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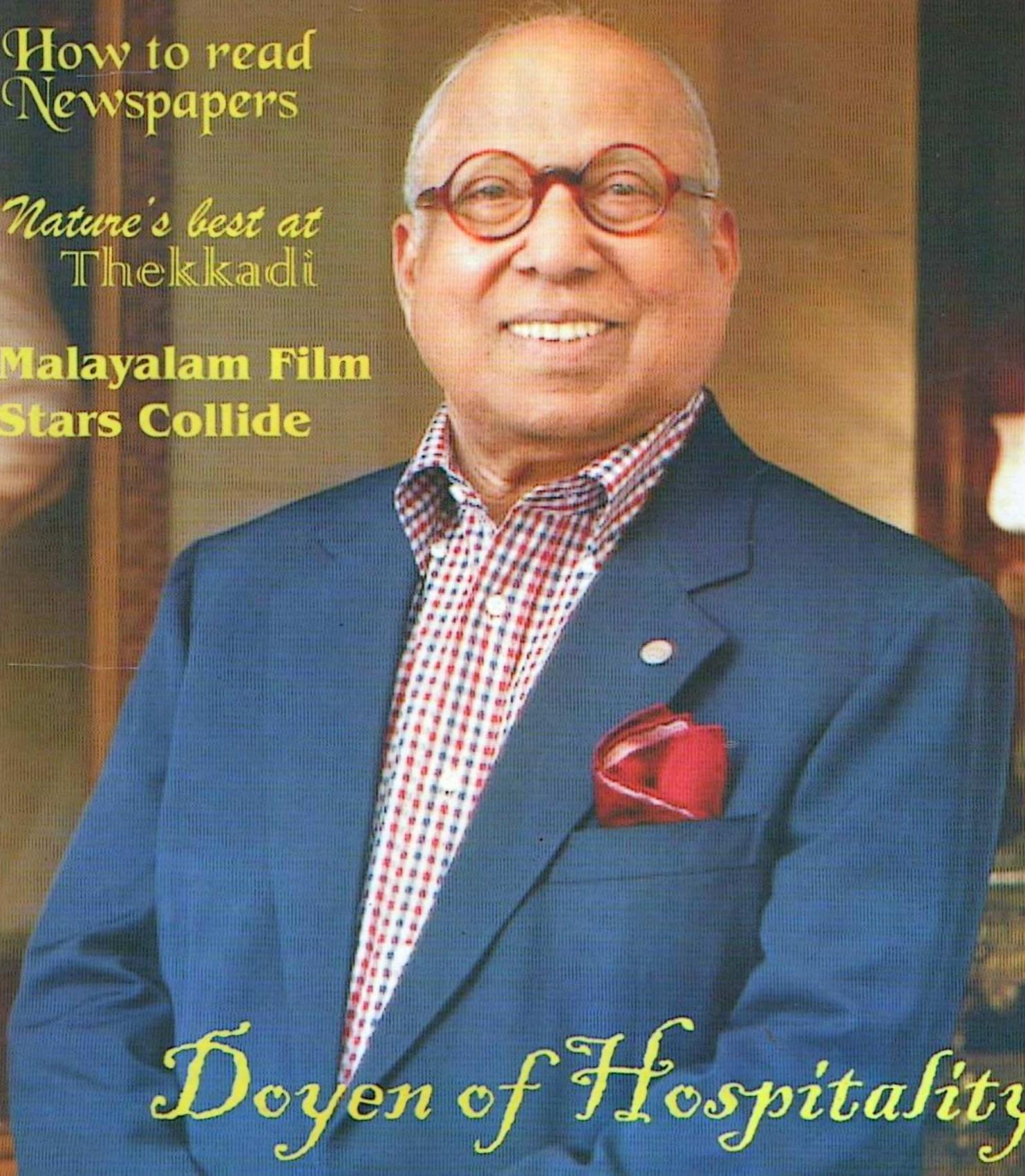
in Mumbai
March 2010

**How to read
Newspapers**

*Nature's best at
Thekkadi*

**Malayalam Film
Stars Collide**

Doyen of Hospitality



Kerala in Mumbai Vol 01, No.02 March 2010

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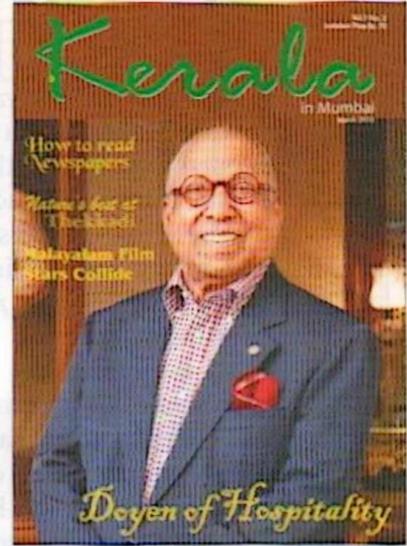
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EDITORIAL**PARENTS SHOULD TAKE LEAD**

If children of Malayalee residents in Mumbai and other parts of the country, cannot read or write Malayalam, a large part of the blame rests with their parents. Children, still at school or college, have little time to master their mother tongue. But yet, if the desire to know the language and the culture and traditions it espouses, are made known to them, at some stage in their lives they would go back to their roots.

That urge in them could be implanted only by parents. In an age of increasing disintegration of joint families and the prevalence of nuclear families, the sole responsibility of the upbringing of children rests wholly on the parents.

This is all the more necessary in cities and towns where facilities to teach children basic Malayalam or inculcate in them a keen desire to know about Malayalam cuisine, arts, music, poetry, drama and the fine arts are not easily available.

These basic and primary objectives of KERALA IN MUMBAI were fully endorsed by the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri K Sankaranarayanan, when he inaugurated and launched the first copy of this magazine, at an august gathering at Nehru Centre, Mumbai, on February 6. In a humourous light hearted speech Shri Sankaranarayanan put forth several profound thoughts on why the younger generations should not be allowed to stray from their roots. Language is the greatest binding factor among people, especially those who have lived long years out of their home state.

The Governor endeared himself to the specially invited audience of leading public figures, writers, social workers, professionals and activists, when he quoted instances of his own experiences over a long period of political activity that took him to various corners of the country and several countries abroad.

Children brought up in areas outside the State for long years, in today's conditions of employment, find it necessary to go back to the State or even work there. It becomes all the more necessary that they should not suffer the pangs of being considered an outsider. Language and a good knowledge of their cultural attainments, rituals and practices would be of immense help in drawing them closer to their kith and kin and the people at large, with whom they have to come in contact.

There have been two significant instances of eminent Malayalees who stayed out of the country for decades and then had to come back to their roots. The first is that of V K Krishna Menon, who stayed in England for over three decades and found himself unable to use his own mother tongue when he returned. The other is that of 'Nair Saan,' who spent a large part of his life in Japan, but found the call of the motherland too strong to resist.

Both, no doubt, had the advantage of having spent their childhood in Kerala and imbibed the best of Kerala culture. That remained ingrained in them all through their lives.

Malayalees outside Kerala, but still living in other parts of India, have still several avenues of keeping in touch with Malayalam and its attainments wherever they are, unlike Krishna Menon and 'Nair Saan.'

It is upto them to endure that their wards are not alienated from their roots and their cultural heritage.

They need only utilise all the sources thrown open for them by the information explosion that we have witnessed in the last three decades; the growth of the broadcast medium, the print medium, the information highways and the internet. This alone should enable them to acquire an international outlook, shed all vestiges of regionalism, narrow mindedness, and parochialism and acquire high levels of good neighbourliness.

It has to be remembered that when we take pride in our own culture, attainments and stories of remarkable success of individuals we should not lose track of the fact that as citizens of the State we choose to live in, we owe that State also the best we could give it, in the right manner.

KERALA IN MUMBAI would seek to promote these values and ideals. It needs the support and involvement of all right thinking Malayalees, wherever they are and in any manner they could, to further these objectives.

- Editorial Board



Capt. C.P. Krishnan Nair

DOYEN OF INDIAN HOSPITALITY

- P K Ravindranath

As a seven year old rustic boy from a remote village in Kannur district of Kerala, stood gaping at the grandeur of the Mysore Palace in 1929, he would have hardly visualized that half a century later he would own properties outrivalling the spectacular palace.

Vision, tenacity and never-say-die spirit made Capt C.P. Krishnan Nair, the wonder struck young kid, to fight his way through odds to provide the country a chain of Leela Hotels that spell and provide the best of Indian Hospitality. Krishnan Nair learnt the art of providing hospitality with genuine love and warmth, from his mother, Chittarath Madhavi Amma. Wife of an Amsom Kolkaran (Revenue Collector), Appa Nair, Madhavi Amma was never flustered when hosts of villagers descended on her house at meal times. Adept at Man-Management, she would organise some of the tastiest repasts for the hungry visitors. Decades later, Krishnan Nair used the same technique of Man Management to ensure that no guest or visitors to his fabulously splendrous Leela Hotel at Andheri in Mumbai went out disappointed or unhappy.

To put up the first Leela Hotel at Mumbai, Krishnan Nair had to fight several odds tenaciously. He was an 'outsider' in the hospitality sector that at that time was dominated by a group of entrepreneurs from a state in North India, except for the Tata's in Mumbai. They did everything possible to block the entry of a "Madrasi" into the trade. Fighting with his back to the wall, Krishnan Nair found support from the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Vasantdada Patil. The plot of land Krishnan Nair had for the hotel project was just outside the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport. Patil told him the location of a hotel, as Krishnan Nair had planned, would give a new dimension to Mumbai's international airport.

Krishnan Nair did one better than the Chief Minister had visualized. Soon, he turned the entire stretch from the airport to Leela Hotel and beyond totally green, winning him global awards and recognition. It got him the Global 500 Roll of Honour, 1999 from the U N Environment Program and the Corporate Environmental Achievement Award, 1998 from the 6th World Wilderness Congress. Earlier in 1996 his efforts to turn the entire Marol area into a green patch got him the Green Hotelier Award 1996 from the International Hotel & Restaurant Association, Paris. In the 2010 National awards list, he got the prestigious Padma Bhushan, which had eluded him twice earlier.



Capt. Nair and Leela Krishnan Nair with Mata Amrutanandamayi



Capt. Nair with Dalai Lama

The single minded devotion Krishnan Nair gave to his Hotel and the immense satisfaction his clients and guests had with the services offered by the group, it had grown into a formidable list of six prestigious units, each one more magnificent than the other. The group is now spread out in Goa, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Agra, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai. A

new one is under construction in New Delhi in the heart of the capital, to be opened in mid-2010.

Capt Nair hails from a humble, middle class family in Pallikunnu, an agricultural area with a large sprinkling of poverty stricken people, where he was born in 1922. He barely managed to acquire a high school education. He joined the army, during World War II and

was posted to Abbottabad in the then North West Frontier Province. He was commissioned in 1947.

In 1950, he married Leela, daughter of a handloom factory owner. In two years, he had to ask his commander, Gen Rajendra Singhji to be relieved from the army, since he had to take charge of his wife's family business. With the help of Basel Mission, a German missionary service that had been doing yeoman service to the people of Kannur district, he installed a new handloom machine. Soon, the business flourished. Capt Nair decided to shift to Mumbai to set up Leela Lace.

At Sree Rajarajeshwari Mills, he introduced a new concept in handloom textiles- 'Bleeding Madras' which soon became a rage in the American market. Axleford, one of the biggest textile dealers in the U S offered to buy the entire output of Bleeding Madras, Capt Nair could provide them. But there followed complaints that the colours were running on bush shirts made out of Bleeding Madras. "This cloth is meant to run colours with every wash. That is why it is called Bleeding Madras," Nair countered. With each wash, the shirt would acquire a new look, he assured the buyers.

Soon within the textile industry, Capt Nair had made a mark. He found himself elected to the Export Promotion Council, where he remained for the next ten years.



Capt Nair with Bal Thackarey and Dr Farooq Abdullah



Capt. Nair at 20



Capt. Nair receives Global Environment Award

In 1959, he went to Germany as a member of an export promotion delegation, hawking Indian pepper, coir, handloom cloth and cashew nuts. He was able to persuade the then German Economic Minister, Dr. Ludwing Erhard, to allow quota-free imports from India to Germany. In 1958 he got Dr. Erhard to withdraw duties on handloom exports from India to Germany.

During his visit to the U S, he came to know Conrad Hilton, one of the top names in American hoteliering. That paved the way for some of the soaring ambitions of Capt Nair to one day

dominate the Indian hotel industry. It took him a few decades though. He never dithered.

From 1960 Scottish Lace picked up exports, thanks to 100% duty waiver by the government of India on this item.

Deeply spiritual in his outlook, Capt Nair does not believe in or practice religious rituals or rites, nor does he go to temples. Among his early spiritual gurus were Swami Brahmadattan and Vagbhadanandan. He later drew close to Swami Chinmayananda and Mata Amritanandamayee. He is also close to the Dalai Lama, who prefers to stay at the Leela during his

visits to Mumbai.

At 88, Capt Nair maintains a busy schedule at his office and also participates in a number of social service activities. His wife Leela ("my greatest support in life") and his two sons, Dinesh and Vivek and their children actively help him in most of his work. The second generation is slowly but surely being trained to take over the vast hospitality empire Capt Nair has built up, brick by brick.

The one-time intruder into the hospitality industry has now emerged as the Global Hotelier.

LATEST NEWS!

The Leela-Kovalam has received National Tourism Award for the best 5Star Hotels in India during this month.



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S P B steals hearts of Mumbai music lovers

He came, performed and conquered. Music lovers of Mumbai are going to keep the memories of S P Balasubrahmanyam performing for them in a houseful Shanmukhananda Auditorium on 27th February. The music legend entered the dais amidst a standing ovation. He stole their hearts with his down to earth humility, timely humour, command over several languages and a grand performance. He chose each song with utmost care and revealed unknown facts about each and every song. When he said how a casual call of 'Hey Baalu' was turned into 'Oh Baalu sir' with a song 'Sankarabharanam' composed by maestro K V Mahadevan, the audience ruptured into a thunderous applause in appreciation.

He catered to the needs of the mixed crowds of Tamilians, Malayalees, Telugus and

Kannadigas and also to the Hindi loving. The audience in turn showed their appreciation of his gesture when he sang "Anjalee Anjalee.." in mix of four languages. The audience never had enough when SPB wound up the programme at 10.30 p m without an interval. Raagalaya Life Time Achievement Award 2009 was presented to S P B by N R K Pillai, Chairman and Managing Director of

Aiswarya Group of Publications. S P B presented the prizes to the winners of Raagalaya Light Music Competition 2009. Playback singer Anoop Shankar ably anchored the programme besides singing a couple of songs. Singers Nikhil Mathew, Gautam, Ananthu, Sharanya and Meenakshi assisted SPB. Shrutilaya Orchestra of Chennai under the baton of Suresh accompanied the legendary singer.



N R K Pillai, Chairman and MD of Aiswarya Group of Publications presents the Life Time Achievement Award of Raagalaya to S P Balasubrahmanyam



S P B released a souvenir on the occasion. Also seen Vijay Kumar, Thomas Mathew (MD, LIC) and P K Ravindranath



Well known drum player Sivamani pays respect to SPB



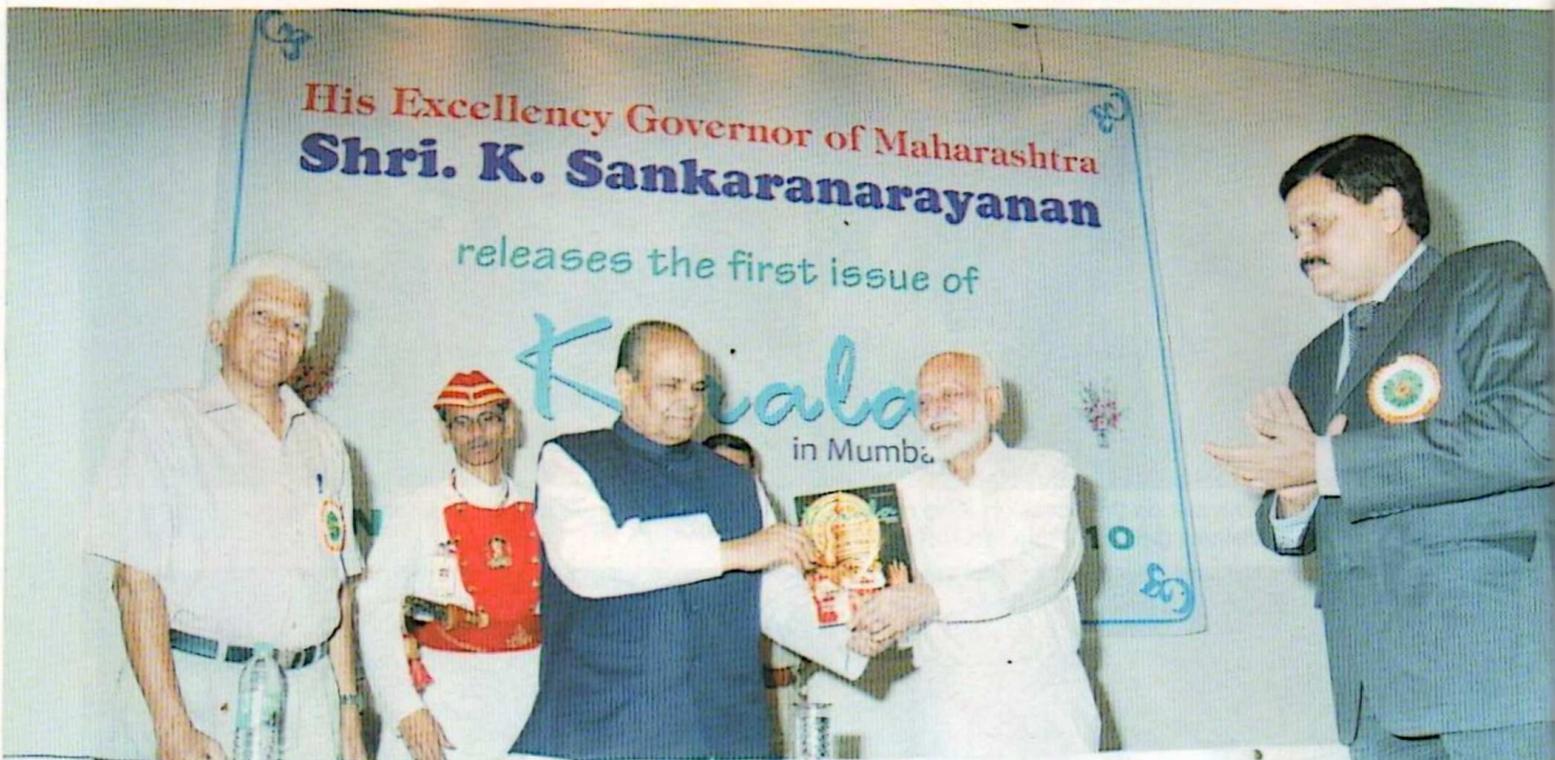
The audience in rapt attention



SPB distributes awards to winners of light music contest



Anjaneya Prasad (GM-Andhra Bank) felicitates SPB



**“Ignorance of mother tongue due to impact of changing times”
Governor Sankaranarayanan launches
“Kerala in Mumbai”**

Ignorance and lack of skills in communication through the mother tongue is not the fault of the new generation of the old immigrants but it is the result of changing times. Parents and grand parents have no inclination or time to inculcate the language and culture of the native state in their children and grand children. Ignorance of the mother tongue is not creating obstacles in securing employment or effecting communication in other places. However not knowing the local language has adverse consequences. So remarked Governor of Maharashtra K Sankaranarayanan while releasing the first copy of “Kerala in Mumbai” at a august ceremony held at Nehru Centre on February 6.

Shri Sankaranarayanan was received by Consulting Editor P K Ravindranath and Managing Director P V Vijay Kumar of Vibrant Printing and Publishing Private Limited, the company that launched the new English magazine exclusively catering to the needs of Malayalees in Mumbai.

While welcoming the Governor, P K Ravindranath stated that readers of Malayalam publications in Mumbai and surrounding districts were dwindling gradually.

A time might come soon when they would be compelled to close down lack of readers. The objective of “Kerala in Mumbai” was to educate the Malayalees residing here about the importance of their language and culture. The Governor pointed out that it was wrong to point a finger to the new generation for this impasse as they did not have any need to know their mother tongue. He pointed out that though the younger generation conversed with their parents in Malayalam, among themselves they were comfortable with Hindi or English. Further, the second and third generations of the original immigrant

Malayalees do not generally consider themselves Malayalees as many Malayalees were marrying from other communities too. Their children might not consider themselves Malayalees but only Indians. However, it is imperative to know one's roots, language and culture for their benefits. Knowledge of more languages would only help to expand the avenues and would not have any adverse effect, the Governor said.

Prominent individuals and representatives of various Malayalee organisations attended the function. M G Radhakrishnan compered the event and Managing Editor K V Satyanath proposed a vote of thanks.



A view of the audience

Thekkady

Nature unravels its true colours

Traveller

Thekkady unfolds the alluring sensuous beauty of nature in all its splendour, and intrigues with its unpredictability. The delightful natural wild life reserve of Thekkady unravels a world of enriching experiences. Here the exotic and the enchanting are closely knit together. Some of the most beautiful moments in life often come unannounced.

Thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves in India, and spread across the entire district are picturesque plantations and hill towns that hold great opportunities for treks and mountain walks. It is situated at an altitude of 900-1800 m above sea level.

The Thekkady sanctuary is one of the best in the country for watching and

photographing wild life. On the border with Tamil Nadu, it is 5 kilometers from the border town of Kumily which is very well connected by bus to both Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Notable among the denizens of Periyar are the tigers, the majestic Asiatic wild elephants and the distinctive Nilgiri langur with an all black body and white face. Other creatures include wild boar, wild dog, bison, bear and leopards. Amongst the avifauna, the most profuse are herons, egrets, darters, kingfishers and the great Malabar grey hornbill. A cruise through the waters of Periyar lake around which the wildlife sanctuary is situated, offers a soul stirring pleasant experience.

The drive to Thekkady itself is enchanting as the road winds through tranquil countryside, rich plantations and thick jungles. The sanctuary, 60 km from Idukki, 190 km from Cochin and 114 kms away from Kottayam is open

throughout the year. It is centered amidst the large (24 sq km) artificial lake formed by a dam across the Periyar River. The main attraction is a boat trip over this man-made lake of Thekkady. The forest department would also arrange elephant rides and trekking inside the sanctuary.

We can reach Thekkady by air, rail or road. From Kochi International Airport at Nedumbassery we can drive through 160 kms in about 6 hours. By rail, Kottayam is the nearest railway station and drive a distance of 114 kms and it would take about 3½ hours. Thekkady is 5 kms from Kumily on NH 220 that links Kollam to Theni in Tamilnadu via Kottayam, Peermede and Vandiperiyar. Thekkady is on SH 19 that runs the length of eastern Idukki district connecting Munnar to Periyar Tiger Reserve.

Time

The ideal time to visit Thekkady is from September to March, when you can enjoy nature without the accompanying rains. If you are a bird watcher, this is also the time to spot migrant birds. Summer though hot, is also good for wild life spotting.

The starting point of the reserve is the boat house, roughly 2 kms from the entry gate. All treks, boat rides and walks begin from this point.

Elephant Safari

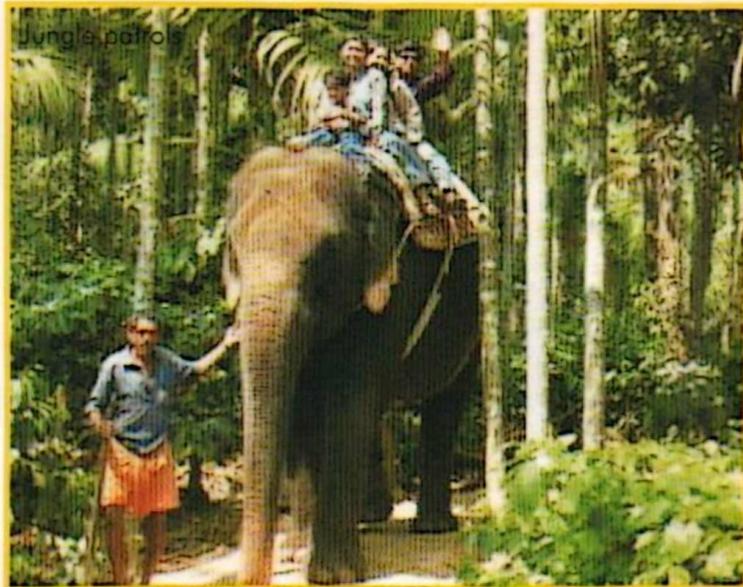
Ride a mighty elephant and feel on top of the world as it takes you along a land that exudes a wild charm. Synonymous with elephants, Thekkady is home to some 750 of them and they come in all sizes and ages. You get to see herds of elephants frolicking by the lakeside or trekking through the jungle. But make sure that you hitch a jolly ride only on one of these tamed gentle elephants.

Green corridor

It is one of the environmental hotspots in the world well known for its biodiversity and encompassing 777 sq. kms. The Periyar Tiger Reserve brings you close to some of the rarest animals and plants. A treasure trove of contrasting experiences, here, misty hills compete with majestic animals. Spice gardens snuggle close to evergreen forests. And tranquility goes hand in hand with raw vitality.

Jungle patrols

If you want to be adventurous, join as night watchman of the jungle. Two separate teams of eight trekkers accompanied by a couple of watchers and an armed forest guard patrols the



area every three hours at night. If interested, you can be part of the regular night patrolling carried out in the ecodevelopment zones of the tiger reserve. Join the action by signing up for this package organised as a part of the Periyar Tiger Scheme.

Nature walks

Wander through three different life zones in the course of a day. Move past evergreen, grassland or moist deciduous forests and come across various species of flora and fauna in each forestland, filled with a different choir of birds and harbouring some of the most fascinating collection of orchids - 145 of them to be precise. A close watch of the trails will also reveal pug marks left by the wild animals.

Water world

Cruise along the huge artificial lake surrounded by hills. The lake shelters an

amazing variety of exotic fishes. Look out for the most famous and endangered game fish of India, the Mashseer, found abundantly in the upstream parts of the lake. The Otter, the only mammal of the lake can also be spotted during the boat ride, which is the best way to see the sanctuary.

In the thick of things

Spend a night in one of the observation towers or rest houses right inside the forest and ignite your adventurous spirit. Safely perched atop one of these watchtowers you will get a bird's view of the jungle as well as the wild life. But for that you will have to reserve your room well in advance.

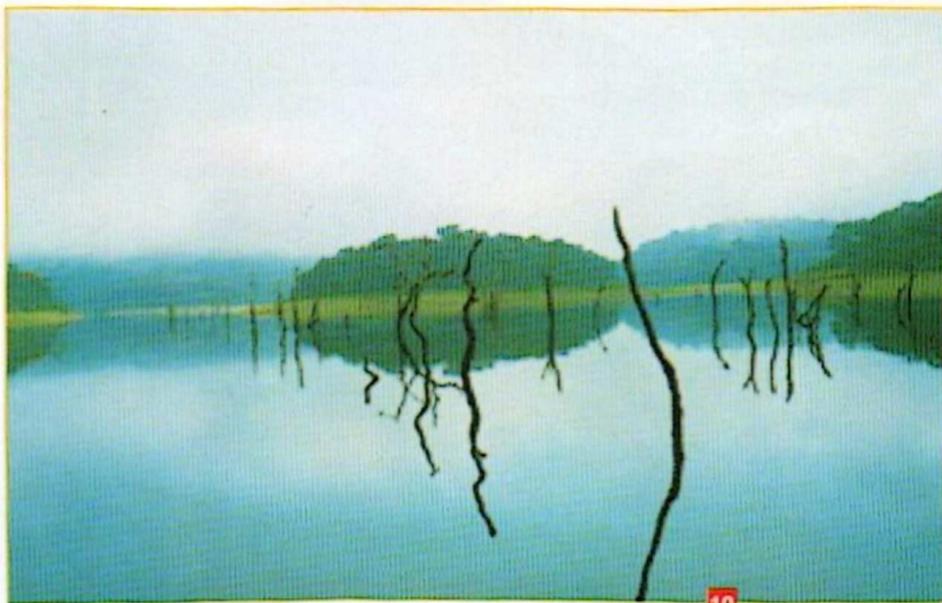
Lace up your hiking boots for a backpacking day through rough terrain sealing 900-1300 metres of mist-clad peaks. A challenging but rewarding course, trekkers get to catch glimpses of the lofty escarpments bordering the park and the vast plains below. Apart from birds and butterflies, you also come across Gaur, Sloth Bears, elephants etc along this route.

Tracking the tiger

This is a serious game and only the adventurous and physically fit need pack their bags. Traverse the adventurous Periyar Tiger Trail and camp deep inside the dense forests. You will have trained forest guards to help you spot the elusive cats that generally prefer a solitary existence.

Jungle rendezvous

You can get cozy in a forest cabin at Kokkara. An ideal place for two to enjoy the quietness and ambience





of forest life, you get to meet many animals right near your lodging. And if

you wish to stretch your legs a bit, different varieties of birds will provide the perfect music for a fabulous trek.

You can acquaint yourself with the culture and lives of tribes belonging to this region. A tribal heritage museum built right inside the Mannan settlement, belonging to one of the oldest tribes, features various types of articles related to their ancient practices and rituals. Open on all days, the two hour tour covers the tribal museum visit and a trek through the tribal hamlet.

Cruise on bamboo rafts

One can glide through the waters on bamboo rafts to see wildlife at close quarters without disturbing their natural habitat. The bamboo rafting programme is part of a full day trekking package through some of the richest forest tracks of the tiger reserve.

Meeting with the Gaurs

If you are the kind to play it safe, you can enjoy watching animals from the safety of a boat. But then if you are ready for the excitement of seeing wild life just a stone's throw away, don your shoes for a jungle walk. The Gaur, the majestic animal seen in its largest size in the Western Ghats and its huge, trademark horns weigh anywhere upto a ton. Other members of the jungle you could expect to have close encounters with are the Sambars, Chital, the endangered Lion-tailed Macaque,



Nilgiri Langur, Sloth Bear, Wild boar, and so on.

Surrender to nature

Pitch your tent among bamboo thickets that form a wonderful backdrop to the eco-lodges earmarked for experiential learning and nature sensitisation camps as part of the Green Mansion eco-tourism project. You can also opt for tree top huts or grass houses. Trekking expeditions, boating on Gavi and Kullar lakes, bird watching, plantation visits and so on are arranged for visitors who can reach Gavi from Thekkady by jeep.

Hike with a soundtrack

Virtually every walk in the woods comes with an added sensual delight the lusty singing of over fifty different species of birds. The best way to spot the orange headed ground thrush, the resplendent forest wig tail and many others, is to sign up for one of the bird spotting treks.

Flora

Over 1965 flowering species including 171 grass species and 143 species of orchids flourish here. The only South Indian conifer *Podo carpus Wallichianus* as well as other celebrities like teak, rosewood and bamboo are also found.

Fauna

Mammals: Thirty five species including the wild elephant, gaur, sambar, barking deer, Nilgiri langur, tigers, leopards, chital (spotted deer), antelopes, wild boar, and the dhole or the wild dog are some of the carnivores you will find here. Toad, fungoid frog and biocoloured frog are also located here.

The sanctuary also houses a number of smaller carnivores such as marten and ratel, the fishing cat, the elusive rusty spotted cat, Indian civet, the brown palm civet that live on fruits, the large ruddy mongoose which acquires a

red coat in winter, the nocturnal brown mongoose, lion tailed macaque, bonnet macaque and the common langur.

Birds: 265 species including migrants. The hornbill, stork, woodpecker, kingfisher, raptor, cormorant, grackle, darter etc are found here.



Reptiles: Cobra, viper, krait, a number of poisonous snakes, and the monitor lizard.

Amphibians: Frogs, toads and limbless caecilians including the colourful Malabar gliding frog, common Indian

Places worth visiting

Thekkady sight seeing tours offer a great way to explore the popular tourist attractions in this place. "Thekkady tours" will tell you more about the various tourist attractions of Thekkady and give you an idea of your tour to Thekkady.

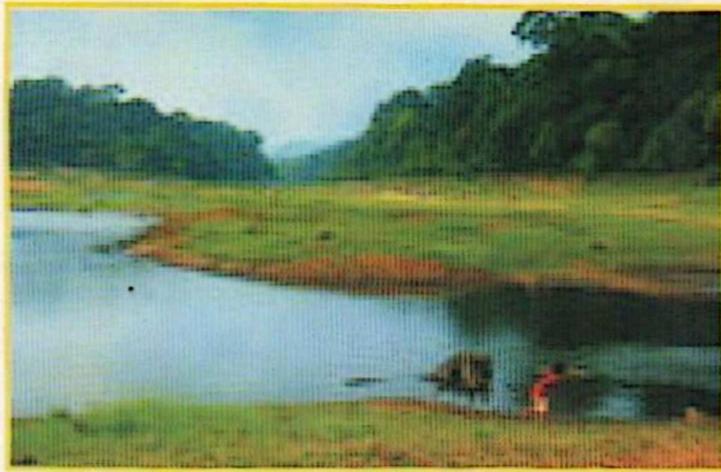
The Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Open 0600 - 1800 hrs): Periyar Tiger Reserve located in the Western Ghats in the Cardamom Hills at an altitude of 2,900-6,000 ft. is the largest

sanctuary in Kerala. Three kinds of forest enrich this sanctuary evergreen, grassland and moist deciduous. Different species of animals, birds and plants can be seen in each type of forest.

Kumily (4 km): Located just outside the Periyar sanctuary, Kumily is a famous plantation town. This lovely town has extensive plantations of various Indian spices.

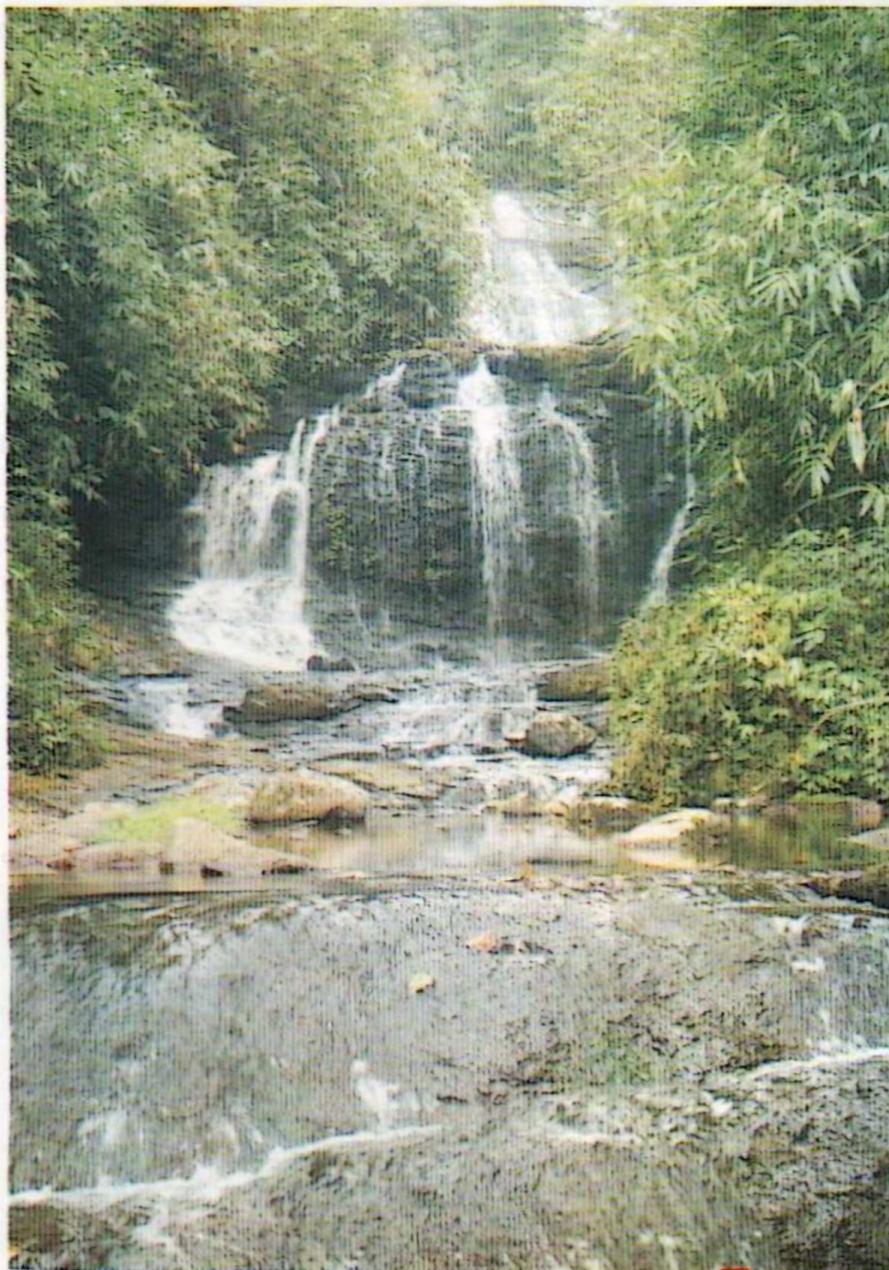
Pandikuzhi (9 km): This popular picnic spot is nestled between Tamil Nadu and Chellarkovil. One can try at trekking and mountain climbing here. The picturesque location also provides the perfect getaway for an avid photographer.

Mangala Devi Temple (15 km): Located at a height of 1337 meters



above sea level in the dense thickets, is the beautiful Mangala Devi Temple. This temple is built in the traditional Kerala style of architecture. This temple allows visitors only on the day of Chitra Pournami festival.

Chellarkovil (19 km): Chellarkovil is a small village that is famous for its splendid panoramic views like lush landscapes and gurgling waterfalls. The village is also well known for its vast coconut groves.



Where to stay

Star Hotels: Carmelia Haven, Club Mahindra Tuskar Trails, Muthoot Cardamom Conty, Paradisa Plantation Retreat, Spice Village, Michaels Inn, S N International Hotel, Abad Green Forest, Aranya Niwas, Hotel Treetop, Hotel Silver Crest

Budget Hotels: Wildside Villa, Hotel Ambadi, Revathy International, Hotel Mount Sinai, Mas Lake Queen Hotel, Periyar House.

Luxury Hotels: The Elephant Court, Hotel Lake Palace Heritage Deluxe

Resorts: Shalimar Spice Garden Resort.

Interview

PARVATHY OMANAKUTTAN

Lakshmi



Small Town Roots to Global Style

The first thing that strikes one's eyes when one meets the former Miss India 2008, Parvathy Omanakuttan, is her slender, tall frame, clear complexion and lustrous hair falling below her shoulders. Dressed in black jeans highlighting her slim legs, and a blue top, with light make-up, Parvathy Omanakuttan looked beautifully simple.

Parvathy Omanakuttan, was crowned Pantaloons Femina Miss India World in 2008 and became First Runner-up at the Miss World 2008 Contest held in South Africa. Before the Miss India World, she won the titles of Miss Photogenic, Miss Personality, and Miss Beautiful Hair at the Pantaloons Femina Miss India 2008 Pageant. Earlier, in December 2007, she was crowned the first ever Pantaloons Femina Miss India South 2008. This title gave her direct entry to the top ten finalists of the Pantaloons Femina Miss India 2008 Contest.

Many titles have come her way. She has won the Miss Malayali 2005, Miss Malayali Manga 2005, Navy Queen Kochi 2006, Miss SVKM Mumbai 2006, Lions Club Dream Girl 2007, Navy Queen Dream Girl 2007.

Parvathy Omanakuttan says that the credit for her success goes to her parents who supported her desire to be part of the Glamour Industry. Even in her teens she was clear on what she wanted to become and her mom and dad encouraged her in realising her dreams. She is very close to them and her younger brother Jaysurya.

Right now she is busy completing her shooting of a Hindi film *United Six* directed by Vishal Aryan Singh. "This film is about six girls from different walks of life and how a situation unites them. There is no male lead in the film". Many film offers had come her way after the Miss World Pageant, but she did not like the scripts. *United Six* interested her and she accepted the role.

If the script is interesting, Parvathy is willing to act in Malayalam and other South Indian films, she says.

Her modelling assignments also keep her busy.

An English Literature Graduate, she would like to do further studies in Psychology a subject of great interest.

FAMILY

Parvathy is the eldest daughter of Omanakuttan Chembakasseri Narayana Panicker and Sreekala. She was born in Kottayam in Kerala, but she has been staying in Mumbai with her family all along, since her father is working here. She did her schooling and college in Mumbai. However she is still in touch with her Kerala roots. The family speaks Malayalam at home. Kerala dishes are part of the family meals. Parvathy can read and write Malayalam. Every year her family goes to their native place. Parvathy loves to visit her aunts and uncles. In fact she attends annually the Devi Temple *Utsavam* at her mother's place, held during Vishu. She has attended regularly the Attukal Temple *Pongala* for the past 4 years and is planning to go there in the future also.

At heart she is a spiritual person, believing there is someone up there who "hears me and guides me."

"Life in Kerala is relaxing and refreshing," she says.

"And makes me ready to face the fast-paced life of Mumbai when I return."

BEAUTY SECRETS

Beauty, according to Parvathy Omanakuttan "is what comes out from within. Beauty is also something that you inherit from your genes. It does not matter whether you are dark or fair. It is wrong to equate fairness with beauty."

For her, Rekha and Hema Malini are symbols of everlasting beauty. Among the actresses of the



South, she feels Shobhana reflects an ethereal beauty. Speaking on her long lustrous hair, she says that like any other Malayali, she applies coconut oil regularly. "A little extra care and anyone can have healthy hair", she assures us.

As for her clear skin and bright eyes, she reveals a few tips that she practices :

Except when she is shooting, she applies the minimum make-up. She washes her face with a mild cleanser three or four times a day. She tries to get sleep for seven to eight hours to look and feel fresh, eat in moderation, though she enjoys all types of food, be it Kerala, Punjabi, Chinese or Continental.

Another thing she advises is to drink at least eight glasses of water daily.

She also does work-outs four or five times a week and manages to maintain her weight.

Parvathy Omanakuttan is a keen sportswoman and has played basket ball, badminton in her college days and enjoys swimming. All this has made her an all rounder and moulded her personality.

SOCIAL AWARENESS AND HOBBIES

Parvathy Omanakuttan feels strongly about underprivileged children and women and wants to do some thing for their welfare. After winning the Miss India title she has visited many schools for the less privileged and spent time with them. At present she is goodwill ambassador for 'Genesis Foundation', an organization for children with Special Needs.

Initially, she was a little upset that she missed the Miss World title after being so close to achieving it. But she is thankful to God that he has given her so much. Success, for her is not in winning a crown, but in doing her best to win a place in people's hearts. She is sure that better things are on their way.

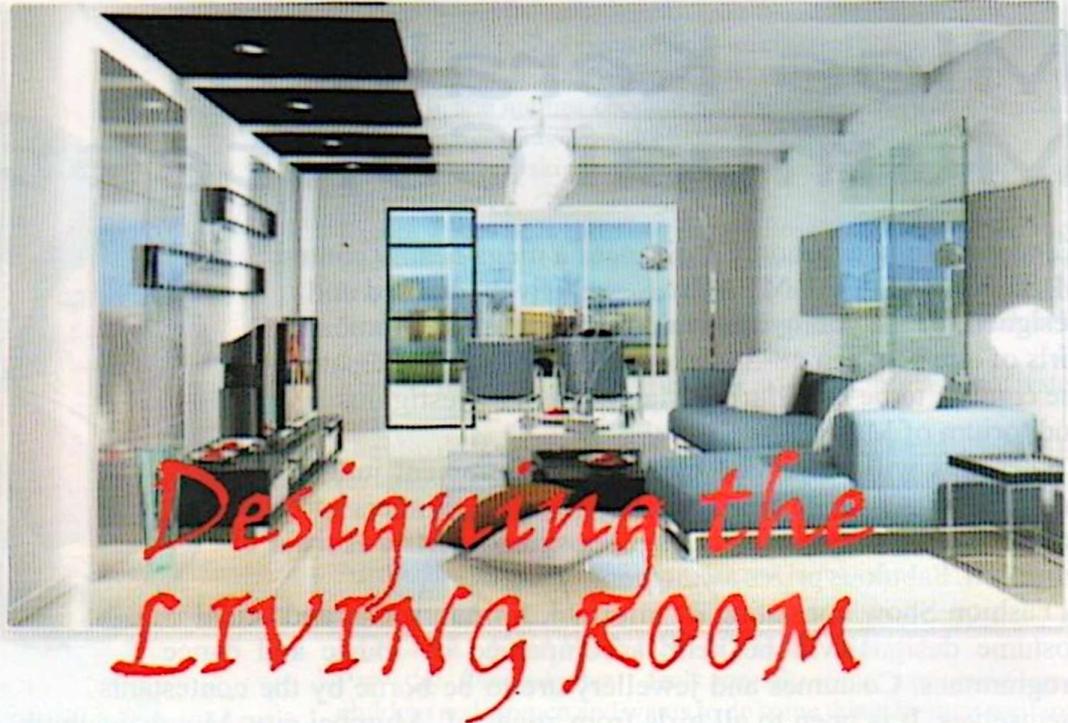
Her hobbies include reading, listening to music, and of late watching as many movies as she can, since she too wants to make it big in the film world.



Parvathy with mother Sreekala and father Chembakasseri Narayana Panicker



Krishna Kumar R Nair
Consulting Interior Designer



In this issue let us talk about the intricacies of a living/dining room.

The lavish living rooms in our Kerala homes have no comparison with a compact yet stylish one in this mega city. Here our task is to make use of each and every inch of it in a stylish way without compromising aesthetics and practicality. Living room is the place all your visitors, guests and friends are invited and entertained. This is the room where your class and style are on display and being exhibited.

Your bedroom may be beautifully designed but it is your private place where only you and your close family members are allowed in.

To start with, I would prefer a small lobby just after the main door that is separated from the living room to accommodate a small shoe rack and a chair or two for people like vegetable vendor or a parcel boy can feel comfortable for a few minutes while not in a position to peep into the living room.

If this lobby can have an entrance to the kitchen, your guests would not feel intruded on by your servants while the latter make their entry or exit.

The main door should have an additional safety door too with a grill, normally opening outward. Though door phones are available now-a-days, this door would give you an additional safety feature.

The living/dining room should be with a lot of natural light coming in and it should have a lot of cross ventilation. It is here you spend most of your quality time while at home.

Sofas and dining table should be strategically placed so that the visitors should not have a direct view of the kitchen and the dining. Often the kitchen may not be very clean and elegant when we are entertaining a big gathering.

The sofas should have a little leg space of at least 6 inches so that it will not look bulky while the space below can easily be accessed for cleaning. In the absence of this space, dust will start collecting over a period of time and would not look hygienic.

A three-seater sofa placed slightly away from two single seater sofas, facing each other, will be ideal. Two corner tables and a centre table will complete the picture in a group sitting so that interaction among people sitting on them will be without strain. To add to the aesthetics, a colourful rug or carpet is placed below them and a few cushions on the sofas.

The upholstery of sofa can be of leather composite leather or fabric. Of course leather is an expensive option.

The TV unit can be placed opposite the sofa at maximum distance available. Further, its placement should be such that it can be viewed even while dining.

Flat TVs or LCD TVs being less expensive now, they can be considered as they do not occupy much room space. If they are mounted on the wall, you can save a lot of space and it also look great. The TV unit should be so designed as to accommodate the DVD player and you.





home theatre loud speakers.

Display of art materials (show pieces) should be restricted to a minimum. Concentrate on a few expensive classy items instead of a number of cheap items that you can procure in any small show room. The discerning will always appreciate it.

For the flooring, the options are in abundance: Italian marble, Indian marble, granites, composite marbles, vitrified tiles, porcilano, and ceramic tiles etc are to name a few. One can select from these options according to their budgets. All this materials are user- friendly and used for years though the Italian marble require a little more care.

The windows can be made of aluminium frames, which is easy to maintain and you have a vast range of colours to select from. It can be either powder coated or anodized.

Anodized is slightly better than powder coated ones.

The windows can be decorated with beautiful curtains. You can have a solid curtain, and a sheet curtain too. Solid curtain will be in two pieces so that it can be parked on to both sides of the windows. Sheet curtain will give you privacy from outside elements and at the same time you can enjoy the outside scenic view too. The curtains can be tied to the respective sides with beautiful tassels that look great and sophisticated.

If you desire, you can bring your window sills down till 18 inches from the floor and create a marble seating there. This will facilitate sitting and reading having a cup of tea. You can even have LED lights below. It can be used as a mood light if you so desire.

Dining area

The dining table can be placed close to the kitchen so that the lady of the house can serve food faster and comfortably. The dining table can be made out of wood, marble etc with a glass top. Glass tops are better as they do not cut the vision and do not look heavy too. They are also easy to maintain. Nevertheless, one should not forget to use

a toughened glass top.

It's handy to have dump waiter next to your dining table that can be used as a buffet counter at times and can store all your immediate crockery, table mats, napkins used every day during dining. Size of the dining table will be decided according to space availability.

A round table meant to accommodate 6 people, requires a 4 feet diameter top. If the table is a rectangular one, it should be 5'6"x3'6" in size. One should not forget to slightly round off the edges of the glass top, to save us from getting hurt. The edges of the glass should be made to a pencil edge so that it looks great. Great looking dining table and chairs are available now. Some of them cannot sustain our kind of climate and using pattern for a longer time.

The walls of the living/dining room can have shadow boxes (cavities) to keep some good art effects, and also some book shelves which can be constructed vertically with glass shutters so that you can display the collection proudly.

The walls of certain portions can be played around with some dark contrasting colour combinations along with some pastel ones that will make the area look vibrant and inspiring.

The ceiling can be made very beautiful using plaster of Paris. For false ceiling, you can have nice cornices at all four corners of ceiling.

The paint will get a fine finish if the walls can be clad with plaster of Paris. The skirting of 4" width should be flush with the plaster of Paris cladding that will prevent dust accumulation on the top of the skirting. Having a groove above the skirting will prevent the crack between the skirting and the cladding of plaster of Paris.

Lighting plays a major role in the interiors. You can have inverted light in the ceilings, along with general lightings. We can even have wall brackets and picture lamps on the vacant walls.

The paintings on the walls should have a picture lamp above. Lightings for several purposes are readily available in the market. LED lights are the latest. The life of it is also very high and recent studies say these are not harmful to eyes.

It is advisable to have a wash basin in the dining room if a provision for a powder room is not possible in the house.

Krishna Kumar R Nair
Mobile: 09820560950



Malayalam Movie World

Loss of Malayalam Cinema during the year

Murali- An actor par excellence

Satyanath

Murali who died on August 6, 2009 was in the company of Sathyan, Kottarakkara Sreedharan Nair, P J Antony, Thilakan and Bharat Gopi. All of them were capable of sliding into the soul of their character. With his demise, Malayalam cinema undeniably lost one of its finest actors. He was only 55 years when he bade adieu to us. Murali is survived by wife Shailaja and daughter Karthika.

Murali was an actor as well as an author. He was a Communist Party activist, closely associated with 'The Communist Party of India (Marxist)'. He mainly acted in Malayalam and Tamil films. He won the National Award for best actor for his portrayal of a Communist freedom fighter and professional weaver in the film Neythukaran. He was also a stage actor and television serial actor. He is known for his powerful portrayal of character roles, lead roles, and negative roles. In his last movie Aadhavan (Tamil) he has done a good job.

He won the Best Actor award from Kerala Government for Aadharam (1992), Kaanakkinavu (1996), Thalolam (1998), Neythukaaran (2001) and Second Best Actor for Amaram (1990), Veeralipattu and Pranayakalam (2007). He also won Filmfare award for Best Actor in 2001 (Neythukaran). Other Awards won by him are Madras Film fans Award, Kerala Film Critics Award, Shivaram Award and best columnist award: for his feature "Vyazhaporul" in Malayala Manorama newspaper.

Besides an actor, he was the chairman of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy from 2006 until death. He also authored five books, and was also a Sangeetha Nataka Academy award winner. He contested the 1999 Lok Sabha polls as a CPM(M) candidate against INC(I)'s V M Sudheeran without success. He was also a director of the CPI(M) promoted television company 'Malayalam Communications', that runs Kairali TV, People TV and WE TV.

Murali was born on May 25, 1954 as the first child of P. Krishna Pillai and K. Devaki Amma at Kudavattoor, Kollam

district. He did his schooling from Kudavattoor L. P. School and Thrikannamangalam S. K. V. High School. He passed pre-degree from M.G. College, Thiruvananthapuram and his Degree from Devaswom Board College, Sasthamkotta. He was an active member of the Students Federation of India. He had his LI B degree from the Thiruvananthapuram Law Academy. After studies, he worked for some years as Lower Division Clerk in the Department of Health, Government of Kerala and as Upper Division Clerk in the office of Kerala University.

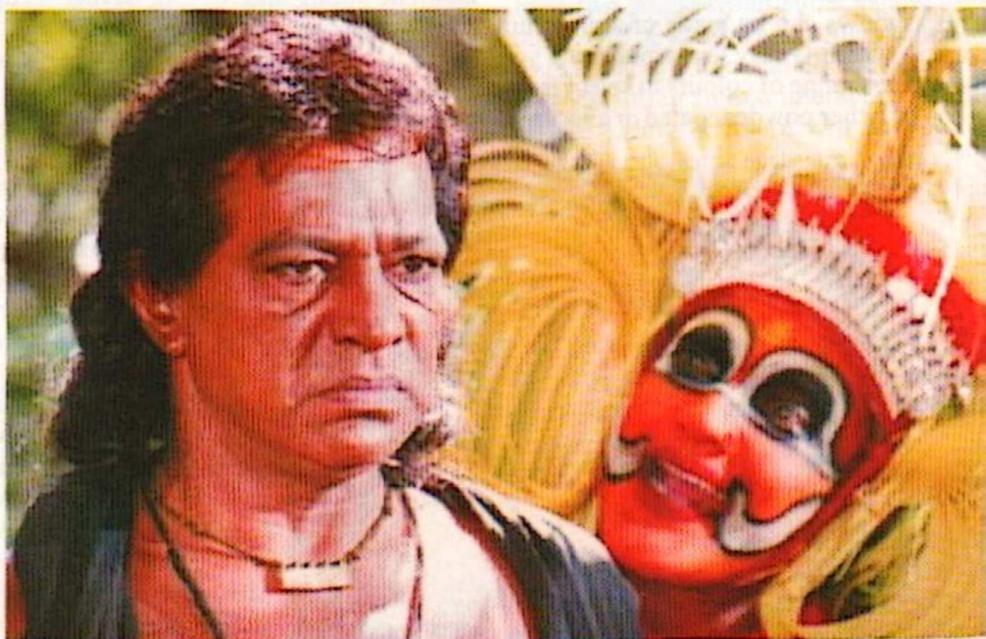
Murali entered films with the lead role in Njattadi, directed by Bharath Gopi. But the film was never released. He then got a chance to act in Chidambaram, directed by the national award winning filmmaker Aravindan. He acted in Meenamasathile Sooryan and Panchagni, directed by noted film makers Lenin Rajendran and Hariharan respectively. Panchagni got released first and it gave him the break in his acting career. He soon established himself as a powerful actor in the Malayalam film industry. Aadharam, directed by George Kittu, was the first film to be released with Murali in lead role. He acted in a variety of roles, ranging from lead roles to villain roles,



and won accolades. Some of his other notable films include Nee Ethra Dhanya, Dhanam, The King, "Pathram", Veeralippattu, Achchan Kombathu Amma Varambathu, Meenamasathile Sooryan, Swarnam, and The Truth.

Murali acted in the longest TV commercial ever on Indian TV, spanning 150 seconds. This was for Air Deccan in 2005. Murali was actively involved with Natyagriham, a drama venture started by actor Narendra Prasad.

Murali won critical acclaim for his portrayal of Ravana in the Malayalam play Lanka Lakshmi, which was based on C. N. Sreekantan Nair's novel of the same name.



Murali in a memorable role

Cochin Haneefa:

The villain who stole hearts

KIM News Bureau

He came on the screen as a villain terrorising everyone and then suddenly he turned comedian causing a laugh riot. And as he came, so he left, baffling thousands of his fans. Haneefa breathed his last on February 2.

He was born Salim Ahmed Ghouse, better known by his stage name Cochin Haneefa, on 22 April 1951, to Velthedathu Thravattil A.B. Muhammed and Hajira in Kochi. He studied at St. Augustine's School, Kochi and graduated in Botany from St. Albert's College. He started his career in 1972 with Azhimukham and acted in more than 300 films in Malayalam, Tamil and Hindi.

As a filmmaker Haneefa earned critical acclaim for Valsalyam (1993). He played memorable roles in many Malayalam films, including, Mannar Mathai Speaking, Devaasuram, Kireedam, Punjabi House, Swapnakoodu and C.I. Mahadevan 5 Adi 4 Inchu. He also directed around 20 films, including Valsalyam and Moonnu Masangalkku

Munbu. His last Tamil film was Vettaikaran and in Malayalam, Body Guard.

He also wrote story, screenplay and dialogue for several Malayalam movies. Many of his Malayalam movies were remade in Tamil too. He had a very close friendship with Tamilnadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi and directed three Tamil movies for which Kalaignar wrote the story and dialogue. He won the Kerala State award for the second best actor in 2001 (Soothradharan).

Haneefa was rushed to the Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre at Porur on January 28 with "chronic gastrointestinal problem." He was visited by Mammooty, Mamu Koya, Kamal Haasan and others to enquire about his condition. According to a release from the hospital, despite intensive medical treatment, he died at 3.40 p.m. on Tuesday. The body was embalmed and



placed at Kerala Samajam there for fans and others to pay tributes. Later, the body was flown to Kochi. He was buried with official honours at Juma Masjid grounds of Ernakulam Jew Street. He is survived by his wife Fasila and twin daughters Safa and Marva (3 years).

His performance in the Kamal Haasan-starrer 'Mahanadhi' won him acclaim from critics and fans. He had the audience rolling in laughter with his spontaneity in 'Kadhala Kadhala.' More recently, his performances in films such as Rajinikanth-starrer 'Sivaji' and Vikram-starrer 'Anniyan' were noteworthy.

His colleagues remember him as someone who could portray a variety of roles effortlessly.

Girish Puthenchery:

A star burnt before time

Girish Puthenchery who dominated the Malayalam film lyric scene after P Bhaskaran, Vayalar Ramavarma, Sreekumaran Thampy and ONV Kurup, is no more.

His mastery over poetic imagery and vocabulary was much higher than that of his peers and it may take a long time to find an equal to him.

He breathed his last on February 10 at Malabar Institute of Medical Sciences, Kozhikode, following a brain haemorrhage. He was 48 years old. He was a flower beginning to bloom but alas, withered before its time.

He was born at Puthenchery in Kozhikode district. His father Pulikkal Krishna Panicker was a practitioner of astrology and ayurveda and mother Meenakshi Amma was an exponent of Carnatic music. He is survived by his wife Beena and sons Jitin Krishnan and Dinanath, both students.

Besides writing lyrics, he also wrote story and screenplay for a few movies: Melepparambil Aanvedu (1993), Kin-naripuzhayoram (1994), Vadakkunnathan (2006) and Pallavoor Devan-arayanan (1999). Stories of Kerala

House Udan Vilpanakku (2004), *Oro Viliyum Kathorthu* (1998) are also scripted by him.

Girish almost worshipped Yesudas and wanted to become another Yesudas. But realising that this was quite unlikely, he entered the world of lyrics and mesmerised not only film music lovers but even the music composers and singers. He started his film career in 1989 debuting for Enquiry and continued writing lyrics for about 328 Malayalam movies. He is credited with nearly 1556 songs. His last movie released is Happy Husbands (January 14, 2010)

It is very difficult to choose his best lyrics on account of their sheer poetic excellence. Yet some of his songs that come to mind are:

Akasa Deepangal Sakshi-(Ravana-prabhu), Amma Mazhakkarinu... (Madampi), Aro viral meetti... (Pranaya varnangal), Chinga masam...(Meesha Madhavan), Ehtrayo Janmamayi... (Summer in Bethlehem), Enthe innum vannilla...(Gramophone), Hari-mural-eevam... (Aram thampuran), Innale ente nenjile... (Balettan), Kalabham tharam...



(Vadakkumnathan), Nilaavinte Neela Bhasma... (Agni Devan) Mambullikkavil Marathaka... (Kathapara-yumbol.), Marannittumenthino Manassil... (Randam- Bhavam), Mizhiyariyathe vannu... (Niram), Nilave mayumo (Minnaram), Oru chiri kandal (Ponmudi puzhayorathu), Oru Rathri Koodi... (Summer in Bethlehem).

He was chosen for the Best Lyricist Award by the state of Kerala on seven occasions: Agnidevan (1995), Krishna-gudiyil Oru Pranayakalathu (1997), Punaradivasam (1999), Ravanaprabhu (2001), Nandanam (2002), Gourisan-karam (2003), Kathavasheshan (2004). He also won Asianet Film Awards for the Best Lyricist on three occasions: Mambazhakalam (2004), Vadakkumnathan (2006) and Madambi (2008).

He also served as a Governing Council Member of the Indian Performance Rights Society (IPRS).

Lohithadas

A story teller with Midas' touch

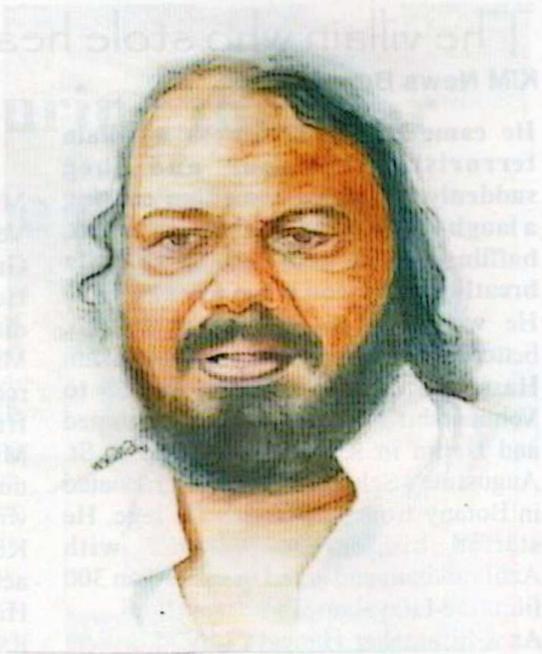
Very rarely can a story writer of Malayalam movies create a niche for himself but Lohithadas was an exception. M T Vasudevan Nair, K Surendran, Parapurathu, Muttathu Varkey, Uroob and others already had a name and fame in the literary scene when they entered it. But those who wrote stories exclusively for movies could not create any ripples in the literary world. Lohithadas exclusively wrote for movies and each one of them was hailed as a classic with a few exceptions. He created sheer magic with his pen. This is evident from more than fifty scripts penned by him during his highly illustrious career. It was the strength of those lines that gave shape to a number of meaningful characters and realistic tales. That light is now put off. But his creations are his monuments as long as Malayalam movies exist.

Ambazhathil Karunakaran Lohithadas was a prolific scriptwriter, director, and producer in Malayalam cinema, known for his rich, detailed, and realistic screenplays. Thaniyavarthanam, Kireedam, Bharatham, Amaram are known as masterpieces among his screenplays, while Boothakannadi, "Karunyam" Kasthooriman, Arayannangalude Veedu

are considered to stand out in his directorial ventures.

Lohithadas ('Lohi' to his friends) was born on May 10, 1954 at Palluruthy and grew up at Chalakudy, Kerala. He showed an initial interest in writing short stories, but failed to make a mark in that genre. He soon moved into Malayalam theatre in 1986 when his debut script was accepted for the stage by the legendary theatre personality Thoppil Bhasi. Bhasi's Communist Party of India (CPI)-backed drama troupe, the well known and highly successful Kerala People's Arts Club (KPAC), produced the play Sindhu Shanthamayozhukunnu, and that led to his winning a state award.

Director Sibi Malayil brought him into Malayalam Cinema on the recommendation of actor Thilakan. His first movie screenplay Thaniyavarthanam was directed by Malayil and drew acclaim from all. Together, Sibi Malayil and Lohithadas would later produce several memorable Malayalam movies. He wrote screenplays of Thaniyavarthanam (1987), Kireedam (1989), His Highness Abhdullah (1990), Bharatham (1990), Kamaladalam (1992), and Chenkol (1993) for Sibi Malayil. Other works



include Sasneham (1990), Veendum Chila Veetukaryangal (1999) for Sathyan Anthikkad and Amaram (1991) for Bharathan. He later became a director himself and made Boothakannadi (1997), Karunyam (1997), Kanmadam (1998), Arayannangalude Veedu (2000), Joker (2000), Kasthooriman (2003) (which he himself produced), and Nivedyam (2007). Most of his works were critically and commercially successful. His works were recognized from his very first venture Thaniyavarthanam, which brought him the Kerala State Film Award for Best Story.

He won the National award in 1997 for the Best First Film of a director for Bhoothakannadi and the State award for Best Film and Best Screen Play for the same film. The state government again awarded him for Best Film with Popular Appeal of Aesthetic Value in 1992 and 1999 for Venkalam and Veendum Chila Veettu Karyangal. Bharatham got the Second Best Film Award in 1990. In 2005, Tamil Nadu Government gave him the State Film Award for Best Film Portraying Woman in Good Light - Kasthuriman. On fourteen occasions he received Film Critics Award for Best Script and four times for Best Director.

He passed away in the morning of June 29, 2009, after experiencing chest pain and uneasiness at his home at Aluva near Ernakulam. The end came at Lisy Hospital, Kaloor, Ernakulam, where he was taken for treatment but soon he became a part of history.

Directors Siby Malayil, Kamal and other colleagues bid farewell to Lohitha Das





Mohiniattam

The Classical Dance of Kerala

Prof. Ammanath Vijayashankar



Kerala, 'God's Own Country' is blessed both by Goddess of Nature and Goddess of Arts and Learning, *Saraswati Devi*. This narrow strip of land along the south-west coast of India is renowned for its rich and varied cultural heritage and can legitimately be proud of its vast repertoire of arts and crafts. The art forms of Kerala are hard to count both in terms of number and variety. To mention a few, the most acclaimed and popular performing arts of Kerala today are *Kathakali*, *Chakkia Koothu*, *Koodiyattam*, *Mohiniattam* and *Thiruvathirakkali*. Then comes *Krishnanattam* and *Ramanattam*, limited in extend and popularity though both precede *Kathakali* in antiquity. This article is intended to acquaint art lovers, not much familiar with the ethos of culture of Kerala, with *Mohiniattam*, the classical dance of Kerala.

Dance of the Enchantress

Mohini-attam is a compound word formed of two words, 'Mohini' and 'attam'. The word 'mohini' itself is a composite of two syllables. In Sanskrit, *moha* means desire and *janini* is one who gives birth (mother) or generates. Derivatively *mohini* is one who evokes desire through infatuation or seduction. Thus, *mohini* is an enchantress as well as seductress. Desire, when it is a longing to be united with the beloved is carnal craving of mundane love. In

spiritual plane, it reflects the longing of the devotee to be united with the Beloved; yearning of the mortal to be one with the Immortal. The longing becomes a compelling emotion with an urge to find outward expression, which makes the dance an expression of culminated ecstasy of body and soul. As an expression of man's mind, his emotions and feelings, dance transcends all barriers of language and religion.

Devadasi system and genesis of Mohiniattam

devadasis was to worship the temple deity through dance called *dasiyattam* (dance of *dasi*) or through music. *Devadasis*, not good at either, did odd jobs of assisting priest and other temple attendants; for them, 'work is worship'. Once offered to temple, *nadathallal* as it is called, all connection of *devadasis* with ancestral home are severed as they are adopted by the temple which assumes the responsibilities of looking after and protecting them. These poor and vulnerable girls were at the mercy of their



Though there is some inadequacy in the available recorded documents, which often makes one tentative and even silent, one can surmise that this graceful dance form has its origin from a common root along with *Bharathanatyam* of Tamil Nadu and *Kuchipudi* of Andhra. We get a glimpse into the origin of *mohiniattam* when we peep into the unique social custom of offering girls to temples as *devadasis* (servants of Gods). The job of

new 'guardians'. The attractive ones among them were often silent victims of lustful eyes of their 'protectors' as any resistance to their amorous approaches would amount to courting trouble. Many, of course were co-operative, lured by the glitter of gold. With the passage of time, as temples became centres of wealth and power, the affluent and powerful priests and temple authorities, mostly local chieftains and oligarchy, started keeping *devadasis* as their own concubines. With

this, the spiritual element of *dasiattam* was lost and the dance was reduced to mere lascivious movements of body, inviting glances and suggestive postures and



gesticulations. The dance came to be variously known as *thevidichiattam* and *koothichiattam*, both meaning 'dance of the prostitute'. The migration of *devadasis* from temple to palaces and private houses and the consequent conversion of *devadasis* into concubines and prostitutes brought about the decadence of *dasiattam*. *Devadasi* did not belong to any ethnic group like *sudras* of *chaturvarnya*, and in fact many *devadasis* came from powerful Nair families, then socially dominant. The *devadasis* were known by various names in different places- *Thevidicchi* in Tamil Nadu, *Yellammadasis* or *Basavis* in Karnataka and elsewhere.

Female dancers in Kerala

Kerala always had its own female dance tradition as in other parts of south India. A survey of literature, temple paintings and sculptures reveals that *mohiniattam* was definitely conceived and nurtured in Kerala soil though it must have been influenced by the cultural stirrings in neighborhoods. An inscription at *Chokkur* temple (Kozhikode), dated AD 932, is the earliest reference related to temple-dancing girls of Kerala. Next is an epigraph of AD 934 from *Nedumpram Tali* at *Kozhikode*. *Vyavaharamala*, the ancient Sanskrit treatise on *Dharma Shastra* mentions the remunerations to be paid to *Mohiniyattam* dancers and other artists. In

Malayalam literature, the word *Mohiniattam* was first used by Kunchan Nambiar (18 C), the originator of *Ottamthullal*, in his *thullal kavitha* (verse for *ottamthullal*).

Ghoshayatra describes temple procession where *mohiniattam* is one of the presentations. In the Tamil classic *Shilappathikaram*, (Elangovadikal 18th century) the *lasya-nritta* of courtesan Madhavi, derived from *Avinaya koothu* near *Thiruvananthapuram*; a female figure in a typical *Mohiniattam* posture at *Vaikom* temple; statues of dancers adoring the pillars of *Shri Padmanabhaswamy* temple; the murals at *Kottakkal* Shiva temple in *Malapuram* district, *Keezhor* Shiva temple near *Kozhikode*; *Triprayar* temple near *Trichur*; *Mattanchery* Palace in *Ernakulam* district and at *Padmanabhapuram* palace near *Thiruvananthapuram* are noteworthy.

Hibernation All these show that there was no dearth of female dancers in Kerala. What was lacking was genuine patronage, which led to the virtual extinction of this art form. Though originated in temple precincts as a mode of worship, with the passage of time the dance lost its religious and spiritual background. With its transplantation from temples to palaces, the very purpose of the dance was reduced to mere enchantment and seduction. The dance became openly erotic with obvious coquetry. All that remained in *mohiniattam* were some absurdities and vulgarities that gained only ill-fame for the art and the artists, and the dance *perforce* went to oblivion.



Hibernation

consecration. Thereafter, *Mohiniattam* performance became a regular feature of the temple.

Shri K. R. (To be continued next month) Pisharody, in '*Nammude-drishyakalaka*' asserted that there were many families

Old is Gold

Satyanath

Neelakkuyil (1954)

Lyrics by P Bhaskaran, Music by K Raghavan
Rendered by K Raghavan



K Raghavan

Kāyalarikathū valayeRinjappo vaLa kilukkiya sundaree
PeNNukettinū kuRiyetukkumboLoru naRukkinu cēRkkaNē (Kayalarikathū..)
KaNNinālente karaLinuruLiyileNNA' kāchhiya nombaram
KhalbilaRinJappoLinnū nJammaLū kayaRū pottiya pambaram.
CēRilninnū baLaRnnupongiya hooRi ninnute kayyinal ney
CōRū vechhaTu Tinnuvān koTiyēReyunten nenchilāy.
vambezhum ninte purikakkotiyuteyambu kontū njarambukaL
Kambotinjoru sheelakkutayute kambipōle vaLanjupoy.
Kutavumāy puzhakkatavil vannenne Tatavilākkiya painkiLee
otuvil neeyenne sankatappuzha natuvilākkaruTeekkaLi
VēReyāNū vicāramenkilū nēramāyaTu colluvān
VeRuTe njānenTineriyum veyilaTTū kayilum kuTTi natakkāNuu (Kayalarikathū..)

Note: ā = ഓ, ū = ു, R = റ, nj = ഞ, ണ, L = ല, N = ണ, ē = ഈ, ng = ണ്, ണ്, T = ത്, sh = ശ, ō = ഔ, c = ച



Raghavan Master with Bhaskaran Master

Bhaskaran had written lyrics for five Malayalam films (*Chandrika*, *Navalokam*, *Amma*, *Tiramala* and *Ashadeepam*) and a Malayalam song for a Tamil movie (*Apoorva Sahodararka*) before *Neelakkuyil*. He was a producer with AIR, Kozhikode while Raghavan was working there as a music composer. P C

Kuttykrishnan, popularly known as *Uroob*, was also working with them at AIR. Bhaskaran's earlier experience with movies enabled him to work as co-director of *Neelakkuyil* along with Ramu Karyat who persuaded T K Pareekutty to finance the film. All songs of this film were well received by cine goers and they are still fond of them. Mehboob who used to sing for minor characters in movies, for the first time sang for the hero,

Sathyan (*Manenum vilikilla*) while Janamma David rendered two superlative songs for the heroine Miss Kumari. This happened when P Leela was the reigning queen among Malayalam film singers. Those days, Kozhikode Abdul Khader was singing for the heroes but he ended up singing a great song (*Engine nee maRakkum kuyile*) for an unknown character.

The above song was meant for Mehboob but after hearing Raghavan singing it, Pareekutty insisted that the music director himself sing it in the film. Thus this immortal song is born. It was the first time that the music director

himself did the playback singing. The opening song *JinchakkamTaro* was also sung by him with other singers.



Sathyan and Miss Kumari

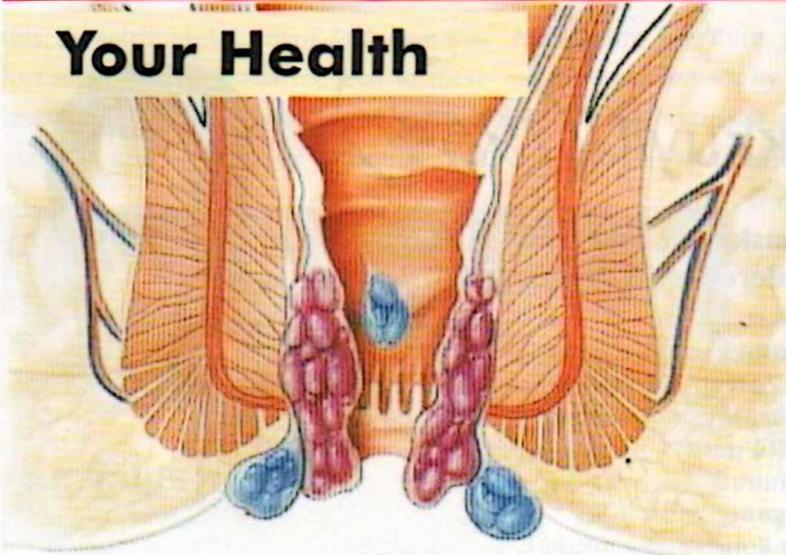
For Ramu's debut film, *Uroob* narrated to them three stories and his third story was accepted. *Uroob* then revealed that that story was not his original but adapted from Kannada and nevertheless he wrote the screenplay, his first. Other two stories were also made into films later: *Rarichhan enna pouran*, *Nayaru piichha pulivalu*. Both had rich music by Raghavan.

Neelakkuyil also saw one of its directors (P Bhaskaran) enacting a powerful role of a postman. The child artiste who portrayed the role of Vipin, son of Sreedharan Master (Sathyan) and Neeli (Kumari) is now a well known cinematographer, Vipin Mohan.



P. Bhaskaran with Vipin Mohan

Your Health



Dr Indira Varier

PILES

Patients suffering from piles are generally impatient and hot tempered. Mental disturbance due to piles is the main cause for this behaviour. Pain and irregular motion create disturbances in the stomach and they result in lack of concentration on their work at hand. If ignored, higher blood pressure and other related diseases may arise at a later stage. Hence it is vital to treat this disease as soon as noticed. Patients are hesitant to talk about their problem in the beginning of the disease and hence it gets ignored. When the patients approach the doctor, the disease usually is in an advanced stage. However, a controlled diet, physical exercises and modified personal habits may to a certain extent limit the advancement of piles.

Piles is caused by the growth of certain flesh bodies in rectum. This could be internal or external, and bleeding or non-bleeding.

Symptoms

To begin with, pain during call of nature, heat, flesh protruding out during excretion and at a later stage, protruded



flesh not retreating, unbearable pain, bleeding etc are the main symptoms. It is necessary to get treated as soon as these symptoms manifest. It would be difficult to distinguish this problem from cancer of rectum, fissure, fistula etc as treatments are as varied as the diseases are.

Causes

As in the cases of other diseases, piles can also be hereditary.

Excessive consumption of chillies, tamarind and other spices, and of hard-to-digest dishes made of eggs, meat and fishes, tapioca, potato and absence of fibrous food like leafy vegetables, fruits etc may result in piles-formation. Besides, lack of motion and the resultant pressure can also cause piles. It can also be caused when the water content of food is low. Other reasons are irregular eating habits and indigestion.

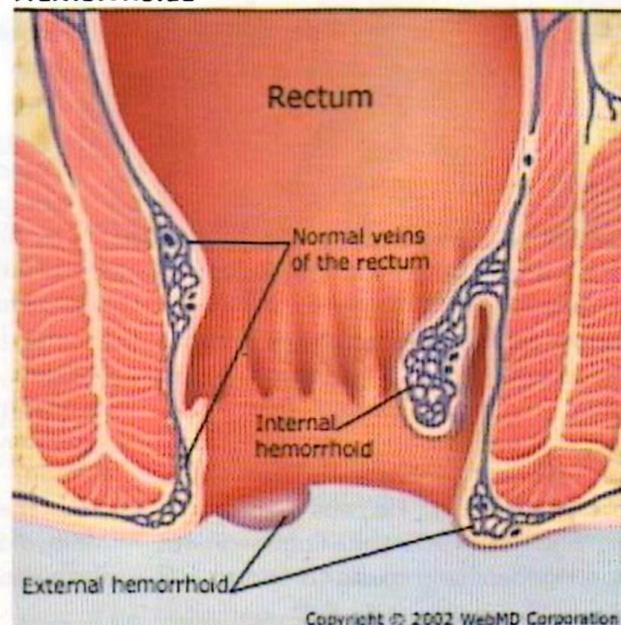
Sitting continuously for long time while at work and not listening to the call of nature etc may also be reasons. Lack of physical exercises and obesity may cause piles. Smoking and use of other tobacco products can also instigate this disease. It can also be resulted due to lack of sleep, gas trouble, vomiting, diarrhea etc.

Treatment

Piles patients should get acquainted with such food that would not strain the digestive system. Vegetable leaves, ash gourd, small red onion, fibrous

vegetables, fruits etc should always be included in our menu. Yam or Teliga potatoe, butter milk etc are good for piles-patients. Pickles, curry masala etc are avoidable. Eggs, chicken and garlic are forbidden. Generally, piles patients should try to sit in slightly warm water, dissolved with salt, for some time, say 10 to 15 minutes (hip bath) and this would result

Hemorrhoids

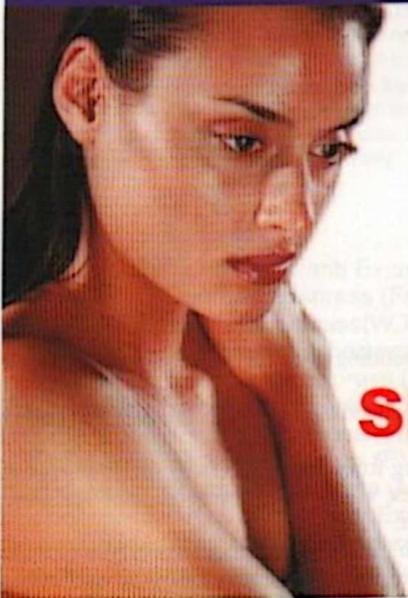


in getting some relief.

Ayurvedic medicines

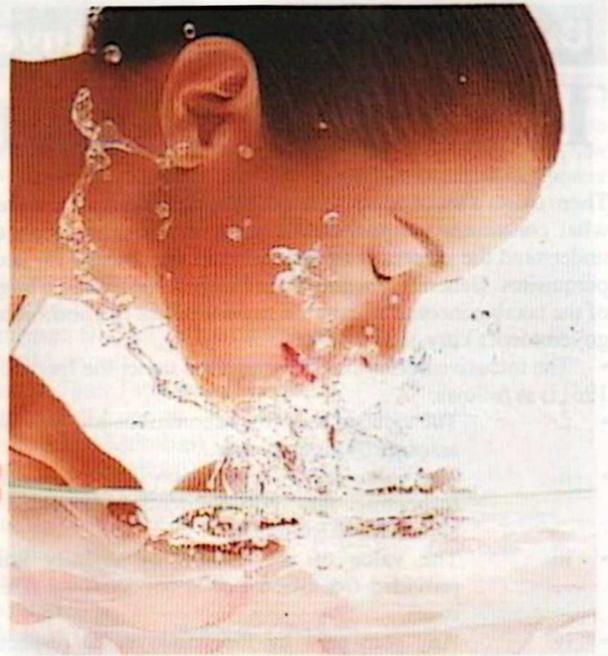
Abhayarishtam, Dantiarishtam, Poothi Karanjasavam, Vanasuranadi Leham, Chiruvilwadi Kashayam, Kankayanam tablets, Kalyana Gulam etc are generally prescribed by doctors. However, the decision of what to have and how much or frequent should be left to a qualified doctor, lest one may invite further troubles.

Beauty Care



SKIN CARE: OILY SKIN

Lakshmi



Every woman dreams of a glowing face. With a little care and over some time, she can realise this dream.

The skin on our face can be categorised into three: oily skin, dry skin and normal skin.

Oily skin results from secretion of excessive oil from the sebaceous glands which are located just beneath the skin. If you feel your skin is greasy, or shines after a face wash or your face often breaks out in spots, chances are that you have an oily skin.

Oily skin requires more cleansing than other skin types because the oil in the skin tend to mix with the dust and grime and makes the face look dull. The nose, forehead and chin are generally areas that shine. The pores on the skin are enlarged and acne, pimples and blackheads are some of the problems that a person with oily skin faces.

So steps must be taken to keep the pores unclogged and free the skin surface from dirt as far as possible.

Tips for oily skin care:

From Nature's lap: Home Remedies:

Avoid oily and spicy food, too much of sugar and salt. Have protein rich food, green leafy vegetables and fresh fruits. Drink eight to ten glasses water daily. They flush out the toxins from the body. Milk is another excellent face cleanser while it does not dry the skin. Pat some milk mixed with lavender oil or sandalwood oil on your face and wipe your face to clean the grime and dirt on the face.

Mashed tomatoes or mashed papaya are good skin softeners while they also remove the excess oil from the skin.

Another natural medicine is aloe vera (found in chemists or food shops), which absorbs the excess oil and clears pores. Aloe vera has a cooling effect too. Aloe vera mixed with oatmeal or ground almond mixed with honey is also a good face scrub for oily skin.

Multani Mitti (Fuller's earth) mixed with turmeric powder spread on the face for 20 minutes is also very effective for oily skin. This paste acts as an anti-wrinkle face mask.

Oily skins are prone to pimples and acne. The following simple measures will take care of removing the pores: Ground neem leaves or chilled cucumber paste is excellent for getting rid of unwanted pimples and spots.

A very effective and simple remedy for oily skin is as follows:

Make a paste of lemon juice, turmeric powder, besan flour and yoghurt.

Apply the paste all over the face and neck area, except the eyes. Keep it on for 15 minutes or till the paste dries. Rinse the face. The acid in the lemon juice clears the dark spots on the face. Yoghurt makes the face skin soft, the turmeric brightens the look. The besan flour acts as a smoothener. You can feel your skin glowing and looking fresh and oil-free after this application. However the good news is that oily skin makes the face look younger. So with a little care, the dullness can be removed.

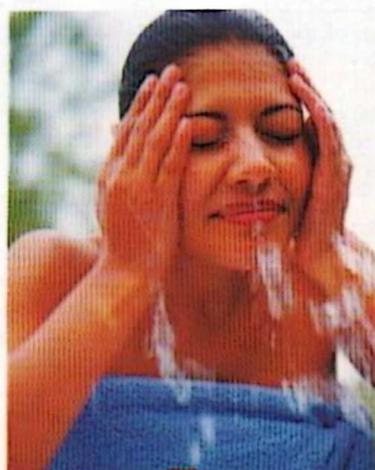
Use of astringents, water based make up



cosmetics and even washing the face often to keep it squeakingly clean are little secrets that keep the oily skin glowing and beautiful.

Useful Tips:

Keep hair away from the face. Often oily hair and oily skin go together. Keep your hands off your face during the day. Dirty hands, dirt your face. Splash cold water on your face several times a day. Not only it is refreshing, it cleans the face also.



Business, Finance and Investment

Taxation of Perquisites

There exists a lot of controversies in the taxation laws with respect to what constitutes perquisites and what is not. This is an effort to understand the present laws prevailing in the country for taxation of perquisites. Generally income from Salaries constitutes a large chunk of the taxable income which in turn contributes the lion's share to the government's kitty of direct taxes.

The inclusive definition of 'Perquisites' under the Income Tax Act 1961 is as follows:

- i. The value of rent-free accommodation provided to the assessee by his employer,
- ii. The value of any concession in the manner of rent respecting any accommodation provided to the assessee by his employer,
- iii. The value of any benefit or amenity granted or provided free of cost or at concessional rate to such cases,
- iv. Any sum paid by the employer in respect of any obligation which, but for such payment, would have been payable by the assessee,
- v. Any sum payable by the employer other than a recognized PF or approved Superannuation Fund etc.
- vi. The value of any specified security or sweat equity shares allotted or transferred directly or indirectly by the employer free of cost or at a concessional rate to the assessee,
- vii. The amount of any contribution to approved superannuation fund by the employer in excess of Rs 1,00,000,
- viii. The value of any other Fringe Benefit or amenity as may be prescribed.

Recently, in December 2009, the Central Board of Direct Taxes notified the new Rules to substitute Rule 3 of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 dealing with valuation of perquisites with retrospective effect from 1st April 2009 consequent to abolition of Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) effective 1st April 2009.

As the new Rule applies to all employees retrospectively, it is incumbent on the employer to deduct and pay the shortfall in tax at source in the remaining months i.e., January, February and March 2010.

Let us try to understand the said revised Rules with respect to the statutory provisions as explained above:

The value of residential accommodation both furnished and unfurnished, is calculated in the context of employees of Government of a State or Central Government and others differently.

We will restrict our discussion to the private employment for the time being.

When the accommodation is owned by the employer, the value is restricted to 15% of the salary in cities like Mumbai (where Population exceeds 25 lakhs) and increased by 10% per annum of the cost of furnishing.

Where the accommodation is leased or rented by the employer, the value is restricted to the actual lease rental paid or payable or 15% of salary whichever is lower, and increased by 10% of the cost of furnishing.

The value of perquisites in respect of use of motor car is determined with respect to cubic capacity (CC) of the motor car engine i.e., 1.6 litres or above. If the motor car is used wholly and exclusively in the performance of one's official duties, the value is deemed to be taken as NIL.

In any other cases, the actual expenditure in maintenance and running of the motor car is taken as the value of the perquisites.

If the motor car is used for both official and personal purposes, a standard value @ Rs 1800/2400 per month is deemed as value of



Jacob Koshi

perquisites on motor car depending upon the CC of the engine as the case may be.

An additional Rs 900 p.m. is added as chauffeur's salary if the same is provided by the employer.

The value of benefit resulting from the provision by the employer of services of sweeper, gardener, watchman or personal attendant shall be actual cost to the employer.

The same principle goes with supply of gas, electricity or water for the household consumption where the same is provided by the employer.

In respect of interest free concessional loans made available to the employee, the same is calculated with reference to the bench mark rate fixed by the State Bank of India as on the first day of relevant previous year as reduced by the interest if any, actually paid by the employee.

The value of travel concession or assistance in excess of what is specified under Rule 2 B (Rule 2 B refers to travel concession or assistance for self and family on leave travel to anywhere in India twice in a Block of four years) is taken at actual cost.

The value of any free food and non-alcoholic beverages in excess of Rs 50 per meal etc provided during working hours is taken as perquisites.

The value of any gifts or gift voucher if such value of gift exceeds Rs 5,000 in the aggregate is taken at actual.

The payment of club membership fees including other charges shall be taken at cost as reduced by any recovery made from such employees. However the value of perquisites shall be taken as NIL if these are incurred exclusively and wholly in discharge of official duties.

The most recent item in the perquisites list is sweat equity shares issued to employees at a concessional cost or otherwise. The fair market value of the shares on the exercise date shall be determined (if the shares are listed on an Exchange, the value is based on the average of opening and closing prices on that date). The perquisites value shall be so determined as above.

In the case of unlisted company, the fair market value will be determined by the merchant banker on the specified date.

The recent exercise by the Government in amending the above Rules is to make these value of perquisites taxable in the hands of the employees rather than being taxed as FBT in the hands of Employer/Company.

In the context of the new Direct Taxes Code which seems a near reality, this exercise may be futile in achieving the desired results.

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Kerala in Mumbai goes area-specific

Kerala in Mumbai is going to focus a specific area of Mumbai and its satellite towns from this issue onwards. The area to be covered will be announced two months in advance so that civic and social conscious persons may send us their views on the relevant issues on time. Important organisations, institutions, business centres, religious and community specific centres, well known personalities of the area, speciality hospitals and so on will find space in this section.

Focus in April 2010 will be on Matunga and Nerul in May 2010.

- Editor

New Trains to Kerala

Railway Time Table Committee has approved the new time table to South India and if it finds approval from the ministry, the 'Toronto' train will be introduced soon. It will have two services in a week from Kurla to Ernakulam. There are options given: one, the train starts from Kurla at 8 p.m. and reach Ernakulam next day at 5 p.m. Alternatively, starting at 9.30 p.m., it reaches Ernakulam at 7.30 p.m. It implies that it would be faster than the existing Garib Rath Express. On the return trip, it will leave Ernakulam at 11.30 p.m. and reach Kurla next day at 6.15 p.m. The only hitch is that Toronto, as the name indicates, has no stoppages between Kurla and Ernakulam. It may stop at Kannur, Kozhikode or Shomur but the ticket would be to Ernakulam only.

The Committee has also approved the recommendation of extending the current Mumbai-Karwar Super Fast Express to Mangalore so that Malayalees hailing from Malabar region can take advantage. There is plan to change the timing of Matsyagandha too. Other new trains to be introduced soon are Jodhpur-Coimbatore Express (once a week) and Bhavnagar-Ernakulam Express (once a week). These would enable Malayalees going to Palakkad and its neighbourhood to reduce their travel duration by several hours. Now these people are solely dependent on Jayanti Janata and Thiruvananthapuram express trains.

Railway Time Table (Mumbai Kerala)

Train No & Name

2201 LTT KCVL Garib Express (M, F)
2288 Dehradun Express (Fridays)
2432 Rajdhani Express (W, Th, M)
2618 Mangala Lakshadweep (Daily)
2978 Maru Sagar Express (Sa)
6311 BKN KCVL Express (Tu)
6333 VRL TVC Express (Th)
6335 Nagercoil Express (F)
6337 Ernakulam Express (M, Sa)
6345 TVC LTT Netravati Express (Daily)
6381 Cape Mumbai Express (Daily)
Phone: Central Railway Reservation 135
Enquiry 134 Arrival Status 136

Codes Stations

CST Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai)
DDR Dadar (Mumbai)
LTT Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Mumbai)
BSR Vasai Road (Mumbai)
PNVL Panvel (Navi Mumbai)
MAJN Mangalore Junction
CAN Kanoor KTYM Kottayam
CLT Kozhikode ALLP Alapuzha
SRR Shomur KCVL Kochuveli
TCR Thrissur TVC Trivandrum Central
ERS Ernakulam
ERN Ernakulam Town
Note: Time in 24 hour format

Train No	2201	2288	2432	2618	2978	6311	6333	6335	6337	6345	6381
CST											1545
DDR											
LTT	1655									1140	
BSR			0340	0925	0335	2030	2025	2025	2025		
PNVL	1805	1225	0505	0025	0505	2200	2200	2200	2200	1255	
MAJN	0800	0255	1745	0310	1905	1325	2315	2315	2315	0445	
CAN	1025	0525	2008	0500	2145	1605	1605	1605	1605	0735	
CLT	1200	0700	2140	0720	2330	1755	1755	1755	1755	0920	
SRR	1345	0835	2340	0810	0140	2005	2005	2005	2005	1135	
TCR	1415		0015	1000	0220	2050	2050	2050	2050	1215	0255
ERS			0145		0420				2250		
ERN	1550	1045				2225	2225	2225		1405	0430
KTYM	1650	1210				2353	2353	2353			0600
ALLP										1525	
KCVL		1540				0310					
TVC	2030		0545				0310	0305		1840	0945

2202 KCVL LTT Garib Express (Th, S), 2287 DDN KCVL Express (Tu), 2431 Rajdhani Express (Tu, Th, F), 2483 Amritsar Express (W), 2617 Mangala Lakshadweep (Daily), 2653 Sampark Kranti Express (Sa), 2977 Maru Sagar Express (S), 6312 Bikaner Express (Sa), 6334 Veraval Express (M), 6336 Gandhidham Express (Tu), 6338 Okha Express (W, F), 6346 LTT TVC Netravati Express (Daily), 6382 Cape Mumbai Express (Daily)

Train No	2202	2287	2431	2483	2617	2653	2977	6312	6334	6338	6346	6382
TVC	0850		1915							0008	1000	0755
KCVL		0850		0910		0910		1515	1515			
KTYM	1120	1150						1820	1820			1130
ALLP				1135		1135					1250	
ERN	1240	1240						1955	1955			1305
ERS			2230	1235	1305	1235	1950			1950	1450	
TCR	1410		2352	1410	1425	1410	2120	2120	2120	2120	1535	1450
SRR	1510	1530	0040	1510	1530	1510	2215	2215	2215	2215	1655	
PGT												1645
CLT	1640	1640	0218	1640	1730	1640	0025	0025	0025	0025	1905	
CAN	1810	1810	0348	1810	1920	1810	0215	0215	0215	0215	2115	
MAJN	2035	2035	0600	2035	2205	2035	0455	0455	0455	0455	0010	
PNVL	1015	1015	1805	1055	1255	1055	1933	2100	2100	2100	1502	
KYN					1345							0339
LTT	1145										1640	
BSR			1930				2105	2235	2250			
DR												0429
CSTM												0450

Timings and Train Numbers are subject to change as they are revised from time to time

New proposals of new railway budget:

Eight new trains for Kerala including Kurla-Ernakulam Toronto Express (twice a week) and Pune-Ernakulam via Panvel super fast (twice a week) have been announced. A new Mangalore-Kochuveli express on a daily basis, will augment the existing Matsyagandha Express so that Keralites from Mumbai can avail this service to reach Thiruvananthapuram. Besides, Happa-Thirunelveli Express, announced in the last railway budget but not implemented so far, will start running from this year. This train will pass through Panvel.

Kerala
in Mumbai





Karimeen Pollichathu

Ingredients

Pearl fish(Karimeen)- 1 kg (4 to 5 nos)
 Black pepper(crushed) - 10 nos
 Button onions(Kunjulli) - 5 nos
 Whole red chillies(unakkamulaku) - 10 nos
 Ginger - ½" long
 Garlic pods - 1 no
 Turmeric powder - ½ tsp
 Red chilly powder - 1 tbsp
 Salt - As reqd
 Curry leaves - 2 stalks
 Coconut oil - 1 cup
 banana leaf - 1 pcs

For the Gravy:

Button onions(Kunjulli) - 1 cup
 Red chilly powder - 1 tsp
 Salt - As reqd
 Curry leaves - 2 stalks

Preparation Method of Karimeen Pollichathu Recipe

- 1) Pearl fish comes with a coating of thick scales which has to be sliced off with a sharp knife, keeping the head and tail intact.
- 2) Rub the fish on rough surface (on a cutting board) with salt and clean inside out.
- 3) Wash with clean water and soak them in curd/lemon juice to get rid of the any bad smell of the fish.
- 4) After half an hour, take the fish out of the curd/lemon juice and wash in clean water.
- 5) Make slits through the fish diagonally.

For preparing the masala:

- 1) Grind together black pepper, small onions, red chillies, ginger and garlic into a coarse paste.
- 2) Add red chilly powder, turmeric and salt and little water to make the masala to a paste form.
- 3) Rub it all over the fish inside out.
- 4) Keep the curry leaves pasted to the fish too.
- 5) Refrigerate it covered for about half an hour for the masala to absorbed into the fish.
- 6) Take out and then grilled in tawa with little coconut oil on both sides, until it turns dark brown.
- 7) Garnish with onion rings and lime wedges.

∴ Serve hot on a banana leaf.

For making the masala :

- 1) Take out the excess oil from the above frying pan.
- 2) Heat up the remaining masala dust and oil.
- 3) Fry half-cup button onions along with curry leaves.
- 4) When they turn light brown, pour the gravy over the fish.

Recipe for Karimeen Pollichathu



Jijo George (General Manager)
Hotel Benzy Palace, Mumbai.



Recipe for Vegetable Koottu Curry

Ingredients

Ash gourd (Regular bhopla)	200 gms
Yam (Suran)	200 gms
Bengal gram (Chana dal)	100 gms
Red chillies	8 to 10 nos.
Coconut	1 medium size
Turmeric (Haldi)	½ tsp.
Pepper	20 gms
Salt	to taste
Jaggery (Gud)	1 piece (to be grated)

For tempering (Tadka)

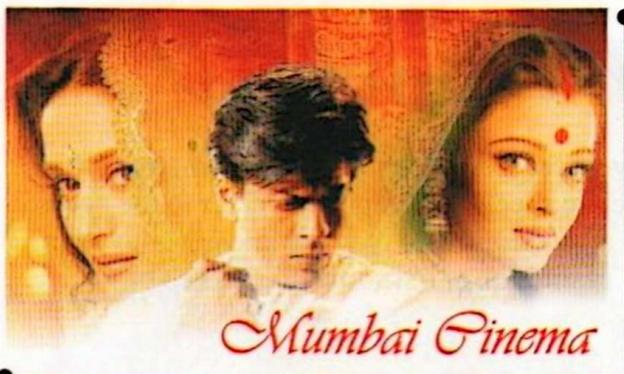
Coconut	1 small size
Mustard seed (Rai)	10 gms
Oil	50 ml
Curry leaves (Kadi patta)	2 springs
Black gram (Black urid dal)	20 gms



Manoj Nair

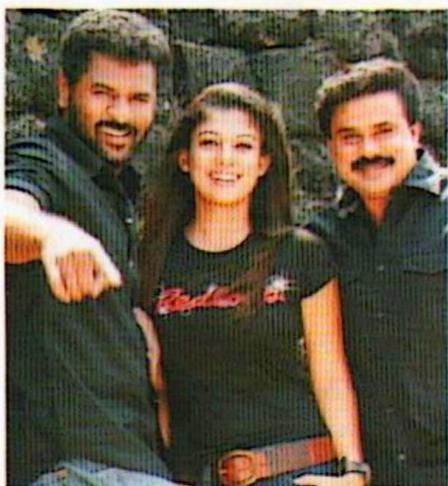
Method:

- Chana dal to boil in 3 times volume of water.
- Add diced suran and ash gourd, sprinkle pepper, salt and some water to the cooked dal.
- Prepare fine paste by grinding coconut and chillies and add paste to vegetables.
- Bring to a boil and set off the fire.
- In a pan, heat oil to fry grated coconut, rai, curry leaves and black urid dal till crackling brown.
- Add this tadka along with grated jaggery to vegetable.
- Serve hot.



Gautam Menon's 'Vaaranam Aayiram' in Hindi too

Remember 'Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein' the disastrous movie made by Gautam Menon? It was a remake of his super hit Tamil movie 'Minnale'. Now that he bagged a National Award for his 'Vaaranam Aayiram', there are several producers after him to direct the remake of this film in Hindi. 'Vaaranam Aayiram' is based on the successful theme of the father-son relationship in which the former comes across as an inspiration to the son.



'Body Guard' comes to Hindi

The super hit Dileep-Nayantara starrer 'Body Guard' is being made in Hindi. Though there were many suitors for Hindi rights of 'Body Guard', Boney Kapoor is said to have clinched the deal.

Choreographer turned Director Prabhu Deva is likely to direct the

movie after he gave a massive hit 'Wanted' for Boney Kapoor. Prabhu Deva was to make a sequel to his earlier hit 'Wanted' with Salman Khan as hero but now it appears that the sequel would come after Hindi speaking *Body Guard*.

Mohanlal's third foray into Hindi cinema



movie, tentatively titled 'Ek Batta Saat', Susanna the protagonist, to be enacted by Priyanka Chopra, kills her seven husbands of different times. Bhardwaj wants all these husbands totally different from each other, in all respects viz. tone of skin, body structure, personality, height etc. Besides John Abraham, Arshad Warsi and Naseeruddin Shah, Mohanlal is also chosen to be one of the husbands. Irrfan Khan and a foreign actor are considered for the fifth and sixth husbands. Early in the fifties, a Tamil film titled 'Antha Naal'



Ruskin Bond's well known short story 'Susanna's Seven Husbands' is being adapted to a film script by Vishal Bhardwaj. In this Hindi



Mohanlal in his first original Hindi film 'Company' portrayed the role of a police officer, supposed to be modelled on present Mumbai Commissioner of Police D Sivanandhan, and made an impact while his second film 'Ramgopal Verma Ki Aag' was a dud.



starring Sivaji Ganesan, Pandaribai and others had a similar theme. This was produced and directed by famous Veena maestro S Balachander and this movie was credited to be the first Indian movie without any songs.



Ragaratnamalika 2

[This column is dedicated to propagate Classical music through the print media. Lovers of Carnatic Music, who have some basic knowledge, can use this column. A Guru is nevertheless vital to master this form of music. This column is presented by **Guru Mallika Bharathan and Ragesh Revi.**]

Mōhanam

It is the janyam of the 28th *MēLakarTTā Rāgam*, Harikāmbōji.

ĀrōhaNam: S R₂ G₂ P D₂ Ś.

AvarōhaNam: Ś D₂ P G₂ R₂ S.

It is an 'Audava Rāgam', having five swarams each in *ārōhaNam* and *avarōhaNam*. The swarams are *śadjam*, *CaTuŚruTi RūŚabham*, *anTaragāndharam*, *pancamam* and *CaTuŚruTi DhaivaTam*. *RūŚabham*, *Gāndharam* and *DhaivaTam* are *rāgachāya* swarams. It is a *rāgam* with scope for detailed *ālāpanam* and 'Janta' and 'dhaTTu' swarams. It is a *sarvaswara moorcanākāraka rāgam*. If you take *RūŚabham*, *gāndharam*, *pancamam* and *dhaivaTam*, as *ādhāra śadjam*, you will get the new *rāgams* *MadhyamāvaTi*, *Hindolam*, *Śuddha Dhanyāsi* respectively.

Transliteration for italicized words: Ā = E, ā = e, ō = s e, N = Cd, Ś, ś = Td, Ŝ = Md, C = Vd, Ch = Wd, T = Id, R = Nd, ũ = d, L = U, ū = t. ē = s,

Popular krūTees:

1. The geeTam 'varaveeNā mrūdupāNi' in Roopaka Talam.
2. Ninnukōri ĀdiTāLa varNam, RāmanāThapuram (Poochi) SreenivāsaIyengar
3. Mōhana Rāma Ādi Thyagaraja Swamikal
4. Sadāpālaya Ādi GNBālasubramanyam
5. Paripāhi Cāppu Maharāja Śree Sw āTi Tirunāl

There are a vast number of film songs based on mōhanam. some are:

1. Yāma Śankholi Ee Manōhara Teeram
2. Sindoorā sandhyakku mounam CūLa
3. Mouliyil mayilpeeli cārTTi Nandanam
4. KaLiveeduRangiyallo DēŚātanam.



Smt Mallika Bharathan
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Ragesh Revi
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MUMBAI NEWS DIGEST

KIM News Bureau

Mar Thoma Parish celebrates Golden Jubilee



Inaugural ceremony of Marthoma parish Golden Jubilee celebrations



Members of the celebration committee

The St. Thomas Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Mumbai is celebrating Golden Jubilee this year. The Parish is planning its Valedictory Function on April 11, 2010. The Metropolitan of Mar Thoma Church Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, Head of Mar Thoma community worldwide will preside over the function.

The Parish had organised a cultural programme with Rimi Tomy and group at Shanmukhananda Auditorium on last January 22. World's Strong Man Manoj Chopra displayed his power feats on the occasion.

During December, the Parish felicitated

'Golden Couples' who completed 50 years of their marriage and Suffragan Metropolitan of Mar Thoma Church Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus was the Chief Guest. This programme was followed by a 'fellowship lunch' with over 600 members participating.

The Church constituted in the metropolis of Mumbai in April 1960, has 600 families as members covering more than 2200 individuals. They

are providing several welfare schemes to members, such as 'house for the houseless', financial assistance to the needy and deserving children for higher education by way of soft loans and running an English medium school at Kurar Village, Malad (E). The school has over 800 students on its roll.

Janashakti Short Story Award

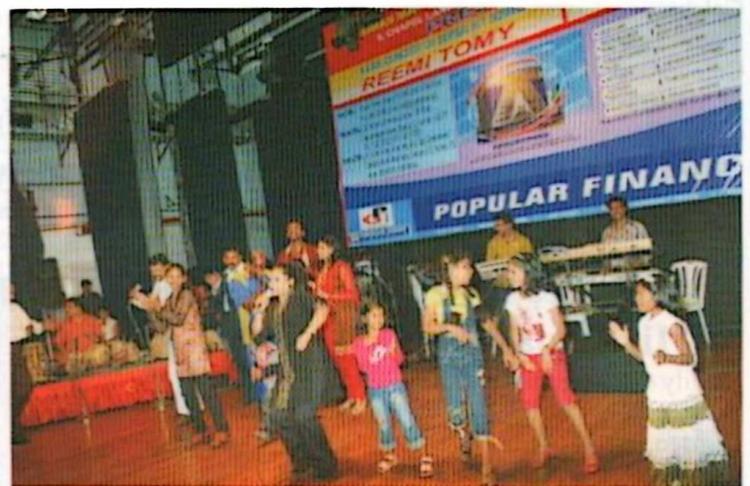
Short story writers in Malayalam have a contest in their hands as unpublished short stories are invited for an award by Janashakti. The winner will receive Rs.5000, citation and a plaque. Name of writer, address and phone number should be written on a separate paper and should accompany the story. Stories should be sent to Secretary, Janashakti Arts, Shop No.6, Kopar Cross Road No.1, Vishnu Nagar, Dombivli (W), PIN 421202 before March 5.

Diamond Jubilee of Bombay Keraleeya Samithi of Malad

Bombay Keraleeya Samithi of Malad celebrated their Diamond Jubilee on February 13 at West Kopolwadi Hall, Malad. Rajan Katannappilli-directed Malayalam drama 'Puthiya Velicham' of Balraj Kollara was also staged.

Azad Nagar Malayali Samajam Anniversary

Azad Nagar (Thane) Malayali Samajam celebrated their anniversary on a grand scale. While President P Padmanabha Menon presided over the function, Vijaya Menon inaugurated the celebrations. High scoring students of HSC and SSC were felicitated in the function. This was followed by drama 'Ammaye Kaathu' of Kozhikode Thirumana Theatres.



Rimi Tomy show

Psychological counselling

Virar Malayali Samajam conducted Psychological counselling to the students and their parents on 14 February at Viva College Auditorium. Shitij Thakur MLA inaugurated the Counselling session. Psychometric test, IQ test etc were also conducted. This session was prompted by the increasing suicides of students.



Inauguration of the annual celebrations of Kairali Kalamandal, Vashi

Vashi Kairali Kalamanda

Kairali Kalamandal of Vashi celebrated 33rd anniversary. Prof James Thomas, Chancellor of D Y Patil University was Chief Guest and novelist Balakrishnan Guest of Honor at the celebrations. There community feast and entertainment program by children.

Anniversary of Church celebrated

St Thomas Church of Mira Road celebrated anniversary of the church. The celebration stretching to ten days successfully concluded on February 7 with a lyrical service, procession carrying the holy body and *chendamalam*. church priest Fr Biju Chittilapally, John Joseph, K U Joseph Vincent, Nixon, John and Joby provided leadership for programmes.

Golden Jubilee of Keraleeya Kendra Sanghatana

Keraleeya Kendra Sanghatana is gearing itself up to celebrate its golden Jubilee that would last a whole year, according to a decision taken by the meeting chaired by its President K S Menon. A Celebration Committee comprising 251 members will be formed for this purpose. Celebration of golden jubilee of the state of Maharashtra will also be a part of this event. Governor K Sankaranarayanan is expected to inaugurate the festivities in March. Felicitation of prominent

Malayalees of Mumbai, seminars at various places of Maharashtra, film festival, literary competitions, sports events, photographic exhibitions depicting the contributions of Keralites in various fields etc will be some salient features of the celebrations.

An expenditure of approximately Rs.1 crore is envisaged. There will be a contest to design a special logo for the occasion. According to PRO PV Chacko, the winner of the contest will receive a cash reward of Rs.5000.

Notorious criminal In police custody

Notorious car thief Periyattatukkam Riaz

of Kasargode was arrested by Sahar Police from Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport while attempting to escape to Mumbai on a fake passport. He is an accused in about 30 murder cases.

He is the main accused in the dacoit Pallikkara Jay Maruti Finances. He is an accused in the illegal money transaction of Rs.6 lakhs and a co-accused in the murder of Mannumkuzhi Harikrishnan of Chikmagalur. The main accused of murder case Khaliya Rafeeq is already in police custody. Kerala police was tipped that Riaz was likely to escape to other countries and they in turn informed authorities of all important airports. Mumbai police succeeded in nabbing him.

Family Get Together of Mira Road NSS

Family Get Together of Mira Road Nair Service Society was held at Mira Road Garden View Hall. Kendriya NSS Chairman K V Pillai, Mira Road NSS President M P K Menon, Secretary Pravinkumar Nair, Chembur Balakrishnan Nair and Haridevan Nair spoke on that occasion. A drama 'Ammaye Kaathu' (Waiting for Mother) was also staged. About 800 participated in the Get Together.

Malayalam classes

SNDP Shakha Yogam starts Malayalam and Marathi classes at their Panvel branch No.4686. Classes will be held on every Sunday evening.



Pravinkumar Nair addresses family get together of Mira Road NSS

R R Pillai expired



R R Pillai (72), Municipal Councillor expired on February 14. He represented Goregaon in MCGM since 1992 and served his constituency with dedication and vigour. A double post graduate (M A, LL M), he served the corporation in various capacities and even contested election to the post of Mayor twice, from the Congress party. He is survived by his wife Ratna Pillai (Mumbai Region Congress Committee Vice President) and daughters Dr Rakhi Ullas Kumar, Shrikala Virke and Thripathi Shinde. R R Pillai was President of Goregaon Malayali Samajam for 12 years and at the time of his demise he was President of Goregaon Kerala Kala Samithi.

Malayali falls to death from train

Balraj T R (56), resident of Kalyan (E) and native of Thiruvananthapuram was killed in an accident. He was a mechanic with Railways and was on duty on February 11 at Pune. According to Sasoon Hospital authorities, he fell off a train while travelling but police claimed to have discovered his body from the wagon after two days. When the incidence happened, his family was at native place on holidays.

Malad Orthodox Church dedicated

While dedicating Malad Orthodox Church at Malad, Rev.Catholica Bava Paulose Mar Milithiose called upon the devotees to give utmost importance to humanitarian activities. Providing a house to a poor man is much more divine than spending a huge amount on the construction of a church, said Geevarghese Mar Kurilose. Architects and other individuals who helped construction of the church were felicitated. The church was modeled after Russian architecture.

Free study materials for poor students

Thane Narayaneeya Bhaktha Sangham distributed free study materials to poor students of Gandhi Nagar Mahatma Gandhi School. They also distributed sweets to the children of Bheem Nagar slums.

Seminar on Indian Renaissance

A seminar on Indian Renaissance was held under joint auspices of J and P Publications and Centre for Progressive Initiative. Somasekharan presented a thesis and Purameri Sivadas presented a paper on 'Malayalam Poetry and Renaissance.'

T K Hamza at Sakinaka

Chairman of Pravasi Kshemanidhi T K Hamza addressed a meeting of the members of Sakinaka Progressive Arts Club and explained the salient features of the welfare fund and pension plan of the Kerala Government. Representatives of various organizations were also present. Sivaraman presided over the meeting. Samajam Secretary Pavithran welcomed the guests and N Balakrishnan proposed vote of thanks.

Ghatkopar Malayali Samajam Medical Camp

Ghatkopar Malayali Samajam organised a free medical camp (Allopathy and Ayurveda) on February 14. Vaidyaratnam Oushadhasala, North Malabar Nair Welfare Association and Lakshmi Charitable Trust were associated with this medical camp which started from morning till evening.

Bhupesh Babu appointed Vice President of state NCP

Bhupesh Babu is appointed as the Vice President of Maharashtra State NCP for a second term. Madhukar Pichad is the NCP State President. Other Vice Presidents include Madan Bafna, Nawab Malik and Ramesh Bagh. Bhupesh Babu is the first Malayali to reach this important post.

Marriage assistance at Kharghar

Kharghar Nair Service Society has formed a Marriage Bureau. It will render assistance to the needy at NSS office. Interested persons can register their names either directly at the office or by e-mail to: khargharnss@rediffmail.com.

Amma at Nerul

Sri Mata Amrutanandamayi Devi, known as Amma worldwide, blessed the residents of Navi Mumbai and Mumbai with her annual visit to Nerul Ashram. Her visit culminated in various service activities for the needy and poor. Lalitha Sahasranama Archana, pravachan, bhajan, dhyana, darshan, Mangal and Rahu pooja, Shani pooja were carried out from February 28.

Health fair at Kalyan

Harisri Bhajan Samaj conducted a free health fair and blood donation at Kalyan. Twenty doctors from J J Hospital and St. George Hospital conducted the camp. About 500 people were benefited from camp. Nearly 60 individuals donated blood.

Office bearers of Malayali organisations are requested to send news reports on their letterheads and photographs so as to reach us by 20th of the month. News reports received after 20th, are not likely to be published. Items like weddings, demises and other important items can also be sent. Unpublished items will not be returned.

- Editor

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Mrs Lakshmi Venkatachalam

Whenever I visit Kerala, I am fascinated by the different shades of green that I see there - the bright green slender paddy stalks waving in the breeze, the broad leaves of the banana shrubs, the dark green leaves of the hibiscus bushes with its bright red or yellow flowers blooming in their midst, the slender long green leaves of the mango trees, or the round ornamental leaves of the

that is the hallmark of Kerala. The state got its name from these coconut trees growing in abundance.

Another landscape of Kerala is the multitude of pools and ponds nestling among the bushes and plants, trees and shrubs. The waters appear a dull green, dark green moss sprawl and spread on the banks and wet mounds, a lone colorful flower blooms here and there.

necklace. The foam and froth of the waves look like diamonds on a necklace. The sea shore sparkles with fine white sands.

And on the west runs the rugged brown Western Ghats with rivers and streams flowing gently into the sea across the state. Nestling between the two spaces we have the green landscape that is Kerala. A special state with unparalleled beauty!

The cities of Kerala may have changed. Computers have made a head way in the cities as in many other places in India. Cyber cafes have sprung up. Mobile phones have increased connectivity. Even a remote village is reachable by the network and the cell. PCOs dot most rural roadways. All these are sure signs of development. But the heart of Kerala has not lost its rustic charm.

Unlike many cities which are fast becoming highly electronic and IT charged metros, here we see Nature that is not yet spoilt by manmade incursions. She still holds some old world charms.

No wonder Kerala is attracting tourists from Western and developed countries. Men and women who are overwhelmed by their mechanical and impersonal lifestyle, where the personal and human touch is sadly lacking, are coming to Kerala to be in touch with Nature and recharge their batteries for living a wholesome life.



papaya trees, the thick green foliage on the branches of the jackfruit, areca, ashoka, and banyan and ever so many other trees with sturdy trunks and of course that all pervading omnipresent coconut palms with their green fronds swaying at a height to the speed of the wind by the blue sea and the silver sands

The sky itself appears a muted blue even on the brightest of days and with a dwelling in the vicinity, the entire scenery is a picture perfect post-card.

As I write these lines living far away from my native Kerala, I am reminded of the beaches there. The Arabian Sea washes the eastern side of this state like a blue



As a poet said, "No man is an Island unto himself." Today many men and women are bored by this insularity and ensuing loneliness and he turns to Mother Nature for remedy. And Mother Nature is in abundant supply in Kerala.

Nature in her "pristine glory" attracts tourist to Kerala. And it is this Mother Nature that draws the original Keralite to her arms.

Wherever a Keralite goes, he carries with him a small part of his land. He carries his God. He calls Him by His name to express his emotions of joy, grief, surprise, fear and so on... "ente Amme," "ente Guruvayoorappa", For him his God is a part of him, a witness to his daily life. Outside Kerala, he takes care to mark out a special place for his Gods however small his dwelling place. It could even be a small space in his cupboard, but lo, his God's picture

would be there. He devotes a little time to pray there.

For the average Keralite, cleanliness is next to Godliness. Even today the average Keralite takes a morning bath and invariably goes to a temple near his house,

seeks the deity's blessings and believes his day has begun well. Every small village or town has its presiding deity and the inhabitants nearby go there regularly. The social and cultural life also revolves round the temple. Annual festivities are celebrated around the temple. Mythological and religious stories are staged. Here local talents get a boost. These places are sometimes launching pads for budding singers and dancers, artists and actors.

Outside Kerala also, Keralites celebrate with great vigour their festivities to coincide with the celebrations in

their native places. So we have Narayaneeyam Parayanam, Ayyappa Mandala Pooja, Onam celebrataic etc all over not only India but ev worldwide where there is a Kerc population. In this way the Keralee culture is kept alive and the young generations are made aware of the roots.

Kerala is a mosaic of Tamil, Tulu and course Malayalam speaking Hindu Muslims, Christians, and Jews. E people have learnt to live peacefully together. For all of them Vishu and Onam are important festivals.

Another interesting aspect is that in a part of the world when two Keralites meet, they will speak at least one or two words in Malayalam . It is a sign of shared brotherhood which forges a link between the two with their birth place And harks them back to their

Letters to the Editor

Thanks indeed for your mail and the copy of the magazine. On the whole it is a creditable effort on your part and we would like to congratulate you. The contents are useful, informative and definitely to the reader's liking. As in any new venture, there exists scope for improvement in the contents. The Mulund Kerala Samajam takes this opportunity to thank you for the coverage it received. The copy is under circulation and requirements would definitely be communicated to you shortly.

- A. Radhakrishnan

Kerala in Mumbai fills a long felt void by bringing out an English magazine for Mumbai's Malayali population who do not have the necessary skill of reading in their mother tongue. While the contents are promising, it needs continuous effort to avoid errors. The design and presentation is very good. Keep it up!

- K B Menon, Malad

Though topics selection is good, a few columns like clothes designing and fashion tips could have been given some space. You may add some Malayalam songs worth remembering, in the forthcoming issues.

- Mrs Valsala Nair, Nerul

First of all, let me congratulate you on your dream project of launching KERALA IN MUMBAI in the presence of Governor of Maharashtra.

Your magazine, though the first, has come out very well for its presentation, coverage and print quality.

- Jose, Mumbai - 72

Congratulations ! you have fulfilled a long cherished dream

of Mumbai Malayalees. We hope you will be our voice to concerned authorities regarding all our pending needs.

- Prabhakaran K. V, Sion-22

The inaugural release of 'Kerala in Mumbai' by a Keralite in Mumbai- none other than His Excellency Governor of Maharashtra Shri K Sankaranarayanan on 6th February 2010- should augur well for this new product of Vibrant!

The first issue has come out well with a lot of scope for improvement, enlightenment and entertainment. I wish all the very best to your team for nurturing this new born to scale great peaks.

-Sekharan Kutty, Nerul

It is a pity that organizations, controlled by Malayalees of Mumbai, bring artistes such as singers, dancers, comedians, literary personalities and even politicians from Kerala for various functions in Mumbai. These persons hardly help or contribute to the lives of Mumbai Malayalees but only exploit and incite them through language and Kerala issues. Further, by the time they leave, our pockets become weak.

I urge you to raise your voice and through your pages against this trend and help the artistes of Mumbai to move forward. Let Mumbai Malayalees help their brethren first before others.

- Rajan V Nair, Thane

When Malayalam Stars Collide

An unscripted, but highly entertaining war of words has suddenly engulfed the Malayalam film industry.

It all started with veteran character actor, Thilakan, hitting out at the corruptive practices of top-rung actors running their own fan clubs at the cost of their producers. They charge exorbitant rates like Rs. 1.5 crores for one role and spend as much as Rs. 25 lakhs out of it to run their fan clubs, he alleged.

The reference clearly was to Mammooty, with whom Thilakan has acted in several films, including the super-grosser PAZHASSI RAJA. The premier organization of stars, directors and producers, AMMA, denounced Thilakan and officially asked him to tender an apology. It threatened disciplinary action against the actor.

As Thilakan refused to budge and said he stood by every word of his allegation, in stepped a rank outsider, Prof Sukumar Azhikode, eminent intellectual, former Vice-Chancellor and acknowledged to be a great thinker. He defended Thilakan's freedom of speech and in reference to the other super star of Malayalam cinema, Mohanlal, who defended AMMA's right to take disciplinary action on an errant member, said: "The donkey does not enjoy the fragrance of the saffron load it carries on its back."

Mohanlal held himself back, in deference to the age of the 'cultural leader' of Kerala, who is now 86. He merely remarked: "We do not want any Uncles to interfere in the internal

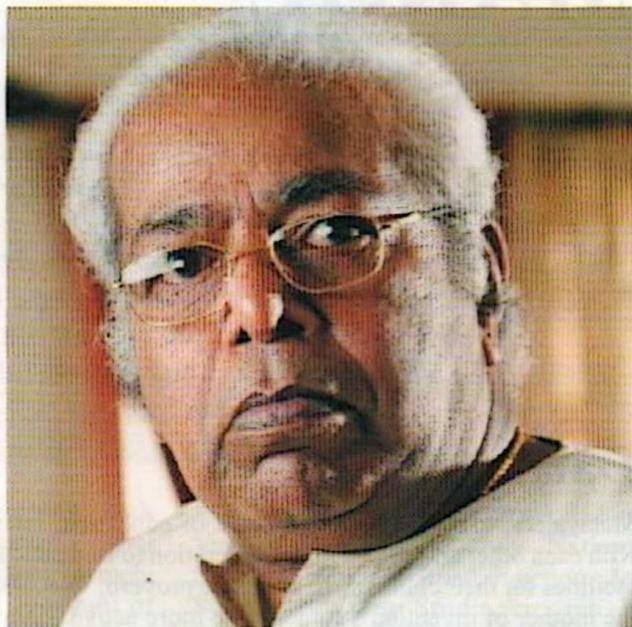
matters of AMMA."

Another veteran actor, Innocent, who is currently the President of AMMA, politely asked Azhikode to keep off the dispute, since he was an 'outsider.' The erudite professor hit back: "Innocent is totally innocent of basic intelligence and should not speak out of context." Prof. Azhikode rubbed it on: "What are those people who look good only when they don grease paint and makeup and merely parrot lines of dialogue written for them by others?"

Innocent's retort hit the eminent author below the belt: "Azhikode (in north Kerala from where Sukumar hails) has produced several good and handsome men I know. Where did this SUKUMAR come from?"

At the end of several days of sparring, down-to-earth jibes and exchange of uncivil and uncomplimentary epithets, both sides decided to call off the public debate on Thilakan.

Mammooty stepped in rather late in the day and called for a truce, without hard feelings. He said he was hurt by the rancor and uncivility unleashed by the debate and that the kind of things that were said about the senior-most cultural face of Kerala should have been avoided. He made it clear that he was prepared to work with a senior artiste like Thilakan in the same manner they had done for



Thilakan

almost three decades.

As we go to press, the last word on the public debate on which the entire electronic media feasted for three weeks had not been spoken. AMMA is in no mood to pardon an errant son. In collaboration with two other industry organizations, FEFKA and MACTA, it forced a Hollywood film project DAM 999 to drop Thilakan from its cast.

Thilakan would now be replaced by Rajat Kapoor, who earlier had been assigned a much smaller role. DAM 999 will be shot in Sri Lanka, instead of Alapuzha in Kerala. Rajat, so early in his career would never have imagined in his wildest dreams that such a plum role would land on his shoulders. Collateral benefits.

-KIM Bureau



Mohanlal



Mammooty



Innocent



Prof. Sukumar Azhikode

MAROL -

Future Centre of Mumbai Business

Marol was a silent gaothan till the beginning of the seventies. A village populated mainly by poor and illiterate people belonging to the Catholic community and a few Muslims! Though poor, they had vast tracks of agricultural land but rarely cultivated them. Till 1970, there were only a few Malayalees, mainly staying in Blossom Society (founded in 1969) but around 1974, this region found a few new constructions and Malayalees, Kannadigas, Punjabis and other communities started moving to this region, making it a cosmopolitan area. By 1978, many more Malayalees moved to this area.

Daring Devils

Malayalees, knowing the importance of education, interacted with each other and shared their desperation to find educational facilities for their children. To prove the proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention", some of the more active Malayalees formed a group and founded an educational society namely Marol Education Academy, with 26 founder members. The intention was to establish a secondary school immediately and later other institutions to provide higher education. In order to give it a cosmopolitan character, they tried to enroll persons from other communities also but the response was lukewarm. This happened in 1979. Then K V Satyanath was the Chairman, C N Kutty the Secretary and R D Shetty the Treasurer.

Without even locating a place to erect the school building, they had even started admitting children to KG classes and I, II, III standards. By June 1980 they located the land and on July 16, 1980 the school was officially inaugurated by then Municipal Councillor Krishna D Shetty. The school then had 120 students and now boasts of more than 2000 students and is waiting for the Government's permission to start a Junior College. This is one of the prime educational institutions at Marol and often identified as the Pride of Marol. It is continuously securing 100% SSC results since a long time.

The school has all facilities and infrastructure required for a high tech educational institution and also has ISO certification. This institution has now acquired the stature of a social centre for all Marolites irrespective of caste or religion.

The present office bearers are Prof A Vijayashankar (President), K P Janardhanan (Chairman) and K K Viswanathan (Secretary).



Two views of MEA building



Founder members of MEA

Sri Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham

This had a very humble beginning as a private affair. A few Malayalees jointly conducted bhajans during Mandala season under the leadership of late Gopinathan Menon and as the Malayalee population increased, they too joined and an organisation with the above name was registered with the authorities. Only Malayalee Hindus were initially associated with it but later, people from other linguistic communities too joined. Nevertheless, Malayalees still form a predominant factor. The three-days-long functions held at Blossom grounds draw huge crowds. On these days cultural programmes having a religious touch are staged.

Present office bearers are Prof A Vijayashankar (President), A S Sukumaran (Chairman) and Suresh S Nair (Secretary).



Group of companies serving both vegetarian and non-vegetarian menu while vegetarian restaurants namely **Aaharam** (Military Road Junction) of Suresh Nair and Ramesh Nair, and **Shubham Greens** (Military Road) of

Marol runs **N K Shoe Corner** (Marol Village), **N A Paulose** runs **National Stores** at Military Road Junction. **Joy Studio** and **Geo Studio** are run by Malayalees and **Kumar Das** has his tyre retreading company at Nand Dham Industrial Estate. **P V Satyan's Satyan Classes** is functioning for a long time successfully.

Professionals among Malayalees are: **Dr Lizy George** – Paediatrician, **Dr K Sudhakaran** (Marol Village) and **Dr Sreelatha Nair** (Military Road) – Homeo practioners, **Smt Geetha Vijay Shankar** (Mohiniattam) and **Smt Radha Chandran** (Bharatha natyam) are at Blossom Society, while **Smt Sumangala Wariar** of Vijay Nagar is a teacher of Carnatic music. **Pratik Sudhakaran** and **Krishna Kumar Nair** are Interior Decorators and **Mrs Susy Mathew** of **Akruti Aneri** is an advocate. The lone chartered accountant is **Jacob Koshy** of Blossom Society.



Marthoma Church

A good part of Marol Malayalees are Christians, belonging to all factions of Christianity. While Catholics have two huge churches at Marol Village and Vijay Nagar, other sections have no such establishments. However, six years ago, the Marthoma Christians jointly procured a plot away from Military Road and established their own religious centre from where other charitable activities also are conducted. Rev, **Father Anil Abraham** is currently the President and **K C Varghese** is the Vice President.

Commerce

There are only a few commercial establishments at Marol. A Kerala cuisine specialist hotel **The Benzy Palace and Restaurant** (they have banquet hall too) is a well known establishment of Akbar

Manoj Nair are very popular. While **N K Kutty Ali**, the earliest Malayalee of



Odakkuzhal



President C N Kutty honours Guru Geetha Vijayashankar

After meeting the essentials of life, they turned to the needs. By 1990, the Malayalee strength of Marol rose to nearly 3000. The absence of any social and cultural activities prompted them to start a cultural organisation and in 1992, ODAKKUZHAI was founded. The seed was sown by R Gopalakrishnan, a cultural activist and an employee of Larsen & Toubro Ltd. The first committee was formed with K V Satyanath as Chairman and C N Kutty as Secretary. Dr C Rajagopalan was the unanimous choice for the post of President. This organisation brought to Marol many cultural shows such as Kathakali, Ottan thullal, Malayalam theatre, musical programmes etc. Malayalam classes were also started but later it came to a stop due to lack of interest from the students. Now

Odakkuzhal is proud of owning its own office along the link road from Vijay Nagar to MIDC. It has a reading room

and a DVD Club where the members avail of their favourite Malayalam movies free of charge. Like other Malayalee organisations, Odakkuzhal too celebrates Onam on a grand scale every year. This occasion provides a platform to all aspiring artists among Keralites.

Odakkuzhal admits only one person from a family and has more than 40 families on its rolls. All members belong to the upper middle class and live in good residences. Considering the numbers of members too, Marol has a Malayalam population of more than 3000 persons serving various organisations. However, there are only a few entrepreneurs and business men among them.



Members present Kaikottikkali



Committee Members of Odakkuzhal 46

Winners of Raagalaya Light Music competition 2009



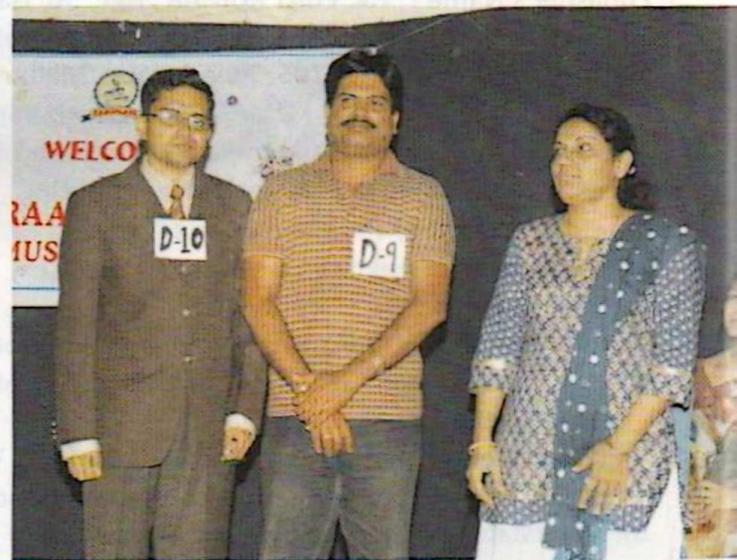
Rickson George, Govid Harikrishnan, Anushka Menon, Gayathri Krishnachandran and Devika Azhakeshan



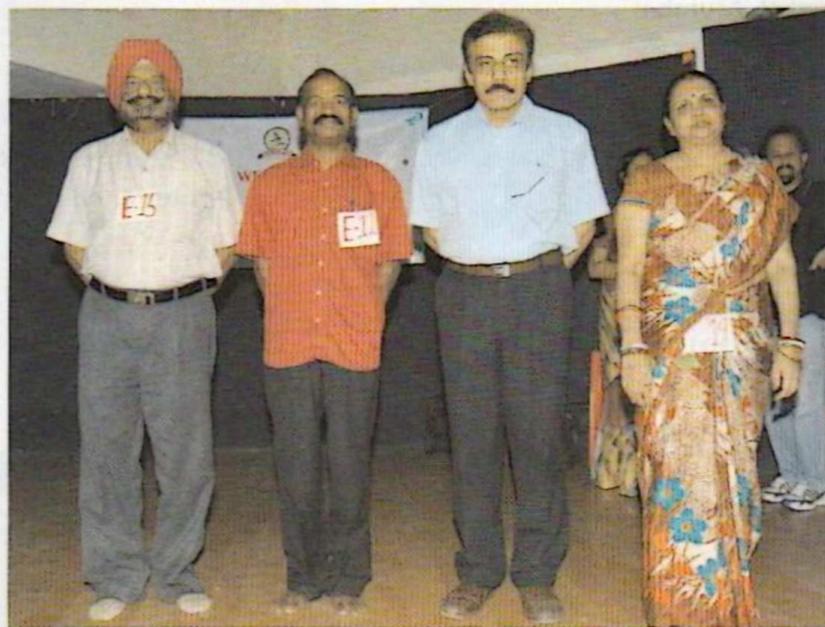
Pranav Shankar, Arvind Kuttykrishnan, James John Bosco, Janya J. Nair and Ambili Somasundaram



Ritesh Rajan, Siddharth Menon, Ranjana Raja, Reshma Krishnan and Anushri Varier



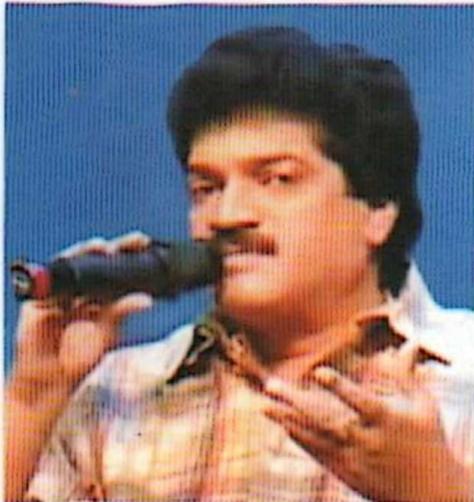
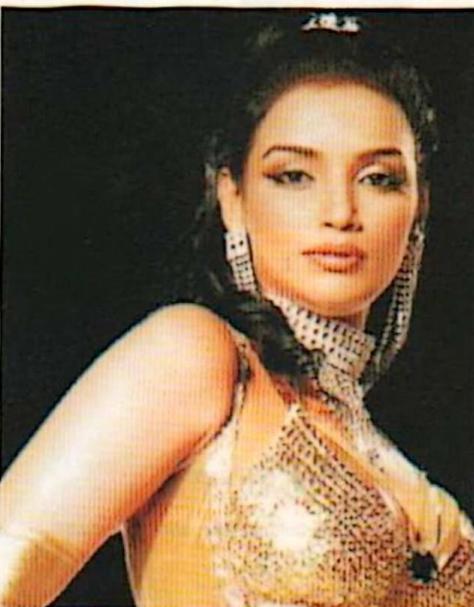
Ragesh Revi, Baburaj Nair and Geetha Ganesh



Deedar Singh, K R Shivaraman, C Narayanan and Rajani Vishwanathan

Around Mumbai*Tharangini Malayalam Film Awards Announced*

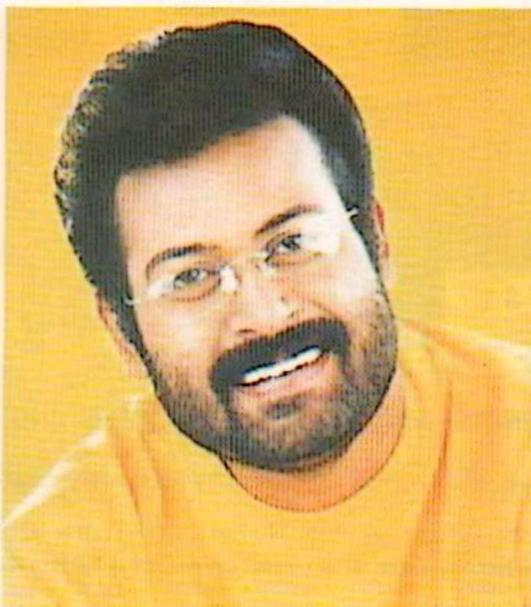
KIM News Bureau

**Blessy****M G Sreekumar****Shweta Menon**

Gokulam Tharangini Awards for Malayalam film industry will be given away on April 13, 2010 at Shanmukhananda Auditorium, Sion. Jaya Surya (best actor), Roma (best actress), Suraj Venjaramoodu (best actor in a comic role) are the awardees of this year and playback singer

M G Sreekumar receives the Life Time Achievement Award. Manoj K Jayan (best actor in a supporting role) and Shweta Menon (best actress in a supporting role) are also receiving their awards. Blessy receives the award for the Director of the year.

Mumbai based Tharangini is giving away these awards since its inception and this will be their twenty seventh award ceremony. These awards are given to actors and other artistes who need and deserve encouragement to reach the top.

**Jaya Surya****Roma****50 Manoj K Jayan****Suraj Venjaramoodu**

Ninth pilgrimage to Gurudevagiri

KIM News Bureau



The procession on the move

Nerul turned into a festive mood when the ninth pilgrimage to Gurudevagiri reached its pinnacle, giving a yellowish tinge to the entire city. Thousands of devotees from different parts of Maharashtra and other states participated in the procession in connection with the ninth anniversary of the commemoration at Guru mandiram and Mahadeva temple.

The procession commenced from Nerul Shivaji Park, with a flower decked chariot carrying a painting of Gurudeva. Hundreds of women in yellow coloured clothes and holding silver and men carrying kavati, accompanied by pampamelam, chendamelam, thayambaka, tableau etc gave a divine aura to the procession.

The procession flagged off by the Navi Mumbai Deputy Mayor Shashikant Birajdhar in the morning,



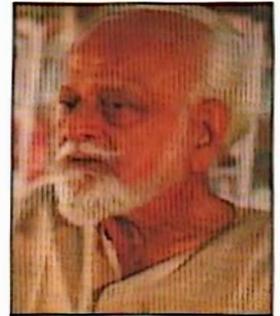
N S Salim Kumar, Dr N Gopalakrishnan, Dr K K Damodaran and Sasi Damodaran at the head of procession



Dr N Gopalakrishnan addresses the gathering

How to Read Newspapers

P K Ravindranath



Times have changed. Reading a newspaper is no longer the simple exercise it used to be. Two decades ago newspapers were produced for readers and news, analysis, commentaries and editorials were simple, objective, direct and meant to be understood by the average newspaper reader. Today, newspapers are flush with "paid news" a term loaded with a dozen meanings. The earlier version was what journalists themselves derisively called "Celebrity Journalism." Since this was confined to the third page of the metro supplement of "The Times of India", it was also referred to as "Page 3 News." As this brand of journalism flourished, the number of pages in each edition devoted to it grew, till it now finds space on page one. This is as it should be, since my childhood almost all prominent newspapers had only advertisements in page one "The Hindu," "The Times of India," "The statesman" all except "The

Mail" of Madras and "The Free Press Journal" of Bombay. The only difference then was that all advertisements on page one were paid for and looked like advertisements. Today, even though newspapers do carry advertisements, crafted to look like advertisements, some papers carry what they facetiously call "advertorials" advertisements camouflaged as news. The unwary reader often tends to accept such stories as genuine news. The intelligent newspaper reader can, however, instinctively smell an advertorial at first sight. Mumbai's half-a-dozen English dailies lead the way for the rest of the country in providing such delicious but deceptive fare for their readers. In the wake of globalization and commercialization, these leading newspapers developed a cosy relationship with Hindi film industry. The leading actor who nurtured this new alignment

among two major media was Aamir Khan. His utilization of the print media to publicize "Ghajini" in which he played the lead role, set the pace for other producers to run similar campaigns for their high-budget films. At the time of the release of "Ghajini", almost all newspapers were full of stories about Aamir Khan's impressive 6 pack abs and the peculiar hair-do he had for his role: "Paa," which followed soon after, did one better. It pumped in loads of material and stories about a little known ailment and the technique that made Amitabh Bachchan into a grotesque figure on screen to fit the role of a youth struck by this ailment.



HOTS
Danish mist foiled
 Ice shot and wounded an 19 man linked to radical militants who tried to break me of a cartoonist whose of Islam's prophet d infuriated Muslims. The Somali national had tent and was close to the bab movement and al-
CAT on January 30, 31:
 who could not take the earn due to technical the test labs in the first now sit for the n in the second phase for January 30 and 31, 2010.
out replacing EVMs: Chief mmissioner Navin Chawla at replacing EVMs, at these machines cannot d with or manipulated. EVM as a 'super Chawla, who is on a khagamandalam, said. P 10
cops face suspension for don's party: Five police including an IPS officer, fly attended a Christmas rown by the Chota Rajan susession. The susession

TALE OF 2 AMDAVADI idiots

One wrote a book, the other the screenplay. While the war of words is on between the author of 'Five Point Someone' Chetan Bhagat and scriptwriter of 'Three Idiots' Abhijat Joshi over claiming credit for the success of the film, TOI looks at how they followed the same passion in different colleges of Ahmedabad

Rancho of 'Three Idiots' Like Aamir, he felt no pressure

Ahmedabad: He used to ride a funny-looking 'Narmada' scooter with a 'jholi' on his shoulders. In his bag, he carried his scripts all the time. During his college days in HK Arts, Ahmedabad, he was a popular student, very hyper-active. He won the best actor award in first year of graduation and started writing short stories, extensively reading Marathi, Gujarati and English literature all the time. He used to lock himself in his room at home to read books. Friends recall he was a typical Amdavadi foodie. Once he had a bot that he could eat anything that was on the chaff of K...



Shubha, while studying at college. 'Aai iz well' has come out of his experience in Ahmedabad. As a child, he remembers the chookidar outside his Narmada pura home shouting 'aai well' at night. Joshi has used this lines brilliantly in his film. Joshi became an English lecturer in City Arts College in the early 1990s. Everyone remembers him as a person who was funny and friendly. Even today thetrepersons recall how on the eve of a performance of a play, he used to change the script, brushing aside objections of the director and actors that it was too late to make changes. A perfectionist, he is known to...

Ahmedabad: When students enter the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), the brief is clear. Your priority for the next two years will be your books, your classroom and your professors. The back-breaking schedule, especially in the first year, does not allow for anything else. Chetan Bhagat, however, seemed to have time for his books — both academic and light reading — and everything else. He also had a steady girlfriend, a rarity for IIM A students in those days. Bhagat met his wife Anusha on campus. Professors who taught him recall that...



pressure. He was ready to discuss books, other than academics, with his professors. One could find him often spending hours at the IIM 'kitti' (tea-stall) just chatting away with friends without a care in the world. But Bhagat was different and had a life away from textbooks. He gave the impression of being a nice guy-the friendly sort who seemed to be immensely talented. He was brought into a play being prepared as a farewell gift for outgoing students. Bhagat immediately took charge of the show and before anyone knew it, he was directing the play, even making changes in the script.



Kerala in Mumbai

LINKING MUMBAI MALAYALEES

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