



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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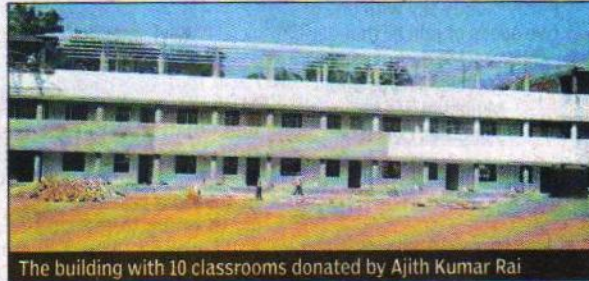
Alumni contributions help students in Vittal school

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Mangaluru: Two former students of Government Higher Primary School in Vittal, Dakshina Kannada district, have helped their school to provide basic infrastructure facilities to more than 500 students.

“Old students – Ajith Kumar Rai and Subraya Pai – have given funds to construct school building, buy furniture, lab equipment, books and hire more teachers,” said N Shivaprakash, Bantwal block education officer. Rai is the chairman and managing director of Suprajit Group of Companies and Subraya Pai is the founder of Bharati Janardhan Seva Trust.

Giving details, school headmaster B Vishwanath



The building with 10 classrooms donated by Ajith Kumar Rai

Gowda Kulal said both have made contributions as they respect their alma mater. “Rai donated a building with 10 classrooms and an auditorium worth Rs1.25 crore. The building has granite flooring. Rai also helped us buy furniture for all the 10 rooms. The alumnus had contributed Rs 2.5 lakh two years ago for building toilets in the school,” Kulal said.

“Subraya Pai adopted

the school and provided various facilities. He contributed Rs 6 lakh to construct a stage. He donated Rs 4 lakh to the school for purchasing tiles, building compound wall and repair works. Similarly, he also donated funds to buy lab equipment, sports material and books to library. He also gifted a school bus,” Kulal said.

► **Teachers appointed, P2**

Six teachers appointed

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Pai has also appointed six additional teachers on honorarium basis.

HONORARIUM BASIS

“There are 555 students in the school and 15 teach-

ers. Appointment of six more teachers will help students,” Vishwanath said, adding that the school has 64 more children studying in its Balavadi (kindergarten section).

Bus facility free

“School bus facility is free

for students who come from poor families. Rai and Pai’s contribution has helped over 500 students. The school has organized a function on February 22 to recognize all the contributions made by the alumni,” the headmaster said, while talking to TOI.



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



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BIGGEST, MOST POWERFUL ROCKET SOARS TOWARD MARS

SpaceX's Falcon Heavy blasted off on its maiden test flight, carrying CEO Elon Musk's cherry red Tesla Roadster

TWO BOOSTERS RETURN TO EARTH

"The mission went as well as one could have hoped," an ecstatic Musk said after the launch. About two minutes into the flight, the two side boosters peeled away and made their way back toward Earth for an upright landing. The centre booster failed to land on an ocean platform as planned

STARMAN & CAR CRUISE THROUGH SPACE

- SpaceX's webcast showed Musk's Tesla Roadster, with a mannequin in a spacesuit inside, soaring into space
- Musk posted a live video showing the "Starman" mannequin appearing to cruise through the darkness of space
- "Maybe it will be discovered by some future alien race," he said

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Alumnus gifts building worth ₹1.25cr to century-old rural govt school in DK

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

BENGALURU-based industrialist Ajit Kumar Rai has gifted a building worth ₹1.25 crore to his alma mater, a government school in Vitla, about 40 km from Mangaluru. The three-storied building, consisting of 10 classrooms and an auditorium with a glossy granite flooring, will be inaugurated on February 22.

Both Rai, who is the CMD of Suprajit Group of Industries, and his father late Dr Manjunath Rai, are the alumni of this 138-year-old school. A year ago, the school authorities brought it to Rai's notice about the space crunch in the school and requested him for help. Rai, who also runs a charitable trust - Suprajit Foundation, readily agreed to get a new building constructed in the memory of his father.



The new school building gifted by Ajit Kumar Rai (below)

Narayan Gowda, Block Resource Coordinator, Bantwal, said the transformation in the century-old school started a year ago with another alumnus Subraya Pai adopting the school. Even Pai's father Janardhan Pai studied in the same school.

Pai, who runs a cashew industry in Vitla, has spent over ₹50 lakh in the last one year to-

wards repair and painting of the old school building, procuring school bus, strengthening of library and providing science laboratory, borewell and furniture for the new school building. He has also recruited six teachers for whom he is paying a total salary of around ₹45,000 a month.

ALUMNI DEVELOP GOVT SCHOOL INTO MODEL SCHOOL: PB



RALLYING ROUND