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Letters

Memorial to Rajaji

Sir, — Among the best tributes that have been paid to revered Rajaji, those of Mr V. K. Krishna Menon and Mr N. A. Palkhivala stand out and summarise the personality of the great man.

As Mr Menon put it, Rajaji's singular contribution to Indian policy was to gain recognition for the role of dissent. Gone were the days when to be anti-Congress was considered sacrilege and, even unpatriotic. Rajaji's anti-Congressism was construed by many as the negative approach of an "angry old man." Unmindful of this uncharitable criticism, CR went ahead and gave respectability to the Opposition in India.

Another great contribution of Rajaji was his unrelenting crusade against the inroads on basic human liberties by the powers-that-be intoxicated with a steamroller majority. Mr Palkhivala has correctly stated: "History may regard Rajaji's most memorable work to be what he attempted, without immediate success, during the last years of his life — to rekindle the spirit of liberty. Perhaps no other figure in world history at Rajaji's age, and against such overwhelming odds, tried so much, dared so much and gave so much to his people." Let us hope that his efforts towards this end would not go waste.

May I take this opportunity to appeal to the Government and the people of India to perpetuate the memory of this modern Bhishma by establishing a political and philosophical research institution on the lines of the Harold Laski Institute?

BOMBAY.

R. S.

many Tilak were attracted by his music. Though a devout Muslim, Khansaheb was, like Kabir, a devout Hindu, too, it is said. In his musical works, he used to write "Om Tatsat Samavedaaya Namah." Among the four Vedas, Samaveda is known for its music.

After popularising the Kirana Gharana Gayaki in Maharashtra, he proceeded to Mysore. In North Karnataka, he rendered his recitals in villages also. Though there is no official celebration owing to the Government's austerity measures, the thousands of music lovers in the city want to celebrate the maestro's centenary. To help co-ordinate their work, our Mandal is going to form a committee in Bombay shortly, named Khansaheb Abdul Karim Khan Centenary Celebrations Committee. Those who are willing to come forward are requested to contact the undersigned at an early date and oblige.

G. G. JOSHI,

Secretary, Sangeet Premi

Mandal, Kalwa (Thana-5)

BOMBAY.