased around 800 kg of mangoes directly from farmers.

The next visit will be to Chintamani in Chikkaballapur district on May 7. **DH News Service**

64-year-old breast cancer survivor performs 302 Surya Namaskars

He had to face social stigma as breast cancer is associated with women



T N Shivakumar performs Surya Namaskars at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology on Sunday. *DH PHOTO*

BENGALURU: T N Shivakumar was 54 years old when he was diagnosed with third-stage breast cancer in 2004 and he was glad because after several downfalls in life, he did not want to live.

On Sunday, he performed 302 Surya Namaskars in six-and-a-half hours at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, without a break to catch his breath or have a sip of water.

“Doctors told me that I would live only for three months. But after 13 years, I am still alive and healthy. I performed the Surya Namaskars to set an example to others that it is possible to defeat cancer and live a healthy, happy life,” Shivakumar said. He also wanted to thank Kidwai Institute, where he received his treatment.

Facing social stigma Shivakumar had to face social

stigma as breast cancer is something associated only with women.

“I could not talk to anyone about my problems because my male friends would not understand me. Awareness about it is less. I met some breast cancer patients from America and they were able to come out and talk about it boldly,” he said.

Shivakumar has been advocating the Ayurvedic system of medicine after it helped him recover from his cancer treatment, which included an

operation, radiation and hormone tablets.

Record of experience

He wrote a book about his experience when he was receiving treatment for weakness in his lower limbs in 2005. “Ayurveda has helped me a lot. I used to find it difficult to go to the Government Ayurvedic Medical College for my treatment but now I can walk up to 15 km,” Shivakumar said.

He has written several books on mental health and the ben-

T N SHIVAKUMAR: Doctors told me that I would live only for three months. But after 13 years, I am still alive and healthy. I performed the Surya Namaskars to set an example to others that it is possible to defeat cancer and live a healthy, happy life.

efits of Ayurveda, and is growing 10,000 medicinal herbs near his house in NR Colony to supply to the AYUSH department.

Ayurveda unit

Shivakumar is thankful that the Ayurveda unit in Kidwai Institute has been reinstated and is pushing for a similar unit in Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases.

“If they open an Ayurveda unit there, I will perform 302 Surya Namaskars there, too,” Shivakumar said.

At 64, he keeps himself busy, regularly visiting Kidwai hospital to talk to cancer patients and provide them support.

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I, SHOUBA JOSHI, R/A No. 21, 7th A Main, Muthyalanagar, Bandappa Garden, Bangalore- 560054, have changed my name to **SUNITHA JOSHI** vide affidavit dated 06.04.2017 before Notary K.C. Shashikala, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be called **SUNITHA JOSHI** only.

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‘Foreign students are important for cultural vitality and economic activity’

Meghana Choukklar

BENGALURU: Uncertainty over possible restrictions on foreign students entering the USA, by the new government, has led to a decline in the number applicants to universities there.

Colleges, however, are still welcoming students from India and other countries, said Michael J Schoenfeld, vice-president for public affairs at Duke University, in an interaction with *DH*.

“There has been a lot of talk and threats of restricting entry of foreign students. This is unfortunate because foreign stu-



Michael J Schoenfeld

dents are important for cultural vitality and economic activity,” he said. Schoenfeld was in the city to host an event to connect with alumni of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, new students and their parents.

Schoenfeld said that public and private universities throughout the United States, and their associations, are lobbying through members of the Congress, trying to establish that it is in the national interest to “keep doors open.”

Besides an economic im-

Duke to open office it city

Duke University will soon be opening their office, the first one in the country, in Bengaluru. “The office is mainly for the purpose of coordinating the several research, learning and engagement opportunities the Universities has here. There is a large extent of exchange of students and faculty between India and Duke for research in environment, health, technology and education,” Schoenfeld said.

pact, travel bans and restrictions will affect the field of research, which has a large number of foreigners. “If we look at the percentage of PhDs awarded in science, engineering and technology to foreign candidates, it outweighs the number of American candi-

Music and dance reviews

Melodious flute

Curtains came down on the Ramanavami music festival at Sree Seshadripuram Rama Seva Samithi on Sunday, with a solo violin concert of Kanya Kumari.

Chandan Kumar, who gave a flute recital here, hails from a great musicians family. Over the years he has established himself as a good flautist, through his hard practice and talent. Chandan Kumar proved his accomplishment in the opening “Vinayaka” itself, for which he added a brief ‘swara’ also.

“Ragasudharasa” was another evocative composition of Tyagaraja. Shannmukhapriya, the familiar raga was absorbing for the Swati Tirunal’s composition “Mamava Karunaye”. His breath control, blowing and fingering technique are free from strain and attractive. “Raghuvamsha Sudhambudhi Chandrasri” in Kadanakuthuhala, seems to be a inevitable choice in most of the instrumental concerts! After that he moved to the



Chandan Kumar



Suma Sudhindra

main raga of the programme - Mohana. It is a “Audava raga” (pentatonic scale) and ‘janya’ of Harikambodhi. The interpretation of Mohana with lilting phrases and the well-knit ‘swara’ for “Mohana Rama” was more reposeful. Ajit Kumar on violin, Arjun Kumar on mridanga and G S Ramana-jam on ghata - had a purposeful role to play.

Lively concert

Dr Suma Sudhindra, who gave a veena recital at Sree Seshadripuram Ramaseva Samithi, is a popular veena artiste and a recipient of several awards and titles, including “Ganakalabhushana” from the Ganakala Parishat.

Suma’s musical sensitivity was in full focus in the crisp opening strains of the ‘Durbar Varna’, which was in five speeds and was an impressive beginning. The aural beauty of “Sri Mahaganapathim” in ‘Gowla Raga’ was enhanced

with crisp ‘swara’. While “Manasa Etulo” was briefly elaborated, the “Ninuvina” brought nostalgic memories.

Alap for “Mokshamugala-da” was brief but pleasing and the ‘Mana Vyala’ was in jet speed, as expected. “Entha Muddo” attracted with its attractive ‘Bhava’. “Abheri” received a detailed treatment with a lively ‘thana’. Nalina Mohan gave good support on violin and the percussion duo - Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma (mridanga) and Sukanya Ramgopal (ghata) - lent effective support.

A promising vocalist

“Kaligiyunde” is a majestic composition of Saint Tyagaraja. The aesthetic articulation in “Kaligiyunde” at once registered the prowess and competence of Vinay Sharva’s vocalism.

Vinay Sharva is a disciple of S Shankar and Nedaruni Krishna Murthy and an MTech

graduate. He is a recipient of Dr M S Subbulakshmi Fellowship of Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha and has won prizes from Sabhas, including Bangalore Gayana Samaja.

Keeravani is a “Rakti raga” and popular with both composers and connoisseurs. Through ‘alapana’, nerval and ‘swara’, it was lively and wholesome. He had selected a number of fine compositions. The fare constituted of a number of melodic compositions, including - ‘Saraseesuhasana Priye’, ‘Rama Ninne Nammi (Huseni)’, ‘Mayamma’, ‘Bhogendra Shayanam’.

Another haunting melody ‘Kedaragowla’ was redolent with lilting “Sangatis”, for “Venuganaloluni” of Thyagaraja. The ‘swara’ also bristled with some lively phrases. No doubt, Vinay Sharva has a bright future in the years to come. Mathur Srinidhi, C Cheluvvaraj and R Kartheek accompanied with good understanding on violin, mridanga and khanjari, respectively. **Mysore V Subramanya**



Vinay Sharva

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