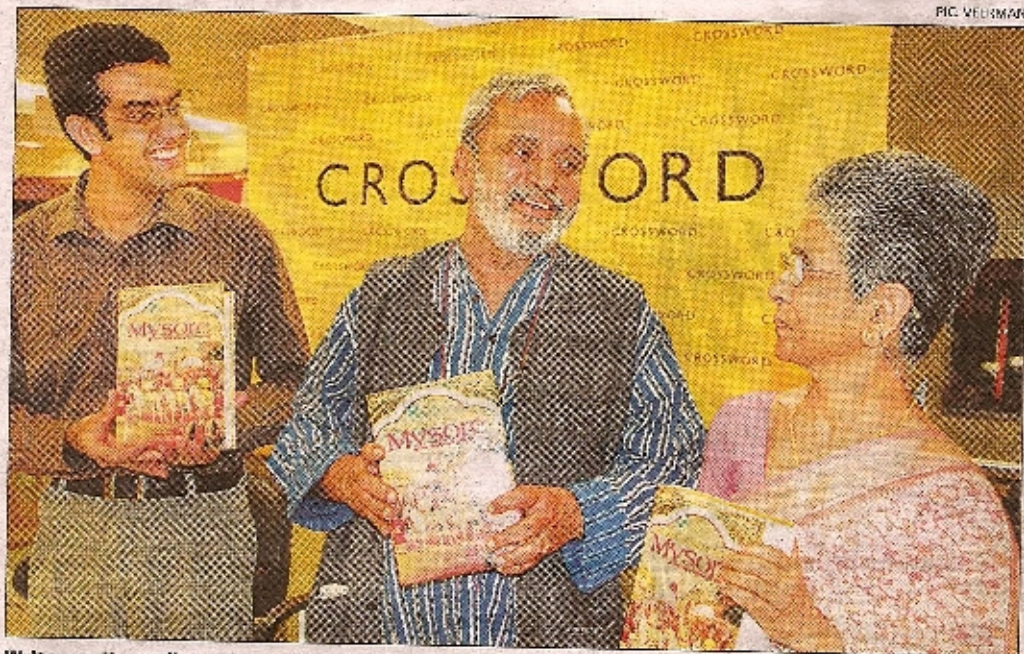


A story well told

PHOTO: VIKRAM SAMPATH



Writers gallery: Vikram Sampath, U R Ananthamurthy and Shashi Deshpande

VAISHALI CHANDRA

Story-telling is no child's play. It can either get you hooked to reading or completely put you off it. When the subject is as heavy as history, a story well-told definitely gets you curious about 'what next'. That is precisely what happened at the book reading of Vikram Sampath's *Splendours of Royal Mysore: The Untold Story of the Wodeyars*.

The event started with a screening of a documentary that gave insights on the author's quest, anecdotes from literary giants like U R Ananthamurthy and Shashi Deshpande. It was all well chalked out. The reading was unlike any we've been to so far. The passage selected was read with obvious emotion and involvement.

At one point the audience was so engrossed in the session that a thud somewhere in the book store was heard loud and clear, yet, no one cared. It was a sight to watch as the reader got everyone's complete attention. The audience was clued in as if back in school, listening in rapt attention to a story of their choice. This reading session struck a chord with the audience who got a dose of history as Ananthamurthy shared nuggets from the time he spent in Mysore, in the good ol' days.