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AIR MAIL

Mrs. B. S. MADHAVA RAO

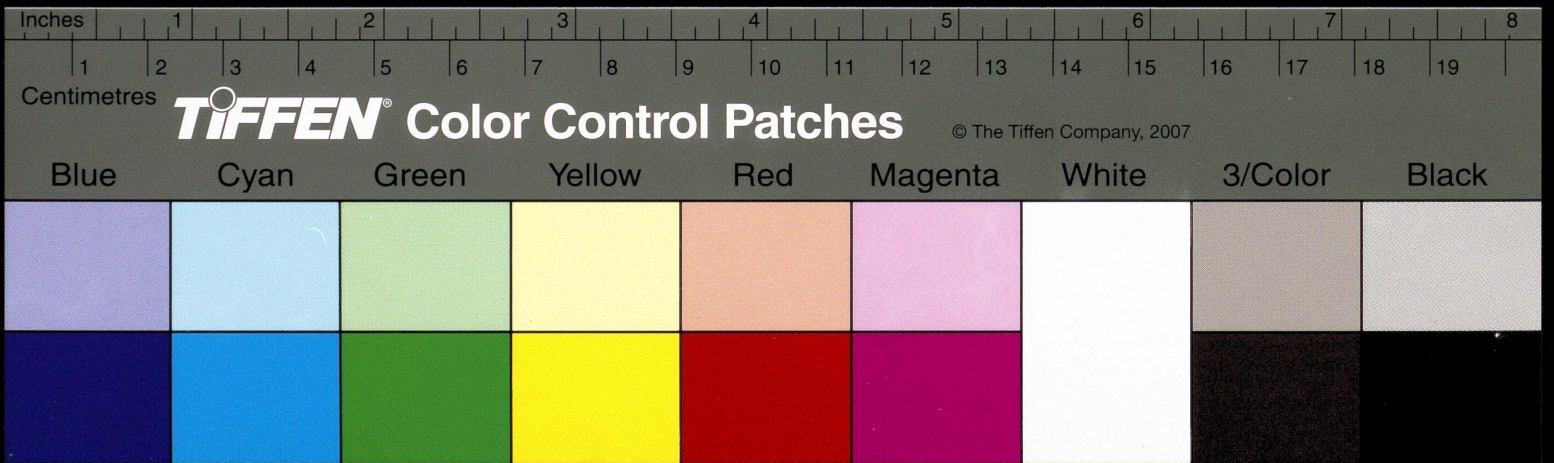
4/59 KANAKAPURA ROAD

BASAVANGUDI

BANGALORE - 560004

INDIA

AIR MAIL



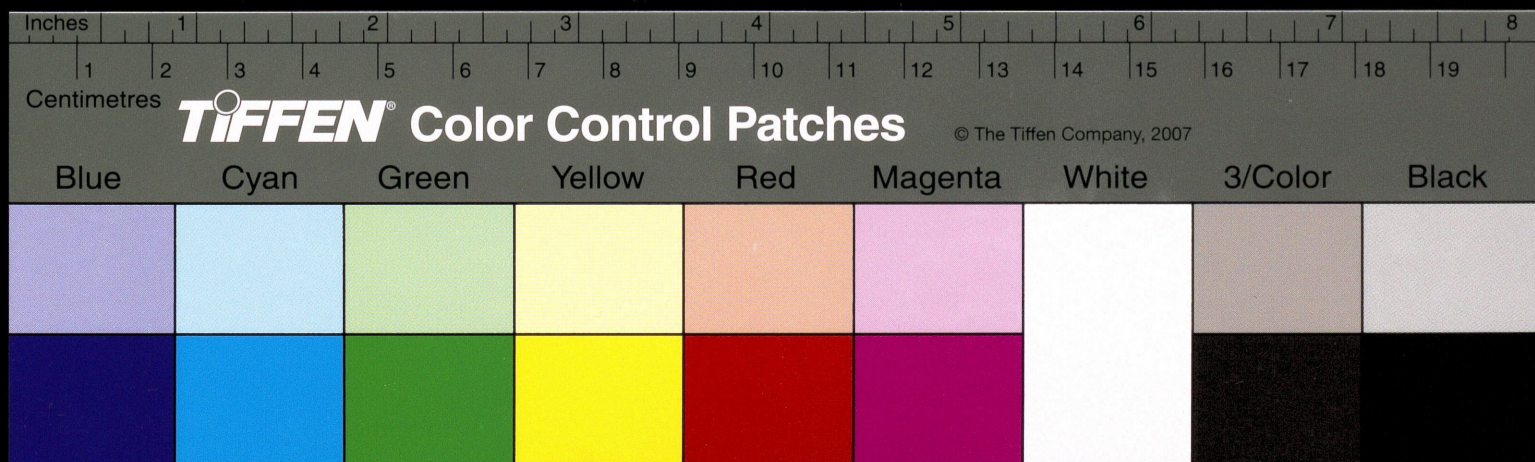
Blacksburg
12/31/84

My dear Bapu,

We were thrilled to receive your letter of 20th December. Thank you for your and ayes's blessings on our birthdays. Chittu called me from Port-of-Spain on 20th; so sweet of her. She is doing okay. Of course I shall write you letters every now and then; you don't have to worry about replying it. How come you have not mentioned anything about fracturing your arm last summer - I don't even know if it was your left or right. By now it should have healed completely.

Couple of days ago I received a twelve-page letter from natini (Kajanna) which gave us a birds-eye view of life in Blore. I also received greetings from Sonali and Somya & Kanchan.

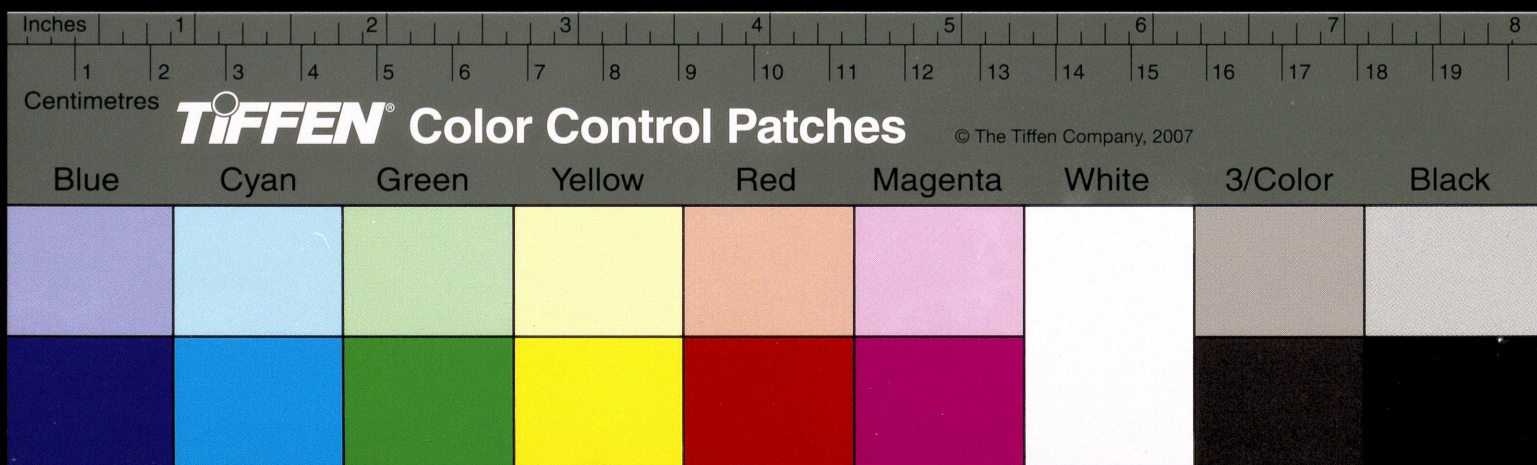
We are glad you liked the picture of Vinay. He is nearly 3 months old and has become really active. He can recognize his mom from a distance and smiles and makes all sorts of sounds now. Balaji likes his kid brother and does not bother him at all. Actually, Balaji is lost these days in his story books. He has about two dozen of them and can read everyone of them. As a matter of fact



he can read difficult words from newspapers and ^{this} sometimes amazes us. We are planning on sending him to pre-school rather than the child care center he has been going to. Although I went to school when I was three I don't think I could read ~~as~~ much as he does now!

Nalu has now settled down to a routine of taking care of two children which leaves her hardly any time during the day. My in-law's two-month stay with us was extremely helpful and allowed nalu to recover from the operation. They are leaving for Blore on 6th Jan from Boston. I have sent small gifts for you and Ayea which I hope you will like.

Also enclosed is a copy of ~~one of~~ my latest publication in the journal of Organic Chemistry. This was part of the work I did at Univ. of Va. and is perhaps the first definitive work on dilithiation. Presently I am working on a project funded by NASA in the polymer area. Basically, I make starting materials (monomers) for their high-temperature resistant polymers which they use in their space vehicles. There is a great need for composite materials that can withstand very high temperatures (of the magnitude generated during re-entry of the space vehicle, for example) and hence the project is very challenging and interesting.



I am, however, still looking for an industrial position and have had a couple of plant trips - but these did not result in a job offer.

Has Prof. S.K.L. Rao visited you in recent times? Please give him my regards when he does. Do you still go ~~on~~ to Ladbagh for your evening walks? How is darling Ajeel doing? We heard you have a new cook who also takes care of Deepali. By the time this reaches you, my father-in-law may already have given you all the news. I will therefore put an end to this already lengthy letter with love and kisses to Ajeel and you and of course Arun!

Affectionately yours

Ashok

