

KBGA and FBA

It was when an Executive Committee Meeting of KBGA in the year 1985 was underway, one of the EC member Mr. H. Bhojaraj came out with a very intelligent proposal of conducting a Badaga conference at Bangalore. This proposal was very thought provoking for all those who attended that meeting and it was agreed to be pursued with the arrangements.

In the next fifteen days, the then secretary of KBGA, Mr. R Murthy happened to meet the secretary of Madras Badagas Association, Mr.R.Bhojan, at Chennai and they discussed about the proposal of conducting the Badaga Conference at Bangalore. The secretary of Madras Badaga Association brought this proposal as one of the agendas for discussion in their next Executive Committee meeting and this was communicated to other Badagas Associations like Young Badagas Association Ooty and Coimbatore Badaga Association.

In the following month, Coimbatore Badaga Association organized a meeting of the office bearers / representatives of all Badaga Associations, at Coimbatore. KBGA was represented by Mr.Y.B.Muthumani and Mr.R.Murthy. During the above meeting , the participants almost decided to go for a Badaga Conference at Coimbatore. But Mr.Y.B.Muthumani (KBGA) raised the following questions:

1. Who will monitor the activities on resolutions passed in the proposed conference?
2. Which is the authorized body to control the functions, expenditures etc?
3. Do we require an Apex Body for this purpose?

The questions were taken seriously by the participants and another meeting was scheduled at Y.B.A. Ooty after two months. The “Federation of Badagas Associations (FBA)” was formed at the meetings with Mr.K.Kallan (then MLA) as the president, Mr.M.Mathan (ex M.P) as the general secretary and the Presidents

of Coimbatore Badaga Association, Madras Badagas Association, and KBGA as Vice Presidents. The FBA also had some more executive members who were mainly the representative of various Badaga Associations.

Thus, KBGA was the main catalyst for forming the “Federation of Badaga Association (F.B.A)”. After this, period after period, KBGA Presidents used to be nominated as Vice Presidents of F.B.A. As per the resolution, the FBA Executive Committee meetings are scheduled to be conducted at Bangalore once in a year (the other centers selected were YBA Ooty, Coimbatore and Madras for the other three quarters). Many Executive Meetings were very successfully organized by KBGA at Bangalore, under the FBA Banner in the subsequent years.

The professionalism, with which the FBA Executive Committee Meetings were conducted in Bangalore, had received high level appreciations from the participants. It is also interesting to note that whenever there is a lull in the activities of FBA or KBGA felt that FBA was inactive, it did not hesitate to re-ignite the office – bearers of FBA for effective functioning.

It is really exciting to mention that the agenda of conducting the historic Badaga Rally at Ooty on 15th May 1989 was first discussed in one of the FBA EC meetings held at Bangalore in the year 1988.

The responsibility of “Welcoming” the dignitaries to the dais, and the all important “prayer” for the occasion were shouldered by KBGA representatives and that was carried out very successfully. Our second Badaga Cassette was also released at that dais on that day.