



Industry leaders, sports personalities pay rich tributes to N. Sankar

They recall his contributions to various fields

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Industry leaders, sports personalities, friends and family members paid rich tributes to Sanmar Group Chairman N. Sankar, who passed away last month, at a memoriam function here on Sunday.

"He built the group with integrity, trust and ethics," N. Kumar, Vice-Chairman of Sanmar Group and brother of Sankar, said.

He was a pioneer in corporate governance and constituted a corporate board many years ago to ensure transparency, Mr. Kumar said while recalling his brother's legacy.

Ahead of times

He said Sankar had framed a compensation policy which was way ahead of his time and which was still followed in the group.

N. Ram, Director of The Hindu Publishing Group, said Sankar was not a crony capitalist and said his was a long life of "understated achievements".



Industrialists A.C. Muthiah, Vijay Sankar, Arun Bharat Ram, N. Kumar, and The Hindu Group Director N. Ram attending a programme organised in memory of Sanmar Group chairman N. Sankar in Chennai on Sunday. • M. KARUNAKARAN

Speaking about his philanthropy, R. Seshasayee, former executive chairman of Ashok Leyland, said Sankar was a generous donor and had contributed a substantial amount to The Cancer Institute, Adyar.

Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj said the late industrialist brought beauty to the game when he played tennis and highlighted his role in promoting the sport through the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association.

Arun Bharat Ram, Chairman-Emeritus of SRF, recalled how Sankar was the president of industry body Assocham when the reform process was started.

It was a challenging time for the industry and through

his acumen and strategic thinking, he navigated the phase smoothly.

Cricket legend Kapil Dev said there was no Indian cricketer who had not been touched by Sankar's kindness and highlighted his passion for sports.

Video message

A video message from Prem Watsa, CEO Fairfax Financial Holdings, HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh and others sharing their memories of Sankar was played at the event.

Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman of Sanmar Group and Sankar's son, recalled how he was groomed professionally by his father, who had left behind a remarkable legacy.

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N Sankar a great leader & friend, recall peers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The love and affection for late N Sankar, chairman of the Chennai-headquartered ₹12,500 crore Sanmar Group who passed away on April 17 at the age of 76 among his industry peers and sportsmen, was visible here on Sunday, at a 'memorial function arranged by his family at a city hotel.

Recalling his bond since 1972, Arun Bharat Ram, chairman emeritus of SRF, said Sankar became the Assocham president shortly after economic reforms were introduced in the country and for industrialists it was a new era. "There was appre-



DOWN MEMORY LANE: Former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev with Vijay Sankar, deputy chairman of Sanmar Group

hension over how he would guide the industry during that uncertain time. But he

did a tremendous job at the helm of the industry body," he said.

R Seshasayee, former executive vice-chairman of Ashok Leyland, in a lighter vein recalled his first meeting – for an interview for the post of a junior accountant, 50 years ago. "I was very impressed by Sankar, but he rejected my application. Years later, he even offered me a board seat in his company," Seshasayee said. "Sankar saw the cause and purpose and not the amount of money, when he decided to give," he said, referring to cost escalation of a project for Adyar Cancer Institute.

Sportsmen were not far behind. "He was the big brother for all of us who came down to Chennai to

play cricket. No cricketer would have gone past him without benefiting from his kindness. He had passion to sports and retained it till the end," said former Indian test captain Kapil Dev. "Sankar brought beauty to the game of tennis. He would hit the ball gracefully and win with elegance," said former international tennis star Vijay Amritraj, recalling his long association with Tamil Nadu Tennis Association.

Sanmar Group deputy chairman and Sankar's son Vijay Sankar thanked the guests for taking their time out to attend the event and promised to take his father's legacy forward.



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2 NEWS

BusinessLine
 MONDAY • MAY 2 • 2022

'N Sankar, a true role model'

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, May 1

Former Chairman of Sanmar group N Sankar wrote the joint venture manual which many B-Schools are using as a case study today, said N Kumar while speaking at an event organised to celebrate his brother's legacy. Sankar was involved in over 30 joint ventures, some of which have lasted for more than 25 years, as he grew the group across multiple businesses.

Sankar, 76, passed away last month after a brief illness.

Kumar also said that his brother was far ahead of his time and peers when it comes to values. Ethics, integrity and trust were a hallmark of his management.

'Understated achievements'

N Ram, Director, The Hindu Publishing Group, while recalling Sankar's work said that it was a long life of 'understated achievements'. He was not a crony capitalist and bravado, bluff and vaingloriousness was not his style, he added.

Very few people lay a path for the next generation to follow. Even fewer, like Sankar, will lay multiple paths, said R Seshasayee, former executive chairman of Ashok Leland. A generous donor, Sankar gave money without making the receiver feel small or without seeking credit for it. For him it was the cause. The money does not matter, he added revealing



Arun Bharat Ram (left), Chairman, SRF and Vijay Sankar, Chairman, Chemplast Sanmar at the meeting BIJOY GHOSH

the substantial donation that Sankar gave for Chennai's Cancer Institute. Sankar's many fans from across the country had descended on Chennai to celebrate his work.

Former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev was one of them. There is no Indian cricketer who has not been touched by Sankar's kindness, he recalled adding, "He was my hero." Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj said Sankar brought beauty to the game when he played tennis. "He always won with elegance and never played to win at all cost," he said. A trait he embodied in his business as well.

Vijay Sankar, Chairman, Chemplast Sanmar and Sankar's son, said his father lived many many lives in his one life. "He was a true role model who set a remarkable legacy for us to follow," he added.



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2 NEWS

CHENNAI

BusinessLine
MONDAY • MAY 2 • 2022

Homage paid to Sanmar Group chairman N Sankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

N Sankar, the chairman of Sanmar Group, had lived many lives in just the one. From being an entrepreneur, to being a patron of sports, cricket, and tennis in particular, and then to being a compassionate human, he had donned many hats in his life and was an inspiration to many, echoed eminent persons at a memoriam organised at Taj Coromandel on Sunday to celebrate the life of Sankar, who had passed away on April 17 after a brief illness.

Speaking at the event, renowned cricketer Kapil Dev said, "There is no cricketer in India who has not been touched by his compassion. He inspired me a lot, and was role model for many. He was a hero like whom you aspire to become, but you can never be one." Speaking at the event, N Kumar, the younger brother of Sankar, said he was like a father to him. "He was a pioneer in corporate governance, who ensured that the heritage of the institutions created by him lives beyond him."

N Ram of The Hindu, said, "He was not a crony capitalist, and never sought anyone's favour." R Seshasay-



Former cricketer Kapil Dev speaking at the memoriam function of N Sankar in Chennai | DEBADATTA MALICK

ee, former executive vice chairman of Ashok Leyland, spoke about Sankar's generosity in giving donations for social causes.

Sankar had held the position of ASSOCHAM president, and as the chairman of Indo-US Joint Business Council, Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Madras Management Association.

Sankar had joined Chemplast on May 4, 1967 as a trainee where his late father KS Narayanan was a promoter and director. He was 26 when he began his entrepreneurial career.

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N Sankar remembered fondly

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MAY 1

Rich tributes were paid to the late N. Sankar with speakers referring to his institution building, ethics and integrity in running his company as well as supporting sporting and public causes. Sankar who passed away last month was a respected head who put the Sanmar Group on the industrial map of Tamil Nadu and abroad.

1983 World Cup winning captain Kapil Dev and tennis star Vijay Amritraj were in Chennai to pay tribute to Sankar who was a highly regarded promoter of sport and who sponsored the very successful Jolly Rovers cricket team in the city for well over six decades.

Arun Bharat Ram and others paid trib-



ute to Sankar's qualities and commitment to various causes and chronicles capturing the history of the city. His brother N. Kumar welcomed the gathering at a memorial function put up by his company at the Taj Coromandel on Sunday evening. Videos of Sankar's life.

Weather

Forecast: Thunderstorm with light to moderate rains to occur at one or two places over South coastal and interior districts of Tamil Nadu

Temperature	MIN	MAX
	28°C	38°C

Sunrise: 5.47am
Sunset: 6.24pm
Moonrise: 7.25am

Air quality (PM 10) at 6 pm

Royapuram: 68 ug/m3
Perungudi: 71 ug/m3

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DT BUSINESS

DT NEXT 13

Chennai, Tuesday, May 3, 2022

N Sankar, a leader par excellence on and off the field

CHENNAI: On Sunday at a memorial function, a diverse set of accomplished individuals gathered in the city to pay tributes to N Sankar of the Sanmar Group, who died last month.

Business barons, noted sportspersons, friends and family took turns to express their love and affection for late Sankar, who had touched their lives in some way or another. During the two-hour session moderated by well-known historian V Sriram, the audience learnt about the impact and legacy that the doyen left behind.

"It is difficult to imagine a life without Sankar," said his brother and VC of Sanmar Group N Kumar about his 72-year-old sibling, fondly recalling how Sankar painstakingly laid foundation of the specialty chemicals conglomerate 'brick by brick'.

Hailing him as a corporate governance pioneer and a joint venture specialist, Kumar said his brother was known to think ahead of time, investing in planes and

helicopters to tide over the hardship of travelling. Sankar epitomised the 'attached yet detached' characteristic that one distinctly finds in the Bhagwad Gita, he added.

Arun Bharat Ram, Chairman-Emeritus of SRF, said he knew Sankar when he came to Madras in 1972 with his two small boys.

"Sankar and Chandra were our first friends," he said, highlighting his involvement in steering Assocham with finesse. Recalling his "passion and love" for cricket, he said Sankar would endlessly discuss all aspects of the game, including selection of a team member. On a nostalgic note, Ram remembered the tradition of receiving Imam Pasand mangoes from Sankar's

Tiruchy orchard every year. Now, his sons Aashish and Karthik have forged a similar bond with Sankar's family, he added.

R Seshasayee, former executive chairman, Ashok Leyland, said Sankar had rejected his candidature as a junior

accountant at Sanmar five decades ago. As providence would have it, Seshasayee had to decline an offer to join the corporate board. "Sankar played shots all around the field," he said, recalling his large-heartedness, spontaneity and 'Satvik' aspect to

contribute generously.

Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj described Sankar as a player who "brought beauty to the game." Always seeking perfection, he had wanted "everything to be the best." Such was his love for the game that Sankar was instrumental in setting up Sanmar Tennis League, one of its kind in the country.

Former India captain Kapil Dev said Sankar had looked after many cricketers, which only exemplified his passion for the game for over 50 years.

Messages from global stalwarts, past employees and long-term business associates, including HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, Fairfax CEO Prem Watsa and Marti G Subrahmanyam, professor of finance at the Stern School of Business at New York University, were also played.

Sankar's daughter Madhurika also paid a poignant tribute to her late father while son Vijay Sankar, the deputy chairman of the group, delivered the vote of thanks.



N Sankar



Kapil Dev with Vijay Sankar in Chennai

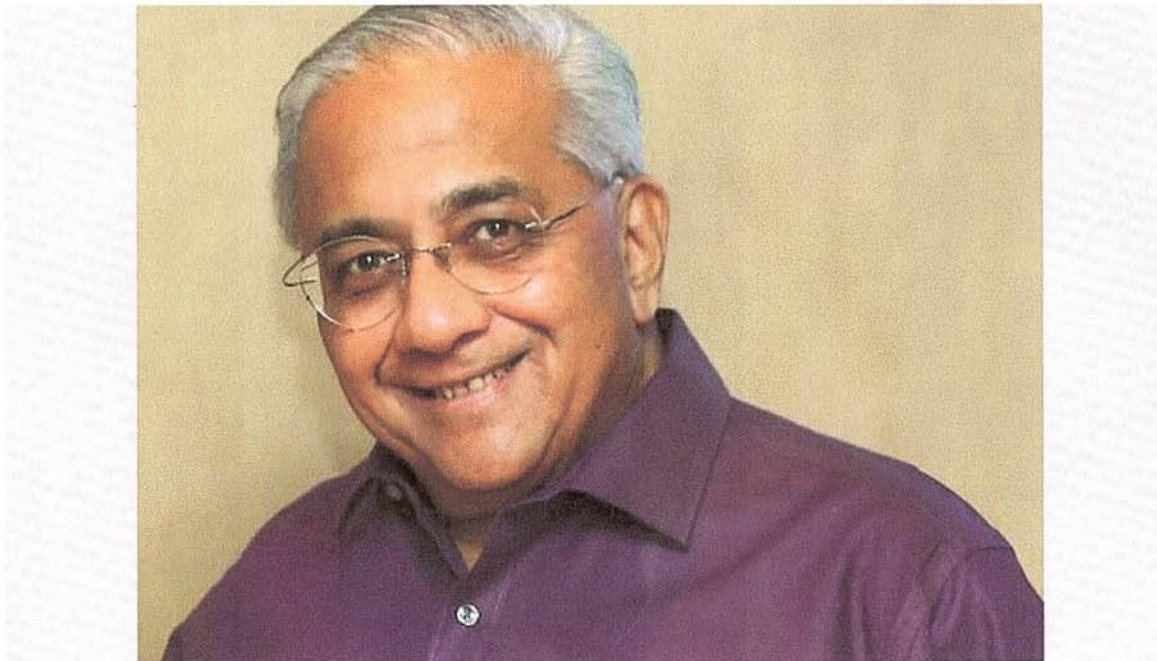


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Business

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N Sankar

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