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FEBRUARY 2010

MALYALEE PRESENCE
IN MUMBAI

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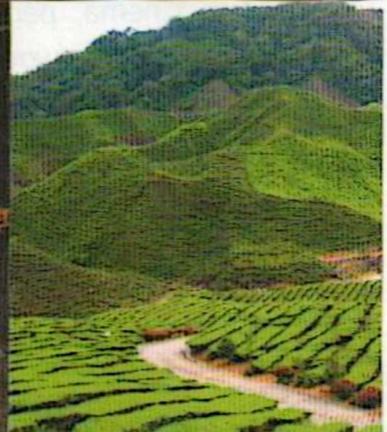
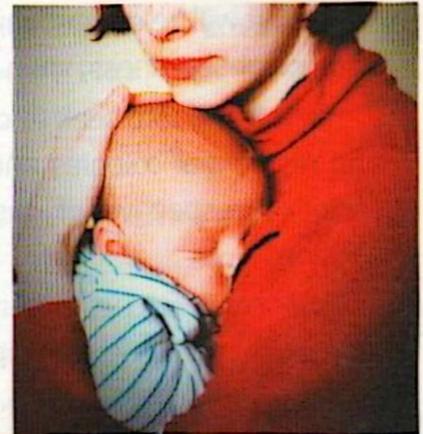
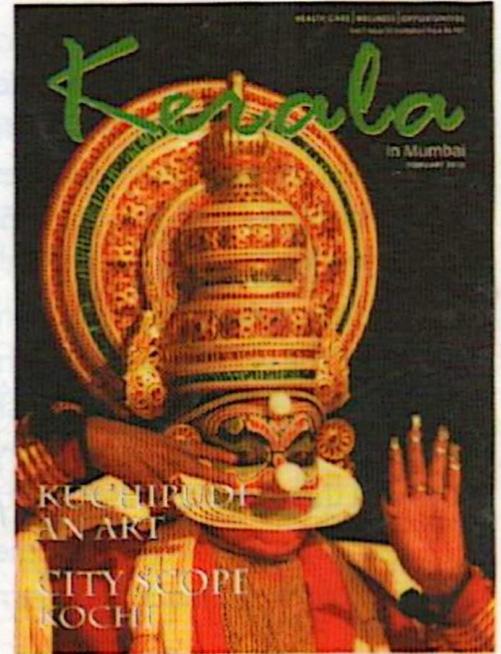
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EDITORIAL

WHAT WE ARE

Over the last eight decades as Malayalees came to Mumbai for employment and business, or in transit, there has been a growing alienation from traditional Malayalee ethos, manifest in succeeding generations. As many Malayalees settled down in Mumbai and other parts of India, they found their children and grandchildren unable to read or write Malayalam, having been educated locally. The curriculum for schools and colleges, based on the three language formula, provided no scope for mastering the mother tongue.

The third and fourth generations of Malayalees brought up outside Kerala found that their occasional visits to their parents' state would generate filial affection and love for their kith and kin in Kerala. So much for their affinity to their roots.

Realising the growing alienation of these migrants from Kerala and wishing to draw them back to their roots, KERALA IN MUMBAI devotes itself to provide them information and knowledge of Malayalee culture, traditions, rites and rituals, festivals and trends in various walks of life. It has been our experience that the more firmly one is committed to his or her roots, the better INDIAN he becomes.

In present day conditions, with the opening of the information highways, the e-mails, the Internet, the Google, and a dozen other sources at a click, it is all the more necessary to provide month after month a chronicle of what should be of interest to modern day youth. KERALA IN MUMBAI would seek to draw the best out of every reader, enthuse and motivate him or her to realise their origins and do what they could to enrich it in their own way.

In an age of crass commercialisation, we would seek to uphold the highest standards of ethics of journalism, promote a modern, progressive and scientific outlook in all that is published in these columns.

It will be our endeavour to instill in our young readers a desire to develop civilized standards of good neighbourliness, shun every vestige of parochialism, regionalism and superstitions.

It will also seek to create bonds among Malayalee residents in various pockets of settlements and residential colonies and to be of help to the needy, afflicted, ostracised, neglected sections of society, irrespective of caste, community, religion, gender or other man-made distinctions and divisions.

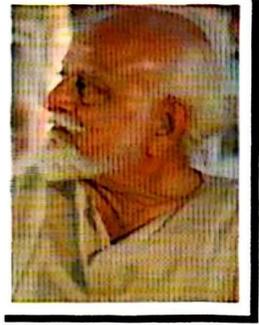
We would also seek to highlight unknown and unreported instances of exemplary social service, humanitarian activities and achievements in any walk of life.

Anything happening in Malayalam art, literature and culture would be given due importance. Malayalam cinema, performing arts, temple arts, cultural festivals, sports and other social and community activities would interest us.

Any suggestions and contributions from readers would be welcome and would secure due consideration from us.

KERALA IN MUMBAI is a readers' journal. It can survive only on the active co-operation and involvement of every reader. Since it aims at reaching out to Malayalee readers who cannot read Malayalam, the medium is perforce English.

The Malayali Presence in Mumbai



P K Ravindranath

Malayalis have always played a predominant role in the business, public, political and social life of Mumbai from the 1930s. It was thus that in the late 1930s, the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj came into existence. Its aim was to provide a common forum for Malayalis in the city and to facilitate easier communication with similar social organisations in the city.

The Samaj was founded at a meeting chaired by Mrs Yashoda M Karuvan. Mr Karuvan was elected the first President. Mrs Yashoda Karuvan later went on to found the Keraleeya Mahila Samaj, of which she became the first President.

Both organisations in the initial stages did commendable work in fostering unity among the local Malayalis and between them and other communities. Much later, both organisations were afflicted with groupism,

political pulls and pressures and consequent stagnation of their committed work.

There were a number of active prominent Malayalis who worked with labour organisations and social welfare groups. Among them were Gyanpeeth Award winner S K Pottekat and the Socialist leader Dr K B Menon. Pottekat was a leader of the Girgaum Thozhilali Union while Dr Menon provided leadership to the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj. Both later shifted their venue of activity to Kerala.

Malayalis in Mumbai had always been alert to developments in Kerala. Whether it was a flood relief or any other charitable purposes, they responded magnanimously to calls for help from Kerala. Thus, when the state launched an agitation for the formation of a united Kerala (Aikya Keralam), with Travancore, Cochin and Malabar, it was Mumbai Malayalis who were the first

outside the state to take up the agitation. A very well attended Aikya Malayali Convention was organised by them at Napoo Gardens in 1952. It was organised by M Madhavan, then a Municipal Corporator and later Mayor of Mumbai. Among others active in the convention were K M Philip, G P Nair, C A Menon, N Balakrishnan, P P Krishnan Kutty, K N Nair, A V Menon, Edavana Damodaran, Edayali Gopalakrishnan, P K Padmanabhan, P Bhaskaran, K K Easwara Pillai, K K Krishnan, P G S Das, C K Narayanan and N G Menon.

Those who attended the convention to support the demand were S K Patil, Capt Lakshmi, Justice Kunhiraman and Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai and others.

The convention helped bring thousands of Malayalis from all over Mumbai on the same platform and to galvanize interaction among them.

In 1953, when Cochin was affected by unprecedented floods, a special relief committee

was set up in Mumbai under the chairmanship of NC Pupala with M Madhavan as Secretary. The committee organised a seven day cultural festival to raise funds. Through these activities, M Madhavan helped the Malayali youth in the city to get involved in constructive social work on a big scale. In return, all this helped Madhavan to become the first and only Malayali Mayor of Mumbai.

Politics and Trade Unionism

All through the forties, fifties and sixties, several Malayalis were prominent in the Communist, Socialist and trade union movements in the city. Madhavan himself was a top Socialist Party leader and an associate of national leaders like Ashok Mehta and Moinuddin Harris. There were several trade union leaders like K T Chandy, A P Narayanan, Paramu and a host of others who were mainly aligned with the Communist Party and its various wings and feeder organisations. G P Nair was for some time the treasurer of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, under the presidency of S K Patil.

Industries and Business

Several Malayalis have been prominent in the industrial and business arena of Mumbai. Among them were

G P Nair (Pharmaceuticals), K N Menon (Damodarsons), M Balakrishnan (Cashew nut exporter), K M Philip (tea and coffee and rubber), Capt C P Krishnan Nair (Leela Lace and garment exports), Narayana Marar (hotels and restaurants), K M Ummer Kutty Haji, Uttan Koya Haji (Timber trade), B G Menon and P S Menon (aircraft maintenance) and hundreds of small traders. The vulcanising and tyre business were always dominated by Malayalis. Among them in the foremost was K N Nair.

Theatre and Literature

The Malayalam theatre has been strong in Mumbai. Among the earliest promoters were M N Kurup and P Nanappan, who both started with the cultural wing of the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj and then branched out to form their own organisations Kalanilayam and Experimental Theatres, respectively.

Kurup put on board several plays by prominent writers in Malayalam, and directed them himself. Nanappan's forte was the shadow play. His first play, was "Kshetram", which after a long and successful run, was staged with a new cast, fifty years later, a few years before Nanappan expired.

Ezhikara Ambujakshan and P V Kuriakose were two other playwrights who did commendable work on the

stage in Mumbai for several years. Ambujakshan won the Government of India award for national integration and Kuriakose won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award for his play.

Among others who contributed to the growth of the Malayalam theatre in Mumbai were P A Divakaran, P M N Menon, M Sadasivan, T K Baburajan, and Pamman (R P Menon) and Venu (S P Nair).

At one stage, there was demand for the presentation of some of the best Malayalam plays from Kerala in Mumbai. This were presented plays by K T Mohammed, P M Antony and the spectacular shows of Kalanilayam Krishnan Nair on specially prepared stages at the Cosmopolitan grounds at Wadala.

Malayalam writing also made a mark in Mumbai with writers like Kamala Das, Pamman, Soman Alapuzha, Manasi, P A Divakaran, Solomon Joseph, Viswanathan Palloor, V R Harshan, Dr T R Raghavan, V T Gopalakrishnan and Somanathan Choppad gaining recognition. Among those who attained celebrity status were Krishnan Parapally and C Radhakrishnan, who began his career in Mumbai.

Balakrishnan continues to regale his fans with short stories and other writings.

Kathakali had some great

votaries in Mumbai from the early 1940s. There were at that time giants devoted to the art like Guru Karunakara Panikkar, Guru Raghavan Nair, Krishnan Kutty, Kuttykrishnan, "Chenda" KrishnanPanikkar and others. V K Menon and T M Bhaskaran Nedungadi also helped promote Kathakali in Mumbai in a big way.

Several eminent medical practitioners have contributed much to the development of medical help in the city. Among them, one of the foremost has been the eminent cardiologist Dr K G Nair. Among the younger band is Dr M G Pillai, another cardiologist, and art connoisseur in the city.

Dr A R K Pillai has been doing silent but commendable work for leprosy eradication in the state.

Malayalis have been active in the spread of education in the city in a big way from the earlier stages. While G P Nair ran the Karthika High School, P A Menon has helped raise the Krishna Menon Academy into a first grade college in Bhandup. The Dombivli Malayali Samajam and the Borivli Malayali Samajam have been running excellent colleges in their respective areas, while the People's Education Society has been running the Adarsha Vidyalaya equally successfully.

Several Malayali organisations, including the Kerala Kendra Sanghataña, the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, the Keraleeya Muslim Jamaath, the Kerala Catholic Association and others have rendered valuable relief work to help rehabilitate the host of Malayali workers and migrants in Kuwait who had to flee the Gulf country in the wake of the Gulf War of 1991.

Malayalis in Mumbai have generally been a peace loving segment of the society, given to intellectual pursuits and promoting the arts and their own culture. Their impact on the English Press is commendable. Their thirst for intellectual pursuits is evident in the launch of the Mumbai editions of three Malayalam dailies - "The Malayala Manorama", "The Mathrubhumi" and "The Kala Kaumudi".

The city has had several periodicals from Malayalis. They include "Visalakeralam" of Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, "Marunadu" (run by N K Bhupesh Babu), "Ina Jwala" (run by U N Gopi Nair) besides the "Whiteline" edited by Anil Raghavan. "The Malayala Bhoomi" was another paper which had a short life.

"The Mathrubhumi" had plans to start a Mumbai edition as long ago as 1965 but ultimately landed up only in 1998. Similarly,

"Madhyamam" which had plans to launch a Mumbai edition, diverted it to Bahrain where it is flourishing.

There have been several film personalities who had tried their luck in Mumbai. Among them were Madhu who starred in K A Abbas' "Saat Hindustani", and later directed C Radhakrishnan's "Priya" shot mostly in Mumbai. Others who had worked in Mumbai for their film assignments included Padmini and Ragini. The Malayali presence was established with the arrival of Priyadarshan to direct a series of Hindi films. Many of them are remakes of his earlier Malayalam hits.

The earlier arrival of Yesudas in Mumbai as a playback singer in Hindi films, failed to take off, with only Ravindra Jain accepting him wholeheartedly for what some other Music Directors dubbed as "flawed" Hindi accent. The problem has been that Yesudas sang in pure traditional style preferring the Sanskritised accent for his lyrics, rather the usual hotch-potch North Indian style of singing. This has been a great loss to popular music in the country.



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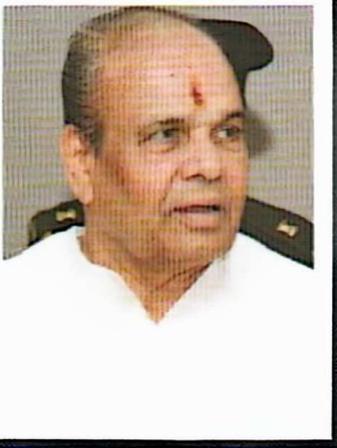
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K. Sankaranarayanan

Total co-operation would be extended to the state government in all its development activities, Governor Sankaranarayanan said in a statement issued to the media. His emphasis will be on the development of poor people of the state. While in Maharashtra he would be a Maharashtrian, he explained.

K. SANKARANARAYANAN NEW GOVERNOR

K Sankaranarayanan, the new Governor of Maharashtra took charge on January 22, 2010.

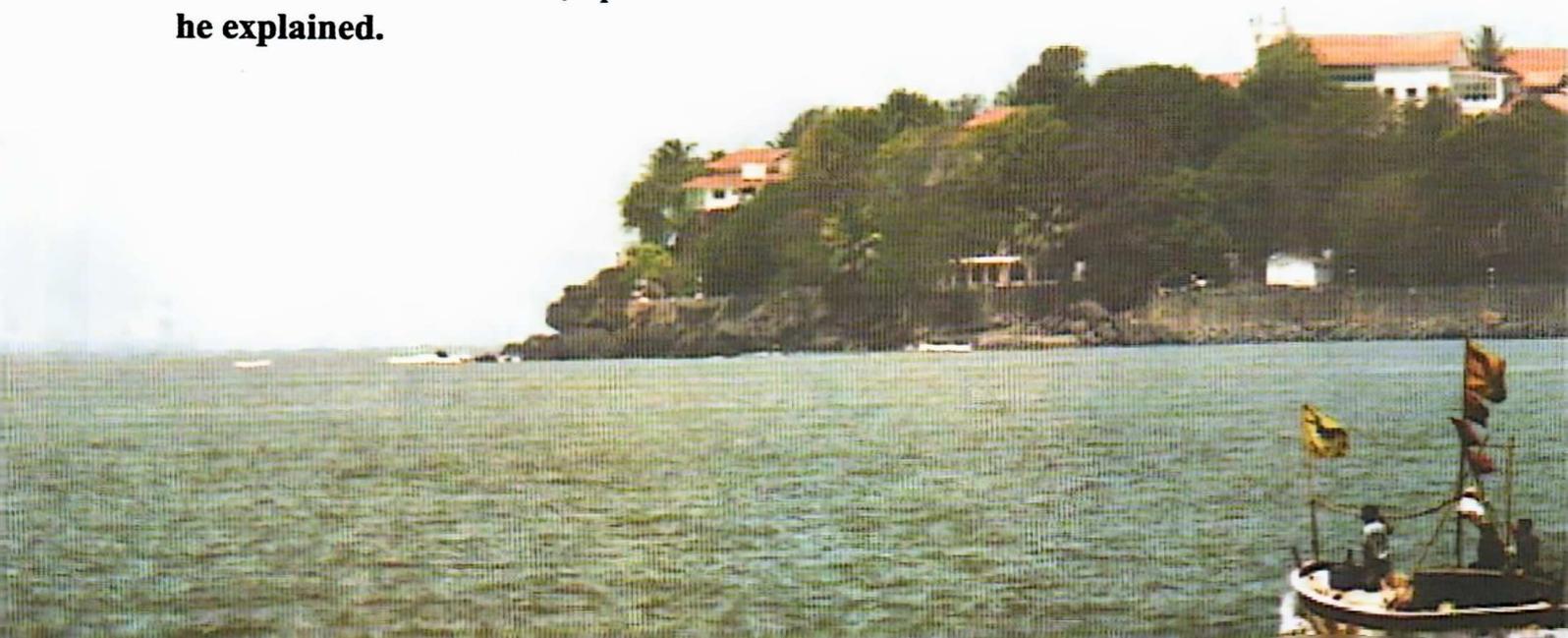
He is the third Keralite to be governor of Maharashtra. Earlier, P V Cherian and Dr P C Alexander occupied that chair. The latter later became ^a member of ^{the} Rajya Sabha. Shri Sankaranarayanan was born on October 15, 1932 at Shornur, in Palakkad district. He entered politics quite early in 1946. Thereafter from 1957 to 1964 and from 1964 to 1968, he was respectively the General Secretary and President of the district congress committee, Palakkad. From 1968 to 1972 he was general secretary of the undivided Congress. In 1972, he was appointed President of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee, a post he held till 1977. He was

also member of the Working Committee of AICC and All India Parliamentary Board member of Congress (O).

K Sankaranarayanan was elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly four times from different constituencies. He served as state cabinet minister under Shri K Karunakaran as well as Shri A K Antony. He held portfolios like Finance, Agriculture and Excise for various periods.

He was appointed as Governor of Nagaland in February 2007 and held additional charge of the Arunachal Pradesh and Assam for small stints before moving to the Jharkhand Raj Bhawan in July 2009 when it was under President's rule.

He is married to Prof. Radha (Ex-alumni of Ruia College, Matunga) and has a daughter.





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M K Narayanan

MALAYALI GOVERNOR FOR WEST BENGAL

Shri M K Narayanan has been appointed as Governor of West Bengal. Till now, he was a powerful advisor, as NSA, to Prime Minister. Dr Manmohan Singh. He was Chief of Intelligence Bureau during Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministerial term. But within days of settling down to Manmohan Singh's PMO, Narayanan became NSA, on January 25, 2005.

Mayankote Kelath Narayanan (born 1934) offered to resign on 30 November 2008 over the attacks in Mumbai that killed nearly 200 people, but his resignation was not accepted by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He had been heavily criticized for his preoccupation with Sri Lanka and the LTTE, instead of India's chief threat by Kashmir insurgents and Pakistan.

Narayanan headed the Intelligence Bureau (IB) from 1987 to 1990, before heading the Joint Intelligence Committee. He became Chief of the IB again in 1991, before retiring in 1992. He was the Special Advisor for Internal Security to the Prime Minister of India since May 2004.

M. K. Narayanan is married to Padmini.

SHIV SHANKAR MENON

NEW NSA



Shiv Shankar Menon

Former foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon is now National Security Advisor succeeding M K Narayanan who has taken over as West Bengal's Governor.

The 60 year old career diplomat holds the rank of Minister of State. Menon, who brings with him vast experience, had played key role in the negotiations on the historic Indo-US civil nuclear deal and in ending India's isolation in the atomic sector. He served as Foreign Secretary for about three years before retiring in July last year. Previously, he had a crucial three year stint as High Commissioner to Pakistan.

The 1972 batch Indian Foreign Service officer had earlier served in China, Israel, Austria, Japan and Sri Lanka. He was also advisor in the Department of Atomic Energy during the course of his diplomatic career.

His stint as Foreign Secretary ended with a controversy over the Indo-Pak Joint Statement issued in Shame-el-Sheikh following talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani in

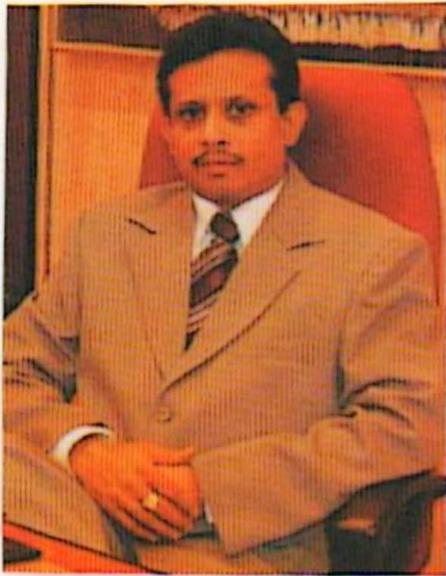
July last year. The government came under severe attack for allowing inclusion of reference to Balochistan and delinking talks from action against terrorism by Pakistan.

S S Menon is the third Malayali NSA in succession. Late J N Dixit and M K Narayanan occupied this post immediately before him. Incidentally, M K Narayanan was the local guardian of S S Menon when he was a student of Delhi University, at the request of latter's father Shri P N Menon then in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Shiv Shankar Menon has a great lineage to claim. Hailing from Palat family of Ottapalam in Palakkad, his great grand father was Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, the only Malayali President of Indian National Congress, grand father late K P S Menon was in Indian Civil Service, serving in Moscow as India's ambassador to former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and maternal uncle K P S Menon (Jr) was also in Foreign Service cadre. His father P N Menon was ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Abdul

Q - REAL STORY OF



The growth of K V Abdul Nazar and his brain child, Akbar Travels of India, we shall be reminiscent of the birth and growth of a banyan tree. A very small beginning and over the years, developed into a magnificent tree that would give shelter to many men and animals that pass by. It is a very inspiring story that should be taken as a role model by anyone who wants to grow and get ahead in life.

Abdul Nazar, the son of a humble post master of Ponnani, Kuttiali Master and

Fatima Beevi, spend his childhood in Ponnani which is still not a fully developed town. He had his high school education from A V High School, at one time the only school for the entire Ponnani taluk. After completing his SSLC in 1978, he left for Mumbai. Looking for opportunities for a suitable livelihood. The beginning was very humble and he helped his uncle in his small shop. Being a well known native of Ponnani, people in transit while going to Gulf countries searching greener pastures, would visit him and seek his help for securing passport, visa, steamer / air tickets. Without much concern for making any money out of the help rendered to the friends and strangers, Nazar naturally got familiarised with the various procedures of securing necessary documents required for foreign trips and travels inside the country. The seed of tour, travel and hospitality industries was thus planted in him.

Abdul Nazar remembers that he had no time to think about the difficulties and

obstacles on his way but continued to work with dedication and a sense of service. To him what was important was work and there were no problems that could not be solved if one applied his mind sincerely.

The humble beginner is now a provider of employment to more than 3000 people and the one room office has expanded to many buildings and branches in almost every city of India and the gulf regions. What he finds quite gratifying is that seldom his employees left him for other jobs; there are hundreds of employees who have stayed with him for decades. He attributes his success to the sincerity and dedication of his employees and the unstinted support they provided. He has never felt that the success is only for his personal benefit but is very keen to share it with his employees whom he considers as his own family.

Without much educational qualifications to boast of, he rose to newer heights and now his organisation occupies the No. 1 position

THE MONTH

Nazar

UNINTERRUPTED GROWTH

among all ^{those} engaged in travel and tourism industry in India. He has more than 100 branches all over India, of which 54 are IATA approved on their own merit. He has several franchisees, in many towns and villages across the country. Akbar Travels has diversified to other related business ventures too, such as hotels, resorts and a fleet of modern luxury buses carrying people coming from abroad and moving towards their native villages and vice versa. This way he reduced their problems of securing rail and air tickets. He has hotels, named Benzy, at many places in Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. He has 12 branches abroad, mainly in Gulf countries viz., Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Akbar Travels has total tour plans for those who proceed to Mecca for pilgrimages and every need of each member of the group is looked after to everyone's satisfaction. In most of ~~the~~ his offices, facilities for foreign

exchange are available. He has even diversified into the marketing of coconut oil and high end tyres, printing and distribution of petroleum products. His offices are fully computerised and online ticketing for all major airlines is available through www.akbartravelsonline.com Abdul Nazar states that there are no definite plans for development but everything happened naturally. What is important is firm faith in what one does and spare no efforts to complete the work to the best of one's ability and satisfaction. Nazar is happily married to Noorjahan of Ponnani and has three daughters Benzy, Shamiana and Ashia. Benzy after ~~securing~~ her graduation from Mumbai, proceeded to London and obtained her LL.B. degree from Cardiff University, UK and is now CEO of Akbar Holidays that manages the hotels and resorts. They also arrange package tours for tourists. Abdul Nazar has a totally

secular outlook, albeit being a practicing Muslim, in all his dealings and a firm believer in Vastu Shastra. It is very evident from look of his home at Colaba and office premises. During the holy month of Ramadan, each and every poor man who ventures to Trikkavu of Ponnani is given rice, clothes and money to meet their needs and no one is turned away. This practice is in force since the last quarter century. After meeting Abdul Nazar, one realises that humility and a sense of service with dedication and sincerity are the vital components of success in any business. In the absence of satisfying service, aggressive marketing might not succeed irrespective of what the business schools say. As Gandhiji once said, ^{customers} are masters and hence the opportunity to serve them would bring prosperity.

Yesudas

There is hardly a day that a Malayali does not hear the sound of his or her favourite singer Yesudas since the early sixties. Once he emerged on the field, most of the previous singers had to content with what he left for them. Now Yesudas has reached a milestone of his life by passing seventy years.

Early life and background

K. J. Yesudas was born on January 10, 1940 in Fort Kochi, into a Latin Rite Catholic family, to Augustine Joseph and Alicekutty. His father, who was a well-known Malayalam classical musician and stage actor, was his first guru.

His father was determined to turn his eldest son into a singer. He spared no efforts for it. There was a time when Augustine Joseph was the toast of the town. His house at Thoppumpady in Kochi was literally filled with friends and fans, who spent the day eating and talking. But when the man fell on bad days there were very few to extend a helping hand. Later he joined the RLV Music Academy in Thrippunithura and obtained the

diploma Ganabooshanam.

For a brief period, he was with Sri Vechur Hari Hara Subramania Iyer and then graduated from the Sree Swathithirunal Music Academy, Thiruvananthapuram. Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer was then Principal of the Academy. He also trained under K.R. Kumaraswamy (former principal of the Music College, Kochi), Kunjuvelan Aasan (a disciple of Nagaswara Vidwan Rajaratnam Pillai), Ramakutty Bagavathar, Sivaraman Nayar, and Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar at varied times. Although he is a Carnatic Music expert, he mastered Hindustani Music too. He has taken the words of Sree Narayana Guru, "One Religion, One Caste for all humans" to heart.

Young Yesudas grew up in penury, but he had set a goal for himself. There was his father's dream that he knew he had to fulfill. When he was taunted and scoffed at for being a Christian and attempting to learn



Carnatic music, when he was almost chucked out of the RLV Music Academy for defaulting on the monthly fees, when he was asked to sleep in the car shed of an eminent musician, when he had to travel miles in Chennai living mainly on tap water when music directors initially found him ineffective and then, when AIR, Thiruvananthapuram considered his voice not good for broadcasting - Yesudas suffered patiently. All these only acted as catalysts that sparked his long cherished dream.

All that the young singer needed was a break. And this he got through

Yesudas

Yesudas

at seventy

divine intervention. Director K S Antony needed a new male voice and the choice was Vaikom Chandran. But the noted stage singer suggested the name of the upcoming singer, who was by then making a mark through his musical rites. The film 'Kaalpaddukal' in 1961 saw the birth of a new voice. The few lines composed by Narayana Guru ironically expounded his life's policy of "one caste, one religion, one God". Success came fast to Yesudas.

He has won the National Award for the best male playback singer seven times, the most by any singer.

Yesudas sings Indian classical music, devotional and popular songs. He has recorded more than 40,000 songs in many languages including Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Bengali, Gujarati, Oriya, Marathi, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tulu, Malay, Russian, Arabic, Latin and English through his long career. He has sang in most Indian languages except Assamese and Kashmiri. He also composed a number of Malayalam Film songs in 70's and 80's. He is fondly called 'Gana Gandharvan' by his fans.

Career

Yesudas began his career in playback singing in the Malayalam movie Kaalpatukal and Tamil movies in the early '60s and by mid '70s he entered Hindi movies. It was the late Safil Choudhary who provided the break for Yesudas in Hindi films in 1976. His first venture Anand Mahal was not a big box-office hit though the Yesudas-Sabita number Aa Aa Re Mitwa... was noticed. It was the film Chit Chor under Ravindra Jain that really launched Yesudas in Hindi films.

In 2006, he sang 16 film songs in four South Indian languages on the

same day at AVM Studio, Chennai.

Yesudas has performed in many major cities around the world. In 1965, he was invited by the Soviet government to perform at music concerts in various cities in the USSR and also sang a Russian song over Radio Kazakistan. In 2001 he sang for album Ahimsa in Sanskrit, Latin and English and in a mix of styles including New-Age and Carnatic. In his music concerts in the Middle East he sings Arabic songs in the Carnatic style. He frequently did the role of a cultural ambassador of India through his performances abroad by promoting Indian Music.



Endowed with a "divine" voice and a penchant for hard work, it was a triumphant journey for him, becoming one of the most recorded artists ever. After winning scores of accolades including the coveted Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan honours he continues enchanting music lovers the world over.

He is the only singer who has been accorded the title Asthana Gayakan (Official singer) of Kerala State. In 1970, he was nominated to head the Sangeetha Nataka Academy of Kerala and thus became the youngest person ever to occupy that post. In 1971, Yesudas with his musical troupe travelled all over Kerala to raise funds for the Indian Prime Minister's National Defense Fund during the Indo-Pakistan War. He also became Senate member in the International Parliament for Safety and Peace. On November 14, 1999, Yesudas was presented with an honorary award by UNESCO for "Outstanding Achievements in Music and Peace" at the "Music for Peace" event in Paris, a concert held to mark the dawn of the new

millennium and whose attendees included artistes such as Lionel Richie, Ray Charles, Montserrat Caballé, and Zubin Mehta.

Because of his immense talent and popularity he is often preferred by music directors/producers to render songs which require the power factor and extreme variations in ragas mainly in big budget movies. The song 'Aadiyusha sandhya' from the movie 'Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja' is an example for his voice clarity.

Personal life

Yesudas is married to Prabha for more than 30 years. They have three sons, Vinod, Vijay and Vishal. The second son Vijay Yesudas is a playback singer in his own right and has won the Kerala State Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer in 2007. The family is currently settled in Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram. He also owns estates in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA and Flower Mound, TX, USA for personal and business reasons.

Titles, Honours and Major

Awards

Yesudas got his first recognition at the tender age of seven, when he won a gold medal for music at a local competition in Fort Cochin. He got the prestigious national award for best playback singer seven times: Manushyan Mathangale Srishtichu (Achanum Bappayum-Malayalam) in 1972, Padmatheerthame (Gayatri-Malayalam) in 1973, Gori Tera (Chit Chor-Hindi) in 1979, Akashadeshamu (Meghasandesham-Telugu) in 1985, Unnikale Oru Kathaparayam (Unnikale Oru Kathaparayam-Malayalam) in 1987, Ramakatha Ganalayam (Bharatham-Malayalam) in 1991 and for songs in the film Sopanam in 1993. He has won the award for the best playback singer in Malayalam ever since its inception in 1969, except for seven years-1987 to 1991 when had opted out of the race to facilitate opportunities for fresh talent. He picked up his 23rd state award last year. The list of titles, honours and awards won by Yesudas is unending. However a small list of important awards is given below:

- Padma Bhushan, 2002
- Padma Shri, 1975
- D.Litt by Annamalai University in 1989, by Kerala University in 2003, by Mahatma Gandhi University, in 2009.
- Asthana Gayakan (Official Singer) by Government of Kerala
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992
- Asthana Vidwan (Official Teacher) by Udupi, Sringeri, and Raghavendra mutts.



- Geetanjali Award by The ex-president of India Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.
- Sur Singar Samsad Award in 1976.
- Kalaimamani Award by Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Star of India Award by Lt. Governor of Pondicherry M.M. Lakshera.
- Mar Gregorius Award Governor RL Bhatia in 2006.
- The Annual Latha Mangeshkar Award by Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1992.
- Senate member in the International Parliament for Safety and Peace, an organization incorporated in the United States.
- An Honorary award for "Outstanding Achievements in Music and Peace" by UNESCO in 1999.
- National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer a record seven times by the Government of India, State Film Awards a record twenty three times for the best Playback singer by the Government of Kerala, State Film awards eight times for by the Government of Tamil Nadu, State Film awards five Times by the Government of Karnataka, State Film awards six times by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and State Film awards once by the Government of West Bengal. Early in 2009, Malayali music lovers flocked to see and feel the divine singer, when Raagalaya felicitated him at Shanmukhananda Auditorium. He was making his presence felt there after almost

three decades.

Music Festival

For the past 30 years Yesudas has been coming to Kollur Mookambika temple, Udupi, Karnataka on his birthday to sing keerthans of Saraswati devi, the Goddess of letters. The music festival was started from his 60th birth day. The nine-day music festival begins every January at Kollur Mookambika Temple.

Music Company

In 1980 Yesudas established the Tharangni Studio at Trivandrum. In 1992 the office and studio were moved to Chennai, Tamil Nadu and the company was incorporated in the US in 1998. Tharangni Studio and Tharangni Records became a recording center in Kerala which, for the first time, brought out audio cassettes of Malayalam film songs in stereo. The record company also had a voice mixing studio in Studio 27, Chennai. The studio continues to produce and presents events of Yesudas both for film and Indian classical music concerts throughout the world.

Modern challenges

Music is devotion for Yesudas and nothing mundane to distract him. When he made his debut in films way back in 1962, the recording process was simple and unsophisticated, though laborious. Imparting the needed feeling to the lines in the presence of the music director and other film technicians was comparatively easy. With recording going hi-tech and track recording turning out to be the

order of the day, 'emotion' usually became the causality. But this was not the case with Yesudas.

Even when recordings were done from his studios, set up at his residence in Florida, listening to just the track-recordings and with no clue of the story-line of the film, Yesudas was still able to breathe life into them, giving it the emotions that blend so well with the lyrics and most importantly, the scene itself. Some of the recent songs stand testimony to this quality, which none of the recent singers have been able to imbibe.

Every Malayali will ever pray that his favourite singer should continue to sing to enthrall them.



M G SREEKUMAR COMPLETES 25 YEARS OF POPULAR SINGING



In celebrity Sreekumar's Silver Jubilee Madhu Sukumari, Mohanlal Venjaramoodu Priyadarshan, Thambi Kannan-thanam, Ousep

pachhan, Johnson, Sharat Kaithapram, Udayabhanu Chitra, Madhu Balakrishnan etc were a few individuals were in the forefront. Many more were behind the stage.

In an interview, MGS said, "In whatever form of music whether it is pop or classical music is devised by the seven notes of Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha Ni and no one can alter it."

His father Malabar Nair was a vocalist as well as Harmonist. His mother was a music teacher. His brother M G Radhakrishnan a music director who composed music for many films and music albums and sister Dr Omanakutty a music exponent and reputed music teacher. When he joined the State Bank of Travancore as an employee, many wondered why he did it but MGS says it was a trial and he never regretted his move to

The voice of heroes of Malayalam cinema has changed without much apprehension or clamour when Yesudas paved way for M G Sreekumar by moving away to the US. It is a fact that for certain music directors and situations, Yesudas is still irreplaceable. Twenty five years ago, Sreekumar started singing behind the screen. Malayalam film music lovers and others have taken the initiative to celebrate this occasion in a grand manner.



resign from a job that provided hundred percent security to life, to join the music world.

Films

He entered the arena of film music, with a song under the baton of Raveendran Master for the movie "Coolie". Very soon he entered other regional films too. Besides singing for Tamil, Telugu and Hindi movies, he composed music for many devotional and festival albums. He gave his voice to many songs under well known music composers like M G Radhakrishnan, Raveendran, Johnson, Ouseppachhan, S P Venkatesh besides A R Rahman.

Camaraderie

MGS is fortunate enough to have a large number of friends. He believes that all personal differences, that one cannot ever avoid, can be resolved by discussion and an attitude of give and take. He values his friendship with Priyadarshan, Mohanlal, Sureshkumar, Maniyan Pilla Raju and so on.

Criticism and controversies

While he is amenable to criticism, he cannot tolerate allegations. He feels the people who make allegations have the responsibilities of proving them also. He was quite confident that he never robbed others' chances to sing but still had to bear the accusations. Malayalam movie buffs have

thorough knowledge about the range each singer who is capable of carrying off. All new comers have to explore the facilities available to them and take advantage of the situations. When he started his career, one had to go to Madras for recording. Now Kerala itself has many highly advanced studios. The major problem of present new comers is pronunciation.

Awards

MGS received his first national award for best playback singing in 1990 for the song "Naadaswarupini.." of His Highness Abdulla (Lyrics: Kaithapram, Music: Raveendran). After 10 years, he repeated the feat. This time it was for "Chandupottim..." of Vasantiyum Lakshmiyum pinne njanum (Lyrics: Yusuf Ali Kecheri, Music: Mohan Sithara). He also won state awards for 1989, 1990, 1991. Among them he likes Mayamayuram peeli charthiyo from Vatakkunokki Yantram and Kanneerpoovinte kavilil thaloti from Kireetam most. He also won many awards from other media. He acknowledges the importance of awards and recognition because it was them that give the sustaining energy to last long.

Most hurting moment

MGS was initially asked to sing all songs from His Highness

Abdulla but at the end he had only one song. Nevertheless, he won his first national award for that song alone.

Pure music

There are 72 Melakartharaagas out of which ten or fifteen are used to compose songs for the Malayalam movies. Sometime ago, there was a cry that pure music had come to an end in Malayalam films and from then on, the era of pop had started. When Yesudas came out with Kaliveeturangiyallo from Deshatanam and later Ammamazhakarinu.. Movie goers received these songs with love and respect.

His music composers S P Venkatesh allows a lot of freedom to singers while rendering the songs. He always encourages singers when they attempt improvisation. This helps the singers to give their best. Like him, A R Rahman, Ouseppachhan and Alex Paul also give similar encouragement. It results in reducing the artificial rendering. Under Raveendran Master, he has the maximum number of fast numbers and still, they could maintain the melody. It is also his fortune that he could sing under Laxmikant Pyarelal for Poonilamazha. And MGS was at a loss that he could not sing under Salil Chowdhary.

Singing with Lata Mangeshkar

MGS feels he is really lucky to

sing along with Lataji. For Dil Se, Rahman called him and asked to sing four lines, written by Girish Puthencherry and three months or so after rendering those lines, he was flooded with telephone calls, congratulating him for that performance. He also sang with Anuradha Padwal for Doli Sajakke Rakhna.

Music director

So far he has given music to three movies including one in Tamil. They are Kanchivaram (2009), Chathurangam (2002) and Thandavam (2002).

Kanchivaram

MGS considers the opportunity to compose music for an internationally acclaimed film Kanchivaram a great blessing in his career. He is ever obliged to Priyan for that opportunity.

Devotion to God

MGS is always grateful to God for giving his voice and maintaining it. He is also obliged to his wife Lekha whom he considers as a greater devotee and who prays for him and gives offerings in all temples on his behalf.

Mumbai and Mumbaites

MGS loves Mumbai and Malayalis who stay there. He loves to sing for them and stresses that no one appreciates his songs like Mumbaites.

He cuddled up his head, buried in her shoulder
When he shuddered she held him closer
With whispers of hope, she soothed his pain
For they had nothing to lose or nothing to gain.

They lived each day one at a time,
Their clothes tattered, faces plastered with grime
Through bitter cold and piercing heat they
would linger
Extended little hand wrapped up around her finger,
His tender little hand wrapped up around her finger.

She was all he ever needed,
She was all he ever loved,
Yet she was scared for him, and
within her was guilt she could never shroud.

She knew her ways were not for him
Soon, she'd have to let go off that little hand.
She wanted him to have a better life,
She hoped one day he would understand,
She knew that for him, she'd have to sacrifice
Else he too would join her in the same plight.
Two decades ago, as she breathed her last,
She said to him, "Son, through all these
I hope you make it fast".

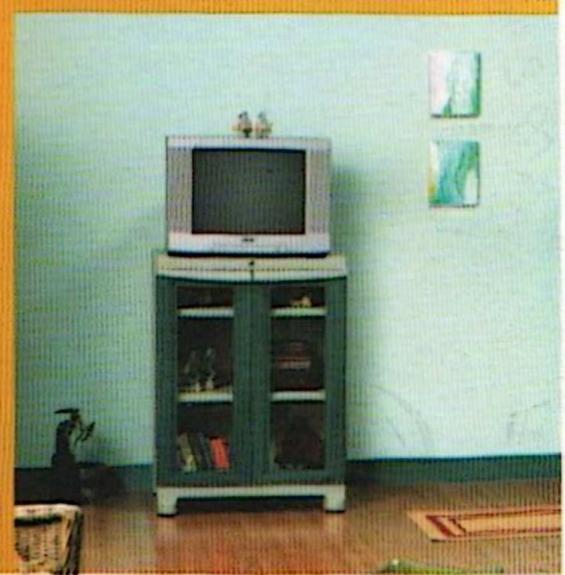
MY MOTHERLAND

He cried bitterly as he held her tight
And remembered that moment to this moment.

As he wishes she could see him now,
his eyes fill with tears.
Her beautiful face glistening with proud tears
For he had struggled and had made it through,
He had proved wrong all the fears.
All that he was, he was because of her
All that he became was her claim too,
He had nothing to remember his angel by,
Except bitter sweet memories of her- his Mother.

Marina George is a budding poet and writer. Her poem "My motherland" won appreciation at The Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial International Poetry Programme 2007.

Marina, 18, is a student of SNTD University pursuing her degree in Audio Visual Production and Literature.



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erala beckons

Munnar

Have you seen anywhere in the world the earth reaching out to kiss the sky? If not, come to Munnar to see the earth reaching out to kiss the sky? If not, come to Munnar to experience that heavenly feeling. Painted in a zillion shades of green and carpeted by lush tea gardens, the hills and valleys of Munnar unfold a world of delightful experiences. Cool, crispy mountain air refreshes you like never before as the fragrance of eucalyptus and lemon grass oil fills you with pure joy. Here you will rediscover life as you surrender yourself to the bewitching beauty of nature.

One of the most popular hill stations in India, the mist clad hill town Munnar, as the name indicates, is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. Located at 1600 Mts (approx. 5,000 feet) above sea level, this was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British Government in South India. The British planters who settled down here called it the Scotland of Kerala and experimented with many crops before settling for tea. Today, you can still enjoy the richness of old world Munnar along with its newer attractions.

Sprawling tea plantations, picture book towns, winding lanes, trekking and holiday facilities make Munnar a unique experience. Munnar is essentially a tea town. The tea plantations have now been taken over by the Tata Tea Company, and given to a society of their erstwhile employees for cultivation. The visitor is greeted with miles and miles of unending tea plantations on entry into Munnar. Here you can watch nimble fingers sorting and plucking tender tea leaves at the endless stretches of tea plantations. You may visit a tea factory for a firsthand introduction to the nuances of tea production while enjoying a sip of the tea. Kerala's premier tea

growing region, Munnar's claim to fame is tea. More than 12,000 hectares of lush, manicured tea fields form an irresistible canvas to Munnar.

Among the exotic flora found in the forests and grasslands here is the Neelakurinji, a flower which bathes the hills in blue once in twelve years. The Neelakurinji will bloom next in 2018.

Munnar also has the highest peak in South India Anamudi. If you feel young, take on the challenge of climbing this natural skyscraper that towers over 2695 Mts (approx. 8800 ft.). Cradled in a valley hemmed in by lofty hills, Anamudi looms high above Munnar town.

It is the highest peak south of the Himalayas. This majestic mountain was once a landmark for ships approaching the port of Kochi. Here you can soak up the spectacular scenery as you breathe in pure, unpolluted air. It is also an ideal spot for campers

who like to do some trekking.

The Duke of Wellington is reputed to have been the first European visitor to Munnar, in 1790, but this is unlikely. In the early 19th century, the headman of the villages of Anchanad, to the North of the high ranges was named Kanan Thevar. It is said that travelers from Madurai to the West coast passed through these villages and named these hills after him.

In 1877-79, the Poonjar Chief, a subordinate prince to the Maharaja of Travancore, leased a large tract of land comprising 588 sq. km. to a lawyer in the employ of the Travancore Govern-

ment named J. D. Munro. This tract, henceforth called the Kanan Devan Concession Land, was undeveloped, largely unexplored and covered with thick jungle full of wild elephants and tigers.

In conjunction with Munro and H. G. Turner of the Madras Civil Service was founded the North Travancore Land Planting and Agricultural Society, whose members developed their own estates in various parts of the High Ranges. This first cultivation was undertaken by A. W. Turner near Devikulam Lake in 1877. The pioneers tried many crops such as coffee, cinchona, sisal and cardamom before discovering tea, the product best suited to the area. The first tea plant



was planted by A. H. Sharp at Parvathi, now in Sevenmullay estate, but then a 20 hectares (50 acres) clearing in an immense jungle. In 1893-95, the concession area was purchased by Muir and Co. which later became James Finlay & Co. Ltd.

Largest Tea Company

The original route to the Anamellen's was cut out of the jungle in 1858 by Congreve and Macpherson and it led to what are now Veloine & Valparai Estates. The first plantation was 20 hectares (50 acres) of coffee put out in 1897 by "Carver" Mersh. E. J. Martin introduced tea a few years later and cardamom, cinchona and rubber were also added. The latter has now been mostly abandoned.

The Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company was formed in 1897, and together with other subsidiaries of the Glasgow, UK-based Finlays Group, namely, the Anglo-American



Direct Tea Trading Company and the Amalgamated Tea Estates Company it opened or came to purchase 33 estates in the high range and 9 in the Anamallais.

In 1964 a collaborative venture between Finlays and Tatas was established to develop value-added tea, and in 1976 Tata-Finlays Ltd purchased the black tea producing / marketing operation and other interests. The name

of the company was changed to Tata Tea Ltd. in 1983 when Finlays sold their remaining share holdings including the considerable landholdings and manufacturing facilities in Northeastern India. Tata Tea Ltd. justifiably claims to be the largest integrated tea company in the world, with activities spanning the entire spectrum of the industry.

Marayoor near Munnar is the only place in Kerala where sandalwood trees grow naturally. A visitor can take a

ride through this protected belt and also tour the sandalwood factory with prior permission from the forest department.

Mattupetty (13 km from Munnar)

Situated at a height of 1700 Mts, Mattupetty is famous for its highly specialised dairy farm, the Indo-Swiss live stock project. Over 100 varieties of high yielding cattle are reared here. Visitors are allowed into three of the eleven cattle sheds at the farm

Visit Time : 0900 - 1100 hrs and 1400 - 1530 hrs.

Rate : Rs. 5 per head. (Liable to change)

The Mattupetty Lake and dam, just a short distance from the farm, is a very beautiful picnic spot. The sprawling Kundala tea plantations and the Kundala Lake are other attractions in the vicinity. DTPC Idukki provides boating facilities on the Mattupetty Dam. Speed Launch and slow speed motor boats are

available on hire.

Pothamedu (6 km from Munnar)

Pothamedu offers an excellent view of the tea, coffee and cardamom plantations in Munnar. The rolling hills, the lush mountain and the breathtaking scenery here is ideal for trekking and long mountain walks.

Devikulam (7 km from Munnar)

This idyllic hill station with its velvet lawns, exotic flora and fauna and the cool mountain air is a rare experience.

The Sita Devi Lake with its mineral waters and picturesque surroundings is a good picnic spot. The lake is also ideal for trout fishing. Munnar is the only hill resort in South India besides Nilgiris to offer anglers the delights of trout fishing. You need a permit and have to bring your own fishing gear if you are keen on hooking the trouts. No live baits are however allowed.

Pallivasal (8 km from Munnar)

This is the venue of the first Hydro Electric

Project in Kerala and a place of immense scenic beauty.

Attukal (9 km from Munnar)

A panorama of waterfalls and rolling hills, Attukal, located between Munnar and Pallivasal, is a feast for the eyes. The place is also ideal for long treks.

Nyayamakad (10 km from Munnar)

Located between Munnar and Rajamala, Nyayamakad is a land of breathtaking waterfalls. The waters cascade down a hill from a height of about 1600 meters. The enchanting surroundings makes an excellent picnic spot and trekking point.

Chithirapuram (10 km from Munnar)

With its sleepy little cottages, bungalows, old playgrounds and courts, Chithirapuram still exudes an old world charm. Home of the Pallivasal Hydel Power Project, this hill town is also famous for its picturesque tea plantations

Lock Heart Gap (13 km from Munnar)

This is an ideal place for adventure tourism and



trekking. The fresh mountain air, the mist-clad hills and panoramic view make it worthy of a visit.

Rajamala (15 km from Munnar)

The natural habitat of the Niligiri Tahr, Rajamala is 2695 Mts above sea level. Half the world's population of the rare mountain goat or tahr which is fast becoming extinct, is now here, in small herds found in Eravikulam-Rajamala region. Thanks to stringent wildlife conservation and absence of poaching, these wild goats are now prospering.

Today they are the pride and mascot of Munnar. The total number of Nilgiri Tahrs in Rajamala is estimated to be over 1300.

Visiting Time : 0700 - 1800 hrs. Visitors are not allowed during the monsoon.

Entry Pass : Rs. 10 for adults, Rs. 5 for children below 12 years, Rs. 50 for foreigners. (liable to change)

Permitting Authority : Wild Life DFO, Munnar.

Eravikulam National Park (15 km from Munnar)

The 97 sq. km. park is situated in the Devikulam Taluk and is home to

the Nilgiri Tahr. The Anamudi peak (2695 Mts) is located in the Southern region of the park.

Originally established to protect the Nilgiri tahr (Nilgiri Ibex), the Eravikulam National Park is situated in the Devikulam Taluk of the Idukki District. It was declared as a sanctuary in 1975. Considering the ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological and zoological significance, it was declared as a National park in 1978. It covers an area of 97 sq kms of rolling grasslands and high level sholas (evergreen forests). The park is breathtakingly beautiful and

is easily comparable to the best mountain ranges found anywhere in the world.

Munnar has a Tea Museum, the first of its kind in India that will give a peek into the rich history of tea brewing in India.

Relics and artefacts from the past as well as historic photographs and pieces of period furniture will transport one to a different era. After that fascinating tour, one can enjoy the tea



berries, heady spices and aromatic oils like eucalyptus, lemon grass or citriodora are the other better known specialities of Munnar.

Reaching Munnar

STD Code: 04865

Nearest airport: Cochin International airport, Nedumbassery (120 kms, 4 hrs by road),
Phone: 0484-2610113

Thiruvananthapuram (302 kms, 9 hours by road)

Rail: Ernakulam (130 kms, 4½ hours by road)

Other towns: Idukki (165 kms), Cochin (140 kms)

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Tall Trees Resorts	4000-6000	230593	holiday@thetalltreesresworts.com
Tea County	4000-6000	230460	teacounty@vsnl.com
Rajagiri Inn	2800-3600	230589	Polytek_satyam.net.in
Deshadan	2500-5500	232910	reservations@deshadan.com
Munnar Woods	2200-3300	263625	kajoseph@safepowerindia.com
T & U Leisure Hotel	2111-5777	233081	mail@tanduleisurehotel.com
Windermere Resorts	2050-3500	230248	simon@windermereunnar.com
Abad Copper Castle	2000-2900	230633	
Spice Valley Resorts	1500-3000	230708	Coppercastle@vsnl.com
Camelot	1500-2600	231195	camelotmunnar@sancharnet.in
Edassery East End Hotel	1605-2295	230451	info@edasserygroup.com
High Range Club	1650-2200	230724	hrcmunnar@sify.com
Sterling Resorts	1600-3000	249205	
High Range Inn	1200-1600	230483	
Issac's Residency	1100-2200	230501	
Star Homes Igloo	1100-2000	63207	



YOUR NEW BORN CHILD

It is undoubtedly the mother's milk that is to be given to the new born child as the milk is very pure and contains everything the child needs. It occupies the first place among other foods and better than them as it provides immunity from most illnesses that a new born child is exposed to. It is advisable to feed

mother's milk every two hours. Since the water content of this milk is high, the child who feeds on this milk, need not be given water during initial months.

Ayurveda prescribes specific medicines to increase the Immunity of the child from sicknesses. It advises that the new born should be given honey, gold, gooseberry powder, ghee

and brahmi in moderate quantities. Gold is presumed to improve intelligence, longevity and complexion etc of the child. Gooseberry contains iron and vitamins. Ghee and brahmi improve intelligence and memory.

Normally after six months of birth, the child sometimes exhibits indifference towards



Dr Indira P Varier

food and suffers from indigestion. When the quantity of breast-milk is reduced or the child is introduced to other forms of food, these tendencies manifest. The indifference is due to the non-acquaintance to the new food. This can be overcome by giving food of different tastes. Rice, Ragi, green leaves and vegetables can be given after cooking and in smashed form. Fruits can also be included in the menu.

Cold, ulcer in the mouth etc may compel the child to refuse food. In such cases, a potion of tulsi leaves and honey may help.

If the child goes on crying with hand clenched into a fist and the legs folded, it may be

due to stomach ache.

While feeding, the child may suck in some air or develop intolerance towards lactose in milk or allergy towards cow milk etc. There can be reasons for stomach ache. When under pain or deeply scared, the child cries very fiercely, resulting in blockade to breathing and the body colour may turn bluish. This is a situation that needs serious attention.

The ideal food of the child is the one that suits body-nature and age but moderate in quantity and balanced. The meal should be such that it should increase the body weight according to the age of the child.

As the child grows up, it should be trained to maintain cleanliness so that many diseases can be prevented to a certain extent. Brushing the teeth, washing the mouth with water before and after food, toilet training etc. are part of this. The child should be aware of the needs and benefits of

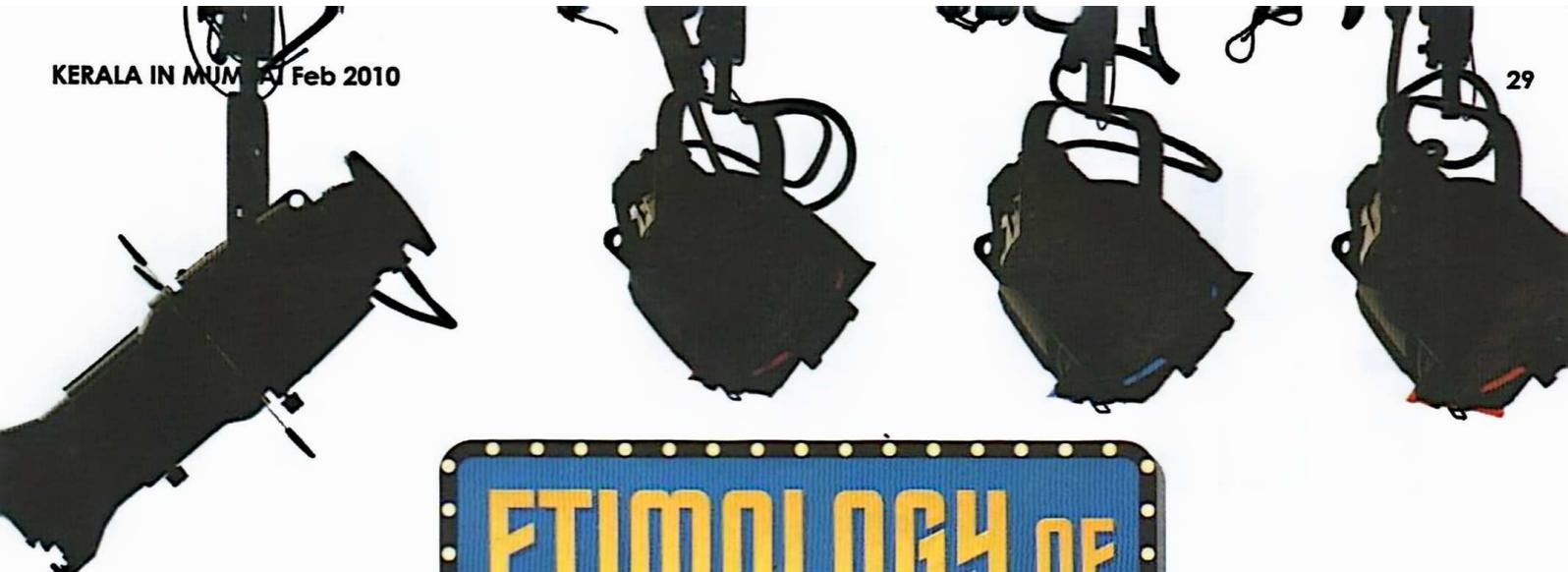
keeping a regular routine. A bath after applying oil on the head and body, would prevent skin diseases besides providing smoothness and fair complexion to the skin.

A happy childhood is a must for any child to have proper mental growth and physical health besides giving self confidence. Mental health is an elixir for the body's defence mechanism.

Tips:

1. Coriander: One or two teaspoons of coriander juice added to fresh butter milk is highly beneficial for digestive disorders.
2. Cummin seed: Diluted cummin seed (jeera) water is very useful for common cold and fever.
3. Fenugreek (methi): Cooked leaves help prevent anaemia.
4. Garlic: is one of the most effective remedies for lowering blood pressure.
5. Sandalwood paste is a good remedy for prickly heat. It prevent excessive sweating and heals inflamed skin.





ETIMOLOGY OF BOLLYWOOD

In the early 1950s and all through the '60s, the Mumbai film industry churned out a number of "adaptations" and unabashed plagiarised versions of Hollywood movies. Those were days when special previews were arranged for film critics of English films on Wednesdays and Hindi or Marathi films on Thursdays.

That was also a period when Mumbai's newspapers had a bunch of well informed film critics. There was L P Rao of "Filmfare", Bunny Reuben of "The Indian Express", and later of "Filmfare", Gulshan

Mehta (later Ewing) of "Current" and later of "Eve's Weekly" and "Star and Style", U H Khan of "Ajmal", Pathanjali Sethi of "The Times of India", Burjor Pavri of "Mumbai Samachar" and this writer of "The Free Press Journal". It was a well knit group that could not be influenced by film publicists or the few film publicity organisations of the time. In sheer desperation, they dubbed the group "The Syndicate". This was two decades before the epithet gained political currency.

"The Syndicate" in turn dubbed any Hindi film which had any resemblance to a Hollywood film, as a

"Bollywood" product to stigmatise it.

Much later, the term Bollywood came to be worn as a badge of respectability by the entire film industry in Bombay. Those who knew the origin of the word still do not use it except in its derogatory context.

Only two leading figures of the Mumbai film industry have till now sought to persuade the industry and fans from using this epithet, quiet unsuccessfully. The two are Shabana Asmi and Amitabh Bachchan. This writer still gets gooseflesh each time he hears members of the film industry flaunt it as something to be proud of.

PKR 



MUMBAI FILM INDUSTRY

Undoubtedly, during the just past year, Neelakkuyil and Chemmeen besides those made their fortune or recovered the costs at the Box Office.

a few other Among the notable films that the patrons waited to view, are 3 Idiots, Blue, Malayalam . Chandni Chowk to China, m Dil Bole Hadippa!, Firaq, Gulaal, Kambhaqt Ishq, Kaminey, Rocket Singh,

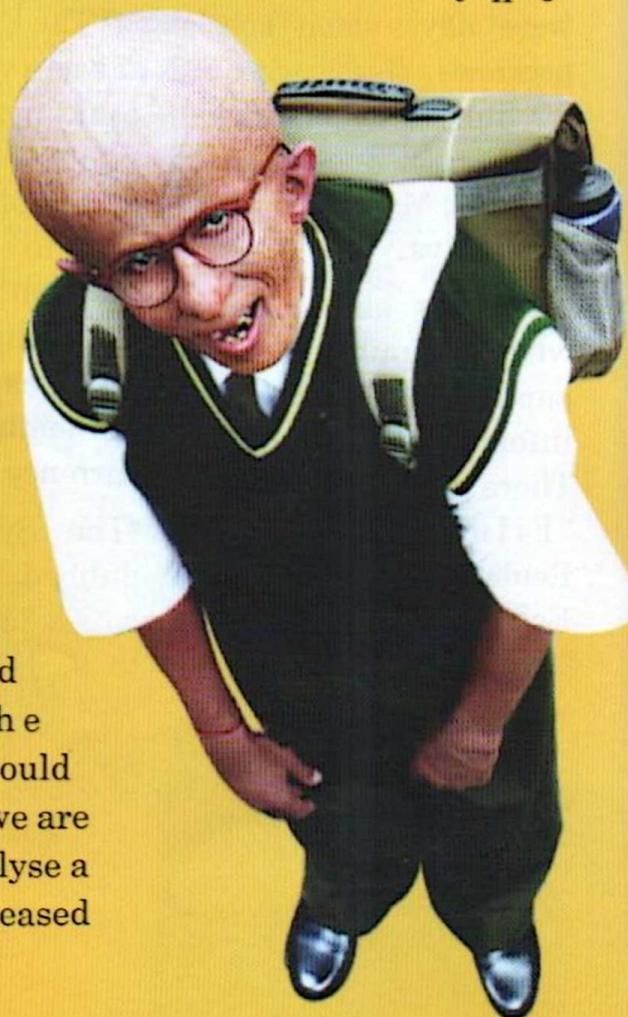
THE YEAR THAT WAS

Our Film critic

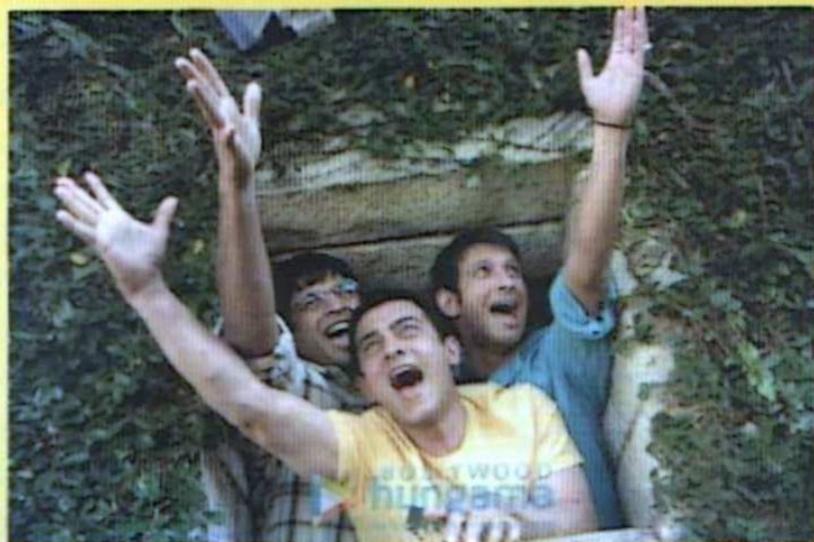
Malayalis never had an exclusive loyalty to films made in their mother tongue but enjoyed all movies made in other languages, be they Tamil, Hindi, English or Telugu. Barring a handful, no Malayalam film, however successful it was, ever celebrated silver jubilee in Kerala. Only two movies had a continuous run of fifty or more weeks in Kerala, and they were Jeevitanoorka (1951) and Kutti Kuppayam (1964) besides a from-Hindi-to-Malayalam dubbed movie titled Jeeveeta Samararam(1971).

movies had a run of over twenty five weeks in Kerala. However, NO Hindi movies ever had a run of twenty five weeks in Kerala. Nevertheless, Malayalis always loved Hindi movies and considered its stars as their own. Despite poor knowledge of Hindi, they cherished Hindi movies because seeing their heroes and heroines and listening to the melodious songs would enthrall them. What we are now aiming, is to analyse a few Hindi films released

Slumdog Crorepati for various reasons. Their star cast, director, novelty, theme, hype etc are some of the



reasons that aroused their curiosity. When they felt cheated, the movies nosedived. The Aamir Khan starrer 3 Idiots led the march to the box office. Though



released during the last week of 2009, within four days of release, it recovered the estimated cost of Rs 50 crores (about Rs.240 crores worldwide in seven days) and dived head-through to profit while the costliest movie ever made in Hindi, Blue nose dived.

During the year in question, more than Rs. 1,500 crores were spent in churning out more than 200 movies and incurred a loss of more than Rs.1,000 crores, so proclaims the trade analysts. Adding insult to injury, a strike by multiplexes added to the producers' woes, and the loss on this account is nearly Rs.350 crores. This strike resulted in the delay of releases of many movies, often compelling them to vie for space along with the big ones of the industry. Some exhibitors nicknamed

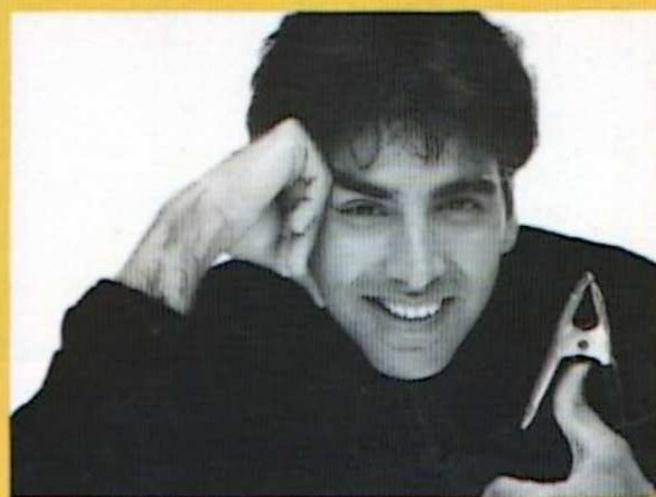
this phenomenon as "cannibalisation".

The first major film to hit the ground was Chandni Chowk to China, produced at an estimated cost of Rs.65 crores. The audience was least concerned with the amount spent on the film (that was of course the producers' concern) but opted for content, novelty and the style. DevD, a movie with a new face as hero and an adaptation of Saratchandra Chatterjee's much-made Devadas including the recently made opulent version by Sanjay Leela Bansali, made at less than 10% of the cost of CC2C, surprised the serious movie watchers by securing a win at the BO, collecting more than Rs.25 crores. Movies

Ajab Prem Ki Gajab Kahani, Love Aaj Kal, Wake Up Sid and Wanted are considered hits while All The Best, De Dana Dan, Paa, Raaz 2 are also said to have made

profits.

The costliest star of 2009, Akshay Kumar had to suffer a set back when CC2C and Blue flopped while Rani's Sardar could not save Dil Bole Hadippa!. Nandita Das, a delight to watch as an actor, made her debut as director with Firaag and surprised the fans with her contribution. Ranbir Kapoor, son of former chubby romantic hero Rishi Kapoor and Nitu Singh, appears to have soared high with the success of Rocket Singh. Gulaal, the second presentation of Anurag





Kashyap during the year, did not disappoint the fans while the dubbed English film *Slumdog Crorepati* that caught the fancy of Indians when they could see a truly Indian story with Indian actors with high technical values had a field day. The fact that main actors were all new and the background glorified poverty and the dark side of Mumbai, did not deter them from flocking into the theatres. That it received a number of Oscars too, was a bonus.

The only actor with a hat trick at the BO, Aamir Khan ensured that *3 Idiots* entertained the audience and harvested the good crops. Generally, all critics were unanimous in their opinion that it was a good film worth watching, while a few dissented that the climax was a little procrastinated to lose its earlier impact. During the year in question, two of our female actors were busy in Hollywood trying their luck there. *Slumdog Millionaire* actress Frieda Pinto and Mallika Sheravath, the latter was grabbing media attention for all wrong reasons. She enacted the role of a snake-woman with a highly seductive look. It is yet to be known if she makes the mark there.

All the bitter facts never really taught any lessons to film makers and one can only hope that they would be back with better investments and brains. Good luck!

Raagaratnamaalika-1

[Kerala in Mumbai is bringing out a new path to classical music through print media. Lovers of Carnatic Music, with an initiation, can go through this column and if they benefit, our efforts will be gratified. However, we emphasize that to master the Raagams, the guidance of a Guru is vital. This column is written by well Known Mallika Bharathan and Ragesh Revi.]

MĀYĀMĀLAVAGOU LA

This is the Rāgam through which the students are introduced to Carnatic Music. It is the 15th MĒLAKARTTĀ Rāgam. It is similar to *Bhairav* of Hindustani classical.

ĀrōhaNam: S R₁ G₂ M₁ P D₁ N₂ Ś

AvarōhaNam: Ś N₂ D₁ P M₁ G₂ R₁ S

It, like all the other 'mēLakaRTTā' Rāgams, is a Sampūrna Rāgam, i.e., it has all seven notes (*swarams*) in both ārōhaNam and avarōhaNam (ascending and descending orders of swarams).

This rāgam is a sarvakālika rāgam i.e., it can be rendered during any time of the day. The swarams are Śadjam, shuddha RiŚabham, Antara Gāndharam, shuddha madhyamam, Panchamam, shuddha DaivaTam and Kākali NiŚadam.

MāyāmāLavagouLa was initially known as MāLavagouLa. It was to suit the 'katapayādi sankhya' that the word 'māyā' was added to it. This is a 'RakTi Rāgam', with Gāndharam and NiŚadam as Rāga chāyā Swarams.

MāyāmāLavagouLa is a 'dwiswara mūchanā kārakā' rāgam i.e., if you convert its RiŚabham or madhyamam as ādhāra Śadjam, you get the new rāgams, Rasikapriya and Simhendra madhyamā respectively.

Major *krūtis* in MāyāmāLavagouLa:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 1. meru samāna | Ādi | Thyagarāja Swamikal |
| 2. dēvadēva kalayāmi | Rūpakam | SwaTi TirunāL. |
| 3. Shrē NaThādi Guruguhō jayaTi | Ādi | MuTTuswamy DēkŚiTaR |
| 4. MāyāTēTha SwarūpiNi | Rūpakam | Ponnaiyya PLLa |

Film songs have rarely been based on this rāgam. Some are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. PavanarachezhuTunnu | Vietnam Colony |
| 2. Initial parts of RājamāTamgi | BhāraTam |
| 3. Pallavi of Om MāyāmāLavagouLa | SwaTTū |
| 4. MuLkireetami TenTinu nalki | Bharya |
| 5. AmbalaviLakkukāL | Divyadarshanam |



Malayalam cinema has taken many bold strides, technically as well as methodically. Media during the year was critical about the ways the Malayalam film industry treaded. Nevertheless, it is not yet time to write off this popular entertainment medium.

More numbers

During 2009, more than 80 movies including dubbed ones, were



Malayalam Film World

released. An overall increase of 10 over the number in the previous year. People hitherto glued to the drawing rooms thronged the theatres. Weekends witnessed sign boards of 'Housefull' at least in majority of city film halls.

Release Base Widened

Malayalam film industry followed other language and mainstream Hindi film production houses to save itself from the dangers of piracy. The earlier practice of releasing a few prints only in 'A' class theatres, was abandoned flooded more prints, in certain cases, to about 100 theatres. Many Tamil and Hindi films made deep



inroads into Kerala, reminiscing old days. Vijay's 'Vettaikkaran' was released in 4 halls in the Capital city on a single day. B and C theatres got an extended life with the advent of satellite releasing mechanism. Family turn out in rural cinema halls doubled as Super star films spread over to even rural theatres on release date.

Association, debates and byelaws

Policy decisions and actions by the newly constituted body of Cinema workers are to yield results in the near future. The producer and production controller are the only personnel who can have the luxury of mobile phones at locations. Axe has fallen on production cost with an upper limit at Rs 3.5 crores. Slight adjustments can be permitted for subject oriented films. In any case prior approval of script and projected expenses by the Association is mandatory.

Stars in the making

When the long rein of Mammooty, Mohan Lal, Suresh Gopi, Jayaram, Dileep etc. is about to be over, Prithvi Raj, Jayasurya, Naren Indrajith and Kunjacko Boban are waiting to take over. Reema Kallingal and Archana Kavi are deemed to be the new generation heroines. Young brigade staged quite a few box office hits. And the supermen had no hesitation in carrying them along their side. Strong expectations are on for Mohan Lal- Prithvi Raj combination coming up in 2010 on the foot steps of Mammooty-Jayasurya team work in 2009. Super director Lal Jose is set to line up Mohan Lal-Prithvi Raj team in his new

venture. Prithvi Raj - Jayasurya chemistry has worked wonders. 2010 may witness a few more super hits in their kitty.

The year that was

Not only the number of films but the production cost also witnessed all time high in 2009. The highest ever production cost of Rs 25 - 27 crores in Malayalam industry was recorded by Pazhassi Raja. Some cut in cost has seen films like 'Robbinhood' ending up in the profit column. Strategic failure in Marketing floored Dileep's 'Swantham Lekhakan' whereas Mohanlal's 'Sagar Alias Jackie' went through marketing gimmicks. Prithvi Raj's 'Robbin-hood' had the initial zing but fell half way through. Debutant Renjith Sanker's 'Passenger' was not a passer by. The Sreenivasan - Dileep combination clicked without the usual songs-dance sequences and satire.

Mastero Adoor Gopalakrishnan's 'Oru Pennum Randanum', T V Chandran's 'Vilapangalkkappuram' got National and International recognition. Renjith and a 10 member directoral team had a combined effort in 'Kerala Cafe' with each one dealing with a different story. The experiment got accolades from the audience. Director Jose Thomas donned the role of producer in 'Pathaam Nilayile Theevandi', scripted by Dennis Joseph and directed by Joshi Mathew. Innocent-Jayasurya combination in this film has set up a tone for the future. 2009 witnessed Mammooty entering the fray into distribution, floating his own setup.

The best 15

1. **Kerala Varma Pazhassi**

Raja - put up a few mile stones in Malayalam film world, the highest ever production cost, longest ever shot film. It took nearly 3 years to complete the film; entering the record books. Oscar winner Rasool Pookutty's spot sound recording capped it all. MT-Hariharan team work brought appreciation and gate collection for the film having completed 50 days. The satellite-rights of the film has gone at Rs 3 crores, an all time high in Malayalam film industry. Mammooty was ably supported by Tamil Super Star Sarathkumar. Manoj K Jayan, Suman, Padmapriya and Kaniha also made a mark in the film produced by Gokulam Gopalan for Gokulam movies. The crusade by Director Hariharan in making the film a reality was commendable.

2. **Paleri Manickam-Oru Paathira Kolapathakathinte Katha** - masterpiece by script writer/director Renjith, based on a novel by T P Rajeevan. The film shot into limelight with Mammooty standing out along side a script which fits into history. The story revolves around the first murder case reported in the state during the tenure of the first elected Communist Ministry in Kerala. Its a must-see movie.

3. **Bhramaram** - Blessy has always been a different kind of director. Bhramaram was not upto the mark with the Blessy touch but people did accept it. Script, Mohanlal's prolific acting and the photography of Ajayan Vincent stood out.

4. **Loud Speaker** - Jayaraj's notable number went unnoticed. It is the first ever Malayalam film to be spot dubbed. Media man Sasikumar made his debut in tinsel. The story revolves around a Village man nicknamed 'Mike' for speaking aloud.

5. **Passenger** - Renjith Sankar the debutant script writer needs to be appreciated for the excellent work in making the film not a passer by. The script befits present day society, shot without any extravaganza happens to be the only box office hit for actor Dileep in 2009.

6. **Evitam Swargamanu** - Axe fell on songs recorded for this Mohanlal film, so as to make the film a smooth one. The three-in-one mechanism - Mohanlal's easy style of acting, James Albert's Script and direction by Roshan Andrews - made this Christmas release a hit. A thrilling climax has done the trick.

7. **Bhagyadevatha** - Sathyan Anthikkad-Jayaram team did wonders through a story neatly narrated. A few newcomers were introduced by the director. Ilayaraja's composition for Vayalar Sarathchandra Varma's lyrics also contributed for the success.

8. **Puthiyamukham** - Nothing new about the story. Exposure of Prithviraj as a masculine hero combined with action packed scenes, hitherto unknown to Malayalam films, made it a superhit. Fight master Anil Ambaras earned much more applause than the director for the extraordinary fight scenes. The film is noted for one of the greatest hit songs of 2009

'Pichavecha naal muthal'.

9. **Neelathamara** - legendary script writer MT Vasudeva Nair rewrote it after 30 years, this time teaming up with Lal Jose. The young generation took it as their own. But the initial pull could not be continued for many reasons even though the new entrants, both hero and heroine, made a name. Mumbai based Malayalee singer Sreekumar also made his mark.

10. **Sagar Alias Jackie** - Pre publicity and marketing techniques took its toll on the film, and it did not make an impact. A different film with perfect shots, in tune with Hollywood, may be recognized in future.

11. **In Harihar Nagar** - the 2nd edition of the film scripted and directed by Lal turned simply a great hit in 2009

12. **My Big Father** - Mahesh Vasudevan can boast of having utilized the special features of the shortest actor in Guinness book to be the father of not too short Jayaram in this comedy number. Mahesh's second innings as a director enabled him to add his name in the list of hit makers with jovial and lighter packed scenes.

13. **Kerala Cafe** - a rare experiment with 10 different stories made out by 10 different directors. Except for Anwar Rasheed's 'Bridge' and Lal Jose's 'Puram Kazhchakal', there was no story line for other 8 pieces.

14. **Swantham Lekhakan** - P Sukumar - actor turned cameraman- made his debut as director through the film. Dileep - Gopika (first time after

marriage) team did not go well with the audience. A good story neatly executed, should have been a hit. What went wrong and where, is yet to be assessed.

15. **Aayirathil oruvan** T A Razak won the best script writer award for this film in the previous year, but the film was released in 2009 only. Kalabhavan Mani exhibited his acting skills once again under Sibi Malayil and the film was partially accepted by the audience.

War of words, wits and instances

1. "My sound is killed by theatres across the state", complained Rasool Pookutty on the sound system prevalent majority of cinema halls. Poor Rasool does not know that even the urinals are not up to the mark in theatres of Kerala, then who cares for sound?

2. Director Vinayan, the lone fighter, announced a new film 'Yakshiyum njanum' (the devil and me) immediately after crossing of sides by Baiju Kottarakkara and others to the opposite camp.

3. Kavya Madhavan returned to film pavilion after a first ball dismissal in marriage pitch. Her home coming was widely welcomed with SMS bouncers from the gallery.

4. Manoj K Jayan and Urvasi were cross-examined by Media for their act of separation. But it remains to be seen as to who scripted their story of divide.

5. Mohanlal took objection for 'Avatar'- like big budget films

getting into theatres in festival season. He wanted many an Avatar to take lessons from other states where regulations are on for release of other language films.

6. Suresh Gopi fans raised many an eyebrow for Mohanlal being adorned with Lt. Colonel, for they feel Suresh Gopi, for his innumerable police outfits and unaccountable English phraseology, could have been made a PC at least.

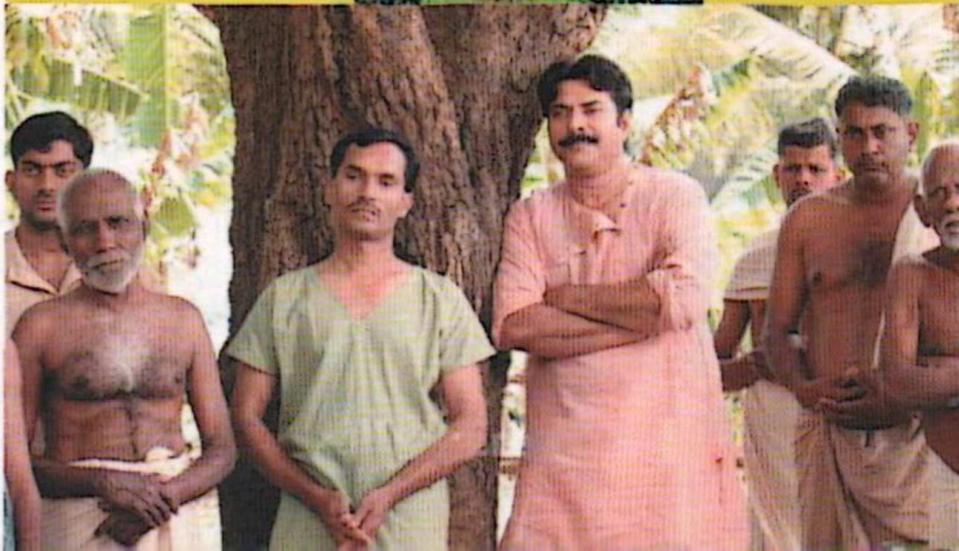
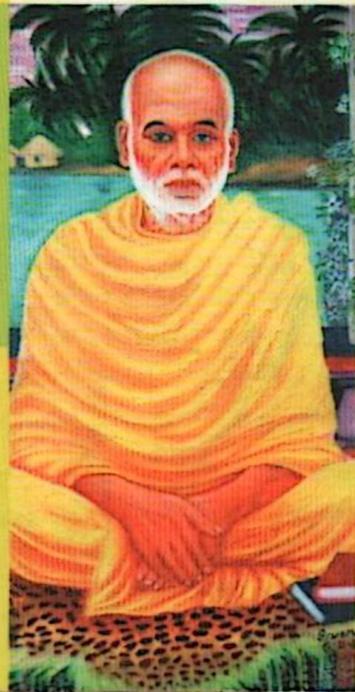
7. Navya Nair married Santosh Menon. He works in a Mumbai company and resides at Powai.

Yugapurushan to be released on February 5

The life of Sri Narayana Guru who sought to end the evils of untouchability in Kerala, is again filmed by director R Sukumaran who spent five long years researching the life and work of Gurudevan. The film is aptly titled "Yugapu-rushan" and is being released on February 5, 2010 with about 60 prints. Shri A V Anoop (Medimix) is producing the film under the banner of AVA Productions.

While Tamil actor Thalaivasal Vijay has donned the mantle of Gurudevan, Mammooty appears as a revolutionary youth of that time. Jagathi Srikumar, Kalabhavan Mani, Sai Kumar, Devan, Navya Nair and Kalpana are the other artistes.

Earlier two movies were made on the life of Sree Narayana Guru: Kalpatukal and Sree Narayana Guru. It was in Kalpatukal that Yesudas made his debut as a playback singer.



Liquor

The sales statistics available from the Kerala Government Beverages Corporation is thought provoking as well as startling.

It is amazing that this corporation is bringing in money for the government for meeting the administrative and other expenses in a praiseworthy manner while almost all government corporations are running heavy losses due to mismanagement. Or, could it be that despite mis-management, KSBC manages to make a positive contribution? A committee or commission could be appointed to study this grand phenomenon. Following points could be recommended if this writer is

appointed head of the proposed committee or commission that can comprise individuals from political, judiciary and academic fields besides people from other sections.

1. Employees from Beverage Corporation should be deputed to other corporations and industries to train them on how, despite being a government body, they could make positive contributions to the public exchequer. Considering Lalu Prasad Yadav who effectively governed Bihar for over fifteen years, could bring a turnaround in Indian Railways and could contribute to the general revenue of Government of India, this could be a novel

idea.

2. While the actual sale of liquor from April 1 to December 31, 2009 is Rs.4,026 crores, the expected sales figure by the end of the financial year is to touch Rs.5,300 crores. The increase in sales is 18% over the same period of previous year. As in the past, this is a progressive aspect and could be considered for further enhancement.

3. The price of liquor in Kerala is arrived at as the total of cost charged by the manufacturer, 100% excise duty and 99% sales tax. This is worked out as 84% of the price of bottle. Possibility of increasing this percentage could be studied seriously.



SALE IN KERALA

4. The sales on Christmas eve and New Year eve are respectively Rs.28 crores and 30 crores. Between these two days, there was one bandh also called by a trade union controlled by BJP. The figures of sales on the eve of this bandh are not provided for obvious reasons. Possibility of finding more such eves could be explored.

5. It was further revealed that the sales were always high around Karunagappalli but this year Chalakudy beat them because the shops at the former place could be opened only during evening because of a tanker calamity nearby. Since more and more tankers are involved in accidents in Kerala, the possibility of prohibiting tankers plying on the road could be explored.

6. Since Chalakudy could get an opportunity to break the monopoly of Karunagappalli, same opportunities could be given to other towns also. After all our constitution promises equal opportunities to all. To increase the level of challenge, every ward of all panchayats of Kerala should be allotted a retail outlet each. This would reduce the hardships of village folks too for procurement besides instilling a scare in Goliaths like Karunagappalli and Chalakudy of getting defeated by the Davids, and in turn eliminate their lethargy.

7. Kerala is leading the country in the field of education as well as consumption of beverages. The close nexus between the two could be subjected to

research and all universities be directed to undertake these studies. If proved positive, more educational institutions could be opened and free education to all upto the post doctoral studies can be considered. The fact that this is self supported need not be publicised.

8. Consumption of liquor and death due to liver sclerosis are, it is known to all, interlinked. Because of this, many people are hesitating to consume liquor beyond a limit, thereby adversely affecting the sale of the divine drink. If more and more hospitals are provided with advanced techniques and infrastructure facilities, people may be encouraged to come forward. The option of providing free liver transplantation to the patients of liver sclerosis also could be considered. The expenditure involved also will soon be self financing.

9. Since most of the liquor manufacturers are operating from outside the state, a lot of delay takes place in procuring the material. Hence government should seriously consider if it could force the manufacturers to shift production to Kerala. Since marketing will not be a problem, the companies will be very happy to accept the proposal and they also get a highly skilled labour force to carry out the operations. The frequent labour agitations will not be a prick on their skin as this would also boost the sales.

10. It is high time that the government should consider improving the poultry industry in the state itself as this would have

a feeder aspect for the sale of liquor. Tamilnadu may not be very happy to see the progressive strides Kerala makes and therefore there is every likelihood that they would put obstacles in the transportation of chicken to Kerala. If it happens, there would be an adverse cascading effect in Kerala as far as the liquor sale is concerned. However, the sale of fish will not fortunately be affected.

11. The illicit country liquor manufacturers mix their potion with many traditional materials such as lead, black millipedes, ammonium chloride etc to improve its 'kick'. Will it not be praiseworthy to legalise them and get Beverage Corporation procure their product? This would reduce the unemployment in the state too, while transferring the excise officials to the Police departments, strengthening the police force. The income of the state also would increase considerably as presently the proceeds of the sales of illicit liquor do not augment the finances of the government.

12. Since the sale of liquor is always high on the eve of any public holiday, government can also ponder over the possibility of creating more and more public holidays on the birth days and death anniversaries of all past excise ministers and chief ministers. This would ensure at least seven public holidays per week by 2050 AD.

It is hoped that the state government would appoint the commission or Committee very soon. It is assured that I would not seek any extension of the time to submit the report as it is already drafted.

BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS in Mumbai

It is amazing that despite all the work load, our politicians are still carrying their intelligence and wisdom. More senior they are, their assets increase. For example, recently our intelligent corporators have recommended to the state environment department, not a ban on plastic bags below 50 microns, but to penalise people using carrybags made of plastic below that value. They suggested a fine of Rs. 5 to Rs 10 on anyone carrying materials in such bags. They also asked necessary amendments to the Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Carbage (Control) Ordinance 2006.

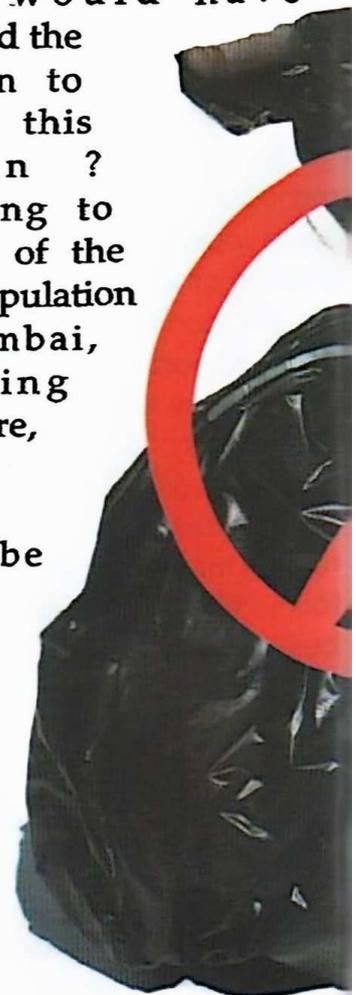
Idiotic mortals like us may wonder why this ban when a simple ban on manufacturing such carrybags and impose a penalty of Rs.5 crores to 10 crores on those who violate the ban, can do the trick. After all, the number of manufacturers of carrybags is much less than the number of people willing to carry them and it would

take less people to catch them. Think of the thousands of people moving slowly at places like Byculla and Dādar markets or any other markets and suddenly the officials pouncing upon them to recover the penalty. Each person then dig his fingers into the pocket, pulling out a note of Rs.5/- and the official slowly making a receipt for the amount. This would certainly give the 'aam admi' to remain in the market for no reason for a little more time and force others waiting to buy their daily ration and pay their fines too.

A few things are not clear yet to me: (1) If a person is carrying more than one carrybag, does he have to pay only Rs. 5 or Rs.5 each. (2) Who will determine if the thickness of the carrybag is below 50 microns, 50 microns or above 50 microns. Will the official deputed to levy the fine, carry a micrometer to determine the exact thickness. (3) If there is a dispute about the thickness of

the bag, will the official lend his micrometer to the individual concerned to cross check or does the latter have to carry his own micrometer? (4) Will the official insist on tendering exact change like the transport conductors?

What would have prompted the wisemen to suggest this ban? According to me, out of the entire population of Mumbai, exceeding one crore, about 30 lakh might be



carrying a carrybag during the day. To sincerely catch them and recover the penalty, government may need about one lakh officials. It is therefore a tremendous opportunity for the government to provide employment to such a large number at one go. The only qualification required for this job is to know how to measure the thickness of the bag. Since the amount of money can be printed on the receipt itself, even the labour of writing Rs. 5 is not required. Only precaution the government has to take is to get the receipt book printed at the Nashik

Security Press lest all the small printing presses in Maharashtra would be churning out similar receipts for the private use of the officials. (Of course, occasionally we can see beautiful

press releases of how to detect a genuine receipt from the fake).

The local political parties can also demand that only Marathi Manoos be appointed to the post of the penalty collecting officials. So by this simple recommendation

, we are opening many doors simultaneously viz., immediate employment to a lakh of under educated, local people, business of printing receipts to many printing presses and opportunity to make some side income to many.

I have a humble request. It is a well known secret that in any government scheme, officials and middlemen make most of the opportunity instead of the common man for whom the scheme is supposedly meant. If you can't be sure, please visit RTO offices, Rationing Offices, Stamp Duty offices, Registrars offices. If you can meet the concerned official without the help of the middle man, you must be highly influential or friendly with that concerned individual. The normal unofficial rate to avoid a penalty could be 20% to 50% of the official

Since the display charges of flex boards that decorate our public places have been increased, we have to be contend with the same faces for a long time. Their 'Haardik Shubheschha' is pricking our conscience while we cannot thank them appropriately as they are hung beyond our reach.

amount. If you are paying just to avoid the crowd, this could be less. However, it cannot be fathomed that any official would accept less than Rs. 5, considering the fact that the lowest acceptable 'donation' is the price of a cup of tea. Therefore, to avoid the embarrassment of the official while accepting less than Rs.5 and of the common man to ask for change (could be Rs.2 or 3), the penalty could be raised to Rs.20 or Rs.25 so that paying Rs.5 or 10 may not be an embarrassment and also enhance the pride of the donor too.

Tailpiece: Since the display charges of flex boards that decorate our public places have been increased, we have to be contend with the same faces for a long time. Their 'Haardik Shubheschha' is pricking our conscience while we cannot thank them appropriately as they are hung beyond our reach.



KITCHEN In The



A finest customized kitchens are the first things that all the home makers want in their homes. The foundation stone of a family life start from there. If the food is delicious, the lady of the house will automatically find a special place in the heart of the master of the house. That is possible only if cooking becomes a pleasure and not a burden to the home maker. Since she spends most of her time there when she is at home, it is vital that the kitchen is designed well. The cooking naturally becomes a pleasure. Designing a kitchen well means to make the area look more beautiful and feel more efficient and pleasant. Here are some tips to get the kitchen you want:

Kitchen making need not necessarily be too expensive or tiresome. However, it is always best to decide what you need, what you

want and how much you want to spend beforehand. In short you should make up your mind before you start designing your kitchen. However I would like you to hire a professional to help you in this process

Most people think appointing an interior designer or an architect is an additional expenditure and it's of no use. I beg to differ in that matter. If he is a thorough professional the fee you pay him can be saved by using his expertise to save money and use the best of the resources in an efficient way

First and foremost thing you should know is the *vastu* of kitchen. The orientation of your kitchen should be on the south east part of your house since its being the *agnikon* but in most of our *tharavadu* have the kitchen on the north east part of the house. There are a few reasons

for that, one being the well of the houses being placed on the north east (*eshan* corner) of the house. It's very easy for us to collect water for the kitchen, since 70 percent of the water needed for a house is for the domestic chorus.

The second option for the kitchen can be north east part of the house, and the third option on the North West corner though that orientation doesn't contribute to your progress. For a flat in any mega city, I would advice first option of the south east corner (*agnikon*)

Now basically every kitchen should have 3 different platforms needed in every kitchen. First is cooking platform, second is washing (wet platform) and the third is a dry platform for gadgets such as microwave ovens, mixer-grinder, toaster etc. If there is enough space for all these three counters

separately, there cannot be anything better. If there are three ladies working at a time, it will be easy for all of them to work without interaction. Other benefit is that while washing the utensils, the other platforms will not get wet or while cooking, the other platforms will not get dirty or viceversa.

The materials needed in the making of a kitchen have to be selected after careful thinking, keeping the pragmatism and the aesthetics in mind. The following are the materials required:

- Flooring
- Platform top
- Tiles on dado (walls)
- Wood or plywood
- Plumbing faucets
- Sinks
- Accessories (gadgets)
- Electrical light fittings
- Laminates or finishing materials
- Door and shutter handles etc

Let's start with the flooring.

In my opinion, the floor should have an antiskid property since there is always water involved in kitchen. It should also have an aesthetic value too.

My favorite for a kitchen is vitrified tile with a matt finish, the advantage of this material being very easy to clean, looks modern, gels well with any kind of color schemes, and it doesn't have to be polished time and again. It's lighter in weight and is easy to fix and is hot compared to marble. There are other

options too, such as granite, marbles, terracotta tiles etc

The materials involved in the making of a kitchen has to be selected and procured on one go which will enable us to mix and match the materials to each other and also we can put pressure on the contractor to finish off the work in a stipulated time frame.

While selecting the platform, we should keep in mind the aesthetics and the suitability of the material. The material should be conversant enough to the wear and tear of the day to day beating on it. In short, we should select some thing which can be abused for 10 to 15 years without any trouble.

I would suggest the black granite as the hardest natural stone available after the diamond. Best thing about black Granite is it is not porous (it doesn't absorb water) and very hard. The edges can be polished like polished surfaces, and it can gel with any great color combination of

the tiles and laminates being used. With black granite, the scope of color combination is vast.

Nowadays, other substitutes to black granite are available such as Korean, sparkles (composite marble) and vitrified tiles of 19 mm thickness.

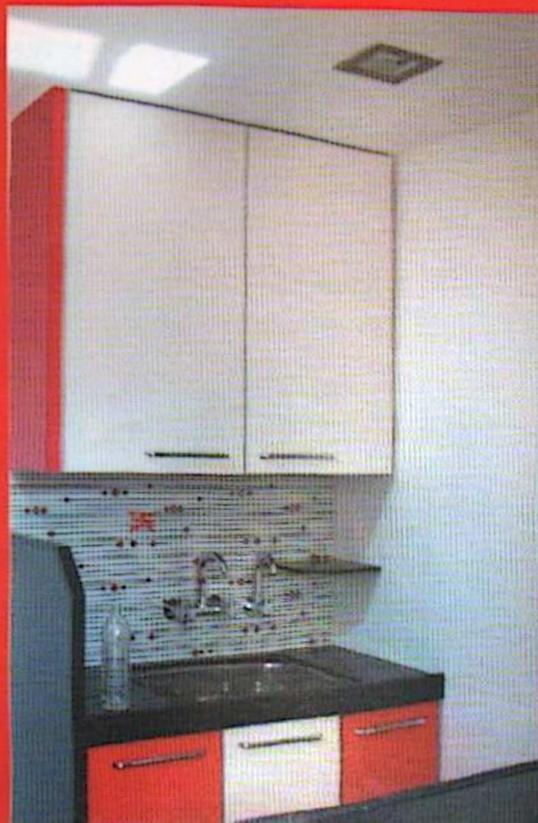
The best among them is made by RAK ceramics which is acid proof and the edges can be molded to any shapes. Some of them are beautiful in color, and I have started using them in my interiors extensively. I feel confident in RAK ceramic's vitrified tiles too.

When a platform is being constructed, we should make a skeleton of marble frame work to support the granite above. The inside portion of the platform should either be tiled or the same marble can be used underneath with glazed portion facing downward. It will make cleaning inside portion of the platform very easy and it will keep the insects away.

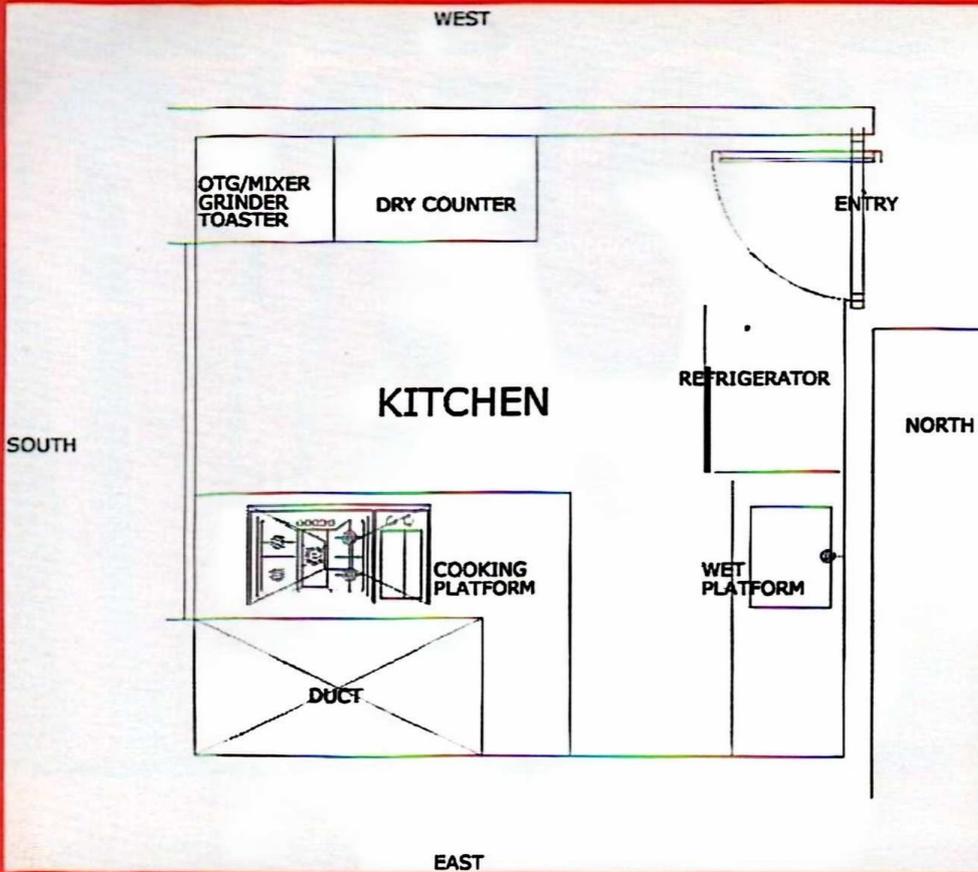
The platform should be erected on a small platform (otla) of minimum 3 to 4 inches thick which will be covered by the marble or the same material of the flooring. This will protect the shutters above the otila from the water seeping on the floor while you wash the floor.

Please refer the sketch given below (sketch no 1)

The fascia of the platform should be at least 3/16 ft. protruding above the platform top so that while working or washing counter, your apron will



not get wet. The water accumulated on the platform will be drained before keeping it to the desired drawer or to the cabinet.



remain well within the platform. It wouldn't splash out to your apron. If you can mould the surface to a semi circular shape, it will be great in look as well as to avoid sharp edges.

The fascia should be at least half an inch protruding out of the shutters below so that incase of water splashing out will not fall on the shutters below, it will act as a drip mould.

These are the small details we should take care of while erecting the counter. It makes a lot of difference in the longer run.

The washing counter should have the sink under the counter so that the edges of the sink are easily cleanable. And looks great too.

The sink should have a drain board too so that the utensils washed can

In my research, I found that small houses in megacities have the kitchen very close to the living room. While washing utensils, the noise generated is uncomfortable for those in the living room. To minimise this noise, we should have a marble fitted below the kitchen sink, and the space between the marble and the sink should be filled with sand or thermo coal. This will prevent the noise.

Having a geyser connection above the sink is very good for a kitchen. Once you block the sink outlet and fill hot water in the sink, you can soak the sticky and oily utensils in it for a while. It will

enable you to wash very easily.

The cabinet above the platform should be minimum 24 inches above the platform, and we should be very clear the exact place to keep it to suit our convenience. Having drawers below the cooking hob will be handy to keep your spoons, cookers and cooking utensils. The drawers can be made in stainless steel as it is very easy to maintain. Cabinets and drawers must be designed keeping their use in mind and what things need to be stored there. For narrow spaces, you may like cabinets that provide vertical storage systems while for hidden feeding troughs, you may need sliding drawers touching the floor, keeping the height to suit the shortest person to use it.

Right measurements are of a great help while choosing the scale of your appliances, counter, fixtures and door and cabinet knobs.

The masala can be on the right hand side of the chimney (if at all you have one) so that it's easy to be





placed above 4 feet in height so that a lady can see the stuff kept inside the gadget easily while cooking

The mixer toaster etc should be placed at a height of 30" to 34" in height. The faucets or the sink mixer can be of stainless steel make. A product of a reputed manufacturer having service centres closeby, is always recommended. I will

advice you to go for jaguar fitting which has a very good service network

Never get tempted to buy all the latest appliances. Sometimes long-standing habits render them useless. So, buy only the ones that you will actually use. You may not need the grill, if you are not into barbecuing. Similarly, a dishwasher may not be able to help you to clean platters on which very oily food is served.

You can even add a personal touch to the kitchen by incorporating a windowsill plant or a cabinet with

approached. The cabinets above can be in laminate finish which will be easy to maintain, Laminated surfaces are inexpensive, easy to clean and have long durability too. It can also withstand some spills, knocks and scratches and come in variety of colors and designs and can give an instant new look to your kitchen

If you have a high budget, you can opt for materials such as veneer with melamine polish or veneer with lamination or poly-coated or it can be Korean finish too which is very expensive but easy to maintain.

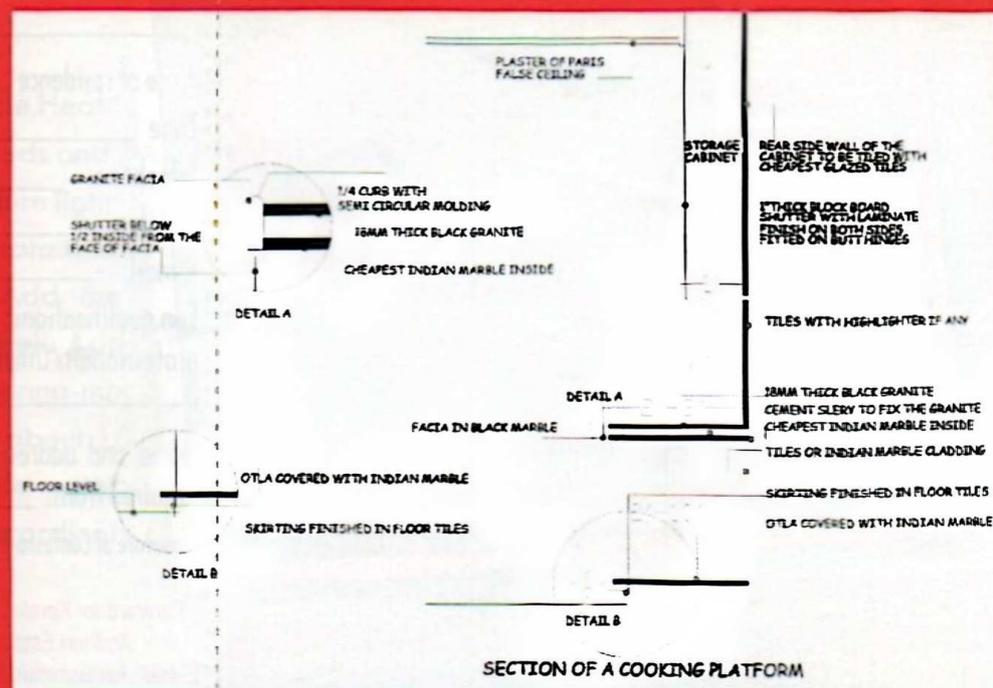
As I mentioned earlier, laminate finish is the cheapest and tailor made for a kitchen.

The vastu stipulates that the best option for is facing the east. The second option can be west facing. If these options are not be possible then we can opt for south facing. Having a window in front of the cooking counter will help to get a lots of natural light coming in. Have an exhaust fan rather having a chimney, as exhaust fans are always cheaper and easy to maintain,

The fan above your ceiling should be placed in such a way that while maneuvering the shutters of the cabinets, it should not hit the shutters. At the same time, it should not interfere with the flame of your cooking range

Lighting should be strategically placed so that while doing any kind of activities in the kitchen, it should give plenty of light on the desired place.

The gadgets should be placed in such a fashion that you may not have to bend yourself to use it. The microwave oven shouldn't be





television. Inspiration for your kitchen style can come from interior decoration magazines that show beautiful designer kitchens that look so efficient and functional.

A wide range of options available for doors, worktops and interiors, can make a lot of difference to the look you are trying to achieve. One has to remember that having plenty of storage space is useful while designing a kitchen. On the other hand, clever storage solutions will help you with better organization.

So, the cabinets and drawers should be designed to make optimum use of the space and make things easier to find. You may transform the style of your kitchen with some simple changes such as self-closing cabinet doors with magnetic locks for homes having kids. Consider this: Drawers that slide out smoothly, pull-out baskets can be adjusted according to their purpose, corner units, open shelves, chopping boards that can be hidden.

Having a break fast table (though it's a foldable one) in the kitchen is welcome. The kids and the members of family can have the food there itself, so that you don't have to arrange the dining table every day. This break fast table with granite top is easy to clean, and can be used as a chopping table too

First-time novel

Mumbai-ite Mathew Vincent Menacherry has published his first novel, "Arrack in the Afternoon" (HarperCollins, price Rs.350). The novel tackles life in the raw in Mumbai, "a new and chaotic India, where people are engaged in a riveting tussle between right and wrong, while desperately trying to get ahead." More about this book and the young

Miss Kerala of Mumbai Contest



Kerala In Mumbai proudly announces a mega beauty contest MISS KERALA OF MUMBAI, exclusively devised and designed for the young Malayalee girls settled in Mumbai. All girls of age between 18-25 years are eligible to participate in the contest to be held during May 2010 in a prestigious auditorium of Mumbai.

Contestants will be judged by a panel of eminent judges for poise, dress sense, haircare, intelligence etc. Winners of each category will compete for ultimate position of Miss Kerala of Mumbai. Fabulous prizes await for them.

A Fashion Show consisting of informal, formal, social and bridal costume designs will be held, accompanied by music and dance programmes. Costumes and jewellery are to be borne by the contestants themselves. It is open to all girls from zones Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburb, Navi Mumbai and Thane district. Interested individuals may fill in the entry form provided below and forward to us latest by March 31, 2010. Application form must be accompanied with photocopies of birth certificates, educational qualifications, proof of residence, consent letter from parents/guardian and three photographs (Closeup of face, frontal and side full size). These can be claimed after the contest). There is NO ENTRY FEE but only forms printed in this issue will be accepted.

Name of contestant in full _____

Date of birth _____

Contact address _____

Place of residence _____

Zone _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

Edn. qualifications: Under graduates/Graduates/post graduates/professionals/Others (specify) _____

Name and address of Institution where the highest qualification acquired from: _____

Signature of Contestant _____

Forward to: Kerala in Mumbai, 105-B Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 059. Phone:022-2920 5641/2094
E-mail: keralainmumbai@gmail.com • Website: www.keralainmumbai.org

Puttu

Ingredients

Roasted rice flour - 1 cup, Fresh Grated coconut - 1/2 cup, Salt to taste, Hot Water - as required

Method

Mix the rice flour with salt in a pan. Slowly add a tbsp hot water at a time and mix well, taking care that no lumps are formed. Keep aside for 10 minutes. Layer it with coconut first and then put the puttu mixture in bamboo barrels. Add more coconut for each layer of mix and close the lid. Steam it by keeping the puttu maker (bamboo barrel) on a pressure cooker or a regular puttu making vessel for 5-7 minutes. Remove from mould carefully and serve hot.

Kadala curry

Ingredients

Black Channa/Bengal gram/Chickpeas-100gms (soaked overnight), Onions - 2, finely chopped, Tomato - 1, finely chopped, Curry leaves - 1 sprig Mustard seeds - 1 tsp, Coconut oil - 1 tbsp, Salt to taste

For paste

(Roasted and ground to a smooth paste)

Coconut - 5tblsp, Red chillies - 3, Coriander - 1 tblsp, Cumin - 1 tsp, Cloves - 2, Cinnamon - 1 inch piece

Method

Pressure cook channa and keep aside. Heat coconut oil in a pan, splutter mustard seeds and fry the finely chopped onions till they turn light brown. Now add curry leaves and tomato and saute again for about 2 minutes. Add the ground paste at this stage and mix well. Add salt to taste and add the cooked channa-mix well. Let it boil and then simmer it for about 10 minutes. Kadala curry should be a little watery than the normal curries, so add water accordingly.

Recipe For Puttu & Kadala Curry

Manoj Nair



It is a well known fact that most people invest in tax saving instruments only at the last minute except for a few who are shrewd in the art of investing. It is a good time of the year to look at the avenues for investments for optimum returns vis-à-vis tax savings.

Some of the tax efficient avenues of investments are discussed here in below:

Public Provident Fund Scheme, 1968:

PPF as is commonly known is still one of the best tax efficient instruments available in the current scenario. The interest is calculated at 8% p.a. and the same is tax free in the hands of the investor. The effective rate of return can be as high as 12% by applying the peak tax rate of 33.99%.

The only disincentive is the long lock in period which is 15 years. The maximum investment a single investor can make is Rs 70,000/- per annum. The investment also qualifies for deduction within the overall ceiling of Rs 1,00,000/- as per the provisions of Sec 80 C of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

National Savings Certificates

Investments in NSC too is tax efficient since it qualifies for exemption in the year of investment within the overall ceiling of Sec 80 C. The accumulated interest also qualifies for exemption in the subsequent years. The lock-in period of the investments is also shorter which is six years.

The interest rate is a little over 8% which is attractive in the current low interest regimes.

Equity Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS)

These instruments are in great demand as the savings is linked to Equity Shares of Companies etc. Most of the investors who opt for ELSS are in the group whose risk appetite is comparatively higher. The return on investment on these classes of financial assets is high as compared to those discussed earlier. The initial lock in period is 3 years and no benchmark return is available. It is also true that the return in the past is not necessarily indicative of the future trend. The investments in ELSS also qualifies for deduction u/s 80 C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The dividend income is fully exempt under Income tax as the Dividend Distribution Tax is paid by the Fund House on payment of Dividend.

Term Deposit with Scheduled Bank

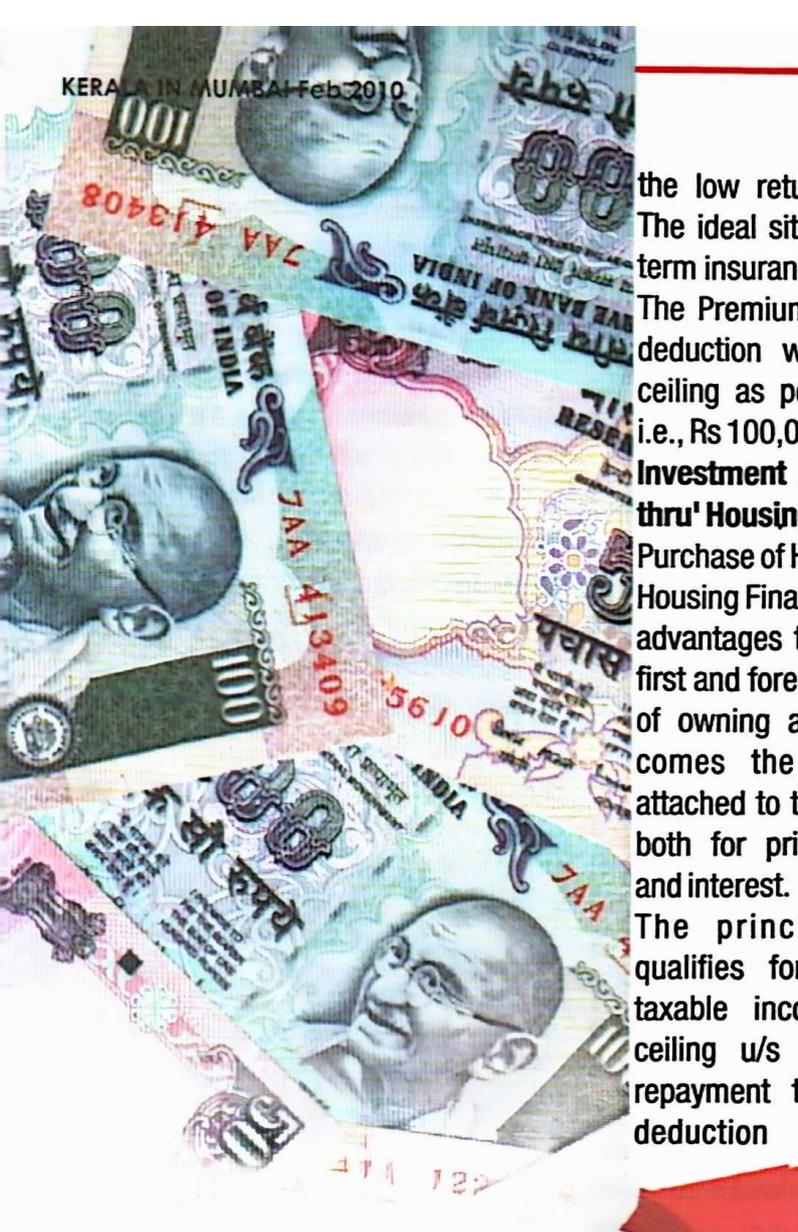
Term Deposit for a period of not less than 5 years as per a Scheme of the Central Govt also qualifies for deduction from taxable income within the overall limits herein above mentioned. The investments are relatively safe and secure. The interest rates varies as per the monetary policies of the RBI. The indicative interest rates varies from a band of 6-9% p.a which is fully taxable.

Life Insurance Premium paid

Insurance is an investment vehicle for many of the salaried and other income earners. The most attractive fact in insurance is its promise of a life risk cover. The risk cover compensates for



**FINANCE & INVESTMENT
& TAX
BENEFITS**



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Jacob Koshy

the low return on investment. The ideal situation is to have a term insurance to cover the risk. The Premium paid qualifies for deduction with in the overall ceiling as per Sec-80C/80CCC i.e., Rs 100,000/-.

Investment in House Property thru' Housing Finance

Purchase of House Property thru' Housing Finance brings in a lot of advantages to a tax payer. The first and foremost is the security of owning a house. And then comes the tax advantages attached to the housing finance both for principal repayments and interest.

The principal repayment qualifies for deduction from taxable income with in the ceiling u/s 80C and interest repayment too is eligible for deduction from the income up to a maximum of Rs 150,000/- p.a.

To a twin income family of husband & wife, this promises a very great advantage by virtue of double deduction both principal & interest of course with in the overall limits.

Equity Investments

Equity market is very attractive to those who are opposed to risk averse. Any investor who has investment horizon of more than 5 years should look at investing in Equity as a great source of wealth creation. The income by way of dividends is tax free in the hands of the share holder while tax is paid by the

Company on distribution of dividend. The Gains on divestment is also tax free if it is done thru' a recognized Stock Exchange and a separate transaction tax is paid at the time of sale and the shares are held for a minimum period of one year. In any other case the tax rates are still lower as compared to the rates as applicable to the regular source of income like salaries, other sources etc. The value of investments in stocks is also wealth tax free.

Mutual Funds

Mutual Funds investments are a safer route than the direct equity. One can invest in SIPs to get the best of value investments when the markets are unsteady and volatile as we have experienced in the near past. The income from MFs are not taxable as the distribution tax is payable by the Fund House viz., Asset Management Company. The investment in a diversified Fund of an AMC of repute would reduce the risk to a great extent. There are also various Plans available to the investor such as Debt Funds, Hybrid Funds, Pure Equity Funds and Sectoral Funds etc. etc. It is recommended to seek a professional advisor's help before investing.

Portfolio Management Service (PMS)

Many professional Firms offer PMS for their clients for a fixed fee or a fee based on the value of investment on a periodical basis. It is always advisable to seek professional help before investing.

(Mr Jacob Koshy C.A.
Mobile:98210 28788)

FROM THE INTERNET

This speech was delivered to the Class of 2006 at the IIM (Indian Institute of Management), Bangalore on defining success by Subroto Bagchi CEO MindTree.

I was the last child of a small-time government servant, in a family of five brothers. My earliest memory of my father is as that of a District Employment Officer in Koraput, Orissa. It was, and remains as back of beyond as you can imagine. There was no electricity; no primary school nearby and water did not low out of a tap. As a result, I did not go to school until the age of eight; I was home-schooled. My father used to get transferred every year. The family belongings fit into the back of a jeep so the family moved from place to place and without any trouble, my Mother would set up an establishment and get us going. Raised by a widow who had come as a

refugee from the then East Bengal, she was a matriculate when she married my Father.

My parents set the foundation of my life and the value system, which makes me what I am today and largely, defines what success means to me today.

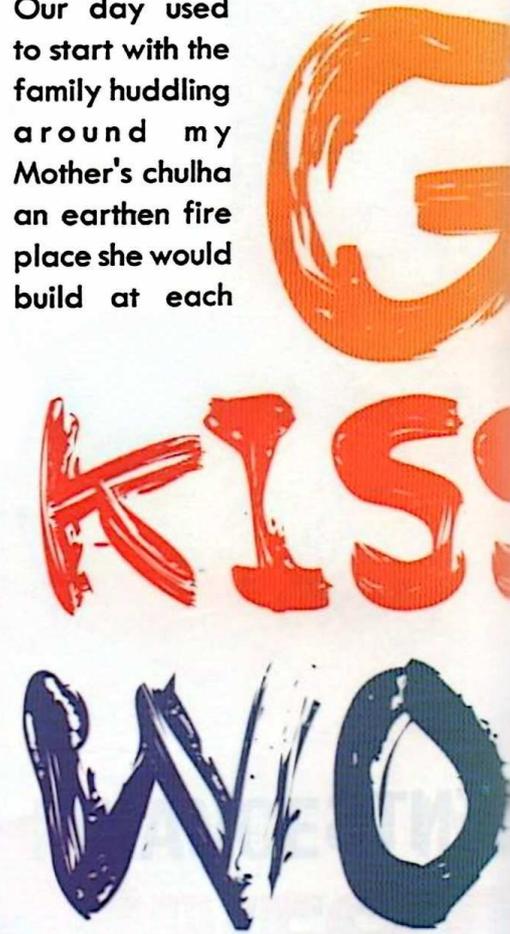
As District Employment Officer, my father was given a jeep by the government. There was no garage in the Office, so the jeep was parked in our house. My father refused to use it to commute to the office. He told us that the jeep is an expensive resource given by the government- he reiterated to us that it was not "his jeep" but the government's jeep. Insisting that he would use it only to tour the interiors, he would walk to his office on normal days.. He also made sure that we never sat in the government jeep we could sit in it only when it was stationary.

That was our early childhood lesson in governance a lesson that corporate managers learn the hard way, some never do. The driver of the jeep was treated with respect due to any other member of my Father's office. As small children, we were taught not to call him by his name. We had to use the suffix 'dada' whenever we were to refer to him in public or private. When I grew up to own a car and a driver by the name of Raju was appointed I repeated the lesson to my two small daughters. They have, as a result, grown up to call Raju, 'Raju Uncle' very different from many of their friends who refer

to their family driver, as 'my driver'. When I hear that term from a school- or college-going person, I cringe.

To me, the lesson was significant you treat small people with more respect than how you treat big people. It is more important to respect your subordinates than your superiors.

Our day used to start with the family huddling around my Mother's chulha an earthen fire place she would build at each



place of posting where she would cook for the family. There was neither gas,

nor electrical stoves. The morning routine started with tea. As the brew was served, Father would ask us to read aloud the editorial page of The Statesman's 'muffossil' edition delivered one day late. We did not understand much of what we were reading. But the ritual was

meant for us to know that the world was larger than Koraput district and the English I speak today, despite having studied in an Oriya medium school, has to do with that routine. After reading the news-paper aloud, we were told to fold it neatly. Father taught us a simple lesson.

He used to say, "You should leave your newspaper and your toilet, the way you expect to find it". That lesson was about showing consideration to

get one. Each time, my Father would reply that we did not need one because he already had five radios alluding to his five sons.

We also did not have a house of our own and would occasionally ask Father as to when, like others, we would live in our own house. He would give a similar reply, "We do not need a house of our own. I already own five houses". His replies did not gladden our hearts in that instant.

Nonetheless, we learnt that it is important not to measure personal success and sense of well being through material possessions. Government houses seldom came with fences. Mother and I collected twigs and built a small fence. After lunch, my Mother would never sleep. She would take her kitchen utensils and with those she and I would dig the rocky, white ant infested surrounding. We planted flowering bushes. The white ants destroyed them. My mother brought ash from her chulha and mixed it in the earth and we planted the seedlings all over again. This time, they bloomed. At that time, my father's transfer order came. A few neighbors told my mother why she was taking so much pain to beautify a government house, why she was planting seeds that would only benefit the next occupant. My mother replied that it did not matter to her that she would not see the flowers in full bloom. She said, "I have to create a bloom in a desert and whenever

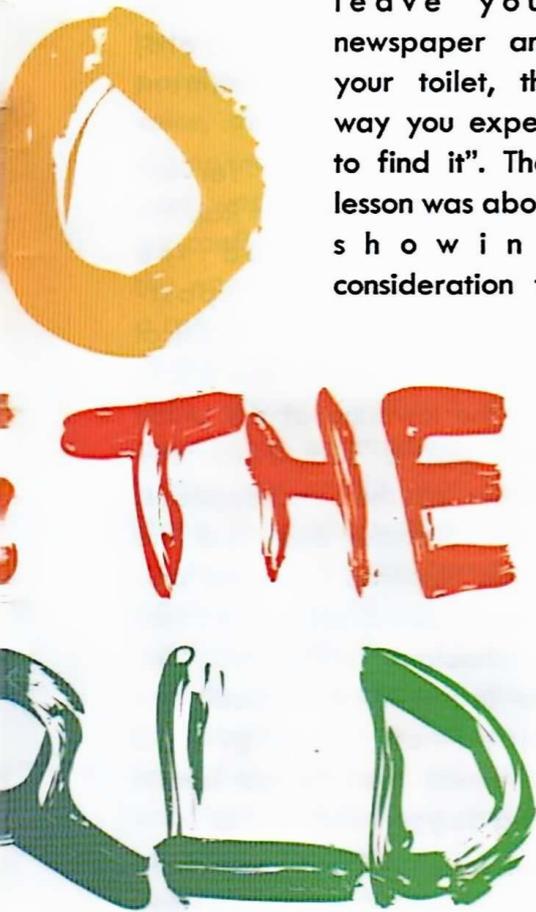
I am given a new place, I must leave it more beautiful than what I had inherited".

That was my first lesson in success. It is not about what you create for yourself, it is what you leave behind that defines success.

My mother began and galvanized the nation in to patriotic fervor. Other than reading out the newspaper to my mother, I had no clue about how I could be part of the action. So, after reading her the newspaper, every day I would land up near the University's water tank, which served the community. I would spend hours under it, imagining that there could be spies who would come to poison the water and I had to watch for them. I would daydream about catching one and how the next day, I would be featured in the newspaper. Unfortunately for me, the spies at war ignored the sleepy town of Bhubaneswar and I never got a chance to catch one in action.. Yet, that act unlocked my imagination.

Imagination is everything. If we can imagine a future, we can create it, if we can create that future, others will live in it. That is the essence of success.

Over the next few years, my mother's eyesight dimmed but in me she created a larger vision, a vision with which I continue to see the world and, I sense, through my eyes, she was seeing too. As the next few years unfolded, her vision deteriorated and she was operated for cataract. I



SUBROTO BAGCHI

others. Business begins and ends with that simple precept.

Being small children, we were always enamored with advertisements in the newspaper for transistor radios we did not have one. We saw other people having radios in their homes and each time there was an advertisement of Philips, Murphy or Bush radios, we would ask Father when we could

remember, when she returned after her operation and she saw my face clearly for the first time, she was astonished. She said, "Oh my God, I did not know you were so fair".. I remain mighty pleased with that adulation even till date. Within weeks of getting her sight back, she developed a corneal ulcer and, overnight, became blind in both eyes. That was 1969. She died in 2002. In all those 32 years of living with blindness, she never complained about her fate even once. Curious to know what she saw with blind eyes, I asked her once if she sees darkness. She replied, "No, I do not see darkness. I only see light even with my eyes closed". Until she was eighty years of age, she did her morning yoga everyday, swept her own room and washed her own clothes.

To me, success is about the sense of independence; it is about not seeing the world but seeing the light.

Over the many intervening years, I grew up, studied, joined the industry and began to carve my life's own journey. I began my life as a clerk in a government office, went on to become a Management Trainee with the DCM group and eventually found my life's calling with the IT industry when fourth generation computers came to India in 1981.. Life took me places I worked with outstanding people, challenging assignments and traveled all over the world.

In 1992, while I was posted in the US, I learnt that my father,

living a retired life with my eldest brother, had suffered a third degree burn injury and was admitted in the Safderjung Hospital in Delhi. I flew back to attend to him he remained for a few days in critical stage, bandaged from neck to toe. The Safderjung Hospital is a cockroach infested, dirty, inhuman place. The overworked, under-resourced sisters in the burn ward are both victims and perpetrators of dehumanized life at its worst. One morning, while attending to my Father, I realized that the blood bottle was empty and fearing that air would go into his vein, I asked the attending nurse to change it. She bluntly told me to do it myself. In that horrible theater of death, I was in pain and frustration and anger. Finally when she relented and came, my Father opened his eyes and murmured to her, "Why have you not gone home yet?" Here was a man on his deathbed but more concerned about the overworked nurse than his own state. I was stunned at his stoic self.

There I learnt that there is no limit to how concerned you can be for another human being and what the limit of inclusion is you can create.

My father died the next day. He was a man whose success was defined by his principles, his frugality, his universalism and his sense of inclusion.

Above all, he taught me that success is your ability to rise above your discomfort,

whatever may be your current state. You can, if you want, raise your consciousness above your immediate surroundings. Success is not about building material comforts the transistor that he never could buy or the house that he never owned. His success was about the legacy he left, the memetic continuity of his ideals that grew beyond the smallness of a ill-paid, unrecognized government servant's world.

My father was a fervent believer in the British Raj. He sincerely doubted the capability of the post-independence Indian political parties to govern the country. To him, the lowering of the Union Jack was a sad event. My Mother was the exact opposite. When Subhash Bose quit the Indian National Congress and came to Dacca, my mother, then a schoolgirl, garlanded him. She learnt to spin khadi and joined an underground movement that trained her in using daggers and swords.

Consequently, our household saw diversity in the political outlook of the two. On major issues concerning the world, the Old Man and the Old Lady had differing opinions. In them, we learnt the power of disagreements, of dialogue and the essence of living with diversity in thinking.

Success is not about the ability to create a definitive dogmatic end state; it is about the unfolding of thought processes, of dialogue and continuum.

Two years back, at the age of

eighty-two, Mother had a paralytic stroke and was lying in a government hospital in Bhubane-swar. I flew down from the US where I was serving my second stint, to see her. I spent two weeks with her in the hospital as she remained in a paralytic state. She was neither getting better nor moving on. Eventually I had to return to work. While leaving her behind, I kissed her face. In that paralytic state and a garbled voice, she said, "Why are you kissing me, go kiss the world." Her river was nearing its journey, at the confluence of life and death, this woman who came to India as a refugee, raised by a widowed Mother, no more educated than high school, married to an anonymous government servant whose last salary was Rupees Three Hundred, robbed of her eyesight by fate and crowned by adversity was telling me to go and kiss the world!

Success to me is about Vision. It is the ability to rise above the immediacy of pain. It is about imagination. It is about sensitivity to small people. It is about building inclusion. It is about connectedness to a larger world existence. It is about personal tenacity. It is about giving back more to life than you take out of it. It is about creating extraordinary success with ordinary lives.

Thank you very much; I wish you good luck and God's speed. Go! kiss the world.

Attukal Temple

Sabarimala of women

Widely known Attukal Ponkala falls on February 28. Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, otherwise known as Women's Sabarimala, is 2.5 kms away from Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple of Thiruvananthapuram and 3 kms away from the railway station. It is situated on the banks of Killiyar.

In the year 1997, about 1.5 million women reached Thiruvananthapuram to offer ponkala and reporters from many countries thronged the city to report on this event and this ritual has found its place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Women who cannot reach Attukal on that day for various reasons, offer ponkala at home itself. Ponkala falls during Kumbham under Pooram constellation. It is being offered for longevity of married life as well as to beget progeny.

The festivity this year begins on Saturday, 2 February but Ponkala starts on Sunday, 28 February at 10.10 a.m. and the offerings are made at 3.15 pm. Festivity comes to an end on March 1.

Women who desire to do the offering should reach the temple early morning. Without religious and caste barriers, the earthen hearths can be arranged on the sides of the roads, within a circumference of 5 kms from the temple. The trustees of the temple, government of Kerala, voluntary organisations etc will provide all necessary assistance to the devotees. Free vehicular traffic also will be available. Devotees can have their food only after the offering is made. An individual can offer Ponkala in one to 101 or 501 earthen pots. For details, please contact the temple trustees on 0471-2456456, 2463130, 2455600

e-mail: attukal@vsnl.com.

Website: www.attukal.org

Paarijatham completes 350 episodes

popular TV serial Paarijatham has completed 350 episodes on Asianet. It is being telecast on its main channel at 7.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday. This serial, produced by Baiju Devaraj for Sandra Communications, is directed by Kurup Mararikulam. Arun Ghosh (J P), Rasna (double roles) and Aiswarya (Lalithabai) have captured the fascination of the audience and thus helped the channel rating to move ahead of others.



MULUND KERA

In the year 1960, realizing the importance of achieving the social and cultural needs of the life, a few enthusiastic employed young men of Kerala origin, after deliberations and discussions, gave birth to the formation of Mulund Kerala Samajam. The meeting place was a garage in Mulund east and the garage became the office of the Samajam till it managed to have a rented office.

To-day the Samajam has a life membership over 2000 and by adding the family members, it goes beyond 5000. Samajam organises cultural programmes, picnics, Malayalam classes, stitching classes, nursery classes, celebration of Onam festival etc. Funds generated over the years enabled the Samajam to own two properties, one each in Mulund (W) and Mulund (E). A

committee with 2 year tenure manages the affairs of the Samajam.

A 40-year old Ayurvedic Dispensary with well-stocked medicines and free medical consultation is a testimony of its popularity. It added another feather by starting an ayurvedic treatment centre about ten years ago with a tie-up arrangement with a major pharmaceutical company from Kerala. Needless to say more than Keralites other communities find favour with this treatment centre where Panchkarma and other forms of treatment under the able guidance of a well qualified physician and trained masseurs are given. To-day this is a field where stiff competition from profit motive institutions dominates. But social obligation to the society is our only objective and not profit. Annual medical camps invol-

popular.

The Samajam has a free reading room and library which has a rich treasure of Malayalam books apart from other periodicals and newspapers. The reading habit of Malayalis is well known and especially of the enthusiastic senior citizens despite of the fact that the evolving electronic media has caused changes in the reading habits and tastes of the public.

The Samajam has a well managed marriage bureau as a part of its social responsibility to share the anxieties of parents to some extent. The Samajam has a ladies' wing that actively participate in all the cultural and social activities. The dance forms such as Kaikottikali (thiruvathirakali) are appreciated all over and they do receive invitations to perform all over Maharashtra and even in Kerala. It is no exaggeration that



ALA SAMAJAM

they perform at least 20 to 25 occasions in a year in various forums.

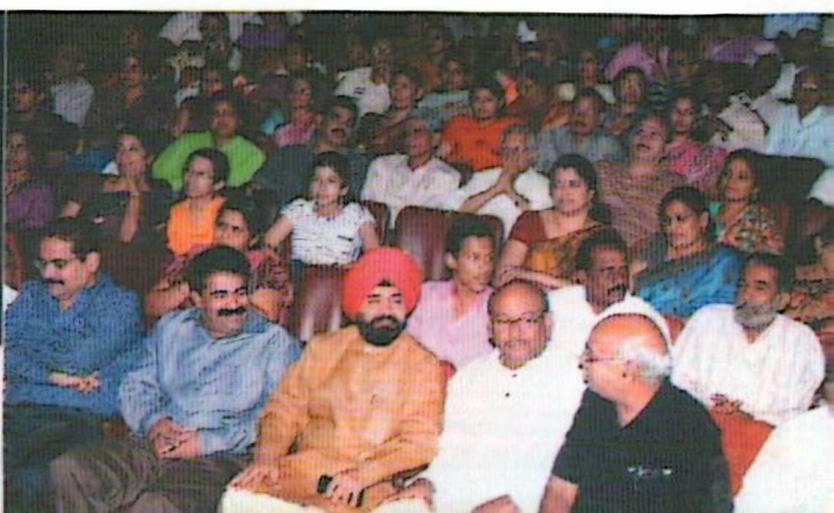
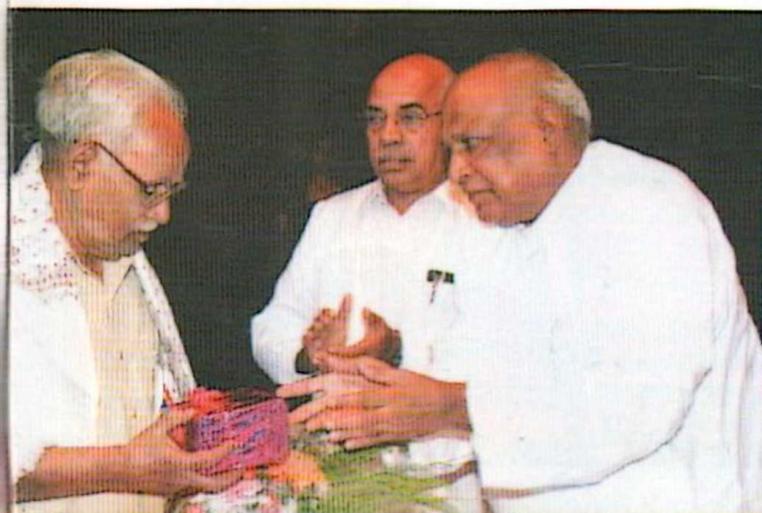
The Samajam has a Benevolent Fund to extend financial help. Several requests received from patients with life threatening diseases are always acceded to the extent possible. The Samajam is always in the forefront to organize collection drives and extend their help whenever natural calamities are struck in any part of the country through the funds raised by the respective States.

To encourage the students the Samajam gives annual awards to those who come out with meritorious marks in any field, especially in SSC, HSC and graduate levels. The Samajam is not resting on its laurels with what is achieved knowing fully well that a lot more is to be



achieved. The dream of imparting quality education to the coming generation is one of the aims & objects of the Samajam using the expertise of our existing members. Another dream is to have its own auditorium to fulfill the requirements of conducting cultural rehearsals and to train the talented to nurture and nourish their talents. The Samajam considers that such requirements are inevitable and its

duty to the younger generations. Completion of 50 years was celebrated last month with great fervor and pomp. A three-days cultural programme was organized on this august occasion. The Samajam organized cultural and literary competitions involving all Malayali organizations all over Maharashtra and in particular Mumbai. The winning items were presented on the occasion of Golden Jubilee.



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- Mundu : Sri Ganapathy, Sri Ayyappan, Sri Mutthappan, Sri Gurudevan, Sri Om Shakthi Sri Murugan, etc.
- Shawl : Ponnada, Uthareeyam, Angavasthram, etc.

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Kodungalloor Kudumba Kootayma

The first meeting of Kodungalloor Kudumba Kootayma was held on December 27, 2009 at Navi Mumbai, with the objectives of bringing all people hailing from Kodungalloor. Kodungalloor is the only place in Kerala mentioned in ancient literature. In modern times all three important of religious sects have worked together and lived together with amity, peace, mutual trust and co-operation.

It was explained that the basic aims are to introduce the new generation of old immigrants to the ancient history of Kodungalloor, its cultural ethos and

literary traditions, to pressurise the state and union governments to declare Kodungalloor where Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions flourished as a national pilgrim centre and to integrate the families hailing from Kodungalloor into a cohesive unit etc.

Other objectives are to hold a convention of former students residing in Mumbai; of Kunhukuttan Thampuram College and MES Asmabi College; to help the needy and to extend help the organisations working for the coastal railway link to Kodungalloor and restoring the peaceful atmosphere recently vitiated on account

of communal disturbances.

The following persons were elected to the working committee: Mr Muralidharan K Menon (Chairman), Shivaprasad B Menon (Vice Chairman), Mr M K Navaz (President), Ramdas K Menon (Vice President), Mr Chandrasekharan C G (General Secretary) and Mr Vinod Kumar Menon and Pravin Kumar P as Joint Secretaries. For further details, interested persons may contact on 9820038929, 9320986322, +91-2769 2907

E-Mail: kodungalloor2009@gmail.com

Capt C P Krishnan Nair Gets Padma Bhushan

Leela Group Chairman Captain C P Krishnan Nair made all Malayalis proud by securing the prestigious Padmabhushan award for the services rendered to Trade and Industry. This award is given for the 'distinguished service of high order'. Many leading Malayalis felt that this honour came much late since Capt Nair already received many inter-national honours and government opened the eyes belatedly. They cited many examples of Nobel laureate scientist Shri Venkatraman Rama-krishnan, a US citizen of Indian origin, Oscar winners A R Rahman and Resul Pookutty from this year's list itself and remarked that the government appeared to be ignorant of their achievements before they secured their global awards. Captain Krishnan Nair recently received two international awards for hospitality.

Other Malayali Padmabhushan awardees in the list are Dr P K Warriar (Managing Trustee of Kottakkal

Aryavaidyasala) and E T Narayanan Mooss (Senior physician of Vaidyaratnam Oushadasala), both for medicine, and well known Timila vidwan Kuzhoor Narayana Marar for art. Famous danseuse Mallika Sarabhai, daughter of Mrinalini and Dr Vikram Sarabhai, who has roots in Kerala through her mother, and Arokyaswamy Joseph paul who modernised the wireless technology of Indian Navy are also receiving Padmabhushan. Through Mallika, the Anakkara Vatakkath tharavadu is receiving their second Padma-bhushan as her aunt Captain Lakshmi (Mrinalini's sister) has already a recipient of this award.

Well known music composer K Raghavan is named for Padmashri. He would have received this award atleast a quarter century ago, some point out. Considering his senior in the field of film music Shri V Dakshina-moorthy is yet to be named for this award, it is 'better late than never'. Raghavan started composing songs for Malayalam films

since early fifties with Neelakkuyil (1954) and has hundreds of songs to his credit. He also sang some memorable songs for

some of his movies like Neelakkuyil, Kootappirappu, Asuravithu etc.

Following his Oscar award for Sound mixing for the film 'Slumdog Millaionaire', Shri Pookutty has been under the limelight and he has been bestowed with Padmashri. Other Malayali winners of Padmashri are Dr Philip Augustin (Lake Shore Hospital, Ernakulam), Botany scientist Prof Ponisseril Somasundaran, Prof Pukitiyil Ittoop John, Kurian John of Melam products, NRI industrialist B Ravindran Pillai, former CBI Director D. R. Karthikeyan and Dr. P. Pusha-pangadan.



AWARDS

**MALAYALAM FILM
INDUSTRY
DISAPPOINTED**



While other regional film makers were complaining that Malayalam films were getting undue importance in the National awards distribution, Malayalam film industry made them happy this year by not securing any important awards for the year 2009. Malayalam film lovers were clearly disappointed when 'Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja' failed to get any award. This movie is hugely successful at the box office and gained a lot of critics' acclaim.

'Tirakkadha' directed by Ranjith, is the best Malayalam film of the year. The other Malayalis who got some awards for working in other regional films are Hariharan (Singer-Marathi), Gautam Vasudeva Menon (Direction-Tamil) and

Pramod J. Thomas (Sound-Marathi) for 'Gandha'. In the non-feature section, Vinu Choliparambil was chosen for the best debut director award for his 'Vitthal', while Manoj Kanoth secured the silver lotus for editing.

Prominent award winners of previous years, Adoor Gopala-krishnan and TV Chandran were not considered for any awards along with Shyam Benegal and M S Sathyu.

While justifying the decision of the jury, Shaji Karun, Chairman of the Board of Jury, explained that his team had evaluated the films of prominent past award winners with utmost care and was deciding to give for the best works and not to the prominence of the individuals.

RAAGALAYA LIGHT MUSIC CONTEST

Light Music Contest by Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts was held on January 31 at Marol Education Academy premises. Well known playback singer Sreekumar of 'Neelathamara' fame inaugurated the contest. Music contests are important in grooming future singers and to give them a firm position in the musical world, he said. He also rendered a couple of songs to entertain the crowd.

More than 100 contestants participated in five categories starting from 5 years old. The winners will receive their awards from S P Balasubramanyam, the well known playback singer, on 27th February at Shanmukhananda Auditorium, Sion. The star singer is presenting a musical nite on that day.

Price winners

1. Group A (5 to 10 years)

Male: First Prize Rickson George Second Prize Govind Harikrishnan

Female: First Prize Anushka Menon Second Prize Gayatri Krishnachandran Consolation Devaki Azhakeshan

2. Group B (11 to 15 years)

Male: First Prize Pranav Shankar and Aravind Kuttykrishnan Sec. Price James John Bosco

Female: First Prize Bindu Aniruddhan Sec. Price Janya Jayakumar Nair Sec. Price Ambili Somasundaran

3. Group C (16 to 25 years)

Male: First Prize Ritesh Rajan

Sec. Price Siddharth Menon

Female: First Prize Ranjana Raja Sec. Price Reshma Krishnan Sec. Price Anushree Warriar

4. Group D (26 to 40 years)

Male: First Prize Baburaj Nair Sec. Price Ragesh Revi

Female: First Prize Geetha Ganesh Sec. Price Deepa Menon

5. Group D (41 years and above)

Male: First Prize Deedar Singh Sec. Price C Narayanan

Sec. Price KR Shiavaraman

Female: First Prize Rajani Vishwanathan Sec. Prize Usha Nair

ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS

(February 2010)

Girija Vijayakumar

- **Mesh (Medam (Ashwati, Bharani, Kartika ¼))**
This month will see an improvement in finance. Favourable for artists. Chances of entering into new projects are high. Possibility of travel and positive settlement of court matters.
Favourable colours- Red, Yellow. Unfavourable color Black.
- **Vrishabh (Edavam)(Kartika ¾, Rohini & Makayiram ½)**
Wife will be very cooperative. Work pressure will be more. Do not expect much profits, important issues should be discussed in detail. Beneficial to travelling. Those ready for marriage will find a partner.
Favourable colours- Pink , White & Green Unfavourable colour- Red.
- **Mithun (Mithunam)(Makayiram ½, Thiruvadira, Punardam ¾)**
Favourable for artists . Good for those who are into publications, visit to religious places, favourable for students. Good for farmers. Improvement in health.
Favourable colour- Yellow
- **Karka (Karkitakam)(Punartham ¼, Pooyam & Aayillyam)**
Do not to enter into unnecessary arguments. For co-born, it is favorable but there will be misunderstandings. Finance will be good. Housewives will find more happiness if you attend sat sang. It is good to visit your kuladevam (family deity).
Favourable colors- White, Cream, Red & Yellow. Avoid- Blue (unfavourable colour)
- **Simha (Chingam (Makam, Pooram, Uthram ¼))**
Career will be favourable. Students have to work hard. For some chances of miscarriage are seen. Financewise not satisfactory. Partner will try to dominate you. May undertake travelling .
Favourable colours-Red , Orange, Green & Blue Avoid Black (unfavourable colours)
- **Kanya (Kanni) (Uthram ¾, Attam, Chitra ½)**
Students have to be more active & studious. Never depend too much on your friends. Do what you feel right. Not to enter into arguments with seniors. On your career front, it will be good but more hectic. Financewise, it's good.
Favourable colours- Yellow, white & green Avoid red blue & black.
- **Tula (Thulam)(Chitra, Chothi, Vishakham ¾)**
Work pressure will be more. You will be given responsible position in your work front. Your wife will be supportive in your endeavours. Children will concentrate on their studies. Parental favours can be expected. For those who wish to go abroad, chances are bright.
Favourable colours- Orange, White & Red. Avoid- Green & Yellow.
- **Vrishchik (Vrischchikam)(Vishakam ¼, Anizham & Triketta)**
In finance, sudden gain is seen. Overall prosperity. Home makers may spend more money in buying household articles; students have a tendency to postpone their studies. You may tend to become too much dependent on your wife.
Favourable colours Yellow, Red, Orange & Cream. Avoid Blue, Green, Pure White
- **Dhanu (Moolam, Pooradam, Uthraadam ¼)**
Do not enter into any new contracts. Those willing to find job may find one but will not be

satisfied. Home makers will tend to be more irritated. Health has to be taken care of. Chances of minor accidents are possible. Try to avoid buying any new property.

Favourable Colour- White, Cream, Orange & Light Blue. Avoid Red.

- **Makar (Makaram) (Uthraadam $\frac{3}{4}$, Thiruvonam, Avittam $\frac{1}{2}$)**

You will be having difference of opinion with your children. Students have to put more efforts. Your partner may try to get into an argument. Health should not be neglected. More prone to back & knee problem. Finance wise it is good, but expenses are also seen.

Favourable colours- White, black, Red & Blue. Avoid- Yellow & cream.

- **Kumbh (Kumbham) (Avittam $\frac{1}{2}$, Chadayam & Pururuttadhi $\frac{3}{4}$)**

Due to planetary positions, you may try to dominate your family. Financially, improvement is seen. You will have differences of opinion with children, but still they will perform well. Careerwise this period is good. On the health front, more care should be taken. Prone to back & knee problem. Home makers may get an opportunity to boost their hidden talents.

Favourable colours- Yellow, Red, White & cream Avoid- green, Blue & orange

- **Meen (Meenam) (Pururuttathi $\frac{1}{4}$, Uthrattathi & Revati)**

Change of residence or change in work area anticipated: On the work front, it will be very hectic. Mother's health has to be taken care of. Health wise favourable.

Favourable colours- Red, Yellow, Rose, Orange Avoid- Blue.

Ten Questions

1. The date on which the state of Kerala came into existence.
2. Kerala state has _____ revenue districts.
3. Prior to the formation of Kerala state, Malabar district has ten taluks and one of them was Kochi. What is the name of that Kochi now known as?
4. A Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin later became Chief Minister of Kerala. Who was he?
5. A well known poet of Kerala was also Diwan of Travancore. Who was he ?
6. A part of Mumbai is named after a erstwhile district of Kerala. Which is it?
7. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus was earlier known after this queen. Name her.
8. This Mumbai mayor rose to become a powerful Union Cabinet Minister. Who was he?
9. This Keralite was the first Malayali Governor of Maharashtra. Name him.
10. Name the first Maharashtrian who was awarded Bharat Ratna.

Send your answers written in a post card to Kerala in Mumbai, B-105, Twin Arcade, Marol Military Road, Mumbai 400 059 so as to reach us before 22nd February 2010. Names of the individuals of all correct answers will be published in March '10 issue.

Matrimonial



- 1) Nambiar Boy (29 yrs, B.Com, MBA, Anizham shuddha jatakam, working as counts officer in an MNC at Mumbai) seeks proposal from Nambiar/ Nair girls in the age group of 22-26 yrs. preferably from North Malabar. Contact details:
E-mail: tbalakrishnan14@yahoo.com Mobile: +919741478913
- 2) Nair Boy(29 Year, Born on 8/2/1981, Utrittathi (Shuddha Jathakam), Working in Army, Owns a house in Thamarakulam (Alleppey Dist), has a sister (Married & Settled) and a younger brother, working in Mumbai, Father's a Farmer & mother's a homemaker) looking for a down to earth, god fearing & educated bride. Contact Mr. Vasudevan Nair (Father) Tel: 0479 237 1821
- 3) Alliance invited from Parents of professionally qualified and well settled Nair boy with good family background for Nair girl, 23 year old, slim, good looking, height 164 cms, pursuing MBA. Please contact 022- 29201961
- 4) Bijithkumar, working in Mudra communication in Cochin, 25 years (1984), seeking alliance of educated and down to earth Nair girl from Alleppey. Contact: Binoj (brother) 09947 110509
- 5) Nambiar Girl (29, Chitra, Shuddhjathakam, Mumbai setteled) Seeks Alliance From Qualified And Well Employed Nambiar, Nair Or Menon Boy Setteled In Mumbai
- 6) Alliance invited from parents of professionally qualified & settled Nair Boy for dentist. Fiar 5'2" 23 yrs, trichur Nair girl settled in Mumbai. Horoscope match must. Email nair_Leo2009@hotmail.com
- 7) Sero Malabar Roman Catholic girl, 26, height 5' 3" , weight 60 kg, M.A. Born and brought up in Mumbai, looking for suitable groom. Parents hailing from Changanassery. Send proposals to Box No.002, C/o Kerala in Mumbai
- 8) Reputed cultured well settled business family Malayali Christian-Latin Catholic-family settled in Mumbai, seeks suitable match for their handsome son chemical engineer with MBA working in multinational . Age-26 years. Ht-6" 1" from well settled, educated, good looking, fair, with strong family values, same caste. Status families need apply with family profile biodata to: Box No. 001 C/o Kerala in Mumbai.

Readers interested in giving Matrimonial details may forward to
mumbaiinkerala@gmail.com.

THE MONTH THAT WAS

£300 for a stubbed out cigar butt

Britain's wartime Prime Minister Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874-1965) rarely failed to finish a cigar but one he stubbed out half way during the Second World War is now up for sale in London. The four inches long stub was left by Churchill before he dashed off for a Cabinet meeting on August 22, 1941 the day German troops reached Leningrad. It is now expected to fetch £300 at auction, the 'Daily Mail' reported. Whitehall valet Nellie Goble found it while cleaning and sent it to a friend, with a note: "Just a small souvenir to remind you at some future date of one of the greatest men that ever lived in England." The friend gave it to her daughter now a pensioner who kept it at her home in

Norfolk and is now selling it.

Churchill, the only Prime Minister who won a Nobel for literature, was well known as chain cigar smoker. Till late 1970s, cigar merchants used to exhibit in their premises a bust of Churchill with a cigar between his lips, as an advertisement.

Malayali girl rescued from Haiti debris

A Malayali female volunteer was rescued from the debris of Haiti earthquake after 55 hours being caught in it. Ann Varghese, employed as Program Health Officer with IMA World Health, based at Baltimore in US, went to Haiti to hold discussions on aid to be provided to victims of earthquake prone Caribbean states, with United Methodist Committee representatives. While discussions were on at the

restaurant lobby of Hotel Montana of Port-au-Prince, the building suddenly shook and collapsed. Caught under the debris, they cried for help but nobody responded. On the third day, their cries were answered by French fire fighters, who after five hours' of hard work, rescued them. Till then, they had no food or water but the light from the cell phones and the laptops gave them a little hope.

Ann is a resident of Kansas. Her father V Varghese, mother Mariyamma and sister Sheelu are staying with her at Kansas City. Sheelu and her parents sighed with relief when they received her call. Ann called them after borrowing a satellite phone from the fire fighters. The family belongs to Kuriyannoor Vattappara family of Thiruvalla.

SUBSCRIPTION

KERALA IN MUMBAI is a special news magazine exclusively for Keralites settled in this metropolitan city and its adjoining suburbs. The content of this magazine is specially designed to cater to the needs of Keralites and is printed in English language so as to reach all sections who may not know proper Malayalam. We are offering a special subscription price to all interested Keralites on a first come first served basis.

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†Entry Passes are for the Live Music Programme of S P Balasubramanyam, to be held on February 27, 2010 at Shanmukhananda Auditorium.

This offer is only for those who subscribe to KERALA IN MUMBAI, before February 22, 2010. Entry passes and DVDs will be given till stocks exhaust.

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NEWS DIGEST



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Love, Jealousy, anger and Revenge

A forty four year NRI woman Lakhvir Kaur Singh mixed the meals of her ex-lover and his fiancée as an act of revenge against them. She, a mother of three children, was in love with 39 year old Lakhvinder Cheema for the last fifteen years but when he met the 22 year old Gurjeet Choough, he gave up his affair with the old love and decided to get married with Gurjeet during last Valentine's Day.

Unable to cope up with her anger, Lakhvir Kaur invited them for a meal and poisoned the food with aconite, a lethal plant. Within one hour, Cheema was paralysed by the toxin and died shortly after arriving at the hospital while Choough slipped into coma. However, later she

recovered.

Before succumbing, Cheema remembered that earlier too, he had similar but smaller symptoms when he dined at Lakhvir's place and conveyed his apprehensions to the doctors. Earlier he had to remain in the hospital for a week but the doctors could not discover the cause.

Prosecutor Edward Brown told these facts to a court in London while the proceedings were on.

Non-consummation of marriage no ground for divorce

South Korean couples cannot end their marriage because one partner has refused to have sex with the other for years, according to a ruling of South Korean Supreme Court.

The case was brought by a husband, only identified by his family name Kim, who said his wife has never had sex with him. They were married in 2005, went to live in the United States and later returned to South Korea to live with Kim's parents. He first filed for divorce in 2007, saying the couple had never consummated the marriage. The court ruled the couple could probably work out their problem if they really wanted. "Unless the defendant wishes to accept the decision for divorce, it is hard to acknowledge the marriage with the plaintiff has been broken beyond recovery," the court said in a decision made available to the media.

The court did not allow for divorce in cases where physical ailments prevent sexual relations.

South Korean courts have been trying to slow down the divorce rate in the country for the past

few years after the number of divorces had almost doubled in the decade starting in 1995 to post one of the highest rates in Asia.

"Imran Khan received Rs 40 mn from Musharaff"

A top PPP leader and senior minister in the coalition



government in Pakistan's Punjab province, Raja Riaz has alleged, "Khan charged Rs 40 million from Gen Musharaff as he was at the forefront of moves to establish the dictator's rule." He further alleged that Khan, who heads the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf party, had got his relatives employed in the Pakistan Cricket Board during Musharaff's regime. The General obliged him as he wanted the latter's support. Khan's party denied the allegations and said they would take him to court over the issue.

In recent weeks, Khan has been very critical of PPP-led government at the centre. He has also said the Pakistan Army should be called in to help implement the Supreme Court's order scrapping the National Reconciliation Ordinance, a

graft amnesty that benefitted Zardari and over 8,000 others.

Women in Pak now after sari
During General Zia-ul-Haq's regime, he declared 'Sari' un-Islamic and by default 'salwar-kameez' became the national dress of Pakistani women. However, it surprisingly survived as the official dress for women officers of the Pakistan Army's medical corps while it disappeared from civilian life and Zia did not bother to extend the ban to the armed forces.

Though it is not rare to see Pakistani women making a fashion statement with the six yards in private spaces, or occasionally on the ramps, women officers of the army's medical corps still swear by the sari.

Most women are comfortable in saris but those who are not, have the option of wearing salwar-kameez. The Pakistani Army's official website depicts a woman medical officer wearing a khaki sari combined with a tunic of the same colour and a red beret. However, nurses of the medical corps wear white salwar-kameez.

Saris were unapologetically flaunted by Pakistan founder Mohammed Ali Jinnah's sister Fatima and the late President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's wife, Nursat Bhutto. However, Nursat's daughter Benazir Bhutto decided to be politically correct by choosing the salwar-kameez over the six yards.

There has been a recent rekindling of interest in saris on this side of the border. The saris are tailored to size since most women cannot tie them right or just do not have the time to do so. Women can also be seen

wearing saris in public in the southern port city of Karachi. Many see the revival of the sari as a sign of rebellion; others blame it on the Indian soaps aired on Pakistan cable TV networks, which are lapped up by women.

Anjun Rahman, a TV show host, loves wearing saris to parties. "I love saris," she declared.

Another conservative TV show host, who always wears a hijab, surprised everyone by showing up at a function hosted by an Indian in a black kanjeevaram sari, the headscarf very much in place.

Soofia, a fashion designer too swears by the sari. "But I can't tie it. I wear it only when my mother is around to help me," she said.

It is not just the hoity-toity who like being seen in a sari. Nargis, a Pashtun household help, got a sari stitched in Islamabad to wear to her brother's recent wedding.

Men prefer her natural scent to her perfumes

Men prefer his woman's natural scent to the exotic perfumes she wears. This is the finding of study conducted by two psychologists Saul L Miller and Jon K Maner from Florida State University. Smells are known to influence the testosterone levels of the males among the animals during mating seasons, they points out. They wanted to confirm if it was true for human beings also.

In two studies, women wore tee shirts for three nights during various phases of their menstrual cycles. Male volunteers smelled one of the tee shirts that had been worn by a female participant. In addition, some of the male volunteers

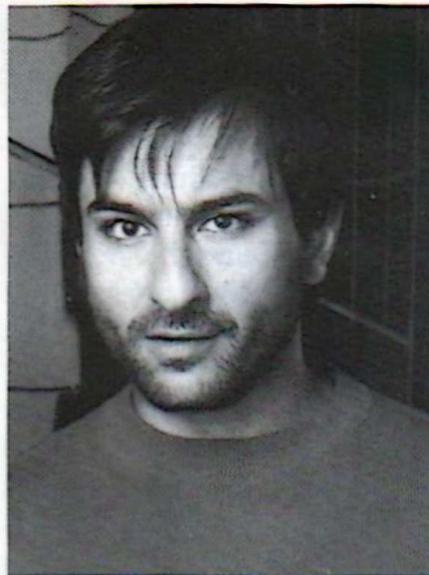
smelt control tee shirts that had not been worn by anyone. Testosterone tests were conducted on men before as well as after they smelt the shirts. Results showed that that men who smelt tee shirts of ovulating women subsequently had higher levels of testosterone than men who smelt shirts worn by non-ovulating women or men who wore the control shirts.

When asked about the experience of smelling, men stated that the shirt worn by ovulating women had a pleasant smell than the other.

These findings are published in Psychological Science.

Saif Ali Khan's Padmashri invites controversy

Wildlife activities and the



members of the Bishnoi community in Jodhpur are venting their anger over Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, son of film actress Sharmila Tagore and former Cricketer Nawab of Pataudi and also an accused in blackbucks killing case, on being honoured with the Padmashri award.

As a mark of protest for dishonouring their sentiments,

the activists of community for Wild Life and Rural Deveopment (COWRD) and Bishnoi Tiger Vanyajeev Evam Paryavaran Sansthan (BTVPS) burnt an effigy of the actor. "Saif Ali Khan and some other actors had attacked Balackbucks in our area. The case is still under trial in the court. But now the President of India has conferred the accused with a civilian honour the Padmashri and this has hurt our Bishnoi community's sentiments. We want the government to take back the honour from the actor and this protest is in connection with the same.," said Sukhram Bishnoi, an advocate, Rajasthan High Court. The protestors are planning to write to the Union Government against the decision of awarding Khan. In case the honour is not withdrawn from the actor, the activists plan to start a nationwide protest.

Wife gets maintenance from disloyal husband

A Delhi Court has come to the rescue of a woman, who accused her husband of cruelty by claiming that he used to have extra marital relations. The court ordered him to pay her maintenance under the Domestic Violence Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Twinkle Wadhwa took into account the photographs of the woman's husband with different women, including those in Russia, as well as interiors and exteriors of their house, showing his financial health besides other documents including electricity bills of their West Patel house and tickets of air travel to prove her charge.

In her complaint under Protection of Women from

Domestic Violence Act, the woman alleged he had refused to maintain her for the last one and half years and instead demanded Rs 50 lakh from her for staying at the matrimonial home.

The court presumed the income of the husband, who runs an engineering works factory, at Rs. 1 lakh per month and awarded maintenance of Rs.20,000 to the woman who has two sons, 18 and 16 years old, following their marriage in 1988.

Want ticket, go to jail: Lalu

RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav has made clear that only those who produced a certificate from the jail authorities that the applicant was in Jail, would be given election tickets from his party. He was addressing a meeting of the party workers. "Being in jail for some time will be the first criterion while deciding the party's candidate," he said. "You will get everything from free medicines, clothes to quilts and blankets and good beds," he extolled them. He could very well say that from own experience.

Jayalalithaa attends assembly

Jayalalithaa is the opposition leader of Tamilnadu legislative assembly but she does not normally attend the sessions. She likes to be seen there only as Chief Minister. To keep her seat in the assembly, she makes a short visit there to sign the muster to avoid disqualification. Her nine minutes long presence in the assembly on 8 January 2010, not only surprised the treasury benches but her own party legislators.

Tamilnadu's new DGP

The new DGP (Law and Order) of Tamilnadu is a Malayali

woman. 1976 batch IPS officer Latika Saran took charge on January 13 at Chennai. Earlier she was Police Commissioner of Chennai City. She is the second female DGP of India and first in Tamilnadu.

Taking charge from K P Jain, Latika Saran stated that top priority would be accorded to prevention of crimes against women and children. "A single crime against them will be equivalent to many other crimes," she said.

Latika Saran is the daughter of N S Das of Thiruvananthapuram and Smt. Vijayalakshmi of Kollam.

Sons' offer at mother's feet

Karthik and brother Prasanth were facing a grave situation at the home front when they were participating in the Dance Premier League Reality Show of TV channel Sony. Their mother Suma was in the hospital, totally depending on others for her basic needs, following a scooter accident on December 9, 2008. She along with her husband Mohan were going to attend the celebrations of the wedding anniversary of her sister Lalitha Rajan when a bike coming at great speed, hit their vehicle, throwing them away. Following grave head injury, she was admitted in an unconscious state.

The treatment at Hinduja Hospital is very expensive and it was a heavy burden on the family. Chandramohan, husband of Suma, belongs to Ananda Mandiram of Iravipuram in Kollam district and employed as Deputy Post Master of Chembur Post Office while Suma was a teacher at R N Gandhi High School. They are

resident of Chittaranjan Nagar, Ghatkopar (E). Nineteen year old Karthik is a BSc student and brother Prasanth is now working as trainer at Shamik Davar Institue of Performing Arts, Mahalaxmi. Both the brothers were trained at this institute.

When Karthik went for audition for the reality show, being one of over 4,000 aspirants, he had no inkling about winning the contest but was least concerned about the ultimate outcome. He simply dedicated his art to his mother and decided any monetary benefit derived from the contest would be utilised for her treatment. Crossing the hurdles at each phases, he reached the semifinal. His brother was also in his group and just before performing, he publicly announced that he was dedicating his performance to mother who was in a critical condition at the hospital. The entire audience and the judges empathised with him.

Out of the prize money of Rs.55 lakhs, Karthik and brother got Rs.10 lakhs, a great relief to meet the ever mounting medical expenses. An award money to meet the bitter reality!

Kodungalloor Kudumba Koottayma

The first meeting of Kodungalloor Kudumba Koottayma was held on December 27, 2009 at Navi Mumbai, with the objectives of bringing all people hailing from Kodungalloor. Kodungalloor is the only place in Kerala mentioned in ancient literature. In modern times all three important of religious sects have worked together and lived together with amity, peace, mutual trust and co-operation.

It was explained that the basic aims are to introduce the new generation of old immigrants to the ancient history of Kodungalloor, its cultural ethos and literary traditions, to pressurise the state and union governments to declare Kodungalloor where Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions flourished as a national pilgrim centre and to integrate the families hailing from Kodungalloor into a cohesive unit etc.

Other objectives are to hold a convention of former students residing in Mumbai; of Kunhukuttan Thampuran College and MES Asmabi College; to help the needy and to extend help the organisations working for the coastal railway link to Kodungalloor and restoring the peaceful atmosphere recently vitiated on account of communal disturbances.

The following persons were elected to the working committee: Mr Muralidharan K Menon (Chairman), Shivaprasad B Menon (Vice Chairman), Mr M K Navaz (President), Ramdas K Menon (Vice President), Mr Chandrasekharan C G (General Secretary) and Mr Vinod Kumar Menon and Pravin Kumar P as Joint Secretaries. For further details, interested persons may contact on 9820038929, 9320986322, +91-2769 2907 E-Mail:

kodungalloor2009@gmail.com.
Varier Samajam Annual Get-together

Varier Samajam of Mumbai celebrated their Annual Get Together with fun and frolic on 23rd January at Tamil Sangham

Hall. Enthusiastic members and their families ensured that day very memorable by various variety entertainment programmes including dances, songs etc. Meritorious children of the members were awarded scholarships.

Hang your linen in public and face music

All important problems faced by our great city of Mumbai are almost over and a few minor skirmishes are remaining to be solved. And if we are lucky, soon such issues also will be addressed effectively by the state government and municipal corporation.

The state cabinet has cleared a proposal to penalise the housing societies or the owners of the residential buildings in which the residents hang their wet clothes in the open to dry, in clear public view. In its opinion, this facade spoils the aesthetic appeal of Mumbai and earns a bad name for the otherwise beautiful city. Not only the linen facade, but also debris in and around the buildings, stained walls, faded building colours and broken boundary walls will attract this penal measure. The responsibility of implementing this new rule is of the Municipal Corporation. Shri R A Rajeev, additional municipal commissioner has already welcomed the new measure by saying that "the city's skyline and aesthetics will suddenly improve" and that "BMC can easily implement this as there is no need of extra staff".

After effectively implementing the earlier resolutions such as stopping spitting on the road, urinating along the road side, defecating in the open etc are

implemented, Mumbai has turned a new leaf by having a very aromatic atmosphere.

Press reports indicate that it is the second time that the government approves the scheme but this time it means business. One would wonder, why it did not mean business earlier!

Principal held for molesting student

The Principal of Karthika High School in Kurla West, Ravindran Nair was arrested by the Vinoba Bhave Nagar police. The girl, a student of V std. was allegedly molested by the Principal on the school premises.

Parents of some other students of the school, who came to the police station, also raised similar allegations against Nair. The victim has been sent for a medical check up. The accused later alleged that he was a victim of the management's politics.

Life imprisonment to rape accused

In a case of raping a minor girl after giving her drinks laced with drugs, the accused Tushar Arundas (33) of Karnam Apartments of Virar, was awarded life term imprisonment by Sessions Court Judge Kamlakar Kotekar. While mother was away to attend a court case, the accused, a friend of her family hailing from Kerala, entered her house and offered the drink and raped her when she was in her senses. This was recorded using mobile camera by his friends Indrapal Sharma and Richard Pinto, the prosecution charged. However, in the absence of strong evidence, they were let off.

The incident occurred on 20

February 2006 and by blackmailing her with the video pictures, she was raped many times by him. When the incidents became intolerable, the girl disclosed the matter to her mother and a complaint was lodged with the Nalasopara police.

Mumbai Thane SNDP Union dissolved

SNDP Yogam Council has dissolved the Mumbai Thane union and the administration was handed over to a new adhoc committee with K K Ramachandran as Chairman and P N Nanu as Convener. This adhoc committee will conduct the administration of the Union as well as convene the Annual Meeting to elect the new office bearers.

Malayali youth arrested for smuggling gold ornaments

Illath Jithesh Kumar of Kannur was arrested at Santacruz airport while trying to smuggle gold ornaments worth Rs. 1.21 crores. He landed at Mumbai airport by a Jet Airways flight from Dubai with a trolley bag and an airbag. He placed only one bag on the x-ray scanner while attempting to come out through the green channel. Finding his behaviour strange, the air intelligence officials subjected to detailed scrutiny and recovered the jewellery worth \$10,000 from the second bag.

He was arrested and sent to Arthur Road jail. He claimed to have jewellery shops at Dubai and Kerala and that prompted him to do this, he told the police.

SC converts death to imprisonment in inter-caste killing

“Taunts suffered by an offender

in an honour killing need to be considered before pronouncing a verdict on him”, Supreme Court has remarked while reducing the death sentence of Dilip Tiwari to 25 years of imprisonment without any option for release. The sessions court had sentenced him to death for murdering his sister's husband Prabhu (26), a member of Ezhava community and members of his family, namely father Krishnan Nochil (70), brother Bijit (13) and neighbour Abhayraj besides seriously injuring mother Indira and sister Deepa.

Dilip Tiwari, is a brahmin and the victims belonged to a backward community of Kerala. His younger sister Sushma married Prabhu against the wishes of his family and this prompted him to eliminate the entire family of Prabhu. Along with his friends Sunil Yadav and Manoj, he barged into Prabhu's residence at Andheri and attacked them. The incident occurred on May 17, 2004.

The Sessions Court's order was upheld by the Bombay High Court after which the accused had appealed in the apex court.

“It is a common experience that when the younger sister commits something unusual and in this case it was an inter-caste, intercommunity marriage out of the secret love affair, then in the society it is the elder brother who justifiably or otherwise is held responsible for not stopping such affair. It is held as the family defeat,” said the controversial order of the Division Bench of Justices V S Sirpurkar and Deepak Verma. “Caste is a concept which grips a person before his birth and does

not leave him even after his death. The vicious grip of the caste, community, religion, though totally unjustified, is a stark reality. The psyche of the offender in the background of a social issue like an intercaste community marriage, though wholly unjustified, would have to be considered in the peculiar circumstances,” the judgment observed.

“At times he (the brother) has to suffer taunts and snide remarks even from the persons who really have no business to poke their nose into the affairs of the family. Dilip, therefore, must have been a prey of such insults which his younger sister had imposed upon his family,” the court reasoned.

“The murders were the outcome of a social issue like a marriage with a person of so-called lower caste. However, a time has come when we have to consider these social issues as relevant while considering the death sentence in the circumstances as these,” the court observed in the judgment.

Sushma who testified against her brother resulting in death sentence by the Sessions Court, is shocked and anguished. “The day my brother killed my family, all my love and affection for him drained,” she said after hearing the latest decision of the SC. Now she has to live with the pain inflicted by the ruling of the SC too. Now at 25, she, widowed by her own brother, has to live with all the bitter experiences inflicted by fate while looking after her five year-old daughter. The ruling came as a huge shock to her. She was seven months pregnant while her husband was stabbed to death by her brother

and his friends. She survived as she was visiting relatives.

"I was content when the court sentenced him to death. The High Court too understood the gravity of the act and confirmed the verdict. I am completely shocked that the Supreme Court could not understand what this loss means to a person," she said. She is very bitter that the SC does not see the repercussions of the crime on the society. This social evil that still exists in the 21st century in the name of religion and caste, has to be wiped out. Since the tragedy, she has not seen her parents or relatives. She lives alone with her daughter. Her mother in law died in 2006 and sister in law Deepa recently got married. Sushma regretted that her love marriage took away Deepa's family but felt happy she moved forward. Though she was persuaded by her friends and well wishers to get remarried, she remained firm as she could not see herself married to anyone else. Her child is her life, she feels as she shudders at the thought of going through a marriage again.

Middle man apologises and returns bribe

A document writer who acts also as middleman for the registering authority apologised to the bridegroom, Suneesh (24) and returned the money he fleeced on behalf of the subregistrar of marriages when trapped by the vigilance officials. As per the Special Marriage Act, the fee for registration of marriage is Rs.15 only while the document writer who also doubles as the middleman for the officer concerned, demanded Rs.1,500 that the bridegroom paid but just

before the marriage he demanded Rs.4,000 more. Irritated by the greed, Suneesh recorded the conversation on his mobile phone and approached the Vigilance. When they intervened, the registration officials conducted the wedding ceremony. Afterwards, the Vigilance official encountered with the middleman and he apologised to Suneesh and his parents and returned the initial money paid. When he pleaded that unless the complaint was withdrawn, he would lose his career, Suneesh felt pity on him and complied.

Newly weds splits soon after reception

After the wedding before Guruvayoorappan, the newly weds held a luxurious reception for invited guests, at a star hotel at the temple town but soon after the bill became the bone of contention. The angry bride snapped the new mangalasutra and threw it on the face of the bridegroom before leaving him to go her own way. The bride is a resident of Chennai and a model while the bridegroom from Ernakulam is an IT businessman. It was, notably, a love marriage.

Bride's "husband" prevents wedding

Just before the wedding ceremony, a muslim youth appeared at St. John's Cathedral, Kollam and claimed that the bride was his legally married wife and produced photographs and documents of his wedding before the cathedral's authorities. He said that she changed her name to Maimuna Begum and got converted to Islam.

Following this incident, the

marriage was cancelled and all guests and bridegroom's party left the venue without attending the feast. Relatives of both bride and bridegroom claimed that the newly-wedded-to-be were known to each other for many years. Now the bridegroom's party is investigating the circumstances that led to this incident before proceeding to legal action against the bride.

Rapist father gets life R.I.

Pala Meenachil Kumbani Bhagathu Kochupurakkal Raju (Raju Mistry-68) was sentenced to life with rigorous imprisonment for raping his 22-year old daughter, by the Fast Track-2 District Judge Jose Thomas. The accused was further sentenced to one more year of rigorous imprisonment for threatening her with life. Prosecution alleged that he brought his daughter from the first marriage to stay with him, after his third wife deserted him. Daughter was earlier staying in a mathom at Kumbani. She complained to her neighbours when her father continuously assaulted her. They in turn informed police and he was arrested.

In his judgment, the judge emphasised that he was awarding this severe sentence because the man duty bound to protect his daughter, himself committed the crime. In rape cases, the normal jail term is seven years. Judge further commented that no daughter would come forward to allege such severe crime against own father. Circumstantial and scientific evidences also favoured the prosecution case. Daughter is now housed in the Government Juvenile Home

Love for Country still burns in this old Muslim woman

During the 1965 Indo-Pak war, Nabissumma lost her daughter and on the sixth day of her loss, the SBI manager and other government officials engaged in collecting donations and gold deposits from the citizens came to her residence, and she without any coaxing, gave them a gold chain and refused to take any acknowledgment. When the reason for her unusual response was sought, she revealed that the gold chain belonged to her dead daughter and now it belonged to the country. Nevertheless, after one year, documents pertaining to the gift reached her from the District Collector's office, with a promise that the chain will be returned after 20 years along with 5.5% interest and further, an equal amount of gold.

When TV channels showed details of Kaumudi Teacher who donated all her jewellery to Mahatma Gandhi, Nabissumma remembered about her gift too and went to the bank officials to enquire about the status of her gift.

Now she has written to Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Chief Minister and MPs, P Karunakaran and K Sudhakaran, requesting them to accept all her gold ornaments for the welfare of the country. She is yet to receive a reply.

Nafissumma, now aged 65 years, is a resident of Cherukunnu, Kannur district and stays with her son.

Malayali Engineer invents engine that runs on any fuel

While the whole world is struggling to invent an engine that would run on multiple fuels

such as diesel, petrol, CNG, kerosene, a retired merchant navy engineer Das Aji Kamat has invented one and took patents in more than forty countries including US and UK.

There are engines that would run on any of the above but not all of them. There are vehicles made in India too, that would run on individual fuels but no engine that could utilise any available fuel. Hence the engines are imported but no one invested his time and energy to invent one engine of multiple fuels.

Das Aji Kamat is an engineering graduate of 1990 batch of NIT, Durgapur and is a resident of River Dale, Vrindavan Colony, Elamkulam, Kochi. Since his retirement from the Merchant Navy, he was fully engaged in making a prototype of multi-fuel injection engine and now he has authorised a well known automobile company to manufacture his dream engine. He claims that this could be used in motor cars, two wheelers, ships, pumps, compressors and aeroplanes.

A prototype of this engine was displayed at the exhibition hall of Indian Science Congress, held at Thiruvananthapuram.

Amrattanandamayi Devi at Navi Mumbai

Sri Amrattanandamayi Devi, lovingly known as Amma is visiting Navi Mumbai to attend Brahmasthana Mahotsav at Nerul Ashram during February 28 to March 1, 2010. Lalitha Sahasranama Archana, Pravachan, Bhajan, Dhyan, Darshan, Mangal, Rahu Puja, Shani Puja etc will be done



during these days. The Ashram undertakes several welfare schemes for the benefits of the down trodden, incurring expenditure over several crores of rupees. Health care, Community welfare, Educational institutions, Disaster relief works etc are some of them.

Devotees interested in participating in the programmes have to register at Nerul Ashram from January 31, 2010. Devotees participating in Lalitha Sahasranama archanas will be provided with food and accommodation. Darshan tokens also will be issued at the venue. For details contact: 2772 2385/2771 1585.



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