

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Saxophone exponent Kadri Gopalnath dies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Saxophone wizard and Carnatic music legend Kadri Gopalnath passed away at a hospital in Mangaluru on Friday. He was 69.

Family sources said Gopalnath was not keeping well for the past three months. He was admitted to the hospital on Thursday night following a complaint of backache. He died early Friday following cardiac arrest.

He is survived by wife, a daughter and two sons, including music composer and singer Manikanth Kadri.

Gopalnath was born to Thanappa and Gangamma at Nagri in Bantwal taluk. His first saxophone guru was his father, a Nadaswara exponent. When he was a child, the family shifted to Kadri. This gave Gopalnath an opportunity to learn Carnatic music methodically from maestro N Gopalakrishna Iyer. He presented his first concert on All India Radio in 1978.



The sobriquet 'Saxophone Chakravarty' was bestowed upon him

It is said Gopalnath was attracted to saxophone after listening to a recital by a Mysore Paiaace band set. Since saxophone is a western instrument, producing Carnatic music notes on that isn't easy. But he mastered it over 20 years. His mastery was acknowledged by Carnatic music doyen Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer.

Learning a western instrument wasn't easy. After school, he would sit near Pandava Guhe at Kadri Jogi Mutt

and practise for hours. Later, he shifted to Chennai and trained under TV Gopalakrishnan. Chennai became his professional hub, but Mangaluru remained his spiritual capital, and he attended all key events in the coastal city including the annual Kadri Manjunath festival. He had told TOI: "I'm lucky to perform across the world. However, Mangaluru laid the foundation for my career."

The sobriquet 'Saxophone Chakravarty' was bestowed upon him, besides many coveted awards, including Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Kalaimamani and Karnataka Kalashree honours, came his way. Mangalore and Bangalore universities conferred honorary doctorates on the saxophone legend.

He was the first Carnatic musician to be invited to BBC Promenade concert at Royal Albert Hall in London in 1994. The last rites of the legend are expected to be performed on Monday.