

February 22, 2005.

### **Nanik Rupani – A Metamorphosis**

I still remember my first glimpse of Nanik Rupani. It was over three decades ago. In those days, Nanik was a struggling entrepreneur. He had a tiny industrial unit at Wadala in Mumbai. In spite of my busy public life, I kept on meeting Nanik off and on. He used to be always preoccupied with some idea, some programme or some function. And each such event used to have social relevance and significance.

I gradually grew fond of this young man. This was for two reasons. Firstly, we had one trait in common. This was our struggle in our early life. Nanik's family, after it was uprooted because of Partition, came to Mumbai. Instead of grieving over the loss, Nanik began to explore various avenues to settle in business. This was how he selected electronics when the sector was still relatively unknown in India. The second bonding factor between us is the importance we attach to personal relationships above everything else. Although Nanik has been alert and active politically, he has never lost sight of this side of human existence. This is the reason why he has been able to expand his circle of friendship though he continues to be a member of the Congress party.

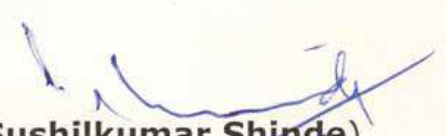
As far as politics is concerned, Nanik has always looked at it as a tool of social change and development. This is evident from the string of activities he has been undertaking all these years. The establishment of 'Priyadarshini Academy' is a testimony to this philosophy. Like Nanik's 'Chicago Radio,' the Priyadarshini Awards have today become a household name in India. It must be said to Nanik's credit that he has never allowed any narrow consideration to come in the way of selecting nominees for the Award each year.

It is said that a man is known by the company he keeps. Nanik likes to be in the company of achievers. I think this is the secret of his successful life. No wonder, Nanik is a welcome addition to any gathering, be it of professionals, business magnates or political workers. He is equally comfortable in each environment. Similarly, he can handle any role with the same aplomb – as a convener, organizer or as a master of ceremony. Needless to say, he does full justice to each such event.

I am sure Nanik's life story can serve as a message of inspiration for our young generation. This is a Saga of Metamorphosis' in my view. Nanik has carved a niche for himself in Mumbai's and India's public life.

Nanik's election as President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber is a milestone in his successful career. IMC is preparing to celebrate its Centenary in 2007. I regard Nanik's election as a salute by the IMC to the spirit of Enterprise and Achievement. I am glad to learn that he has been steering its activities well and has started charting its future course of action to meet the challenges of the future.

I wish the best of health and achievement for Nanik during the years to come. I feel it is my duty to acknowledge the support extended by his loving wife Geeta to this gregarious soul.



(Sushilkumar Shinde)