

## **Summary Report on the Inauguration of the newly restored**

### **Hasta Shilpa Heritage House**

### **Children's Museum of Toys and Playthings, Manipal**

Hasta Shilpa Trust, Manipal, is pleased to announce that its new project The Children's Museum of Toys and Playthings was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Udupi district, on November 14, 2017 which is celebrated as Children's Day across India. The Museum is housed in the restored Hasta Shilpa Heritage House, Manipal, the flagship project of Vijayanath Shenoy, Founder-Secretary of Hasta Shilpa Heritage Village.

The Children's Museum showcases a collection of toys and playthings, many of which were traditionally used in different parts of Southern Karnataka in the care of children from infancy onwards. Some of these objects have had an important role to play in the development of skills among children such as motor, neurological and cognitive skills. These objects are no longer used in the modern era. There are also miniatures such as animal and bird figures, tiny kitchen utensils, sturdy Chennapatna wooden toys, traditional board games, and interesting little knick-knacks from different parts of the modern world which were designed to hold the attention of the child. Lastly, on display are a number of beautifully carved wooden cradles.

The Museum is probably the first of its kind in India showcasing such a collection, which is inextricably linked to early childhood care and learning in earlier times. In addition, its collection of more modern curios is also bound to arouse the curiosity of children.

The house which hosts the museum is the newly restored Hasta Shilpa Heritage House, Manipal. Although built as his family home in the period 1985-1990 by Vijayanath Shenoy, it was later vacated and sealed off after the privacy of Shenoy and his family was destroyed by the constant arrival of bus-loads of visitors, curious to see his remarkable home. Shenoy thereafter dedicated his energy to setting up Hasta Shilpa Heritage Village, Manipal.

Re-opening Hasta Shilpa Heritage House was a significant move made by the Trust as it displays the formative stages of Shenoy's ideas on Hasta Shilpa Heritage Village which now draws a steady number of visitors. The Hasta Shilpa Heritage House is the place where he first experimented with displaying his collection of old, salvaged materials in culturally appropriate and aesthetic ways. This is where he dreamed of the idea of translocating entire houses, rather than only their remnants as artefacts, and thus was born the idea of Hasta Shilpa Heritage Village. Locating the museum in the house is an attempt to encourage young children to observe and engage with an aesthetic heritage house.

The Hasta Shilpa Heritage House Museum of Toys and Playthings is conceived as a dedicated space for school-going children, which will soon become a vibrant learning space. Exhibitions, performances, story-telling sessions, summer schools and workshops appropriate for school-going children are also planned. In the first week of its opening, 470 children and several additional visitors have come to the Heritage House and Children's Museum.

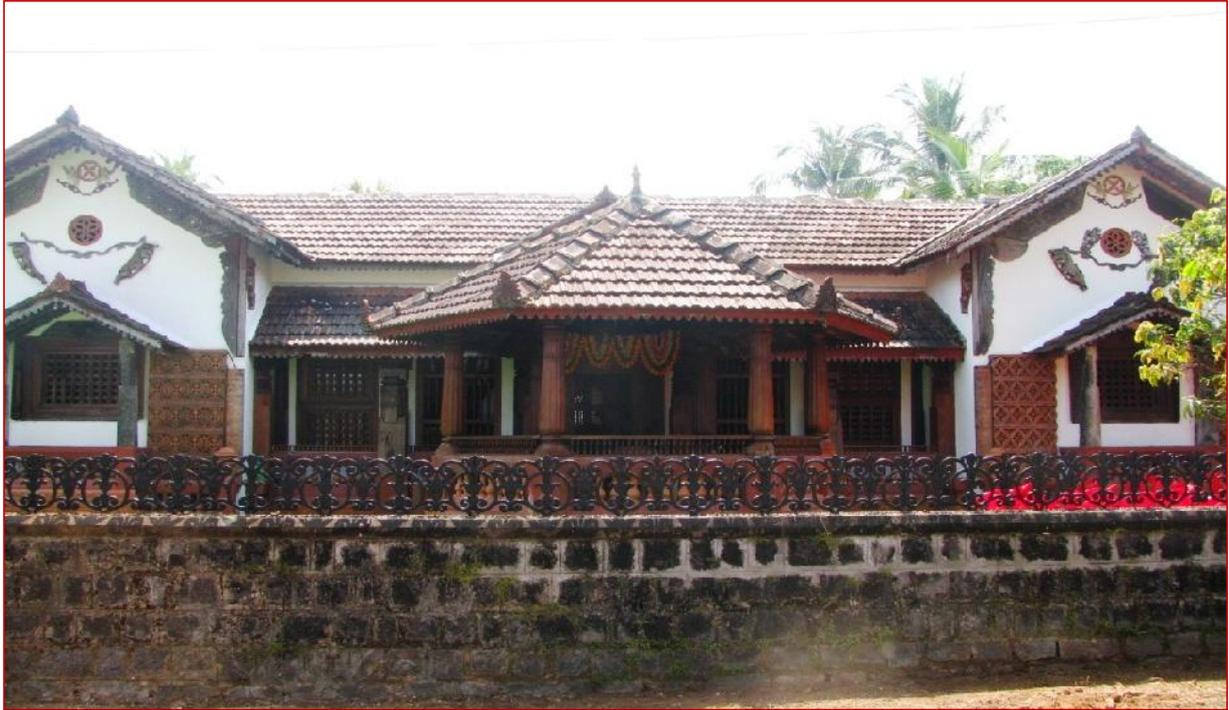
It is a matter of pride that Hasta Shilpa Trust was able to raise more than matching monies required for the Heritage House and Museum, even though it was from outside South Kanara. The restoration grant which kick-started the project was given by Tata Trusts (Mumbai). This was more than matched by individual donations from Jagannath Shenoy (Mysore), Arun Joti, (Mumbai), Vaidehi Nandyal and Raghu Varadan (San Francisco and Bangalore) who have contributed generously to the twin project of the Children's Museum.

The Museum will be open only 3 days a week from November until the end of February, exclusively to groups of school children, only through advance booking by phone/email.

**(Pictures in the following pages; links to press coverage on the last page)**



**The restored Hasta Shilpa Heritage House Children's Museum signage**



**The newly restored Hasta Shilpa Heritage House - exterior views**



**Entrance Room of restored Heritage House where lamp lighting was held at the inaugural**



**Hasta Shilpa Heritage House restored corridor, pillars, roof and windows**



**View of Chowki with restored roof extensions**



**Lamp lighting by Ashok Pai in presence of Deputy Commissioner and Anuroopa Shenoy**



**At the inaugural: Sapling planting by Deputy Commissioner along with Trustee Harish Pai**



Chennapatna wooden toys display (above) Long view of Museum (below)





**Close up of Display of Brass Animal and Bird Miniatures Collection**



**Close up of part of the collection of toys and playthings (far side)**



**Interior of Children's Museum – immediate left corner**

## **Children's Museum in the Press:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/museum-of-toys-and-playthings-to-be-inaugurated-today/article20421845.ece>

<https://www.udayavani.com/english/news/karavali/250940/hasta-shilpa-trust-launch-new-museum-toys-children-november-14>

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/642978/museum-toys-playthings-manipal.html>

<http://canaranews.com/news/canara/Museum-of-toys-and-play-things-launched/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/museum-of-toys-and-playthings-opened/article20448003.ece>

<http://www.mangaloretoday.com/main/Museum-of-toys-and-playthings-in-Manipal.html>