



Magazine of the Grand Lodge of India

THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES

*Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
1965 - 2025
Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India*



Marking well a new beginning...



*Mark Lodge Vasudev No. 186 & Royal Ark Mariners Lodge Vasudev No. 186
were consecrated on 11 August 2025.*

AUGUST 2025
For Private Circulation Only



Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India

Regional Grand Mark Lodge of India



Hotel Merlin International
Thrissur

04.00pm : High Tea
04.30pm for 05.00pm : Brethren to be seated in the hall
05.00pm to 07.30pm : Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India
07.30pm : Fellowship and Dinner



www.grandfestivals.in/mark

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Half Yearly Meeting



Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India



**LULU INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION CENTRE**
by Hyatt Regency, Thrissur

08.00am : Breakfast
10.00am : Convocation of RGCSI
12.30pm : Lunch
02.30pm : Meeting of RGMSI
03.30 pm : High Tea
05.00 pm : HYM of RGLSI
07.30 pm : Fellowship, Dinner & Entertainment



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From The Grand Secretary's Desk

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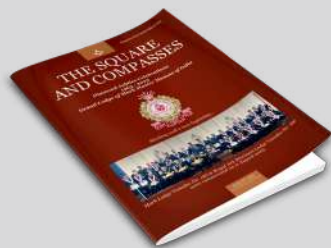
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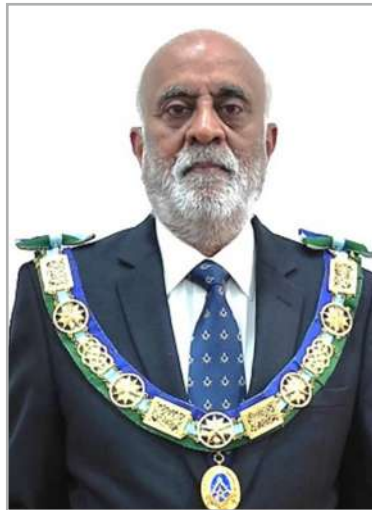
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Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
1965 - 2025
Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of India



Dear Brethren,
Fraternal Greetings!

The growing reach of The Square and Compasses has created a wave of enthusiasm and higher expectations among our brethren. This is clearly reflected in the increased and timely submission of articles and reports from Lodges and Regional correspondents—a heartening sign of the magazine's growing resonance and shared ownership within our fraternity.

The month of August 2025 was marked by the spirited celebration of the 79th Independence Day across all four

Regions, accompanied by numerous charity programmes that reaffirmed our Craft's enduring commitment to service and nation-building.

Looking ahead, September 2025 will be a landmark month. The Half-Yearly Meetings of all four Regions are scheduled, alongside the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. I urge all brethren to register well in advance and participate in large numbers to make these gatherings truly memorable.

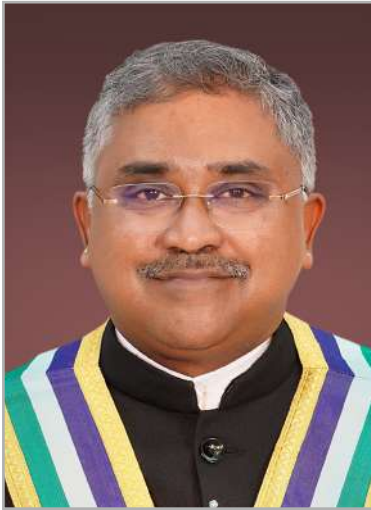
I once again remind all Lodge Secretaries to ensure that The Square and Compasses reaches every Brother. With its availability across multiple digital platforms—our official website, WhatsApp broadcasts, and the mobile app—access is seamless and convenient, enabling brethren to remain connected, informed, and inspired anytime, anywhere.

Thank you for your continued readership, contributions, and support, which remain the cornerstone of the magazine's success.

With Fraternal Regards,
Ajay Bhargava
Grand Secretary



Letter From The Editor



Dear Brethren,
Fraternal Greetings!

With deep gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe and to our Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, OSM, I am privileged to present the August 2025 edition of The Square and Compasses. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Grand Master for his continued guidance, inspiration, and steadfast vision that unites us in our collective journey of Light.

This month's issue stands as a precursor to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. Coinciding with this milestone, the consecration of Mark Lodge Vasudev No. 186 and RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186 was held, and we bring to you their full Orations along with the Grand Master's inspiring addresses on Mark Lodges from his tenure as Regional Grand Master. Adding further depth, our Charge of a Grand Master column features M.W.Bro. Arun Chintopanth, OSM, Past Grand Master, whose reflections on Mark and RAM Lodges enrich this special edition.

Beyond these historic moments, we are proud to feature comprehensive coverage of the 79th Independence Day Celebrations across all Regions-vivid reminders of patriotism, fraternity, and unity.

Under the Living the Masonic Ideals section, readers will discover a tapestry of charitable and community-focused initiatives by Lodges across the country-each reaffirming our shared mission of service.

Our Masons Travel to USA feature offers a glimpse into the journeys of our distinguished brethren abroad, strengthening fraternal bonds with the wider Masonic world.

I am also delighted to note the enthusiastic participation of brethren in our Masonic Puzzle, which continues to engage minds and spirits with every issue.

As always, I extend heartfelt thanks to our contributors, correspondents, and the editorial team for their tireless work in bringing together this edition. Let us continue to build on the spirit of fraternity, tradition, and service as we look ahead to the momentous Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

With Fraternal Love,

W. Bro. R.K. Kanthimathinathan
Editor



The Half Yearly Meetings 2025 of our Regional Grand Lodges

Dear Brethren,

The Half Yearly Meetings of our Regional Grand Lodges - East, North, West, and South - are an opportunity for us to reaffirm our unity, strengthen our bonds of fellowship, and make Freemasonry visible in its finest form.

I urge each Brother to register in large numbers, attend with zeal, and participate actively in the deliberations and fellowship of these meetings. Let us show the world the vibrancy, dignity, and harmony of the Craft in India.

Your presence will not only enrich the proceedings but also send a powerful message of our shared commitment to the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Let us come together across all four Regions, standing shoulder to shoulder as one Masonic family.

Register today, mark your calendars, and be a part of this collective celebration of Freemasonry.

1. Regional Grand Lodge of Eastern India
6-7 September 2025
<https://rgleast.in/aimhym/registration25.php>
2. Regional Grand Lodge of North India
13-14 September 2025
<https://rglni.org.in/meetings/rglnorthmeet-register.php>
3. Regional Grand Lodge of Western India
20-21 September 2025
<https://rglowimeeting.org.in/.../registration-2024-new.php>
4. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India
26 September 2025
<https://grandfestivals.in/mark/>
5. Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India
27 September 2025
https://rglsi.in/aim-hym/registration_h25_south.php

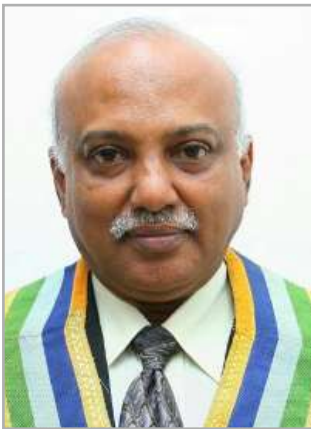
Fraternally,

M.W.Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, OSM
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of India



M.W.BRO. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, OSM
Most Worshipful The Grand Master

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 1965 - 2025 Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India



The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India is completing 60 glorious years since its constitution on 4th of March, 1965. To mark the special event, Grand Celebrations are being planned on Friday, the 26th of September 2025 at Trichur.

It is the desire of M.W. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. G.K. Selvarajan that brethren from all over the country attend the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in large numbers and make it a grand success.

Innovative efforts are being taken by a dedicated team of brethren to make the event interesting and worthwhile your valuable time. Your presence will not only enrich the proceedings but also provide a platform for sharing the principles and tenets of Mark and Royal Ark Masonry.

Brethren can register online on the

Website: <https://grandfestivals.in/mark/glm60-option.php>

Registration Fee Rs. 1,500/-

Brethren, let us all come together from all four regions for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and make it a memorable occasion which will be cherished forever.

I exhort you to register today and be an integral part of the Celebrations.

Yours Fraternally,

S. Thirugnanamurthy

Chairman - Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

**Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India
on Friday, September 26, 2025 at 5 P.M.
at Hotel Merlin International, Trichur**

Most Worshipful The Grand Master

Excerpts from the address delivered by M.W.Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, Most Worshipful The Grand Master when he was the Regional Grand Mark Master of Southern India.

R.W.Bro. G K Selvarajan, R W The RGMM's Speech at the Annual Investiture Meeting of Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India on 09.01.2005.

M W the Grand Master, M W Bro. Arun Chintopanah, Past Grand Master, M W Bro. H P Mathur, R W the Regional Grand Mark Master of Western India, R W Bro. Govind Lal Shahu, R W the District Grand Mark Master of Madras, R W Bro. Balaji Singh, Past Regional Grand Mark Masters, R W Brethren, V W Brethren, W Brethren and Brethren in all.

It gives me great pleasure to once again welcome you for the second time this Morning. Brethren, this Degree of Mark Masonry is generally called Practical Degree. There is a School of Thought that this Degree is so self-sufficient, in form, content and teachings that it would remain so, even if the Craft, Royal Arch or other Masonic Degrees did not exist.

The Ceremony of Advancement comprises of the story of how a sorrowful Fellow craft ultimately was hailed as a Mark Master. It has the highs and lows of a Metro drama, song and a fitting climax. But, to a curious Mason, this Beautiful Degree of Advancement broadly teaches Three Lessons.

The First one the obvious message. It tells us that to be successful in life, one needs the initiative, perseverance and hard work, that, it is always too soon to quit and never, never, never to give up, that, there can be no success without failures.

Thomas Alva Edison was in search of a Home and ultimately, he found one for rent. After taking Edison through the Home, the proud Owner asked him, "Sir, are you now happy with the Home?" Edison, after a pause said, "It is generally good, but there is one more requirement for me. The waste paper basket found in the corner is too small for my researches, I would like to have a bigger basket, because I shall be failing and wasting lot of stationery on my researches". Brethren, history tells us that Edison failed 11,000 times, but made 1000 inventions and he is hailed as one of the Greatest Scientists ever lived.

To my mind, this Ceremony of Advancement conveys to us Two other deeper Lessons. The First one is that while we discharge the duties of our station, we should continue to act in conformity to the sublime precepts of the order that

we learn in the Craft Rituals, namely, to do justice, love mercy, practice charity, maintain harmony and endeavour to live in unity and brotherly love.

In other words, though the Goal of attaining success is important, the manner, the method and the mode of pursuing and achieving the goal of success is equally or perhaps more important. The means should justify the end. The course we pursue to achieve the objective should be honourable and in consonance with the lessons we learn in the Craft Ritual.

The 2nd significance is that many times, one is overcome with pride by his own success. He tends to think that because of his own efforts, he is able to achieve his goal. But the Mark Degree teaches us that nothing is achieved or achievable without the grace, guidance and blessings of the Great Overseer of the Universe. Though the skilful fellow craft by his ingenuity, made a stone for the Building, the same was rejected, thrown away and lost.

But ultimately by the grace of God, the very stone was found and was decorated as the Headstone of the Building while the Fellow craft was promoted to the



M.W.BRO. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan,
Most Worshipful The Grand Master

Most Worshipful The Grand Master



Honourable Degree of Mark Master. Realising that he owes his success and recognition to the Almighty God, the Craftsmen exclaimed "Thanks be to God, I have marked well". Therefore, this Degree teaches us that when one marks well in his endeavours and succeeds, his thanks shall be only to God. We should accept success with humility since it comes only through the blessings and divine grace of the Great Overseer of the Universe. This to my mind, is the **other significance of this beautiful Degree.**

Brethren, the Statistics show that only about a 25% of the Master Masons are made as Mark Master Masons. It should be therefore our endeavour to see that more Master Masons are advanced to this beautiful Degree, so that the sublime precepts of the order are applied and understood in their day-to-day lives.

Saint Thiruvalluvar says:
உவப்பத் தலைக்கூடி உள்ளப்
பிரிதல்
அனைத்தே புலவர் தொழில்

It means that cheering and enjoying in confabulation and cherishing in contemplation is the gift of the Learned men. We met and revelled with each other in brotherly love and now it is time for us to take back to our respective homes, the good memories of the 2 Day Meetings. May this New Year bring to all of you and

your families, health, happiness and prosperity. May we continue to our Masonic sojourn with the blessings and divine grace of the Great Overseer of the Universe.

Excerpts from the address delivered by M.W.Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, OSM, Most Worshipful The Grand Master when he was the Deputy Regional Grand Master of Southern India.

ARE WE TRUE MASONS?

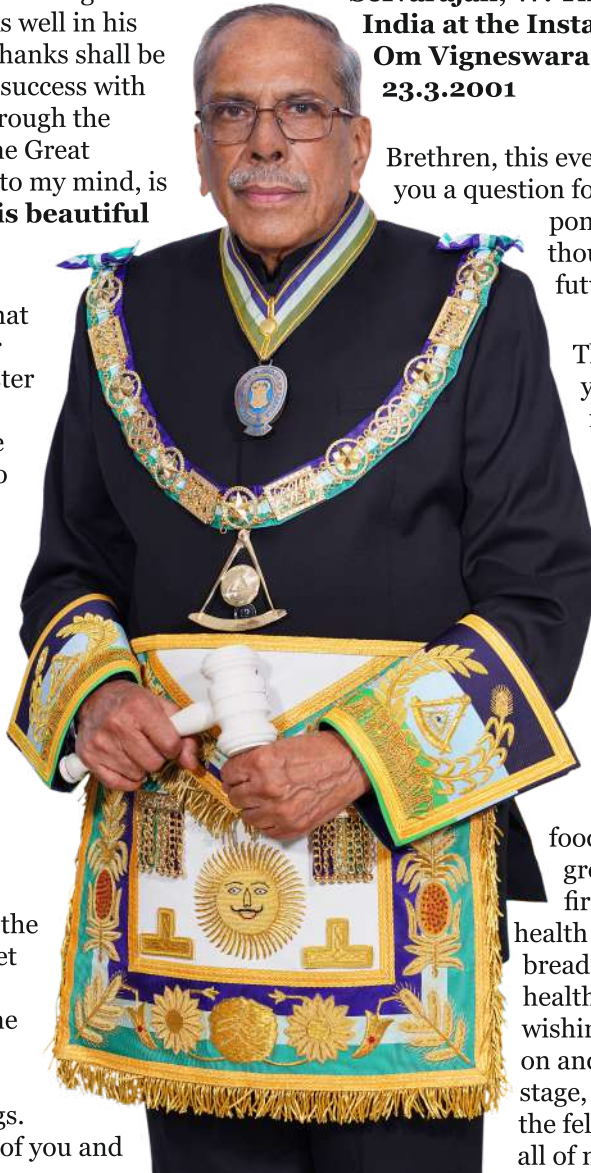
A short paper presented by V W Bro. G K Selvarajan, W. The Dy. RGM of Southern India at the Installation Meeting of Lodge Om Vigneswara No.218. Chennai on 23.3.2001

Brethren, this evening I would like to place before you a question for your kind consideration to ponder over and find an answer, though not today, at least in the future.

The question that I place before you, me and every one of us here is "Are we true Masons" or "Are we Masons in the true sense of the term?"

Brethren when we were initiated into masonry, or when we were shown the light of freemasonry we are first enamoured of the citrual pleasure or citrual phase or citrual side of Freemasonry.

During the fellowship, we are impressed by the fun, frolic, food and fellowship, we meet and greet brethren sometimes for the first time, we drink a toast to the health of masonic dignitaries, we break bread with brethren, drink to the health of poor and distressed masons, wishing them a speedy recovery and so on and so forth. After a particular stage, we find that this citrual phase of the fellowship is not a Be all and end all of masonry and that the fellowship



M.W.BRO. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, OSM
Most Worshipful The Grand Master

Most Worshipful The Grand Master



is just the other side of masonry at the periphery. Sooner we realise that these pleasures have a limitation in terms of age, health etc.,

Then brethren, we move on to the ritual phase or ritual side of masonry. We have been allotted portions of the rituals, we memorize them we deliver them with gestures, articulations and emphasis, we try to create impressions not only in the minds of the candidates but also in the minds of the brethren assembled. Soon we find that there is a limitation to this also. By absence of memory, age etc., and other causes, we also find that there are other masons who are equally, if not more competent to do rituals a better manner. We realise that the ritual phase is also transient and is a passing phase.

Then we move on from the ritual phase and ritual phase to the spiritual phase of masonry. We try to understand and assimilate the meaning and significance of the rituals and we find that it is more meaningful at the spiritual phase of masonry. From the preaching of ritual, we come to the practice of ritual in our day to day life, we practice masonry by way of charity, by instilling hope and faith in the minds of the sick and aged, we lend a helping hand to the distressed masons and others. We try to convert our impure thoughts, words and actions into one of the pure and positive approach. We realise that masonry ultimately is a way of life to be practiced today, everyday and, day by day. We realise that whereas the ritual phase and ritual phase means,



spiritual phase is the ultimate end of masonic objectives.

When we attain that level of spiritual phase, we realise that only when we attain spiritual phase of masonry, we can truly call ourselves Masons.

Brethren, it is for each one of us to have an inner introspection on these aspects. Will we be able to answer the question every day, when we get up in the morning “will I be a true Mason today?” and when we go to bed at night “was I a true Mason today?” and will we be in a position to answer the question true to ourselves satisfying our inner conscience?

Brethren now I come back to the original question “Are we true Masons?”. This question could not be answered by one brother to another brother or on behalf of somebody else. This question could be answered only by us being serious and committed masons satisfying our inner conscience. I leave the question open to you, to me and everyone of us.

Let us ponder over it. “Are We True Mason?”

Consecration of Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186



MWBro GK Selavajan MW The Grand Master with Founder

Worshipful Mark Master M.W. Bro. Vasudev J Masurekar and founder members of Mark Lodge Vasudev No 186

August 11th 2025, Monday, Freemasons Hall, the womb of Freemasonry in Mumbai witnessed an event which will go on the annals of the fraternity as a cornerstone for the future rise of the Mark and RAM Freemasonry in India

Mumbai witnessed the consecration of Mark and RAM Lodge Vasudev registered under GLI No 186 in the presence of MWBro Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, MW The Grand Master as the Consecrating Officer accompanied by Deputy Grand Master RWBro Arvind Chitra as the Grand Chaplain, RWBro Thirugyanamurthy as the Installing Officer, RWBro Chinnasamy Ganesan as Grand Director of ceremonies RWBro Bhargava as Grand secretary. Mumbai Freemasons witnessed a spectacular show of ritual working which will be long cherished.

The founder members, numbering 27 along with 50+ brethren as guests were awestruck by the serenity and sheer intensity of the entire ceremony. The Sandhurst temple at Mumbai Freemasons Hall reverberated with mystical spirituality as the prayers and perambulations were being conducted by the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge Of India.

A dream and wish of beloved RW The RGM of RGLoWI, RWBro Subhash Saraf which was conceptualised in Chennai Grand Festival was realised by the astute planning and hard work of the brethren of Mumbai.

MWBro Vasudev J Masurekar, was installed as the founder Mark Master of Mark Lodge Vasudev No 186 and RWBro Subhash Saraf was installed as the Founder Worshipful Commander Nova of RAM Lodge

Vasudev No 186

The team comprised of WBro S Mayapuri and WBro Pratap Gokhale who were the guiding force in planning the event and the drafting of documents including the summons and byelaws. WBro Dr Chetan Arora was at the controls overlooking all aspects of the event including logistics, temple design and banquet arrangements. WBro Manish Khemani took care of the robing room and regalia for all the founder members and the Grand Officers.

WBro Paul Rosario designed the lodge logo, founder jewels and attended to the printing assignment. WBro Rushabh Patil, the secretary designate stood tall in the dual role of conducting the work, both within and outside the door of the lodge. WBro Charwak Shah and WBro Nikhil Mehra were the 2 pillars

Consecration of Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186



*M.W.Bro. GK Selavajan MW The Grand Master with Founder
Worshipful Commander Nova R.W.Bro. Subhash Saraf and founder members of RAM Lodge Vasudev No 186*

who shepherded the younger brethren in playing perfect hosts. The Reception team led by RWBro Dayanand Amin included Bro Ankit Shah, Bro Yogesh Sharma and Bro Siddhanth Pandit. The Transport team of Bro Neeraj Maldikar along with Bro Daniel Verghese and Sachin, The all-round efforts of the team was deeply and deservedly appreciated by MW the Grand Master and all grand officers more so with the constraints faced by the hosts due to the repair work being undertaken at Freemasons Hall, Mumbai. As rightly put by MW the GM, 'Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev 186 was the first lodge consecrated by him after his Installation as MW the GM and he was glad that this lodge was his first consecration as the GM'.

**Oration presented by
R.W.Bro. A P Chitra
P.Dy. GMM at the
consecration of Mark Lodge
Vasudev No. 186 GMLI at
Mumbai on 11th August 2025**
Brethren, at the outset, I would first like to express my gratitude to MW The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, M W Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan for giving me this opportunity to officiate as the Grand Chaplain this afternoon and also present the customary oration on the occasion of the consecration of this the Mark Lodge Vasudev No. 186 Brethren, what is consecration? According to Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev, Consecration is a live process, if you transform mud into food, we call this agriculture. If you make food into flesh and bone, we call this digestion, If you make flesh into mud, we call this cremation.

If you can make this flesh or a stone or even an empty space into a Divine possibility, that is called consecration. It is the action of making or declaring something or person(s) or building sacred. According to Wikipedia, Consecration is the solemn dedication to a special purpose or service, usually religious. The word consecration literally means "association with the sacred". It means to make sacred, to sanctify or to make pure - to make it fit for the Almighty, It is the separation of oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one's relationship with God." Where is the need for consecration of a new Lodge? - simply put, it is to make this Lodge fit for the Almighty, fit to receive his blessings; so that it may flourish, prosper and bloom into a great and successful Lodge.

Consecration of Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186



*Founder Worshipful Mark Master
M.W.Bro Vasudev J Masurekar
being installed by
R.W.Bro. S. Thirugnanamurthy*

The next question, where is the need for an oration at the Consecration of a new Lodge. The purpose of an oration on the occasion of the consecration of a new Lodge has a high and noble aim; it is intended to carry one's mind back to the original principles of the Order, to trace the stream of Freemasonry through the quicksand which besets its course, to clear away the rocks and shoals which Time has accumulated, until we reach the clear pellucid fountain from which flow the pure and crystal waters of charity, morality, and justice. It is intended to enforce on the minds of brethren of every new lodge that they are to labour with themselves to keep the broad channel clear from all impediments or pollution; that they are to guard its landmarks and are to extend its principles with unflagging, self-denying zeal.

The Mark degree, like all other degrees, is also built around that great obsession of all Freemasons with the activity of construction,

the only difference being that the Mark degree concentrates more on the operative side and deals with the detailed circumstances surrounding the construction of the building and the many moral lessons which are implied therein. The Mark ritual portrays a strong link between "operative" and "symbolic" masonry and takes its name from the medieval mason's "mark" which was carved into every stone that he worked upon, in order that his work could be identified, recognized as perfect, its proper place in the structure indicated and to secure payment for the work done. Many distinctive marks can be found even today in the fabric of cathedrals and castles throughout the medieval western world. According to a report in the Hindu some time ago, even the stones comprising the Taj Mahal have similar marks.

The activity of construction of a building involves the use of several different stones – some square, some oblong and as we learn in this degree, some which

are neither square nor oblong – all of which play an important role in the construction of the building. In like manner, the GOOTU has created many different types of men – some tall, others short; some fair, others dark; and so on – to Him, all these men are equal; however each one of them has a distinct and different role to play in the story of life, a role equally important as any other. Work and action are as much a means of cooperation and interaction with the Divine Builder as a means of self realization. While different types of stones are put to different uses, the objective is one and the same ie to construct a magnificent edifice which will stand the test of time; similarly all men are similar to these stones; "living stones" which are being built up into a spiritual temple of perfection, one that is created virtually in one's own mind. This is the underlying central philosophy of the Mark degree – the building of all masons themselves into that

Consecration of Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186



*M.W.Bro. GK Selvarajan MW The Grand Master
presenting the Founder Jewel to
W.Bro. Paul Rosario who designed the Logo and the Jewels*

**Oration presented by
R.W.Bro. A P Chitra,
P.Dy GMM, SRAMGO at the
consecration of RAM Lodge
Vasudev No. 186 GMLI at
Mumbai on 11th August 2025**
Good evening Brethren. At the outset, I would first like to express my gratitude to MW The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, M W Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan for giving me this opportunity to officiate as the Grand Chaplain this evening and also present the customary oration on the occasion of the consecration of this the RAM

Lodge Vasudev No. 186

The purpose of an oration on the occasion of the consecration of a new Lodge has a high and noble aim; to impress upon the minds of brethren of every new lodge that they are to work hard to make progress in the establishment of the Lodge and avoid all impediments and hurdles which may come in their way so that they may be enabled to protect its landmarks and traditions.

As we celebrate the constitution, consecration and dedication of this the one hundred and eighty sixth Royal Ark Mariners Lodge

in the country, let us take time to reflect on the antiquity of the degree, and ensure that within the walls of this Lodge we shall always practice and encompass Brotherly Love, Justice and Truth. Let us also focus on the unique degree's symbolism and history, emphasizing its connection to the biblical story of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood. The degree draws parallels between the dangers of the flood and the challenges of life. It also underscores the importance of family and community, encouraging members to support one another and those less fortunate. The Royal Ark Mariner degree in Freemasonry utilizes the story of Noah and the Great Flood to symbolize salvation, perseverance, and faith. It emphasizes the themes of water, the Ark as a vessel of safety, and the rainbow as a divine

promise. The degree's symbolism explores moral lessons about surviving trials, trusting in divine providence, and the importance of virtues like patience and hope

The RAM degree, like all other degrees, is also built around that great obsession of all Freemasons with the activity of construction, the only difference being that the RAM degree revolves around the building of a massive boat, a great Ark; the saviour of all mankind from the devastating flood which engulfed the earth for a period of forty days and deals with the detailed circumstances surrounding the construction and the many moral lessons which are implied therein. The degree symbolizes God's covenant with all those who truly call upon Him, that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth and that He would not be

Consecration of Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186

wroth with them, nor rebuke them. To quote from the ritual, "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." The background of this degree however, is different and more interesting than any other in Freemasonry considering that it is based on a historical occurrence which happened some 6000 years ago and is well described in the book of Genesis and referred to as the flood. It has often been referred to as "a quaint little degree with rainbow aprons". It is the dramatic narration of the construction of the great Ark and its voyage through the 40 days of the devastating flood along with a pair of every living thing on earth as well as the strong moral lessons implied therein.

From a historical perspective, the precise origins of the RAM degree are unknown but we deduce from various pieces of literature, that the RAM degree was started in the year 1772 though it is only in 1790 that there appears to be the first authentic record of the degree being worked, and subsequently, there are numerous records of elevations taking place all over the United Kingdom. In 1816 a Brother John F. Dorrington caused a renewed interest in the degree and was named Grand Commander. It was this revival that stimulated the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons to place the degree under its protection. A Grand Master's Royal Ark council was eventually formed to oversee and regulate the degree, and it is recorded that the first working under the new

constitution was in Mother Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners no. 1 in 1872.

Since then the Fraternity has grown and lodges of this degree have been practised throughout the world with over 1000 lodges working under the English Constitution. The degree is practised in other constitutions, albeit not in a separate Grand Lodge, in the Scottish Constitution under the Supreme Grand Chapter, as part of the cryptic degree, every Ark Mariners Lodge must be attached (moored) to a Mark Lodge and assumes the number of that Mark Lodge.

The qualification for membership, elevation, is that of being a Mark Master Mason, and a dispensation is mandatory for a candidate for the chair of Worshipful Commander if he has not held the office of Worshipful Master of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There is no Regional Grand Lodge for Ark Mariners but it is governed by the Regional Grand Mark Lodge, thereby under the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

Elevation into this degree commemorates the timely care and mercy of God. The lodge is formed in the shape of a triangle which can be referenced

to the Triune Deity, a symbol known to all masons; interestingly both wardens are seated in the West. The symbol of this degree as in many others, is the Equilateral Triangle which has ever been considered the emblem of the Deity or some Divine Attribute.

The Working Tools of the degree – the axe, saw, and auger are not literal tools used in a physical

sense within the degree's ritual. Instead, they represent moral lessons and virtues, mirroring the tools Noah would have used to build the ark; these are an Axe, with which he cut down trees and squared them; a Saw, with which he sawed those trees into planks; and a Auger, with which he made holes in the planks. By the use of these tools, the Ark was formed, but these tools have other meanings, the axe felling the trees are emblematic of the fall of the old world. The Saw, dividing the timber into planks, is emblematic of the separation of Noah and his family from the rest of mankind by the Lord. The Auger, making holes in the planks, teaches us the use of affliction in producing self-abasement and searchings of the heart. As the Ark was built by these tools. So we are shown that by perseverance in faith, hope and love, we may be shut into an Ark of safety, when the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the whole earth shall be dissolved. The rainbow is a prominent symbol in the Royal Ark Mariner degree, representing God's covenant and the promise of salvation. The symbolism of water and the Ark as a safe haven from the flood conveys themes of protection, survival, and finding refuge in times of adversity. The triangular perambulation after the entrance of the candidate was to fix in his mind the form of the Lodge. The reason he was stopped at the three points was to remind you that Wisdom, Strength and Beauty were displayed in the construction of the Ark, having also the moral signification then explained.

The principal officers of the Lodge represent Noah and his two sons, Japheth and Shem. The

Consecration of Mark & RAM Lodge Vasudev No. 186

Triangle is also emblematic of the Sun, Moon and Stars, in this sense: those in the highest sphere of life have the largest province wherein to do good, but those of an inferior degree will be as eminently distinguished if they move regularly and prove useful members of society. The highest is he who performs his part best, not he who fills the most exalted position: for the Moon, although borrowing her light from the Sun, evidently sets forth the glory of God; and the flowers of the field declare His power equally with the stars of the firmament. No oration can be complete

without a mention of the name of the Lodge. The name "Vasudev" in general parlance refers to Lord Krishna and by using His name as part of the name of this Lodge, one is paying tribute to Him. It also has reference to an earthly Vasudev; our illustrious and eminent Past Grand Master, MW Bro. Vasudev Jamnabihar Masurekar, who after consecrating so many Lodges during his time, finally has a Lodge where he himself is the founder Worshipful Master.

Brother Petitioners, while congratulating you on having acquired for yourselves a new

RAM Lodge, it is my fervent hope that the ideals and designs taught through the RAM Degree may be firmly implanted in your heart and mind. May each one of you be inspired by the story of the safe deliverance of Noah and all of the creatures on earth from the deluge and so conduct yourself in this earthly abode that you may ascend to those immortal mansions above where the rainbow ever circles the throne. Thank you, M W The Grand Master for having given me this opportunity and to all the other brethren present here for giving me a patient hearing.

50 Years LTSJ Presentation



M.W.Bro. GK Selvarajan, OSM, MW The Grand Master presenting the 50 years LTSJ to R.W.Bro. Balakrishna Madduri on 11/08/25, initiated on 30/06/1975 in Lodge Ashok No.122, Mumbai. R.W.Bro. Subhash Sarof, RW The RGM, R.W.Bro. Chinnaswamy Ganesan along with the Lodge Brethren & family members of the recipient

79th Independence Day Celebrations



M.W.Bro. Gutha Krishnan Selvarajan, OSM, Most Worshipful The Grand Master, hoisted the National Flag on 15th August 2025 at Freemasons' Hall, Chennai, to commemorate the 79th Independence Day of our great nation. On this occasion, R.W.Bro. D. Dhamodharaswamy, Deputy Regional Grand Master in charge, along with the Assistant Regional Grand Masters of the Chennai Area and a large number of Brethren, joined in the celebrations, adding grace and dignity to the event.



Freemasonry as its name suggests, encourages its members to build character, morality, and brotherhood and emphasises on freedom of thought. It reminds its members of the indissoluble attachment to

their Motherland, and all Masonic meetings conclude with a rendition of the National Anthem.

Here are a few images of Independence Day celebrations

from across India - Freemasons' Hall in Chennai where the Grand Master MW Bro. G.K. Selvarajan was in attendance and where also some community service activities were undertaken.

79th Independence Day Celebrations



*Lodge Ramlinga No. 265,
Freemasons' Hall in Anakapalle*



Lodge Nipal No. 38, Gorakhpur



Veterans of Lodge Vishwakarma No. 173



Freemasons' Hall Thiruvananthapuram



*Harihar Balika Vidya Mandir
in Asansol where the
Masons joined 1300 eager
students in their celebration*



*Lodge Satsang in Chennai
where one of the members
is an Airforce veteran*



*Freemasons' Hall in Nagpur
attended by
RW Bro. Tarun Shrivastava,
Deputy RGM of Western India,*

79th Independence Day Celebrations



RW Bro. Puneet Suhal, R.W. The Regional Grand Master, proudly hoisted the National Flag at Masonic Public School, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi to mark the 79th Independence Day of our great nation on 15th August 2025. The ceremony was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

The campus came alive with tricolour decorations—flags and balloons adorning every corner—creating a vibrant atmosphere befitting the occasion.

The celebrations featured a creative cultural programme infused with patriotic spirit. Students showcased their talents through a colourful fancy dress presentation, a graceful yoga display, melodious patriotic songs, and spirited dance



79th Independence Day Celebrations



*Trees are poems that the Earth writes upon the sky - Kahlil Gibran
on August 15, Masons from many Lodges across the country engaged in planting saplings,
in an endeavour to leave the Earth a little better than we received it.- Masons Lodge Ganges in Kanpur.*



The ladies of UMANG planted 22 Ashoka trees at the Arun Jaitly Park, Siri Fort road, New Delhi. The number of trees was chosen to mark the completion of 22 years of UMANG. Umangians Mrs Kiran Sohal, the Patron, Mrs Poonam Kamal Deep, the president and the members have pledged to look after their maintenance for 3 years.



Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Lodge Gondwana No. 226



Lodge Gondwana No. 226 of Nagpur recently celebrated its Golden Jubilee, a fitting testament of the endurance of Freemasonry and its principles in the centre of India.

In a glittering ceremony R.W.

Bro. Arvind Prasad Chitra, OSM, Deputy Grand Master Conducted the celebrations and released a souvenir and jewel commemorating the occasion in the presence of M.W. Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal, OSM, Past Grand

Master and initiate of the Lodge, and R.W. Bro. Tarun Shrivastava, W. the Deputy Regional Grand Master, among others. The Celebrations was well attended by Masons across the Country.



R.W. Bro. Arvind Prasad Chitra, OSM, Deputy Grand Master presenting the Golden Jubilee Jewel to M.W. Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal, OSM, Past Grand Master and releasing the Golden Jubilee Souvenir along with him and the Worshipful Master of the Lodge

Masonic Puzzle

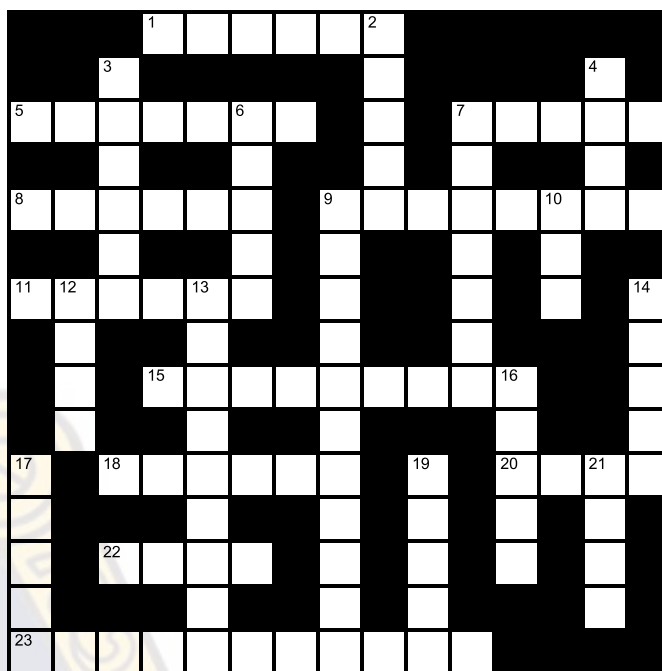
Across

1. Ceremony from chaotic case in university (6)
5. Skilled tabernacle builder with Bezaleal (7)
7. Account in works a ladder (5)
8. Perfect it could be rough (6)
9. Top of the arch locks mate with britishers weight (8)
11. Church attendant of company in head of college (6)
15. Wailing wall is here (9)
18. Carver abuses liches (6)
20. Ship builders son small edge of dress (4)
22. Red, rose or white (4)
23. Twisted way to measure at sea (5,6)

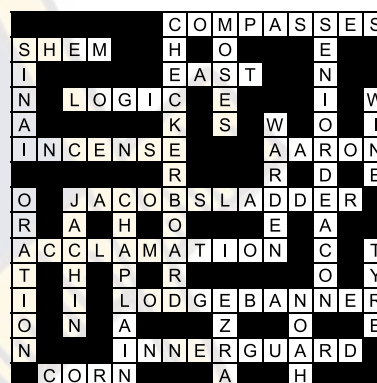
Down

2. Stay collapsing energy with aurum (5)
3. A tree led after Moses (6)
4. Fruit of labour (4)
6. Moses' brother (5)
7. Fairness of road in squeezed fruit (7)
9. Wise ruler alone with french mine (4,7)
10. Fuel (3)
12. Scribe bent striped animal without bishop (4)
13. Submissive flowers are here with that is in once (9)
14. Strong builder in waving male sheep (5)
16. He gave Ten scales (5)
17. Reason from pickled mass and a spring (5)
19. Darkness reigns without it (5)
21. One direction starting with energy (4)

V.W.Bro. V.R. Raguraman



JUNE 2025 QUIZ ANSWERS:



Following Brother will receive reward for the June 2025 puzzle.

Bro. C G Prashant, Lodge Prerana No.313
W.Bro. Ravinder Sharma, Lodge King Solomon No. 389
W.Bro. Sanjay rangathan, Murray hammick lodge 90
W.Bro. Muthuvel Sethu, Lodge Deepam No. 448

BE A WINNER

Freemasons can submit your Answers to kanthi@thamechamps.com along with your details to win exciting prizes for the first 25 all correct entries



The Sceptre and the Trowel



We, the Masonic Fraternity of the Grand Lodge of India, with immense joy and admiration, extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency R.W. Bro. Ashok Gajapathi Raju on his esteemed appointment as the Hon'ble Governor of the State of Goa.

A man of wisdom, dignity, and

statesmanship, his elevation to this high office will undoubtedly bring immense value and progress to the State. A distinguished leader, he has earlier served as the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Government of India, and is the scion of the royal family of Vizianagaram.

We take great pride in conveying our warm wishes to His Excellency R.W. Bro. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, for a meaningful, fulfilling, and successful tenure in this august office.



His Excellency R.W. Bro. Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju at his swearing in ceremony as the Governor of Goa

Living the Masonic Ideals



Lodge Anchor and Hope No. 1, Kolkata: Living true to its name, Lodge Anchor and Hope No. 1 organised a community service programme in a remote Sundarbans village, distributing wholesome food packets to underprivileged children. Further, discussions are underway for upgrading and enhancing facilities at the Primary School, Kultali, Jainagar, reflecting the Lodge's earnest endeavour to improve young lives.



Lodge Mozart No. 453, Ghaziabad - 3rd August 2025: In line with the theme “Let’s Make the Earth Green Again”, Lodge Mozart No. 453 led a Green Initiative with a plantation drive at the Ghaziabad landfill. A total of 453 saplings were planted using the Japanese Miyawaki technique. The event saw enthusiastic participation from brethren and families, in the august presence of R.W.Bro. Puneet Suhail, R.W. the RGM of RGLNI, reaffirming their strong commitment to environmental stewardship.



Lodges Bhola No. 344 & Pachauri No. 214, Pratapgarh - 28th August 2025: Lodges Bhola No. 344 and Pachauri No. 214 jointly hosted a Thalassaemia Awareness Symposium at New Angles C School, Pratapgarh. The programme was chaired by W.Bro. Dr. Ghanshyam Agarwal and R.W.Bro. Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, Secretary of the Thalassaemia Awareness Programme Committee. W.M. W.Bro. Basantkumar Tripathi presided, with W.Bro. Dr. Brij Bhanu Singh conducting. Chief Guest Mrs. Shahida Khan (Chairperson) and Guest of Honour Mr. Soni (Principal) graced the event. Talks were delivered by R.W.Bro. Dr. Sanjay Kapoor (medical aspects), Dr. Deepika Kesrawani (pathological aspects), and Ms. Ankita Kesarwani (social aspects).

“No to Drugs” Awareness



LODGE KASARAGOD NO. 257

“No to Drugs” Awareness
Campaign & Universal
Brotherhood Day Celebration

On 24th June 2025, Lodge
Kasaragod No. 257 organized a
meaningful and impactful
programme combining a “No to
Drugs” awareness campaign with
the celebration of Universal
Brotherhood Day.

The day commenced with a
charitable gesture, where 25
bicycles were donated to
underprivileged tribal children

studying at the Government
Higher Secondary School
(GHSS), Kalliot Village, located
on the outskirts of Kanhangad.

This was followed by a cycle rally,
in which the school children,
holding placards bearing anti-
drug slogans, rode through the
village to raise awareness about
the dangers of drug abuse. An
educational session on the
harmful effects of drugs and
prevention methods was
conducted by Mr. Joseph, Circle
Inspector, Excise Department. A
pledge against drug use was

administered by the
Headmistress, Mrs. Chithra, and
enthusiastically taken by the
students.

In the afternoon, the brethren
visited a school for differently-
abled children, where they
sponsored and shared lunch with
the students. Brethren and their
families joined in this
heartwarming interaction,
spreading joy and
companionship.

The evening saw the celebration
of Universal Brotherhood Day,
where non-Masonic guests were



“No to Drugs” Awareness



invited to join in the spirit of fraternity. This was followed by a family get-together, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and togetherness. The entire programme was

meticulously planned and seamlessly executed by W. Bro. B. Yathish Prabhu, Worshipful Master of Lodge Kasargod No. 257, along with a dedicated team of brethren. W.Bro. Dr.

C.M. Krishnakumar, Assistant Regional Grand Master (ARGM) of the Area, was present throughout the day and actively supported all the events.



Charge of a Grand Master



CHARGE OF A GRAND MASTER is a compilation of some of the speeches delivered by M. W. Bro. Arun Chintopanth, OSM, during his tenure as Grand Master, Grand Lodge of India from 2003 to 2006. Published by Lodge Bangalore No. 15, the book is not only motivating but also interesting as Bro. Arun always outlined his talks with humorous anecdotes, true life stories, quotes and incidents.

The language, like the author, is simple yet commanding. Charge of a Grand Master, like any other Masonic Charge that is intended to make an impact on the listener, is intended to make an impression on the reader.

The Square & Compasses Magazine publishes one speech from the compilation in every issue.

Recorded Speeches at Mark and RAM Lodges

i. Discipline and Education

In the Mark degree in addition to the explanation given to the candidate at the time of his advancement, an installed Master is also again reminded about the working tools of the Mark Degree.

This is so because in the canvas of the Craft, the Working Tools forms a small part. An incidental part. Whereas here in the Mark, the Working Tools cover a large portion of the canvas in fact almost the entire canvas because the Working Tools represent the very quintessence of Mark Masonry. The very soul of Mark Masonry.

As you are aware the Working Tools of this degree are the mallet and the chisel meant to remind us of the moral advantages of Discipline and Education.

Now what do the terms Discipline and Education mean? What do these terms, these words convey?

The Oxford dictionary defines "Discipline" as "training or way of life aimed at self control and conformity."

Brethren, this appears to be an apt definition for us in the Mark Degree. This concept is very clearly brought out in our ceremony of advancement. When the stone is rejected by the overseers and heaved over into the rubbish, the Craftsmen do not create a scene nor do they protest. They accept the verdict though they are disappointed and quite naturally too. Instead of receiving honours and recognition for their work, the craftsmen receive only reproaches for idling away time. They keep silent not because they were

incapable of protesting; it is because of the discipline, the self control that they had imbibed.

Discipline teaches us that it is our duty to repay with patience and humility involuntary and unintentional wrongs and errors. This discipline teaches one to accept the fallibility of human judgement.

At the same time it reassures us that our work will ultimately be rewarded by the greatest judge, the GOOTU.

This happens in our day to day life also. We get bugged when the response to our work is different from what we expect and then we react in a totally wrong manner and make matters worse for ourselves and others.

On the other hand, if like these overseers, we wait with patience and humility then the appropriate result, the gain will fall upon us. This is one of the important messages of Mark Masonry to all of us

The Earth itself is a great example of discipline; of forbearance and forgiveness. It is disciplined to bear all adverse circumstances, all insults, or hurt inflicted upon it by its dwellers.

One may plough the land, or light a fire on it, or throw dirt, garbage or rubbish on it, yet it still gives all its resources abundantly.

Thus, we have to be disciplined to bear whatever that comes our way. We have to accept honour and dishonour, joy and sorrow with a calm and balanced mind. This is what mark masonry means by Discipline.

Coming to the second aspect Education. It is said that there are two educations - the one that teaches us how to make a living

Charge of a Grand Master

and the other that teaches us how to live. While our academic and professional courses teach us and train us in the former kind, it is an Institution like ours - a fraternity as versatile as ours that teaches us how to live. "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul" says Addison. "Education is not filling of a pail but lighting of a fire" says Yeats.

Education does not mean going to educational Institutions and coming out arming oneself with degrees.

Mark Twain says: "Of course I went to school. But thank God it did not interfere with my education."

Education to us Mark Masons does not mean University degrees for employment or vocation but a means of annihilation of the ego. This is again demonstrated in the incident of the Craftsman in this degree.

What does education do ? It trains us at becoming proficient. But all proficient people are not successful.

My Guru would say that success is not given to all proficient people. It is not enough only to be proficient - that is not

sufficient. One needs to be God bent and God ward and God dedicated only then Education will lead to proficiency which in turn will become rewarding. In the Swayamwara of Draupadi there were several proficient soldiers: Warriors of the highest order fascinated by this beautiful princess eager to win her hands. They were however not successful.

It was only Arjuna who was successful. Why so?

This is because he combined his proficiency with his dedication, devotion and dependence on Krishna.

This is the subtle point made in the explanation of the working tools that discipline and education merely is not enough. They must also have the approving mark of the GOOTU.

This is what the Working Tools of this degree of Freemasonry teaches us. It tells us to combine discipline with Education and coat it with dedication, devotion and dependence on the GOOTU that we may be fitted to be part of that house not made with hands eternal in the Heavens.

My brethren this degree in Freemasonry has great lessons for us. But are we aware of all

this? Should we not be aware of these lessons?

One night a burglar entered Mulla Nasaruddin's house. Mulla woke up with a start and found this burglar with a torch combing his house.

Mulla got up and quietly followed the thief. Suddenly the thief realized that Mulla was aware of his presence and tried to escape. But Mulla stood at the door and said "Don't escape I have come to help you." The thief was further shocked. "What help" he asked. "I am a thief". Said Mulla. "I am happy that you have come to burgle my house. I have been staying here for thirty years and have not found anything useful or precious. But you are an expert. I am sure you will locate something. I have therefore been following you so that we could share the booty 50:50".

Many of our Mark Lodges are like this without finding anything useful or precious. How unfortunate. We have such great treasures in this degree. It is in fact a manual for day to day living and I exhort you my brethren not only to realise and be aware of this yourselves but also bring in more members into this fold that they too may benefit.

Foreign Grand Lodge Events

Sl. No.	Date	Country	Events
1	29th September 2025 02 October 2025	Philippines	The Most Worshipful The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines VII Asia Pacific Masonic Conference 2025
2	17th - 18th October 2025	Chisina	Grand Lodge of Moldova Annual Communication
3	17th - 19th October 2025	Macedonia	Grand Lodge of Macedonia Celebration of the 20th Anniversary
4	17th - 19th October 2025	Skopje	The Grand Lodge of Macedonia Celebration of the 20th Anniversary
5	23rd-25th October 2025	Malaysia	District Grand lodge of the Middle East Annual Communications 2025
6	24th - 25th October 2025	Taiwan	Grand Lodge of China 72td Annual Communication
7	7th - 8th November 2025	Gabon	Grande Loge Du Gabon à l'Assemblée Générale (The Solemn Installation Ceremony)
8	24th of January 2026	Greece	Grand Lodge of Greece The Annual Communication and The Charity Grand Gala

M/R/V/W/ Brethren interested to attend any of the above Grand Festivals are requested to contact Grand Secretary (Email Id: office@grandlodgeofindia.in) for registration. Past Dy Grand Masters and above are eligible to be the representative of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Grand Lodge of India. All Travel and Boarding expenses are on individuals only. Grand Lodge of India only can facilitate the registration and authorise the brother as a member of Grand Lodge of India.

Our Masons' Visit to the USA



R.W.Bro. S. Krishnan, during his trip to the United States, visited the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Boston - the third oldest Grand Lodge in the world, founded in 1733. He was warmly received by the young Librarian, Bro. Mathew, who also happens to be the Worshipful Master of a Lodge. He explained much of the Lodge's rich history, and R.W.Bro. Krishnan had the privilege of visiting the Corinthian Temple. The photographs he shared narrate a tale in themselves, and we eagerly await his return to hear more about his journey and experiences.



Meanwhile, R.W.Bro. K. S. Sankaran, on his personal trip to the USA, had the honour of meeting the M.W. Grand Master of Georgia during the latter's official visit to Buford Lodge No. 292, Atlanta, on special invitation from the Lodge. On this memorable occasion, the M.W. Grand Master presented Grand Lodge Coins to him as a mark of fraternal warmth and goodwill.



In Memoriam

24.08.2025 W.Bro.Capt. P.S.Barve, P.G.Std., Mumbai

26.08.2025 R.W.Bro.Samir Desai, P.J.G.W., Ahmedabad

R.W. Bro. Samir Desai, our esteemed editorial team member, was called on The Grand Lodge above on 26th August 2025, and his sudden passing has left an irreplaceable void in our fraternity. His invaluable contributions to Freemasonry-and in particular, to our magazine The Square and Compasses-will remain a lasting legacy, cherished within and beyond the Craft.

Grand Lodge Publications Price List (INR)

CRAFT	
Book of Constitutions	200.00
Guidelines	
- Lodge Secretary - Treasurer - Master	150.00
Points of Procedures & Protocols	100.00
The Candidates	20.00
The Entered Apprentice	10.00
The Fellow Craft	10.00
The Master Mason	10.00
Book of the First-Degree Ritual	150.00
Book of the Second-Degree Ritual	50.00
Book of the Third-Degree Ritual	150.00
Installation Ritual Book	100.00
Ceremonials	250.00
Book of the System of Masonic Education	50.00

CHAPTER	
R.A.C. Ritual No.1	100.00
R.A.C. Ritual No.2	50.00
R.A. Regulations	100.00

MARK	
Book of Constitutions	100.00
Mark Ritual No.1	50.00
Mark Ritual No.2	50.00
RAM Ritual No.1	50.00
RAM Ritual No.2	50.00
Register of Marks	50.00

The latest Ceremonial Book was released at the Grand Festival communication held at Chennai on 07th December 2024 by the then Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Anish Kumar Sharma, OSM



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