

Dr Siddayya Puranik (Kavyananda)– Biography

Written by – Prasanna Kumar Puranik

s/o Dr Siddayya Puranik

Koppal district (formerly part of Raichur district) is located in Karnataka, India. It has a rich history of religious, cultural and political events. It is also home to several literary giants and famous temples. We can trace back the history to the period of Emperor Ashoka, to Kadambara, Gangaru, Chalukya, etc. The district has people of many religions living in harmony. It is also known as Kashi of the Jain community.

We begin with an event in Siddayya Puranik's childhood. This happened in school where his maternal uncle was a teacher. In order to know the aptitude of children in his class he asked the students to write down in their slates "what they desire." While checking the slates of the students one by one, the teacher found that one child had written that he wants sweets, another wrote that he wanted a pencil etc. In one slate he was astonished to see that the student had written that "I want Knowledge". This student was Siddayya Puranik who grew up to become a famous writer and an able IAS officer. His thirst for knowledge made him a scholar in Kannada, English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu. In his writings, you can sense the flavors of all these languages.

Dr Siddayya Puranik was born on June 18, 1918 in Dyampur, Yalburga Taluk of Koppal district. His father was Kallinath Shastri and his mother Dannamma. Even though Kallinath Shastri was not wealthy, he was a highly cultured person. He rendered religious (Purana) discourses. He won the hearts of the villagers through his enthralling keerthanas and enacting plays written by him. Being one among them he led a peaceful life. Mother Dannamma was known for feeding people (Dasoha) and there was a regular stream of visitors to her house. Puranik was the eldest child in the family. He had two brothers, Annadanayya and Basavaraj, and two sisters, Veeravati and Sharanamma. His grandfather Channa Kavi was well known as

Kavi Ratna. Puranik was fortunate to have been born in such an illustrious family. Kengal Veerbhadra was his relative and a teacher. During his childhood he was familiarized with songs of Shishunal Sharief, Muppina Shadaksharayya, Bala Leela Mahant Shivayogi etc.

The small school in the village was managed by the villagers. It had no permanent teachers due to poverty and hence education was improper. Therefore, Kallinath Shastri taught Puranik at his house. Puranik was taught not only languages, grammar, and mathematics, but also Gemini Bharath, prabhulinga leele, shabar shankar, etc. Puranik's knowledge was further enriched by hearing discourses and debates at the home of his grandfather, Kavi Ratna Channa Kavi.

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The two distinguishing traits of Puranik which helped him assimilate this vast knowledge was his power of concentration and elephantine memory. His teachers endeared him for these qualities.

School Education

Even though the government started a primary school later at Dyampur, it had to be closed down soon due to a murder in the village. Ever eager to educate his son, Kallinath Shastri sent Puranik to the adjoining village, Chikkenakoppa, where his maternal uncle was a teacher in a school run by the local mutt. Within a short period, this school also had to be closed again due to a murder in the village. After tutoring his son at home for some time Kallinath Shastri decided to admit him to nearby "Vidya Nanda Gurukula" for school education. Admission to this school was not easy as it was a recognized school and Puranik was subjected to many tests by the principal. Puranik's brilliance amazed the Principal and he was admitted to the second standard.

Soon the principal expired and his successor was all the time reading books in the library. The vice principal used to send students to villages to collect funds for running the school. Also, there was caste discrimination as the school that was predominately Brahmin dominated. The Vice Principal used to give non-Brahmin students many domestic chores. Not able to tolerate

this humiliation, Puranik stopped going to school. On the pretext of going to school he spent all his time on swimming and sports. After a few months Kallinath Shastri came to know of this and took Puranik to school and explained to the vice principal the circumstances under which he had stopped coming to school. The vice principal admitted Puranik back to school, told him that he had high hopes on him and asked him to concentrate all his energy on improving his knowledge. He gave a book to Puranik from the library titled “Shivabakt Bhadramu” and asked him to read it. The next day he wanted Puranik to give a summary of the same. When Puranik did that, the vice principal was impressed. He began giving Puranik one book every day and the following day Puranik gave the summary. This was one of the turning points in Puranik’s life. Adversity turned into a blessing and his knowledge started expanding exponentially.

In the middle school public examination Siddayya Puranik secured First Rank for the district bringing glory to his school and his family.

Education in Kalburgi

Kallinath Shastri had the foresight to have his son admitted to high school affiliated to Osmania University so that he could later study for a degree. He took Puranik to Kalburgi to meet the high school principal, Moulvi Zulfikar Ali Hakkani. After interviewing Puranik in English, Mathematics etc., Hakkani was deeply impressed by his knowledge and admitted him to his high school. After admitting Puranik into a free hostel run by a mutt, his father returned to Dyampur.

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Siddayya Puranik, being good in mathematics, opted for this subject. His mathematics teacher Rahamat Ullah Khan was a good teacher, but was very strict. He wanted all his students to do mathematics homework every day and show him the work done the following day. Puranik, who was regular in doing his work, impressed his teacher but one day he missed doing his

homework .Thenext day his Mathematicsteacher found that he had not done his homework.In a fit of anger,he told Puranik that he is not fit to be in his class and asked him to opt for some other subject.At this all the studentsin the class laughed. Hurt by this Puranik left the class telling the teacher that he also does not wish to be his student. Thenext day Puranik went to Kannada teacher Tavas Bheemsenrao and got admitted to his subject. This was a turning point in Puranik's life towards Kannada language. Puranik immersed himself in the study of Kannada in the vast school library. He also wrote his first poem for a competition and got the first prize.

Puranik had to leave the free hostel for pointing out the corruption there and joinedGuru Basava Mutt which provided only lodging.He had to look for food elsewhere. He had to depend on the invitation of people for food which was not regular. Meanwhile his father's religious discourses had reduced, forcing him to learn ayurveda and practise as a doctor.His income was meagre, so Puranik could not seek his support. Puranik became secretary of Kannada Sangha and organized many literary functions. He was greatly influenced by meeting and listening to the lectures of Justice Tukol, DaRa Bendre, Ramshri Mugali, VK Gokak etc.

At the same time he put in untiring efforts in his studies and in the Public Matriculation examination, he secured 3rd rank in Osmania University overall and first rank in both Kannada and English. This was the highest achievement of the school. Principal Hakkani , family members and teachers were delighted at this achievement.

Intermediate Examination

Encouraged by Puranik's result in the matric examination, Principal Hakkani got him admitted to the school hostel free of cost, got him student cash allowance, arranged special tuition in English and gave him free access to the school gym. He advised Puranik to put his heart and soul in studies and at the same time maintain his health. He asked Puranik to aim for the first rank in intermediate public examination. Puranik spared no efforts in this direction but as

the examination approached, he fell sick and could not go to Hyderabad to write the examination.

During this time his parents received a proposal from Puranik's maternal uncle for the marriage of his daughter to Puranik. Puranik declined the offer as he wanted to complete his studies first. Unable to bear the family pressure, he ran away secretly to Hardekar Manjappa's ashram at Almatti. Puranik lost one year of studies there, but gained considerably under the guidance of Hardekar Manjappa. He was greatly influenced by Hardekar Manjappa all through his life.

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During his stay there he got immersed in the vast library. He started using his pen name "Kavyananda" for the first time in the poems and articles published there. Later when he met his father and explained his position, his father reconciled and blessed him

Puranik wrote his intermediate examination as a private candidate in Hyderabad. He got the 3rd rank at Osmania university and 1st rank in both Kannada and Sanskrit. Principal Hakkani, family members and the villagers were delighted with joy.

College Education at Hyderabad

Principal Hakkani gave a recommendation letter and asked Puranik to meet Osmania University professor Hussain Ali Khan at Hyderabad. The professor, after seeing the letter, and his result in the intermediate exam, admitted Puranik to the college and offered to waive his college fees. Apart from dedicating his time for study Puranik was involved in various Kannada programs where he had the privilege of meeting and listening to literary luminaries. He became close to his Kannada professor D KBheemsen Rao and famous writer Manvi Narasimha Rao.

In the final BA examination Puranik got first rank at Osmania University which earned him praise from all.

Tahsildar and Marriage

During this time applications were invited for the post of Tahsildar. Professor Hussain Ali Khan encouraged him to apply for the same and gave him a recommendation letter. The interview committee chairman Khagi Saheb after interviewing Puranik in various topics and seeing his performance in the BA exam was so impressed with his overall performance, that he selected him for the post of Tahsildar. Puranik underwent 30 days training and 60 days orientation with other probationary tahsildars. During this period an unfortunate event happened. Puranik's sister Veeravati to whom he was greatly attached died.

Puranik married Girija Devi, whom he and his parents had selected on May 11, 1944 at Dharwad.

Puranik's contribution to Government service

Siddayya Puranik was a highly dedicated, able and hard-working officer. He worked for the welfare and development of the region and the people wherever he was posted. Whenever he was transferred to a new department, he would meet all the staff members, familiarize himself with them and learn about the problems and challenges. He would also study in detail the rules and regulations associated with the department which enabled him to take prompt and considered decisions helping in speedy completion of jobs. While doing his work he carried his staff and other related departments along with him and was easily approachable to all. He always tried to innovate and find ways and means to complete the task. By having

good relations with his superiors, he sought their support in completing the tasks. His sincerity and clean image drew people towards him. He did not discriminate against any cast or creed. He was deeply touched by the downtrodden and went out of his way to help them in every possible way.

Puranik's government service can be divided in two parts one rendered in Hyderabad region and the other in Karnataka State.

Puranik's service in Hyderabad region

After completing training, Puranik was first posted to Nanded. Here collection of levies from farmers had become very difficult due to plague and famine. A tahsildar had got murdered while on levy collection duty. When all other Tahsildars in the region refused to go for levy collection Puranik offered to go alone without police help. He won the hearts of the villagers by enquiring about their welfare and provided them ration cards and ensured that they got the promised ration. This made the villagers to willingly give the levy grains. He was transferred to Gulbarga in 1945 as assistant collector of land records. Later in 1948 he was made assistant commissioner, Jagiratu. During this time there was political unrest because of the Muslim razakar movement where Hindus were threatened and attacked.

In 1951 he was transferred to Hyderabad as assistant revenue secretary. In 1952 he was made private secretary to minister Anna Rao. He went around all the taluks and assessed the welfare measures required and gave approval on the spot which enabled the launching of many projects like drinking water, roads, sanitation, etc. In 1953 he became private secretary to Agriculture minister Chenna Reddy. During this period several small irrigation projects in all the districts were started and completed.

In 1955 he was transferred to Tandur as deputy collector. He initiated many development projects like opening of schools, permanent buildings for schools, roads, minor irrigation projects, etc.

Puranik's Government service in Karnataka State

When the reorganization of States on linguistic basis was undertaken, the enlarged Karnataka State came into being on 1st November 1956. Puranik opted for Karnataka service, even though he lost three years of seniority depriving him of the opportunity of becoming chief secretary, as he wanted to serve his home state.

He was posted as deputy collector, Yadgir in 1957. Being a backward area, he initiated many projects. Taking village landlords into confidence and convincing them about the need for

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education he started many schools and by acquiring land from them, he constructed a permanent school building. He also started many village libraries, formed several mahilamandals where women were given job work. He conducted free eye camps in many places with assistance from renowned Dr M C Modi. Harijan colonies were built with provision for drinking water, electricity, schools and medical clinics and he also provided them jobs.

In 1958 Puranik was promoted to the IAS cadre. He was transferred to Bangalore in 1960 as Deputy Secretary, Education Department. He was instrumental in opening many government primary, middle and high schools, colleges, and polytechnics all over the state. He pioneered the creation of “Vishwa Kosh Yojana” at Mysore University and the first comprehensive “Kannada” dictionary through Kannada Sahitya Parishat, where, as a member of the dictionary committee, he served several years till its completion and enriched the work with his vast knowledge of Kannada. He tirelessly collected funds for construction of Ravindra Kala Kshethra auditorium. He also provided funds for the printing of books of famous Kannada writers so that they were made available to readers at subsidized rates.

In 1962 he was posted as director of information and tourism. At the Mysore Dasara exhibition the innovative stall of the information department won the gold medal. The government’s advertising budget was small at that time and was fully cornered by big publications. He ensured fair distribution of money to all publications. To encourage tourism several government bhavans were built.

In 1964 he was made Deputy Secretary Finance and Gold Control. He successfully found alternative jobs for jewelers and artisans and provided them financial support as they were badly affected due to the Indo-China war. As finance department was then a nodal agency for all

government departments, he proactively interacted with all departments to clear all files expeditiously to speed up development work.

In 1965 when Puranik was being transferred to Coorg as deputy commissioner, Chief Minister Nijalingappa called him and said that earlier Coorg was a small independent state before being amalgamated to Karnataka state and had its own government. The people of Coorg were not happy as not much development work was being done and he expected Puranik to change this perception through all-round development of Coorg district. Puranik started development work in Coorg in right earnest and initiated projects in all areas. He provided electricity at Talacauvery, the source of the prominent Cauvery River and constructed a government guest house which in turn facilitated the construction of many private guest houses. The inflow of tourists increased by leaps and bounds. Although Coorg's capital Mercara had heavy rainfall there was drinking water shortage during summer as there was no proper water supply system. Puranik was responsible for commissioning the first integrated water supply system for Mercara. Even though Coorg district had abundant rainfall and water, for decades they grew one crop per year. Puranik pioneered and introduced the second crop which was a great

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success and received tremendous acclaim from people, superiors, and the media. The access roads and street lighting to interior villages were significantly improved. During 1965 India - Pakistan War, Puranik relentlessly collected funds for the National Defense Fund and National Small Savings Fund and Coorg district stood first in Karnataka in both even though it was the smallest district in the state. He also mobilized youngsters to join the army and achieved the highest number of recruits in India. When Puranik took over as deputy commissioner of Coorg, there were 18,000 files pending at his office and most of them for want of clarifications from taluk level. He went to each taluk along with the officers concerned and cleared the files after obtaining the required details. During the Mercara water supply inauguration function presided

by Chief Minister Nijalingappa, the CM congratulated Puranik stating that he has done commendable development works to the satisfaction of all people. When Puranik was transferred to Bangalore there were several farewell functions and the people openly acknowledged that the volume of development works done by him in a short span of two years far exceeded the work done earlier when Coorg was an independent state and was acknowledged by Indian Express newspaper in an article titled "Preface In Efficiency"

In 1967 Puranik was transferred to Bangalore as transport commissioner. Here the bone of contention was issue of bus permits which was a source of corruption. Puranik, after careful study, gave permits to all deserving operators by increasing the numbers both for intra-state and inter-state buses. He also increased permits to tourist places. He plugged all loopholes for corruption through strict vigilance and surprise visits to various parts of the state. He decentralized power by creating higher level officers' posts at district level and provided the essential staff with housing. During his three year tenure here, the revenue of the department increased from Rs 7 crores to Rs 11 crores which earned him appreciation from the government.

In 1970 Puranik was transferred to Belgaum as deputy commissioner. Belgaum was known for discord between Kannada and Marathi speaking people. A few taluks had predominately Marathi speaking people and here development work was lacking. This caused discord. Puranik initiated several development works in all the taluks of the district on a war footing. Another decades-old problem was submergence of hundreds of acres of fertile land in a place called Ballari nala during monsoon causing large scale destruction of crops. The project to overcome this problem involved huge outlay. Puranik, along with engineers, personally walked through the entire belt and found that there was constriction in an area owned by a few farmers. He asked these farmers to give this land to the government in exchange for alternative land, then brought heavy bulldozers from the nearby Hidkal dam and created a suitable canal for water to flow freely. During the following year's monsoon there was no submergence, and the crops

were in full bloom. People, higher-ups, and media came from all over the state to see this miracle. A project which was costing several crores was completed with just one lakh rupees

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and this brought him appreciation from government and people of Belgaum district. He successfully reopened and rejuvenated the M K Huballi sugar factory to the delight of the sugar cane growers in that area. Along with chief engineer S G Balekundry, he executed the Malaprabha Dam project and completed it in record time ensuring assured water to thousands of acres of land in Karnataka for the crops grown there. He also rehabilitated people of the villages which were submerged due to the dam by building several villages and houses with electricity, water supply, schools and clinics besides giving them alternative land and employment. During his short tenure of two years in Belgaum, Puranik faced a multitude of challenges and completed innumerable projects. He conducted the 1971 census, two elections, visits by the President and Prime Minister, famine, Bangladesh war rehabilitation of dead and wounded soldiers' families, and several development projects including completion of a dairy in Belgaum, 21 road projects, 66 water supply projects in rural areas, 344 school buildings, 16 rejuvenation of lakes, etc. When he was transferred to Bangalore he was honored with a standing ovation at various farewell functions.

In 1972 Puranik was transferred back to Bangalore as labour and welfare commissioner. Labour unrest awaited him at HMT, Bengal Lamps, Remco, etc. Within a short time he sorted the problem amicably using innovative methods which was acknowledged by an article in leading newspaper "The Hindu" under the headline, "Blazing new trail in industrial relations". Puranik maintained industrial tranquility by being easily accessible to workers and management and nipping the problem in the bud. As welfare commissioner he built and provided over 1500 houses with drinking water, electricity, schools and hospitals for mine workers. The central government, while appreciating this excellent work, added Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh where he did similar work before his retirement in 1976.

On the eve of Puranik's retirement from government service the Karnataka Government, at its cabinet meeting, recorded his exemplary and unblemished service to the state and its people.

Puranik's contribution in promotion of Kannada in Hyderabad Region

The Nizam's kingdom covered vast areas of the present Karnataka and Maharashtra States. From the present Karnataka it included Bidar, Raichur and Gulbarga districts which have majority of Kannada speaking people. In these districts people had forgotten Kannada language due to 224 years and 7 generations of Nizam dynasty rule where only Urdu had been given prominence and in most schools Urdu was the medium of instruction. Rejuvenating Kannada was a herculean task.

Puranik along with other prominent Kannada writers like Bheemsen Rao and Manvi Narasim Rao formed Kannada Sahitya Parishat which undertook the task of printing books on learning Kannada, sent volunteers house to house for teaching and promoting Kannada and conducted regular examinations and issued certificates. Kannada functions were held regularly where

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prominent writers like Masti, Anakru, Kuvempu, Gokak, etc. were invited. One more association named Kannada Sahitya Mandira was formed which started Kannada medium schools and conducted Kannada functions. Puranik was its vice president and this association is actively functioning even today. The Bidar Kannada Nadahabba Celebrations, inaugurated by Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthya, was huge and a great success.

Even though the majority of people living in Basava Kalyan were Kannada speaking and have their famous religious center, there was a move to attach it to Usmanabad in Maharashtra during the linguistic reorganization in 1956. Puranik was pained at this, so he mobilized various prominent people and made a strong petition to the relevant authorities. Thus, Basava Kalyan was retained in Bidar district of Karnataka.

Puranik's contribution in Promotion of Kannada in Karnataka State.

Puranik was a member of the first comprehensive Kannada – Kannada dictionary brought out in several volumes by Kannada Sahitya Parishat with work spread over several years. With his vast knowledge in literature and Kannada language ,Puranik immensely contributed to this task.

As Vice President of Basava Samithi andalso Editor of BasavaPatha and Basava journalshe was involved in promotion of Kannada through hiswritings and conducting functions.

Once, when Puranik met Chief Minister Veerendra Patil at the airport, he requested the latter to promote Kannada in Karnataka by making it the official language in government offices. Patil agreed to the suggestion and asked him to give a note on this subject.Puranik prepared the note there itself to which Patil gave immediate approval . A committee was formed with Masti asChairman and Puranik asSecretaryand was entrusted with the task of working out the modalities of the implementation and within a short time the task was completed to which Patil expressed appreciation. Later the task of implementation of the same at taluk/districtlevel was entrusted to Kannada Sahitya Parishat which in turn formed a committee headed by its President G Narayana and Puranik was made secretary. The implementation was completed in stages.

Puranik was closely associated with Ghalib and Gandhi centenary and used this opportunity to highlight their contribution to Kannada audience. For Gandhi centenary,Frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was invited by the government and Puranik was made the officialKannada translator ofurdu speeches made by Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan at various places in Karnataka. Puranik'sprompt translation of the speeches at the venue was widely appreciated.

Apart from this Puranik was associated with various organizations and committees for promotion of Kannada and he used every opportunity to the fullest.

Puranik's literary work and Achievements

The list of books written by Siddayya Puranik and books written on him have been listed separately on this site.

Here, only the synopsis of his writings and his literary achievements, is listed

Puranik was a scholar in Kannada, English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu. In his writings you can experience the fragrance of all these languages. Puranik's writings covered all areas of literature, poems, vachanas, plays, children's poems, prose, life stories, etc.

Puranik has written eight poetry books covering various subjects like nature, love, Karnataka, Kannada, nationalism, wisdom, etc. His poem "Modalu Manavanagu" – meaning "first become a human being" has been widely appreciated and rendered by leading musicians and singers. Puranik's poetry book of philosophical musing "Maralu Siddanakanthe" has emulated the famous book of DVGundappa's "Manku Thimmanna Kagga" and is considered as its younger brother.

All of Puranik's writings are written in the pen name "Kavyananda" (Kavya meaning poetry and Ananda meaning happiness). Readers will experience happiness on reading his works.

Puranik has written three books on vachanas. His Ankitanam "Swatantra Dheera Siddeshwara" means Swatantra – (independent) and Dheera – (brave). Siddeshwara is the name of the 16th century saint on whom Puranik had abiding faith. His first vachana book "Vachnodyana" won him the prestigious "Bhilwara Award" instituted by Bhartiya Bhasha Parishat, Kolkata and Puranik was the first writer from Karnataka to have won this award.

Puranik's magnum opus "Sharana Charitambruta" covering the lives of 64 most prominent saints – followers of Lord Shiva (Shiva Sharanas) written in 1964 has seen seven reprints and

is still in demand. It is considered as the most important reference book of Shiva Sharanas and has been widely read and followed even by religious seers.

Puranik has written five children's poem books, one travelogue, 14 plays, and a book on Sarvagna. His first poetry book, "TuppaRotti Ge GeGe" has won the national award as the best children's book. His poem "AjjanaKoluIduNannayaKudre" – meaning "my grandfather's walking stick is my horse" has received wide acclaim and is listed among the best children's poems of all time.

Puranik has written 14 plays. The first play written by him when he was studying in college was "Atmaparne – based on life of Saint Basava". The play was enacted while he was still in college where he played the part of Saint Basava and this received wide appreciation. His play "GirjaKalyana– marriage of Girija (Parvati) with Lord Shiva " written in poetic form was enacted by

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Prabhat Kalavidaru asa dance and songpresentation and has won national recognition.

Puranik has written fourteen prose books which have been compiled into three volumes and published in 2021 by Kannada and Culture Department, Government of Karnataka on the eve of his birth centenary. Apart from this they have also reprinted Puranik's Samagraha Kavya, Samagraha Vachana and Samagraha Nataka also.

Puranik wrote articles in many newspapers, magazines and periodicals in Kannada, English and Urdu. He wrote two books in Kannada on famous Urdu poets Najeer Akbarabadi and Mirza Ghalib and introduced them to Kannada readers. Similarly he wrote articles in Urdu newspapers regarding famous Kannada writers to introduce them to Urdu readers. Some of Puranik's works have been translated to Hindi, English, Urdu and Marathi.

His poems have been rendered by leading singers and they are regularly broadcast on Akashvani's Vividh Bharti channel. Cassettes of these songs have also been quite popular.

Puranik gave talks on Vividh Bharti periodically and his "chintana" talks won accolades.

Two documentary films have been produced on his life, one by Doordarshan, and another by Karnataka Government Information Department and has been telecast several times on Doordarshan.

On his 60 birthday he was honoured in a state level function at Bangalore and the commemorative book "Kavyananda" was released where his autobiography is featured along with articles by leading writers regarding his literature. On this occasion a purse of rupees forty thousand was presented to him and with this money he formed a trust in the name "Kannada Sahitya Samvardhaka Trust" and instituted "Kavyananda Award" to honour Kannada writers. This trust has been giving this award every year over the last 42 years and is still active. With liberal donations of his children and grand children the award now carries a cash prize of rupees fifty thousand and a citation.

All the works of Puranik have been reprinted by his son Prasanna Kumar Puranik and his daughter-in-law Lata Puranik and include compilation of Poems, Vachanas, Plays, Children's poems/prose, Autobiography. Apart from this, they have also produced two song cassettes, "Nanna Kudure" – children's poems and "Sangam" – poems and vachanas. India Post (Department of Posts) has released a postal "Special Cover". Sri Prasanna Kumar Puranik and Smt Lata Puranik have made strenuous efforts to keep alive Puranik's legacy.

Puranik has won several awards and honors

- Doctorate from KarnatakaUniversity, Dharwad
- Prestigious Bhilwara award from Bhartiya BhashaParishad, Kolkata
- Karnataka Rajyotsavaaward
- Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award
- MalwadAward
- President of Children Sahitya Sammelan , Dharwad
- President of prestigious Kannada Sahitya Parishat Sammelan, Gulbarga
- Honoured by several state level and district level organizations with citations/awards

Puranik's family and his life after retirement from government service

Puranik's father was a highly intellectual and wise person but his earnings were meagre. While he brought up his children in a disciplined way with adherence to human values, he could not financially support their higher education. Puranik himself had to complete his education with freeship/scholarship, etc. Puranik took over the role of his father and financially supported the education of his two brothers . His first younger brother Annadanayya Puranik became a noted lawyer in the high court and second younger brother Basavaraj Puranik retired as principal of engineering college.

Puranik was married to Girija Devi and had four children. Girija Devi took up the responsibility of her children and brothers-in-law who were living with her along with Puranik's parents. Puranik's eldest daughter is Vijaya who is married to KNM Nandeewar who retired as superintending engineer. His second daughter Dr Geetha is married to Dr Gangadhar who

reside in USA and are renowned doctors. Next in line, his only son Prasanna Kumar who retired as general manager, is married to Lata. His youngest daughter Bharathi is married to SM Mruthunjayappa who retired as divisional manager. Puranik has eight grandchildren, two from each child. True to his upbringing of his children and grand children, they are highly educated, achieved success in their fields and are good human beings.

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Puranik, after retirement, took up active life involving himself in various organizations, associations and writing and publishing his books apart from spending quality time with his children and grandchildren. He was eagerly sought out to chair various functions and delivered lectures.

Puranik did not have any bias towards any religion and had cordial relations with all communities and hence he was invited to chair functions and deliver lectures by Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jain and Buddhist Organizations/Seers.

Puranik also maintained close contact with his family, relatives, colleagues, fellow writers, etc. and was ever eager to help them.

Siddayya Puranik passed away on 5th September 1994 in Bangalore.

PS

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