

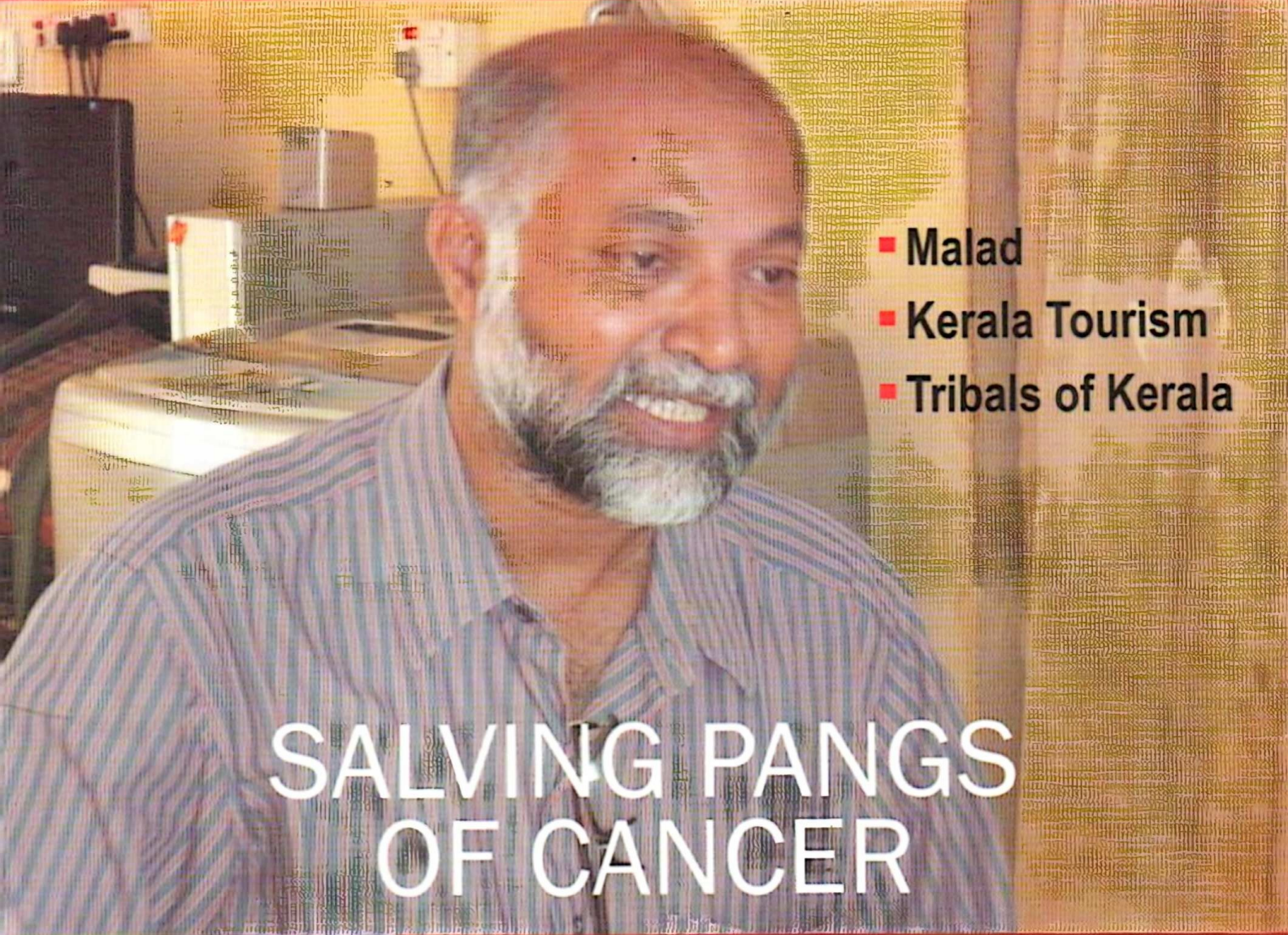
# Kerala in Mumbai

Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

Vol.3 No. 03

Price Rs. 70

June 2012



- Malad
- Kerala Tourism
- Tribals of Kerala

## SALVING PANGS OF CANCER



Constructive  
Karmayogi

Emerging  
Kerala  
2012





## Mumbai Theatre

In your May '12 issue, C K K Poduval mentioned some important aspects of Mumbai theatre. The missing points in the article of P K Ravindranath (Raviyettan) in the April issue on the same subject are thus filled in.

Now I wish to point out some more points left out but need mention. Like Adam Theatre and Pratisbha Theatre, Ragam Theatres also enjoyed similar repute and respect. Its mentor and director Augustine Fernandes deserved mention in the earlier issues. Ragam's debut performance was in Shanmukhananda Hall with *Mannu* (Soil) and continued to stage about 20 plays in Mumbai. Each of them had about half a dozen stages. The fact that each of their plays was debuted in Shanmukhananda Hall is worth mentioning as no other theatre could replicate this feat.

As a founder member and secretary in its earlier stages, I would failing in my duty if I do not bring out the above facts.

- Pavithran Kannapuram  
Dombivli

## Illuminating Article

P K Ravindranath's article on the 'Life and Times' of Dr. ARK Pillai March Issue of KIM was illuminating. You had rightly exposed the vision and mission of Dr Pillai and the trials and travails he had to undergo for over three decades to get public interest

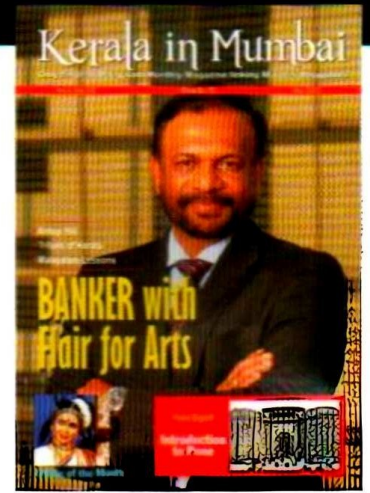
focused in Leprosy Eradication and now in Rural Education and Health-care. At 83, he spreads cheer and hope around him. He is also a great visionary and encourages talent in any field. I happen to be a personal beneficiary of this trait of his which eventually drew me into the IDF fold. He and Dr NB Iyer, CEO, IDF, together, still keep working over 18 hours a day traversing from one corner of this country to another in fulfilling their self-imposed mission! His biographical work, 'Hope on the Horizon' tells more about this role-model of our times for the younger generation.

Dr C.N.N. Nair  
Charkop

## Excellent Editorial

In this May issue of KIM your excellent editorial exhibited the treasure trove of ingredients deposited in the heart of Mr Aneish Kumar, the world renowned Banker, where he urged for opening the accounts of a unique association of Keralities, now spread over in different locations underutilized. The writer also sounded similar suggestion in the Letter to the Editor column of July 2011 edition of KIM.

Now you have a galaxy of personalities perhaps owning the same visions and imaginations. It is undoubtedly true that KIM stands tall in the crowded media market because of its thirst to transform the



society vibrant and vigour by the culmination of brilliant brains abundantly available. This editorial piece presents the testimony of this fact. We have to ensure that the proposed association should not be a mirror image of its counterparts and agenda may be illuminated with points to build up a strong prosperous state. We must welcome and respond positively to KIM and Aneish Kumar voices.

Dr C Warriar  
Ambermath

Students who have scored 90% and more in their SSC/ HSC/ ICSE/ CBSE/ISC exams can send their PP photos along with the % of marks they obtained as well as an attested mark sheet to the Editor, KERALA IN MUMBAI either through e mail or post . The matter should reach our office on or before June 20.

We welcome responses from readers. Please forward your responses and suggestions about various happenings concerning Malayalees residing in this part of India. You may send us your piece in either English or Malayalam. (We shall translate and publish it in English) You may send them via e-mail to [keralainmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:keralainmumbai@gmail.com) or by post to Editor, Kerala In Mumbai, 105-B, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Mumbai 400 059.

## Attention Subscribers

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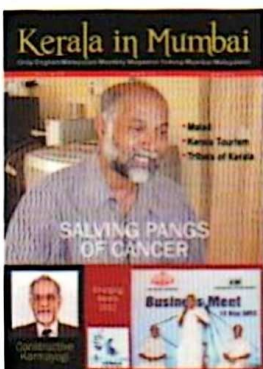
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P C John

# SAILOR TURNED SAVIOUR

-P K Ravindranath

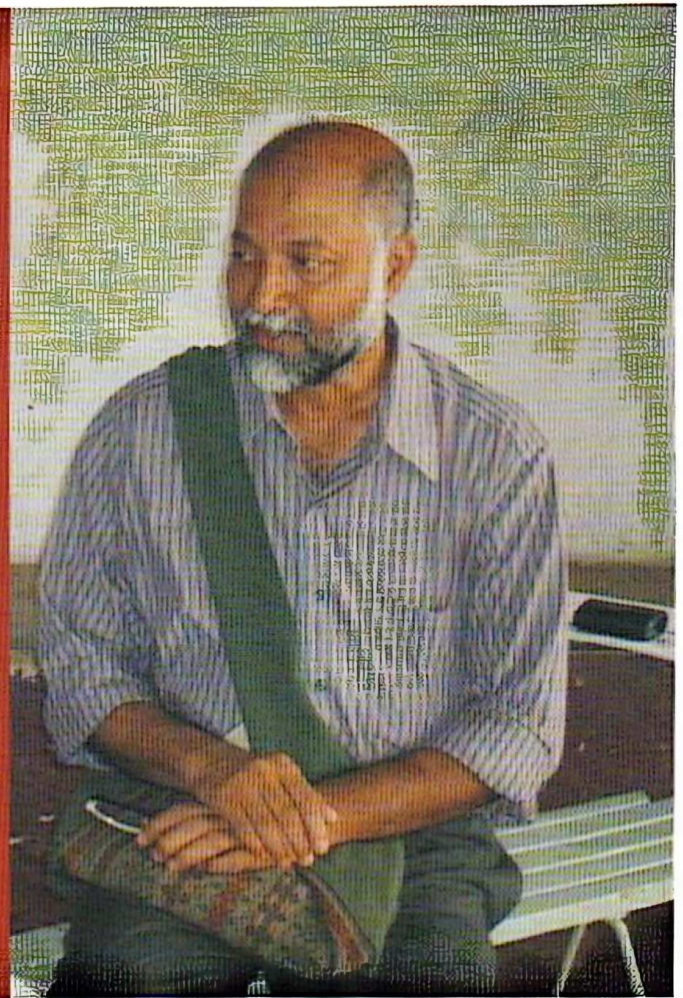
It was when P C John was about to sail on a ship, in 2000, that a friend suggested that he meet the Income Tax Commissioner of Mizoram who had come to Mumbai to select a person for the post of Caretaker cum Manager of the state's cancer patients at the Tata Memorial Hospital. That meeting launched him on his path of selfless service to victims of the dreaded disease. John's helping hand reaches out to every poor and needy cancer stricken patient who comes to the hospital.



**A** Malayalee functioning as Caretaker-cum-Manager for the Mizoram government in Mumbai to care for its large contingent of cancer patients who come to the city for treatment? In the last ten years that he has held the assignment at the Tata Memorial Hospital, P C John has come to dispense his favours universally to every patient who seeks refuge in this Mecca for the cancer-stricken.

He has become an indispensable component of the daily routine at the Hospital, for doctors, the medical staff and the patients alike. His helpful and caring disposition is in evidence for everyone who visits the Hospital on any day. Desperate patients flock to him with routine problems and doubts which they hesitate to discuss with the surgeons and medical staff. No one would rebuff them, but they notice that all doctors and the entire medical staff of the hospital is all the time on their toes rushing from one assignment to another that they do not feel like bothering them too much. And, John Sir is ever willing to lend an ear and sort out their problems. From the Dean, Dr. Rajan Badwe and Dr. D' Cruz

**Besides his 12-hour schedule at the Hospital, John is busy at home attending to the needs of slum children, finding resources to keep them pinned down with school fees, books, uniforms and most importantly, a good, nourishing meal, helped by his aged mother.**



all the surgeons and doctors too utilize the services of John to interact with patients who seek solace and an assurance that their condition is not beyond repair.

Besides his 12-hour schedule at the Hospital, John is busy at home

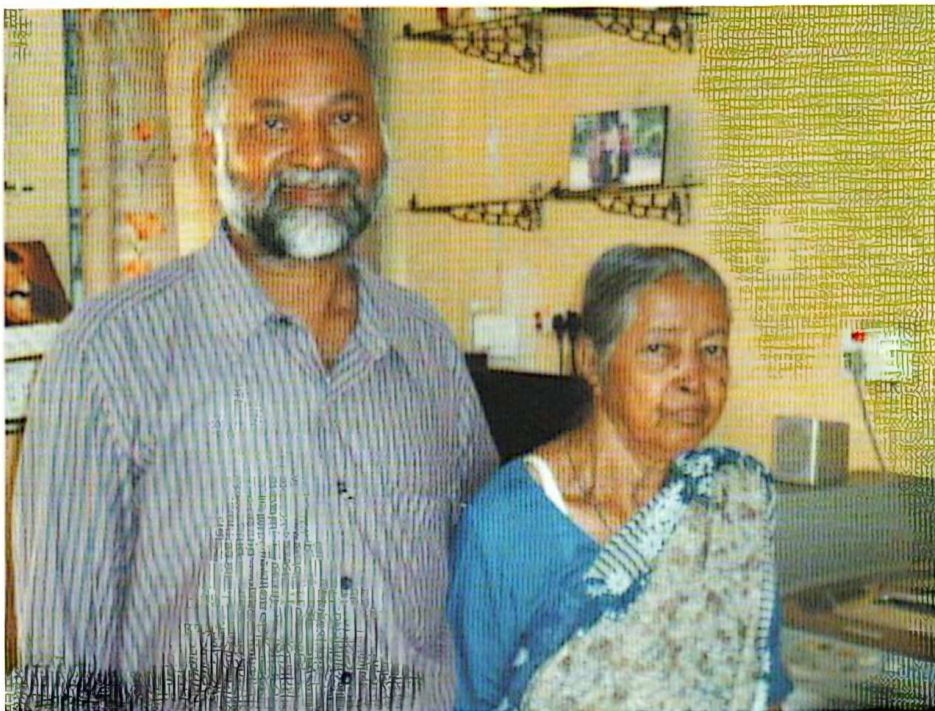
attending to the needs of slum children, finding resources to keep them pinned down with school fees, books, uniforms and most importantly, a good, nourishing meal. His aged mother, Rita Chacko, hard of hearing, relieves him of the tedium of taking charge of distribution of food-grains and essential commodities that are distributed every week to the weakest sections of the slum dwellers.

John's small apartment at Antop Hill is crowded with drums, gunny bags and bottles that are needed for the distribution. The flat also accommodates his sister and half-a-dozen nephews and nieces, all school and college going. He also finds time to ensure that they study well, guiding them and checking that they do their homework on time.

Fifty-three year old, Mumbai born and bred, John is not married. In fact, he never gave it a thought.

Had it not been for his undying urge to serve humanity, he would have been leading a luxurious life in the merchant navy, which he served for ten years. Or, maybe still in Muscat as a well paid sales manager, on which he worked for ten years.

It was when he was about to sail out



*P C John with his mother Rita Chacko*

on a six-figure salary that a friend urged him to go and meet the Income Tax Commissioner of Mizoram, who was just then in Mumbai looking for a man just like John. Since there was still time for his ship to sail out, John decided to meet the Mizo official. One look at him and the Mizo official asked him "Can you join us tomorrow?" That was in 2000, and John has been Caretaker of the Mizoram Government in Mumbai since then. The scope of his service to cancer patients widened beyond his wildest imagination, to take in all suffering humanity within a decade.

His father, an official in the Textile Commissioner's Office in Mumbai died of lung cancer. John did not know of the seriousness of the ailment till the last. Two days before his father died, he spoke to him on the phone. The father urged him to come home soon. By the time John flew back to Mumbai, his father was gone.

His work in Tata Memorial is studded with memories, some fulfilling, some heart-rending. On one occasion, as he was headed for Kalyan to attend his cousin's funeral, he got a call from a young Mizo girl, stricken with terminal cancer, asking for his help. John told her, he was on his way to the funeral.

"Your cousin is already in Heaven and in good company," she told him. "Help



*Drums and bags with foodgrains and other essential items for distribution*

me get there, please," she pleaded.

John retracted his steps and went back to the Hospital, to find the Mizo girl in agony, pain and obvious suffering. She would not allow the hospital staff to touch her to clean her, since she had soiled herself. But when John arrived she quietend down, allowed him to turn her on her side and clean her up. Either she did not feel the pain when John handled her, or she was able to endure it,

while she would not take it from the nursing staff.

She died the same night, peacefully, sponged and clean to keep John's cousin company.

On another occasion, John found a young couple with a child stricken with cancer, waiting in a queue for hours. They were from some remote village in the interior of Maharashtra. They waited outside since they were asked to produce at least their ration card to prove their eligibility for the "N C Category", the non-chargeable category. Hours later when John noticed them still in the queue, he went to them, only to find that they had not even a single paisa on them, much less a ration card. He took them in, pleaded with the authorities and ensured that the child was taken in for immediate care. "They went away after the treatment and I have not seen them since," John says, assuming that the child

would have been cured.

"The poor have no support in this city," he laments.

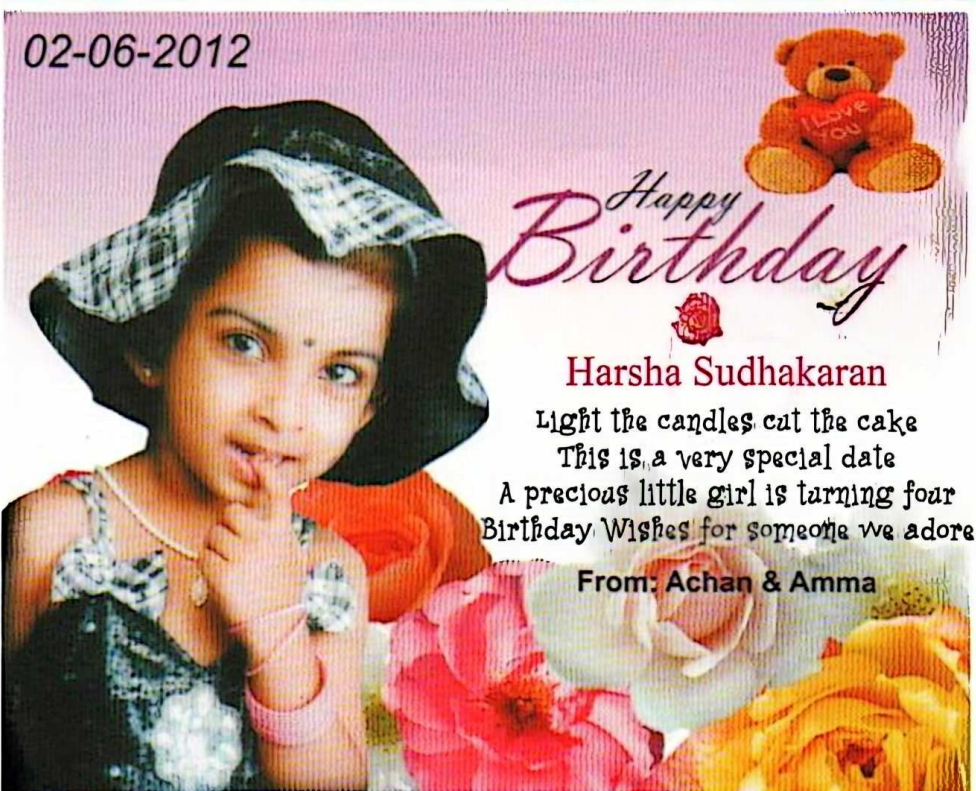
He would like to have a plot of land where he can house homeless and vagrant children. "Hordes of them land in Mumbai from broken homes or because of sheer poverty," he points out. They become easy prey to drug peddlers and the drug mafia, who use them later to trade in narcotics.

Attached to the Society of Vincent de Paul, he has ensured enough support for many of his social activities, like school fees for slum children, ensuring that they get a proper education and land up in a gainful employment.

He finds his job at the Tata Memorial Hospital rewarding. "They have an excellent and dedicated team of doctors and surgeons, selfless and service-oriented. Besides Dr. Badwe and Dr. D' Cruz, he reeled off a string of names Dr. Devendra Chonkar, Anuja Deshmukh, Kannan, Deepa Nair etc.

His friends and classmates call him John the Baptist. For easier identification, can it be John the Baptist II?

**Editor's note: KERALA IN MUMBAI has no hesitation in providing John's telephone number for our readers for any cancer related problems or channelling their charitable outpourings fruitfully. It is 9819261377.**





THE MALAYALEE  
PRESENCE IN

# MALAD

Malad situated in the western suburbs, is well-known for its Inorbit Mall, Infinity mall, Hypercity, Mindspace, the IT Hub etc. and has an eclectic mix of communities living there. Originally called Valnai in the 19 century it consisted of Orlem, a small hamlet with 12 families, and other traditional settlements in the old villages namely Kharodi, Rathodi, Malwani, Marve etc. Most of the settlers were kolis and East Indians.



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

**T**oday there are South Indians, Gujaratis, Sikhs, Muslims like any other suburb of Mumbai. Malayalees are there and very active in linking themselves to form several Malayalee organizations in Malad. The major

localities in Malad are Chincholi Bunder Road, Orlem, Evershine Nagar, Marve Road, INS Hamla of the Indian Navy, Liberty Garden, Jankalyan Nagar, Malwani Village, Kharodi Village and so on. The Somwar Market (Monday

Market) at Chincholi is open only on Mondays and sells produce and items from all over the state of Maharashtra. Sunder Nagar borders Malad and Goregaon.

Malad has beautiful beaches like Manori, Marve, Aksa. From Malad Marve Beach one can take a ferry and go to Essel World, Madh Island, etc. A shop near the station is famous for its sweets, lassi and chaats and does brisk business all days of the week.

We cover here some Malayalee churches and social organisations of Malad.

## St Peter's Jacobite Syrian Church

St Peter's Jacobite Syrian Church also called Malad Soonoro Church was set up in the '80s by the St Ignatius Service Centre, a charitable Trust when the late lamented HG Thomas Mar Theophilos headed the Outside Kerala Diocese. The foundation stone for the Church, blessed by His Holiness Ignatius Zakka, I, Prince Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, was laid in 1982 by the then Father the late Rev Jacob Kureekal Cor-epioscopa along with Father George Narakathukudiyil. A three storeyed structure was built when Fr George Narakathukudiyil was the vicar. The second floor is being used for worship and other Church services.

St Peter's Church has a service centre in Borivli also. Renovation was done during 2003-2005 with a new soonoro chapel and Cross Shrine (*kurushinthotti*). In September 2007 the church celebrated its silver jubilee where senior members were felicitated. The Soonoro Scholarship Trust has been set up to provide financial help for poor students to



*St Peter's Jacobite Syrian Church. (inset) Fr Eldho Palayil*

pursue higher education.

The youth wing and the Martha Mariam Vanitha Sangam are active and conduct several activities. Fr James Abraham, Asst Vicar, conducts classes for the youth and involves them in several social and spiritual activities.

Fr Eldho Palayil is the current vicar of the Church.

## Holy Soonoro

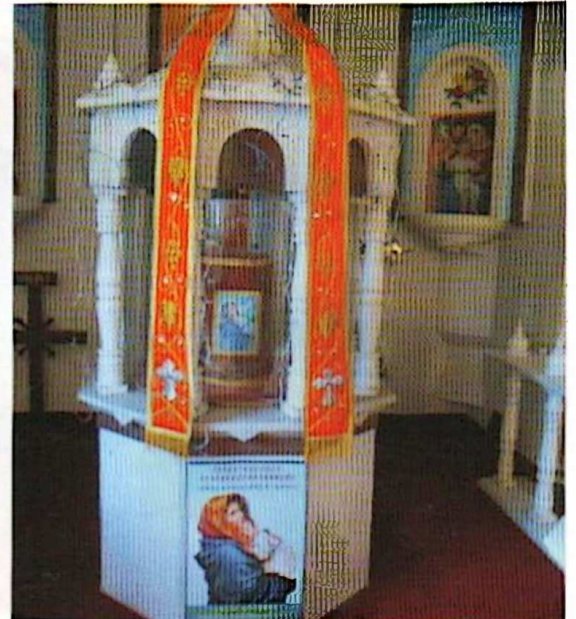
The holy Soonoro (a piece of waist girdle of Mother Mary brought from Kerala) was placed in the Church by the late Dr Geevarghese Mar Gregorios of Kottayam Diocese in the presence of HG Thomas Mar Themotheos on April 13 in 1996. The

Soonoro tomb was constructed by the present Catholicose in February 2002. St Peter's is the only church in the Outside Kerala diocese to have the Soonoro. A *kurushinthotti* (Cross shrine) has been constructed to venerate Mother Mary, St George and St Gregorios of Parumala when Varghese Palayil was the vicar.

Since then special services are held on all second Saturdays with intercessory prayers. From September 1 to 8 the eight day feast of Mother Mary (Ettunombu) is held when the casket containing the Soonoro is kept open for public viewing and prayers and services are conducted. St Peter's Church is popularly-known as Malad Soonoro Church.



*Fr James Abraham with members of the Youth Wing of St Peter's Church*



*The Holy Soonoro within the Church*

## Nair Welfare Association

The Nair Welfare Association (Malad) was formed in 1999 with the aim of uniting the community and working for the upliftment of the poor and the needy through social work and charity, and for the welfare of society as a whole. The Association provides free note books and scholarships to poor deserving students for continuing their education. It also conducts Dance and Music classes for the children of its members. It arranges blood donation camps, and assists members in



Ferry at Marve Beach



E Chandran Sasidharan C Pillai



K S Nair

cash and kind at times of emergencies and natural calamities. It arranges the funeral and after-death rituals for poor people. The Nair Welfare Association conducts its annual day and Onam celebrations with cultural programmes of music and dance.

E Chandran is the President and CG Nair the Vice President of the Association. Sasidharan C Pillai is the Secretary and PP Nambiar the Jt Secretary. KS Nair is the Treasurer while KG Pillai is the Adviser, apart from twelve MC Members.

Chirackal was appointed for this purpose and he was staying in Orlem Church. Later he shifted to Green Park Housing Society. In 1992, Orlem and Malwani Qurbana Centres joined together and formed a single parish of Malad West with the purpose of constructing a common place of worship. In 1994, during the tenure of Fr Joy Chakian, the plot for the Church was bought near the Rajput Marble Market. The Foundation stone for Sacred Heart Church in Malad West was laid in 2008 and the same was blessed by Mar Thomas Elavanal, Bishop of Kalyan in 2009. Fr Rajesh Mathew took an active interest in the construction of the Church. Today there are 250 active Syro Malabar families in this parish. The Church has

associations like *pitravedi* for fathers, *matrusangham* for married ladies, youth wing and catechism. The Youth Wing of this parish has been awarded as the best Unit of the diocese and the *matrusangham* of this parish as the second best Unit of the Diocese.

Fr Benny Thanninikumthadathil is the current vicar of the Sacred Heart Church. He is a priest for the last 13 years and was ordained by the Diocese of Kalyan.

Fr Benny hails from Kaduthuruthy in Kottayam, had his philosophical studies as well as his Graduation from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and Theological Studies at Satna in MP. Joseph KV and Jaison MD are trustees and they help Fr Benny in the daily affairs of the Church and there is a 28 member parish council to help manage the parish. The parish is active in social and charitable activities under the Karunya Trust of the Kalyan Diocese and serve all who are in need of any help.

## Sacred Heart Church, Malad

Before the Kalyan diocese was established in 1988, Syro- Malabar Catholics of all denominations who were settled in and around Orlem and Malwani depended on the chaplains for their spiritual needs. CMI fathers were in charge of these areas. Fr Thomas



Fr Benny



Sacred Heart Church, Malad

### Padma Divakaran

Padma Divakaran is a well known social worker of Malad doing her mite for the Malayalees of Mumbai. She retired as Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax in 2007 and later was appointed as Government Counsel for the Income Tax department. For the last four years she is Government Standing Counsel for Income Tax.



*Padma Divakaran*

Hailing from Omallur in Pathanamthitta District, Padma Divakaran completed her graduation with Physics and Maths from the Kerala University and later her LLB and LLM from Mumbai University.

Advocate Padma Divakaran is the President of the Bombay Keraleeya Samithi of Malad West and is an active social worker. She has done a lot of charitable work for poorer sections of the Malayalees living in this metro especially co-ordinating for heart operations for the poorer Malayalees of Mumbai for which she has received the *Samman Chinn* by Shiv Sena in Mulund. She has arranged funds from World Malayalee Council for heart operations in Bombay hospitals and has financially helped several heart patients for their operations. Another cause she extends her helping hands are for cancer patients. Padma Divakaran has conducted marriages for three or four couples and has helped a handicapped painter CV Surendran hailing from Kannur. For her social work, Padma has been recipient of several awards and felicitations. Pampungal Publications bestowed on her Woman Achiever Award for her charitable activities in October 2011. Daksh Police Times conferred on her Daksh Nagarik Award in May 2011. On the occasion of the International Womens' Day, Mumbai District Aids Control Society felicitated her in 2008 and she received Successful Women in Society Award of Mulund Shiv Sena from the hands of Manohar Joshi in 2005.

Her husband KV Divakaran hails from Prakkanam in Pathanamthitta and was working in the Navy and later in Saudi Government and is now retired.

They have two daughters Rakhee Sunil married to Sunil Thankappan and Reshma married to Hari Sudhakaran. Padma and Divakaran have two grandsons, Harsh and Ved.

### R K Tharoor

R K Tharoor, President, Four Plus Media, hails from Palakkad district. Educated at St Thomas College in Thrissur, he came to Mumbai in the '70's and worked first with NAS, (National Advertising Services), then with several advertising companies as Vice-president, president and presently heads Four Plus Media having offices in Mumbai, Dubai and Singapore.

Tharoor is President Kerala Catholic Union, and Trustee of Sacred Heart Church in Malad. He is interested in fine arts and music and has acted earlier in Malayalam plays and also directed Malayalam dramas for the church and samajams.

Tharoor's parents are the late MS Nair and the late Bhageerathi. His wife, Annamma hails from Kuttanadu in Alleppey district and they have a son Rajeev married to Anu and staying in the US. Their daughter Ranjitha has studied Bharatanatyam and Carnatic Music, she is married to Joseph and they have two children. They also stay in US.



*R K Tharoor*

### Antony Parakal

Antony Parakal has entered the Guinness book of records for writing more than 5000 Letters to the Editor in English,



*Antony Parakal*

Malayalam and Hindi newspapers and journals. He has also entered the LIMCA Book of Records, and won innumerable awards and recognitions for his prolific letterwriting to editors of leading newspapers and periodicals. Awareness and commitment to social cultural and political issues made him a compulsive letter-writer. Born in Narakkal in Ernakulam District in 1931, Antony came to Mumbai in 1953 and worked for the Railways till he took voluntary retirement

in 1988. His passion for letter-writing started as early as 1954, "I consider myself an epistoholic," he says. What urged him to write letters to Editors for various publications? "I consider myself a social crusader through the print media. When I came to Mumbai, I was appalled by the miserable living conditions of people in the city, human suffering, leprosy, anti-social elements etc. I thought this was my way of registering my protests and make a change, through my pen, if possible. And it worked," he says. "In 1957, I wrote to the Times of India about the appalling conditions of the Labour Welfare Centres. Within a week, prompt action was taken." He remembers nostalgically about a letter that he wrote protesting against the rusty stretchers that were used by the railways to carry accident victims. The stretchers were painted as a result. He has written on all topics, cemeteries, corruption, communal riots, morgues, flyovers, subways, "from gutters to the nuclear policy" he adds. He has stacks and stacks of his letters neatly filed and labelled, a record of the social history of four decades from the 50's to 2005. Among them are the replies he received from the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Morarji Desai, Rajiv Gandhi, and even Rajagopalacahari, as well as several eminent personalities.

Antony Parakal has stopped writing letters since 2005. His last letter appeared, as he desired, in the TIME magazine. It was a plea against war and for using the earth's precious resources for the greater common good.

Now 81, Antony Parakal is not able to see in spite of three eye operations and old age has brought along with it a declining state of health. He forgets things and names, but talk about his

passion of letter writing and he is enthusiastic and recalls his past with a sense of joy.

Antony Parakal is married to Lissy and they have two daughters Alice and Tessy and a son Cherian, all married and settled.

*We continue our focus on Malad in our July Issue also. Contributions about the suburbs and its residents are welcome.*

Kerala Varma Valiya Koil Thampurān

# THE EMPEROR OF MALAYALAM LITERATURE

-Satyanath

..... continued from last issue

**K**erala Varma was in close touch with literary movements in both northern and southern parts of Kerala, including *Bhāshāposhini Sabha* and magazines such as *Vidya Vinodini* and *Malayāla Manorama*. His work *Abhijnāna Shākuntalam* (1898), a translation of Kalidasa's *Shākuntalam*, is one of the most acclaimed works of poetry in Malayalam from that period. Because of this work Kerala Varma came to be known as *Kerala Kālidāsan*. It influenced a number of other translations of Sanskrit classics into Malayalam and was a success on the stage. The subsequent spate of translations from English and Sanskrit into Malayalam was an important feature of Malayalam literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He has also written *Mayoorasandesam* on the lines of Kalidasa's *Meghadooth*. In this poem he used the peacocks of Haripad temple to send his messages to his wife, the Maharani, in Trivandrum. This type of poems served the purpose of travelogues depicting weather, geography and history when such a section was unknown in those days. It also mixed the facts with poetic imagination and ignited the reader's own fancy. His celebrated work *Visakhavijaya* was written after his release from house arrest by Vishakhani Thirunāl. Kerala Varma represents the confluence of two major traditions in literature, the Oriental as represented by the Sanskrit classics and the Western represented by English/European classics.

His translation of Von Limburg Brower's *Akbar* (started in 1882) clearly illustrates the historic role of a synthesiser which he was destined to play on the Kerala cultural front. His connections with the royal family, his education and upbringing, his position as president of the Text Book Committee, his progressive and independent outlook, his intellectual prowess and other personality traits raised him head and shoulders above all his contemporaries.



He wrote a number of works in both Sanskrit and Malayalam, both in prose and verse but his personal influence was greater than what was achieved through these works. It may be said that this man was greater than all his writings. Well versed in all aspects of classical Sanskrit poetics and quite at home in the native tradition, master of a sonorous Sanskrit diction and proficient in simple colloquial Malayalam, Kerala Varma's reputation, still depends on the volume of his output.

His best known literary work is *Mayoorasandesam* (Message through peacock) written in 1884. Its intrinsic merits were perhaps exaggerated at the time of its first appearance, but its historical importance is yet to be assessed. It is a work that looks in many directions. It harks back to Kalidasa, the most romantic and subjective work of the

poet, whose influence among other things was chiefly responsible for the revival of romanticism in 19th century Europe. It combines the mixed style of *Manipravāla* poems with the pure Malayalam of Venmani poets but used for a

"personal" communication. It allows the free play of fancy (as seen in the pun on Neelakanta), but also reveals the operation of a complex imagination at times (as in the identification quatrain). It would be an exaggeration to say that Mayurasandesam anticipates the romantic movement, but there is no doubt that there is a softening of the rhetoric of classicism in several of its quatrains. Already in the heart of classicism one hears the soft notes of romantic lyricism.

*Once while alone hunting birds  
in the park,  
O blue-eyed one, I happened  
to kill a bird.  
Out of pity for his bereaved  
companion close by  
Did you not, O timid one,  
ask me to kill her too!*

The lyrical note is heard at some depth; the subjective element is openly acknowledged. These are important gains. Some of his prose essays are of an informal, subjective type like



Painting of Bharani Thirunāl Lakshmi Bai Thanpuran by Ravi Varma

Mrigayasmarakal (Memories of Hunting).

## In the literary field

Recognition for his works came in the form of fellowships of Royal Asiatic Society, Royal Historical Society and the Madras University.

Kerala Varma could handle English language well and corresponded with senior officers through English. He wrote an introduction in English for Vallathol Narayana Menon's translation of *Vālmiki Rāmāyanam*.

It was during Kerala Varma's time that Malayalam printing progressed. This helped the popularity of Malayalam works. Kerala Varma also helped all literary workers who approached him. He wrote constructive criticisms on the works of new comers and thereby encouraged them. His criticism could be considered as the first literary criticisms in Malayalam language. During this period, Kandathil Varghese Mappila started the 'Malayala Manorama'(1890) and Kerala Varma had a cordial relationship with him. The paper's title was suggested by him.

In 1892 a 'Kavisamājam' was held at Kottayam and this led to the formation of the organization, 'Bhāshāposhini Sabha'. Kerala Varma was predictably chosen as the President of the *Bhāshāposhini Sabha*. He also functioned as the editor of *Bhāshāposhini* published by the Manorama group. Kerala



Painting of Parvathy Bai - by Ravi Varma

Varma used his knowledge of English and Sanskrit literature for the development of Malayalam prose and poem. He was an exponent of *Dwitheeyākshara Prāsam* (rhyming of letter in the second place of each line in a stanza). Thus the period of Kerala Varma Valiya Koil *Thampurān* was a renaissance period for Malayalam literature.

## Literary works

Kerala Varma's Malayalam works (prose) include *Hanumadulbhavam*, *Druva Charitham*, *Malsya Vallabha Vijayam*, *Pralamba Vadham*, *Parasurāma Vijayam* and *Somavāra vrutham- Uthara Bhāgam*. His poems are *Mayura sandesam*, *Deiva yogam*, *Sree Padmanābha Pāda Padma Shathakam*, *Sthuthy Shathakam* and some small poems.

*Keraleeya Bhāsha Shākuntalam*, *Amaruka Sathakam*, *Anyapadesa Sathakam* and *Akbar* are his translations. In addition to these he has several texts on Malayalam language, History, Geography, Economics, Health Science, Agriculture and Ethics and moral science. *Sanmārga samgraham*, *Vijnāna Ranjini*, *Sanmārga Pradeepam*, *Sanmārga Vivaranam*, *Lokathinte Shaisavam*, etc. are some of them.

## It happened with

# PONKUNNAM VARKEY

**P**onkunnam Varkey was a rebel throughout his life. He believed that all rich and powerful lived their lives quite differently from the ordinary. This belief led him to criticize Maharaja Sri Chitra Tirunal of Travancore royal family. Not once but several times he wrote about the ostentatious style of the Maharaja. Maharaja read some of his writings in the periodicals and decided to have a talk with him. He wrote on a post card, inviting Varkey for lunch on any day convenient to him. Despite his guess that the Maharaja wanted to influence him, Varkey decided to go to the Palace without any prior notice.

When the watchman informed the Maharaja about the visitor, Maharaja himself came out to welcome him. After exchanging pleasantries, Varkey was taken to the dining hall. Varkey was surprised to see that only one plate and side dishes were kept on the dining table and another plate was kept on the floor with a wooden seat. Varkey thought that the plate on the floor was for him and the one on the

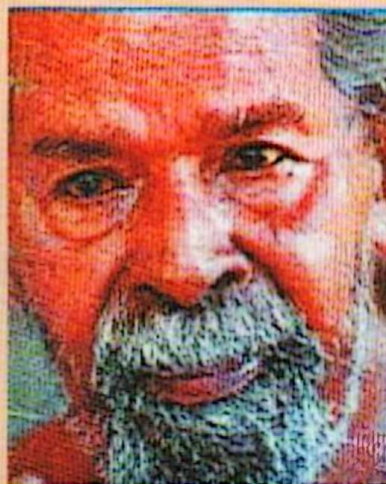


table was for the Maharaja. To his surprise, Varkey was led to the dining table. The servant then appeared and asked him what he would like to have for lunch. Unhesitatingly he replied, "Nothing special. The same as that for the Maharaja!"

While the Maharaja took the seat on the floor, Varkey sat at the dining table. The servant served both of them, rice gruel in the plates, mango chutney on the side plate. Ghee and *pappad* were also served and the servant withdrew. After a while he again appeared to serve the same.

Varkey ate lunch in silence. After the Maharaja got up, he too followed him. Later Maharaja explained that he normally had rice gruel for lunch. Sweets were served

only on special occasions. Guests were served what they wanted as guests were equal to god.

Varkey apologised to the Maharaja for his misconstrued writings. Next week he wrote in newspapers that he misunderstood the Maharaja and praised him for his simple living.

Next month: *Semmangudi*



# EMERGING KERALA 2012

## Global Connect

- KIM Bureau

Kerala is hosting the first Emerging Kerala 2012 Global Connect at Kochi in September 2012. This biennial event is designed to bring together business leaders, investors, enterprises, government institutions, thought leaders and influencers, visionaries, and the general public, in short, all who have invested in the vision of an 'Emerging, enterprising and equitable Kerala'. The Business MEET on May 15 in Mumbai had the Kerala Chief Minister, Industries and IT Minister, Finance Minister and senior bureaucrats presenting their industrial policies and plans for investment prospects in Kerala.

**T**he Kerala Government is committed to promote industries in the state and has a clear development agenda to attract investments, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said at the Emerging Kerala 2012 Business Meet. Addressing a gathering of about 130 businessmen, corporate leaders, investors and entrepreneurs, the Chief Minister reiterated that his proactive Government saw Mumbaitees as "eminent stake-holders". A long-term sustainable and inclusive economic growth was the topmost objective of his Government, he added.

The Biennial Global Connect is being hosted by the Government of Kerala with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM). The first such Meet was held in Delhi and several diplomats, Trade Mission representatives, multi-lateral agencies and business fraternity of the capital participated and provided valuable inputs.

"We have intelligent and well-trained personnel available for all types of jobs. There is a large consumer market of over 33 million people who are almost 100 % literate. In today's knowledge economy, Kerala has the right ingredient to invest and nurture business," Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that certain core sectors were targeted for the sustainable and eco-friendly development of the State and investor-friendly policies were being introduced in these sectors. Built on the platform of transparency, his Government was adopting a pro-active approach towards

industry and enterprises, Oommen Chandy said.

The state's Human Development Indicators are the highest in the country, it has high literacy and life expectancy levels and low infant mortality rates. The state has also provided quality education and healthcare, and has always emphasized on equitable growth and sustainable resource utilization for its economic progress with special heed to environment and was eco-friendly.

The Kerala State Minister for Industries, IT and Urban Affairs, PK Kunhalikutty emphasized that his Government was keen on promoting manufacturing and to ramp up service industries in Kerala while preserving the natural beauty and heritage of "this small green state".

Tourism Industry is already a

contributing factor to the economic progress of the state and the Government will focus on formulating policies that will be investor friendly, contributing to sustained economic progress.

A new SEZ Policy was being framed in line with the existing policy of the Government of India to encourage development of SEZs within the state he said.

Priority would be given for Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the mega projects that were proposed for the State. The Government and its agencies would facilitate land and other statutory clearances for these projects, he assured. KM Mani, Minister for Finance, Housing and Law reminded the gathering that Kerala stood first in the field of social progress within the country and the



*Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy addresses 'Emerging Kerala Meet' in Mumbai*

# Business Business Business



**Kerala State Finance Minister K M Mani, Industries Minister P K Kunhalikutty, Addl Chief Secretary Industries and Commerce V Somasundaram IAS addressing the audience at the Meet**

Government wanted to transform the state into a global industrial destination. Today labour conditions have improved and there was good relationship with labour unions thus providing the right atmosphere for industrial investments in the state.

V Somasundaram IAS, Addl Chief Secretary Industries and Commerce, welcomed the audience. Alkesh Sharma IAS, Secretary to Government of Kerala (Industries Investment Promotion) and Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd, spoke of the good rail and road connectivity, gas based power plants, hydel projects, power and water resources, telecom and internet facility as well as urban amenities like schools, banks, hospitals etc. and above all availability of land for business.

CJ George Vice Chairman CII Kerala State Council and MD of Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services Pvt Ltd, proposed a Vote of Thanks.

## Entrepreneurs speak

Three investors who have been running business in Kerala spoke about their experiences of doing successful business there and shared their experiences.

**BK Patodia** Chairman and Managing Director, GTN Group, spoke about the labour problems in the early stages of his business venture and assured that today, labour militancy had almost disappeared. "There is a multiplicity of



**BK Patodia**

trade unions and several labour reforms have been ushered in. Other plus points are the high number of trained manpower Kerala has, good power supply and high standard of life there," he said. He added that his fifty years of business in Kerala was an exhilarating and challenging journey in God's own country.

**Sanjaya Mariwala**, Managing Director Kancor Ingredients Ltd, started with one trading house in Kochi and today runs six Units in the State. From 2002 to 2012, his company has shown increased productivity, and labour union co-operation has been good, with the management implementing some major labour reforms. At times of crises, the Government and bureaucrats come to their assistance, he said.



**Sanjaya Mariwala**

**Navas Meeran**, Managing Director, Eastern Condiments, recalled that his father, a Keralite, had set up a spice company in 1982 and today his company produces about 150 tons of spices a day. The secret of his success lies in sharing gains with his employees. Navas Meeran also spoke of the healthy business opportunities that the state offers to investors.

The Government has identified 26 thrust sectors that were presented to the investors at the MEET. Of these 10 were



**Navas Meeran**

Core Sectors and all stakeholders especially those from the thrust sectors would be part of the deliberations at the Global MEET in September. The Core Sectors include IT and IT Enabled Services (ITES), Knowledge and Education, Tourism, Healthcare Services, Food and Agro- Processing, Ports, Ship-building and Logistics, Energy, Green Energy and Environment Technologies, Science and Technology including Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Life Sciences, Infrastructure Development including Urban Infrastructure (that is power, water, waste management, urban transportation etc.) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Financial Services etc.

Kochi is the only city in India where both submarine cables SEA-ME WE3 and SAFE have a landing point. This offers the most reliable and cheapest connectivity for a company anywhere in Kerala. With a 15000 km long OFC chain connecting more than 1000 telephone exchanges, Kerala is one of the best networked states of India.

## Ongoing and proposed projects in Kerala

### Vallarpadam International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT)

Kerala has the first and only International Container Transshipment Terminal at Kochi. With this direct service project, motherships carrying cargo to far flung destinations across the globe will translate into cost saving, and a boon for

importing raw materials, making value added products and then exporting them.

### **LNG terminal and Gas Pipeline**

A 5 Mn tonne capacity LNG terminal and Gas Pipeline infrastructure is under construction. The 5-mmtpa Kochi LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) Terminal set up by Kerala GAIL GAS Ltd and GAIL Gas Ltd, India's fourth LNG Terminal and the first one in the South is scheduled to be commissioned by 2013. It proposes to take up projects like City Gas Distribution, setting up CNG stations for KSRTC buses, gas-based small power-generating plants, etc.

### **Vizhinjam International Seaport**

Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport with a proposed investment of Rs 7000 crores will be the second trans-shipment terminal in Kerala. An SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) fully owned by the Kerala Government, the project will take up dredging, reclamation and creation of basic infrastructure such as breakwater and quay. Terminal superstructure and port operation will be on Public-Private Partnership model.

### **High Speed Rail Corridor Project**

The proposed 650 Km High Speed Rail corridor independent of the existing Railway network is planned to be implemented in two stages. The first phase involving a cost of Rs 45000 crores will connect Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.



*Vallarpadam International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT)*

### **Kochi-Palakkad NIMZ Project**

The KSIDC the premier Government Agency for industrial and investment promotion in Kerala, is the nodal agency for this mega project involving a cost of Rs 53,000 crores. It seeks to create industrial infrastructure in 5200 hectares of land with 20 nodes for promoting manufacturing centres in sectors where the State has competitive advantage. Named Kochi Palakkad National Investment-and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ), and devised in line with the National Manufacturing Policy

announced by the Government of India the project is spread over four revenue districts : Ernakulam, Thrissur, Malappuram and Palakkad. Kochi Metro, Monorail Projects in Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Life Science Park in Thiruvananthapuram, Electronic Hub and Oceanarium in Kochi are some of the other ambitious projects of the Government.

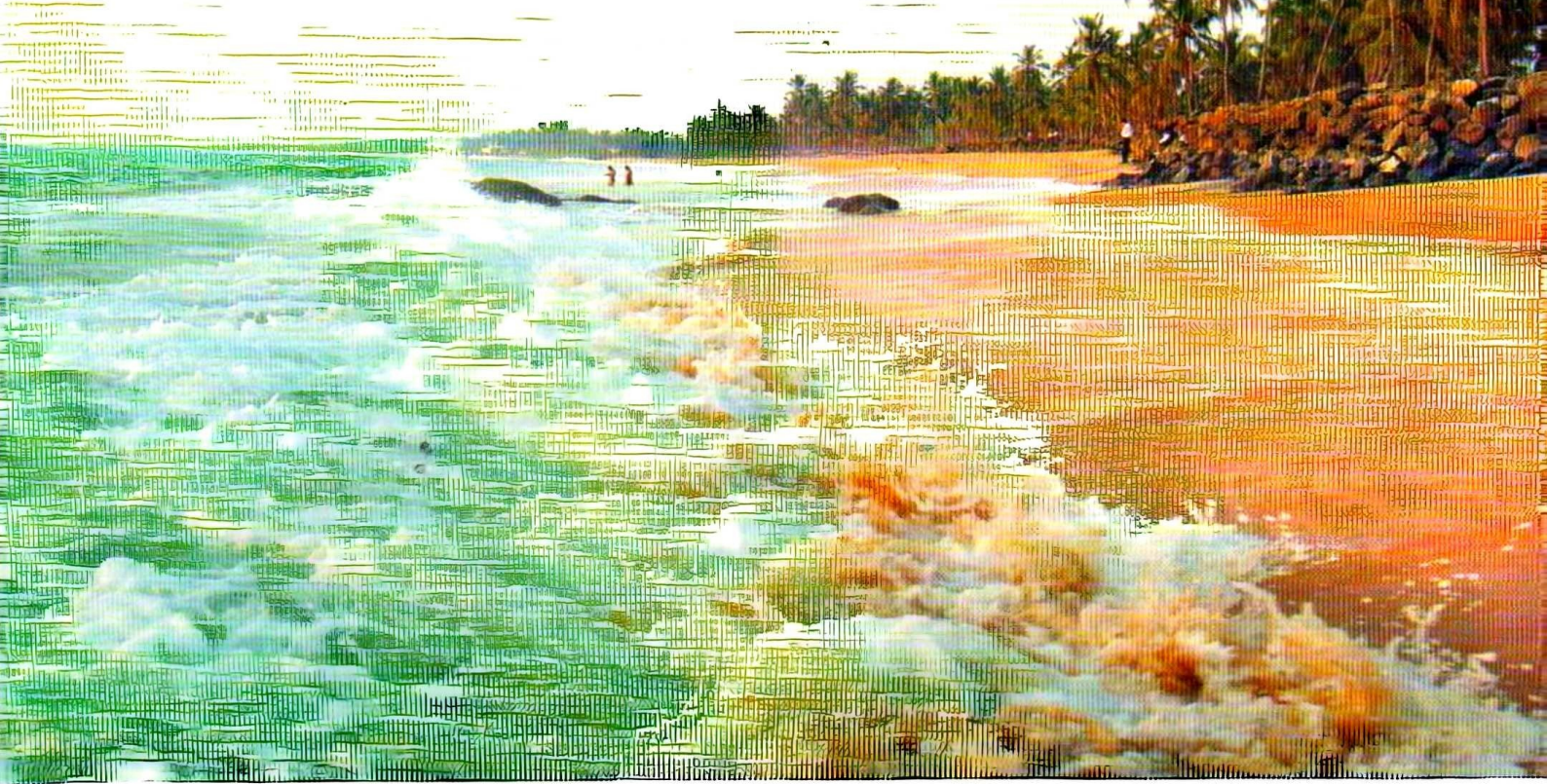
The Government promises fast track clearance of bottlenecks and impediments to projects and special package of incentives for prospective projects coming up in the state.



*A view of the audience at Emerging Kerala Meet*

# KERALA

## A Lifetime Tourist Destination



Tucked away in the southwestern corner of India and sandwiched between verdant mountains and the blue sea, Kerala has become one of the most sought after tourist destinations of the world. In fact the National Geographic Traveller lists Kerala as one of the world's ten Paradises on earth and one of the 50 places of a lifetime.

**A**ccording to the Kerala State Tourism Department foreign tourist arrivals have increased in 2011 by 11% while domestic tourism soared by 9.15%. Global tourism is a US \$ 919 million business. (UNWTO). India is a relatively new comer in the business of global tourism. Kerala has immense scope for getting ahead in international tourist destinations with its inherent natural beauties and diversities. Focussing on this asset of Kerala, the Government declared tourism as an industry in 1986. Today Brand Kerala has been established on the tourism map of the world. As early as 1976, the state initiated tourism development

programmes by establishing an international beach at Kovalam with assistance from the Central Government.

Tourism improves the economy of a state substantially with income from foreign exchange, employment opportunities, local arts and crafts revival and infrastructure improvements. The tourism industry is coupled with sustainable economic development.

### **Tourism Initiatives**

The Department of Kerala Tourism initiated programmes to attract international and domestic tourists in collaboration with public and private

sectors and provide 'world class quality as well as local visitor' experience. Responsible tourism with sensitivity to the natural environment, schemes that will give job opportunities to the local youth, projects that will boost the handicrafts and small scale segments, communications connectivity with all parts of the world through the internet are all on the agenda of the development plans. Another aim of the department is to tap and showcase the lesser known places of interest especially of Northern Kerala and develop them as tourist destinations.

Kerala is endowed with nature's bounty. It has a long beach, thick forests,

fertile plains and picturesque hilltops. If

Kashmir has its lakes, Kerala is the only state that has backwaters networking along its coast and it is an important tourist attraction. Traversed by the Western Ghats along its length, Kerala has developed its own culture. Blessed with two monsoons a year, it is perpetually a green world with a rich flora. Rivers do not dry up and summers are hot but never intense.

## Beauty in diversity

Kerala has a vast repertoire of sights to offer the tourist. Those who love the sea can enjoy the largely unspoilt beaches of Kovalam, Varkala, Bekal etc. The backwaters have their own charm and attract the greatest number of travelers seeking to get their money's worth. Kumarakom, Alleppey, Veli, are travellers' delights. A cruise through the labyrinth of waterways weaving through villages with lush vegetation and huts set in the middle of placid waters, where floating markets bring fresh produce to the houseboats, where the tourist can spend the whole day fishing in the waters as the boat glides along, the sights and sounds as the other boats ply up and down these are all vignettes of rural Kerala where land and water seem to merge and part.

For the more adventure tourists there are nature trails and safaris, tree houses and wild life sanctuaries. Thekkady offers the most spectacular wild life viewing like elephants, wild bear, leopard, Malabar flying squirrel, etc.

For the mountain lover, Wayanad is the virgin land of rainforests and mist-clad



*Wild life sanctuary in Wayanad*

mountains. Nestled in the Western Ghats, Wayanad in north Kerala is a green pristine forest. Varieties of orchids and other flowering plants, medicinal herbs grow abundantly in these forests.

Kerala has a rich flora and lots of medicinal plants making Ayurveda another of Kerala's signature product. The state is the home of spices and Ayurveda has developed in Kerala and many hotels and resorts offer Ayurvedic rejuvenative packages. Ayurveda not only rejuvenates the mind and body but also tones up our various body systems.

For history buffs, Kerala is a treasure trove. The first European to set his foot in Kerala was, St Thomas the apostle. The Dutch, the Portuguese the English, the

Jews, all have left their footprints in this small state and the tourist who wants to recapture moments of history while on a tour need not return disappointed. Thiruvananthapuram is a city of history, literally written in gold with the latest discovery of stupendous wealth in the Padmanabhaswamy temple cellars.

## Brand Kerala

The state has succeeded in wooing tourists with their successful campaigns it has gained this status by harnessing the powers of the digital revolution. The launch of the video commercial 'Your Moment is Waiting' at the Satchi Gallery in London targeting the cream of London was a strategic move. Later this ad was released successfully on Ipad and iPhone for UK, US and French users and it was a huge success. In fact the video 'Your Moment is waiting' won several awards including PATA Gold Award for Marketing and Travel Advertiser Broadcast media, Times Travel Awards, CNBC Travel Awards etc. Above all Kerala Tourism won the PATA Grand Award 2011 for environment destination Kumarakom.

A recent initiative of Kerala tourism is 'bring home a friend' campaign. This urges NRKs to bring friends and associates to Kerala. The NRKs are offered special discounts and initiative by accredited tour operators enrolled in this particular initiative. This innovative concept boosts tourism from a substantial NRK population and builds equity for the state at an international level.



*Elephants at Thekkady*

## The Grand Kerala Shopping Festival

The Grand Kerala Shopping Festival (GKSF) has been organised for the past five years. A government of Kerala initiative, the festival, over the years has become a successful exercise in the process of transforming Kerala into a hub for international shopping experience fresh enterprises, mind blowing offers, and exciting prizes for both the shops and the shoppers. It is the biggest shopping extravaganza. From December 1 to January 26 every year, thousands of retail outlets across Kerala unite under a single banner, offering discounts, unbeatable deals and kilos of gold prizes. At the Trade partnership meets, this shopping festival is extended to other cities with discounts, lucky draws, and gold prizes. The cultural extravaganzas during this period, showcasing Kerala's rich culture and arts, is another added attraction.

## Choices and Options

The hospitality and tourism sectors in the private and Government sectors offer many schemes for the discerning tourist to choose the type of holidays he wants to enjoy. The options are many : Adventure tourism with nature trails and safari rides, backwater holidays for lazing in the waters in close harmony with nature, seaside and beach resorts for savouring the sun and the sea, packages for honeymooners and families, itinerary for the diehard traveler who thirsts for authentic local experiences, homesteads where the tourist can stay with the owner or a traditional local landlord and understand first-hand the culture and cuisine of the place, participate in seeing village craftsmen and small-scale manufacturers plying their trade like coir making, setting out fishing in the sea etc, - tour operators arrange all these details.

### Popular Tourist attractions

## Kumarakom

A popular and major backwater tourism attraction, Kumarakom, 16 kms from Kottayam, is set in the backdrop of the Vembanad Kayal, the largest freshwater lake in Kerala. Several luxury resorts and budget hotels offer tourists boating, yachting, fishing trips on the picturesque lake. A canoe ride will take the tourist to the Bird sanctuary, a 14 acre ground where many species of migratory birds visit.

Kumarakom has expanses of



*Vembanad Lake*

mangrove forests, apart from paddy fields, coconut groves and trees bearing mangoes, jackfruits, tamarind that grow in abundance here. Different types of banana bushes yam, (chena) Colocasia (chembu) are cultivated here.

Exploring the backwaters on the houseboat called kettuvallam, has become a major tourist attraction now. In the early days, this country boat was used to transport goods mostly rice, from the isolated interior villages to the towns. They disappeared with the construction of roads and bridges. Now they have staged a comeback and a ride on the kettuvallam is an experience to enjoy the fascinating beauty of the backwaters.

During Onam the Kumarakom boat race is a major event. Kumarakom has been declared a Special Tourism Zone by the Kerala state Government.



*Kettuvallam (House Boat)*

## Vembanad Lake

Another major tourist attraction, this is the largest freshwater lake in Kerala and a home for several fish species like karimeen (pearl spot) chemeen (shrimp) and prawns.

## Alappuzha

Alappuzha has grown in importance as a backwater tourist destination, attracting several thousands of foreign tourists each year. Alappuzha is also famous for its boat races, houseboat holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry. A singular characteristic of this land is the region called Kuttanad, the rice bowl of Kerala.

## Thekkady / Periyar

Thekkady, located on the banks of the river Periyar in the district of Idukki in the high ranges, is one of the most important hill stations in Kerala. Set at an altitude of over 1000 meters, Thekkady is home to the Periyar wild life sanctuary, the most important wild life sanctuary in Kerala.

Thekkady has several hotels, resorts that offer the tourists mountain trekking, boat cruises, nature walk, bamboo rafting, tiger trail, wild life safaris and other tourism related facilities. It conducts boat cruises in the Periyar Lake. It is also home to several Ayurveda treatment centers that offer the tourists short duration ayurvedic treatments including massages, herbal oil bath and other rejuvenation treatments.

## Athirappally

Athirappally is famous for its 80 feet high Athirappally waterfalls that come cascading down the high ranges in to the Chalakkudy River, raw, untouched and wild. It is also a trekking destination. There are resorts in Athirappally that offer authentic ayurvedic packages.

# VELICHAPPADU OR KOMARAM (ORACLE)

Velichappadu or Komaram (oracle) is an institution peculiar to the Bhagavathy temples of Kerala. He is the man to interpret the moods and ways of Bhagavathy to Her devotees, the man to move between Bhagavathy and Her devotees. He is Her oracle, her medium. Whenever Bhagavathy is to be honoured or a ritual is to be performed in Her name or Her presence is to be established or She is to move in procession, he must be there as Her representative. Through him Bhagavathy speaks or comforts Her devotees.



G H Ananthanarayana

To many today, Velichappadu or Komaram (oracle) is only an object of curiosity. Seldom has one tried to know what it is that seizes his being and he goes into a trance, which exhausts him totally, but which he realizes only after he has got out of the trance. Pepita Seth an English woman, an acknowledged authority on Kerala temples, their customs, practices etc. and who has made Kerala her home, has delved into the subject. She had the benefit of the experience of the Velichappadu of Sankarankulangara temple in Thrissur narrated to her by himself in Malayalam and translated and interpreted for her, and has written about it in her book, "The Spirit Land."

## "The Spirit Land" - some excerpts

"I was still in my early twenties when my uncle died- and I was still dismissive of his powers. Like everyone around me, I expected my brother to assume his mantle, to continue the family tradition to be the *Komaram*." But the man chosen has to prove that the Goddess accepts him. Not until a member of our family has displayed the ability to reveal the ways of the Goddess and shown that She will reveal Herself through him can he be given her Symbols of power. And, on my uncle's death, the Goddess gave no sign of choosing my brother as her representative.....

One day I was down with fever and for several days, was weak and delirious and unable to eat. One night I even became violent, so violent that my family closed and barred the small room I was lying in. Of what happened next, I remember



Velichappadu

nothing. I only know that sometime in the middle of the night I awoke and found myself in the sanctum of the Goddess.... I tried to forget the incident, convinced that it was connected with my fever. But, after a few nights later, it happened again. Every Tuesday and Friday, the days sacred to the Goddess, I would wake up to find myself before the shrine. I was awake and deep within me a great struggle was brewing....I seemed to hear the soft whisper of a faraway summons, to recognize the presence of another world. I tried desperately to ignore these thoughts and even laughably prayed to the Goddess, that they would stop.

One morning when I was trying to

grapple with these unbidden thoughts a group of people including my brother arrived. Without preamble they made themselves clear. The Goddess, they believed, had selected me as her *Komaram*. My response was a hollow laugh. I tried to dismiss the suggestions, stunned by the proposal. But my words fell on deaf ears, my sentences remained unfinished, my arguments feeble and unconvincing. Eventually I fell silent. Then I shrugged my shoulders and asked them what they expected me to do. Their reply was prompt. "You must" they said "show us that this is so. You must show us, prove to us that the Goddess is one with you... Am I though even now I cannot tell you whether it was the weakness of the fever or the uncoiling of the knowledge deep within me, I agreed to their demands."

The next day I was taken to the temple tank where, before a huge crowd, I had to undergo my trial. Before I arrived my uncle's sword of office had been flung into the murky depths of the tank's dark waters, the belief being that if the Goddess had chosen me as Her *Komaram* I would be able to dive into the tank and retrieve it in one smooth action....

I gasped, turned and dived into the tank plunging down into its deep water surging, my right hand open, my fingers extended reaching for the sword. Unerringly I clasped my hand around its hilt and kicked my body upwards. I broke through the surface and raised my hand so that all who saw me could marvel at the shining gleam of the great, curved sword which demonstrated my right to be the *Komaram*.....

Every year, a series of rituals would be conducted at the temple in honour of the Goddess... At the end of the rituals the Goddess would be invoked to give Her blessings and, as her *Komaram* I would be the one through whom She would reach out by possessing my body, to bless all. I would be the medium through whom the powerful Goddess would extend her protection.....

In accordance with my usual custom, I underwent a fast of several days. My being became suffused with the power of my Bhagavathy and I began to walk with a staggering lurch. I was conscious only of my frailty, of my nothingness before Her, of deep gratitude, of Her benevolence towards me.... I will be unable to articulate these moments for, like all such moments in my life, they are not my moments. A force outside me overpowers and engulfs me, transforms me and lifts me away from myself.....

As I came to stand before the Goddess, I knew Her blessings were enveloping me.... I stood, the endless mantra of my prayers streaming towards Her. I anointed my body with Her *prasadam* (sacrament), Her divine grace. My head began to sweat. My hand came together above my head and My Self, my Ego, began to dissipate as I let everything I controlled flow toward Her.... Unbidden, my undernourished frailness leapt off the ground, my thick hair flew loose, molten energy flooded into my limbs and my last insignificant claim to Self evaporated.

It is only with the calm of later reason that I can tell you of the effort I made to control this condition; the apparent fight I waged with an invisible assailant as I

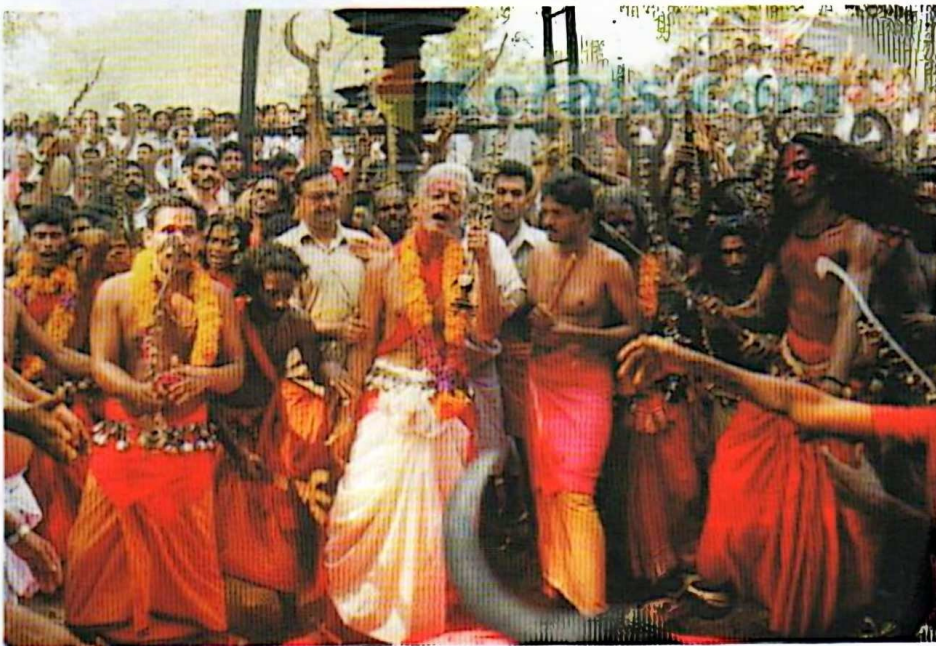


*The oracle in frenzied devotion*

drew the long blood-red cloth around my waist; the force with which I seized the huge sickle shaped sword. But, none of this I recall. Neither do I remember how I ran around the sanctum or jumped up on the ante-chamber's ritual space and encircled the powders of the great *Kalam*, the sacred drawing that depicted the Bhagavathy. My senses were lifted to another plane and it was only through the haze and shadows of the veils that I was able to see and understand something of what I was doing.... During those long, brief, endless, eternal, nonexistent eons I was totally possessed by my Bhagavathy. And in that timeless, unmeasured moment, I danced around my image, my *Kalam*, the five-powdered drawing where my breasts were full and raised, my nose sharp and pointed, my canine fangs bared,

my four arms clasping my symbols of power. From my image to my *Komaram* flowed my energy and my force, as the drums venerated my divinity. I leapt down from the platform, a jarring spasm of pain shooting through my legs as I landed on the flagstones..... Driven by a relentless force, I surged forward, howling as I ran. The rear part of the temple was dark to mortal eyes but I was all-seeing. I saw all and beyond all. I came again before my sanctum and saw my waiting children, their hands raised in supplication I rushed towards them.... I bent towards them, my hand seizing the end of my red cloth. I fanned it over them. Then, unbidden, the words rose up from within my depth, from within the unfathomable regions. I bestowed my blessings with maternal tenderness. I assured my children of protection. I declared myself well pleased with their offerings. I reached out to give my auspicious shower of rice.....

I turned and ran back into the inner compound. I leapt up on to the ritual space and, in a frenzy, tore down the decorative coconut fronds. I stood again before Her image, the circulating energy fast fading. I gently swept my hands to and fro, coalescing the powders into a dark mélange, stopping when I reached the fertile abundance of my breasts. A great weariness gushed over me, an awful fatigue enveloped my being. With all the force I could muster I undid the belt and removed its terrible heaviness.... I was overcome and drained. I prostrated in awe and devotion, offering what little I was, giving Her my all, knowing Her, never doubting Her. Once my trance was over I felt all life had been taken from me. It was an exhaustion like no other.....”



*Oracles at Kodungalloor Bharani festival*



# TRIBALS OF KERALA

## Part I

**Distinct culture and lingua:** Each community has developed its own distinctive culture, language and religion. **Shyness for interactions:** They have minimal contacts with other cultures and people and very often they shy away from the main or common stream of population.

(50973) and Palakkad (39665) districts are the next two that make the giant portion of the native tribal people groups in the State. It is said that *Paniyar (Paniya)* are the biggest tribes amongst the major 35 tribes Kerala.



K R NARAYANA

### In tune with Nature

The tribal life is always in tune with the moods of nature, with which they are linked throughout their life. Keeping rhythm with the pulse of nature and identifying reasons for expressions from

### Kerala Tribals

Tribals in Kerala live on the hill ranges, mainly on the Western Ghats, bordering Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. As a natural border, the mountain range has branches in Kerala as well as in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. According to the 2001 Census, the Scheduled Tribal population in Kerala was 3,64,189 (Females: 184,020 and Males: 180,169). The

India is home to a large number of tribes, with a tribal population of about 70 million. In terms of geographical distribution, about 55% of the Indian tribes live in Central India, 28% in the West, 12% in North-East India, 4% in South India and 1% scattered. It is said that currently there are 258 to 540 scheduled tribe communities in our country. The Gonds are, perhaps, the biggest amongst them. Certain smaller groups, comprising less than 1000 people, include the *Andamanese Onge, Oraon, Munda, Mina, Khond, and Saora*. Most of the tribes are concentrated in the heavily forested areas, which are by and large inaccessible and experience minimal/limited social, political or economic interventions. Historically, the economy of most of the tribes is subsistence oriented, like agriculture, hunting or food gathering. Tribal members generally trade/barter with outsiders for the necessities they lack, like salt, iron implements, etc. Some craftsmen tribals provide such items as cooking utensils. Generally speaking, all the tribal communities are governed by certain common characteristics.

### Some of them are:

**Geographical isolation:** They live in cloistered, exclusive, remote and inhospitable areas such as hills and forests.

**Backwardness:** their livelihood is based on primitive food gathering and/or agriculture, a low-value closed economy with a low level of technology that leads to their poverty. They have low levels of literacy and health.



district-wise distribution of the Tribes/Tribals in Kerala, as per the Focus on people.org. (2006) is detailed below.

Tribals (as seen elsewhere) are found on the hills and mountains of Kerala, the Western Ghats, bordering Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Wayanad has the highest number of tribals (1,36,062). Idukki

their traditional life, the tribal people of Kerala gave form and meaning to many art forms which are fascinating and simple in presentation. These art forms often convey their candid feelings, which are born out of experiences in life. Sometimes performed to emphasize the values, traditions and lifestyle followed by a tribe, there are tribal art forms th

are also performed to show respect to Mother Nature. The artistic expressions of the tribal community in Kerala reflect their distinct, secluded and ancient social structure. These tribal art forms still survive in the tribal hamlets of Kerala's forested hilly tracts. Each of these tribes has its own distinct dance tradition and invariably all of them are interwoven with the life of the people who perform peculiar dances so much so that it seems that some of their daily tasks are set in rhythmic pattern.

In the background of mystery shrouded nature, tribal celebrations originate and the dancers work up intoxicating excitement, manifesting physical expressions of their joys and grief, hopes and fears. Some of them are *Gadhika* (Performed by the Adiyaan tribal community in Wayanad District connected to the Goddess Mariyamman), *Midhuva* Dance of the Nayikkans of Wayanad, *Kambra Nritham* of the Adiyaan tribal community associated with activities in the paddy fields in north Kerala. *Naikkar Kalis* involving pooja to please family deities and also during marriage ceremonies is particularly popular among the tribes in Wayanad and Malappuram districts. On the other hand, *Paniyar Kali* is highly masculine in nature and only men perform the dances. *Eleakkaradi* is another group-dance in which almost the whole community of men, women and children participate. It is the specialty of the *Irular* of Attappadi in Palakkad district. The traditional musical instruments like Thappu, Kuzhal, Kombu, etc. used by the tribal people are unique with drums of varying sizes and tones.

The tribals of Kerala have enriched the life in Kerala through their culture, arts,



*Tribal Dance*



*Tribal Tree House*

traditional medicines and other valuable forest-products. With the present rate of legal and illegal denuding of the forests, and uncontrolled negative intervention in the forest resources of the country, it is a matter of concern for the sociologists and anthropologists whether the tribals and the aborigines will be able to retain their identity, customs, culture and way of life. As the forests perish, the tribal community would perish, and as the tribes perish a valuable ethnicity and tradition will perish from our soils.

### Some tribes of Kerala

In our last Issue we gave details of some important tribes of Kerala. Here we give a list of some more tribals from this state.

#### Kanikkaran (Kanikkar)

Kanikkars are inhabitants of the area around Agastyakudam and Mahendragiri peaks of the Western Ghats in the Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts of Kerala. They are also seen in the Adimali Hills of Idukki. They are engaged in agriculture and collection of forest produces. Their population is about 12725 and literacy about 53.84%.

#### Kani

Kani is a nomadic tribe (wandering people). They are known for familiarizing *kallana*, allegedly a cryptic elephant and a herbal medicine known as *jeevani*.

The medicinal properties of the plant called *arogyapacha* (*Trichopus zeylanicus*) were also discovered through them.

#### Kochuvelan

Inhabitants of the Ranni Forest range in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki districts, Kochuvelans were known to be *moopanamar* who performed the religious ceremonies of the *Ullada* community.

#### Koraga

Koragas listed as primitive tribals, are found in Kasargode and Majeswaram. Their population is 1579.

#### Kota

Kotas, found in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, but a few families live in Malappuram, the bordering district of Kerala. Their population is 36.

#### Kudiya or Melakkudi

Kudiya or Melakkudi are seen in the Kannur and Kasargode district of Kerala. Their total population is 597 and literacy is 38.1%. Their main occupation is agriculture. The rest of the tribe is found in Coorg (Kodagu) the neighbouring district in Karnataka.

#### Kurichiyar/Kurichchan or Kurichiyar

Seen in Wayanad and some parts of Kozhikode district, Kurichiyans were warrior tribes and had served Pazhassi Raja with utmost honesty and courage during his fight against the British. They

were trained in archery and martial arts. Their population is about 22,215, and literacy about 28.06 %.

### Kurumban

Found on both sides of the Bhavani River in Attapady area of Palakkad district, Kurumbans are considered a 'primitive' tribe in the list of scheduled tribes of Kerala. Most of them are still food gatherers and also do shift cultivation. Population is about 1820.

### Mala Pandaram

Mala Pandaram found in Achancoil, Pathanapuram, Naduvathamoozhy and Mannarappara forest ranges in the Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts, live by hunting and collection of forest products. Their population is 2122 and literacy level 35.4 %.

### Malappulayan

Malappulayan, also called Mala Pulayan, Kurumba, Pulayan, Aravazhi Pulayan Pamba Pulayan, these tribals are seen in Chinnar and Marayur area (Devikulam Taluk) of Idukky District. The main occupation of kurumba pulayar are goat farming and collection of forest produces, karavazhi Pilayan are engaged in cultivation. It is believed that they had migrated from Madurai. Near Marayur there is a Malappulayan community settled in a colony built by the Government. They cultivate sugarcane which is poplar in the area.

### Malavedan

Malavedan are found in the Pathanamthitta Thiruvananthapuram, and Idukki districts of Kerala. Their main occupation is hunting and collection of forest produces. Total population is 2435 and literacy is 44.53 %.

### Malakkuravan

Malakkuravans are found in Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts. They are engaged in hunting, collection of honey and agriculture. Women are engaged in firewood collection, fortune-telling and palmistry. Population is about 584 and literacy is 49.38%.

### Malasar

Malasar, once nomadic people and now settled in colonies provided by the Government are found in Palakkad and Thrissur districts. Maha Malasar, a sub-community among them are found in some parts of Thekady in the Parambikulam forests. Their population

is 967 and literacy is 12.47%.

### Malayan

Malayans also known as Nattu Malayan, Konga Malkayan are found in Palakkad and Thrissur districts and are agricultural workers, and involved in collecting forest produce. Those who speak Malayalam are called *nattumalayan* and those who speak Tamil are known as malayan. Their total population in Kerala is 7542.

### Mannan

Seen in Idukky and Kottayam districts and a few in Palakkad district, Mannans are engaged in agriculture, collection of forest produces and fishing. They used to live in bamboo huts on treetops, in the forest areas until the recent past. They were experts in weaving thin mats named kannadi paya. (Mirror mat). Even now they have their own king named *kozhimala raja mannan* and his subjects used to gather together for meetings every year. Population is 5813 and literacy is 19.12.

### Muthuvan

Muthuvan or Mudugar or muduvan, found in Idukky and Ernakulam district are believed to have migrated from Madurai and are foodgatherers and engage themselves in cultivation especially



*Muthuvan*

cardamom and ginger. Population is 11,213 and literacy 10.49%.

### Mudugar

Mudugar tribes found in Attappadi hills in Palakkad district, originally collectors and traders of forest produces like honey, spices, medicinal herbs and wild foods nowadays work as daily labourers and guards and travel guides at the Silent Valley National Park. Their population is 9903.



*Mudugar*

### Palaiyan

Palaiyan/ Palleyan/ Palliyan/ Palliyar Paliyan of Idukky district have a mix of Tami and Malayalam culture. Their total population is 1909.



*Palaiyan*

### Paniyan/ Paniyar or Paniya

These people are found in Wayanad, Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram district. They are the largest tribal community in Kerala. They were brought to Wayanad by the king of Malabar and worked as slaves of landlords for several decades. It is said they were sold and bought along with the fields they lived in. Population is 67,948 and literacy is 11.01%.

### Ulladar

Seen in the forests as well as coastal areas of Thrissur, Idukky, Kottayam, Alappuzha and Kollam districts, the main occupation of those on the hills used to be cutting trees, collection of fire woods while those in the coastal areas engage in making country boats and its



*Ulladar*

maintenance. Some of them are expert in catching turtle with special type of rods (ammakole).

### Uruli (Uraly)

Found in Idukky, Kottayam, and Kollam



*Uruli*

districts Uruli tribals are engaged in cultivation and collection of forest produces. Population is 10,335 and literacy is 50.4 %.

(Population and literacy % figures based on 2001 census.)

# MALAYALAM

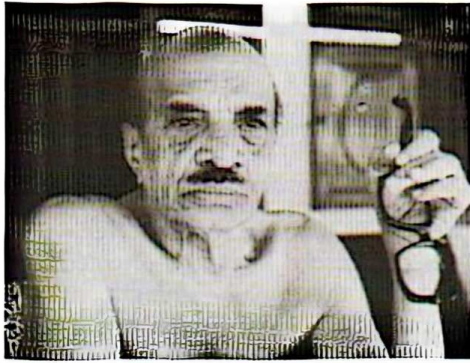
## SHORT STORY

### Part - II

Malayalam has seen hundreds of short story writers but here only highly acclaimed writers are covered

- Revathy

**Vaikkom Mohammed Basheer** had a varied background before he entered the world of literature. After being employed in Bombay, he joined the freedom struggle and courted imprisonment. After he returned to Kerala, he started serious writing. Basheer wrote some well known novels such as *Balyakala Sakhi*, *Nte 'ppappakkoranantarnnu* etc. But he is



**Vaikkom Mohammed Basheer**

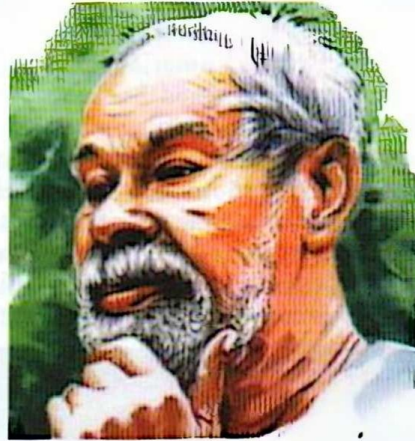
best known for his short stories. Though his stories were chiseled to perfection and had the structure of short stories, most of them are known as novels as each of them were published as single volumes. Some of them are *Premalekhanam* (Love Letter, 1947), *Sabdangal* (Noises, 1948), *Matilukal* (Walls, 1965), *Mantrikappoocha* (Magic Cat, 1968), *Polisukarante Makal* (Daughter of the Policeman, 1943), *Anargha Nimisham* (Precious Moment, 1945), *Janmadinam* (Birthday, 1945), *Visappu* (Hunger, 1954), *Visvavikhyathamaaya Mookku* (The Internationally Renowned Nose, 1954), *Neela velicham* (Blue light) etc. The last mentioned was adapted into a successful film *Bhargavi Nilayam*. Director Adoor Gopalakrishnan adapted *Matilukal* also into a classic movie.

**Ponkunnam Varkey** was described by various critics as a crusader in Malayalam Literature who never betrayed his conscience by succumbing to social pressures. Ponkunnam Varkey was a writer who always upheld social relevance in his works. He combated social evils during his days. His empathy

towards the pains faced by mankind is evident in his works. His words always sought to highlight the burden faced by the common man. He is also remembered for promoting the idea of nationalism among the public during the freedom struggle during which he was imprisoned for six months.

Ponkunnam Varkey was a fearless critic of Divan Sir C P Ramaswamy Iyer, the Catholic Church and Priests. He was a well known Short story writer, Playwright and Story writer for films. His first book was *Thirumulkazhcha*. Initially he was writing under the name *Vidwan V A Varkey*.

The short story "*Sabdikkunna Kalappa*" about the love between a farmer and his ox is among the best 10 Malayalam stories, ever written. It has been translated in almost every Indian languages and Russian. "*Sabdikkunna Kalappa*" is prescribed subject of study in universities both in India and abroad. It is considered



**Ponkunnam Varkey**

to be one of the best short stories in world literature.

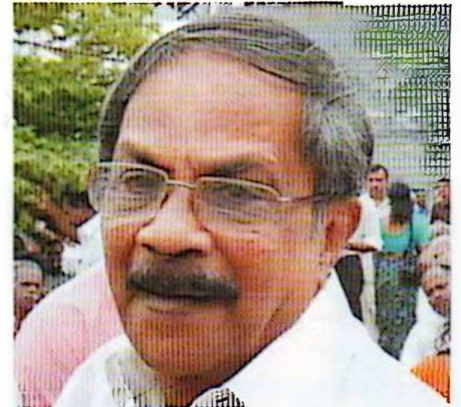
His popular stories include *Model*, *Idivandi*, *Manthrikettu*, *Vazhavettu*, *Father Plenkodu*, *Anthonee neeyum achanayoda?*, *Tuition* etc.

**N P Muhammed's** novels unfold the cultural intricacies of the Muslim community of Malabar. The literary works of N P Muhammed were well ahead of his times and he should be best

described as a 'futuristic writer' as he predicted an emergency like situation in his '*Hiranyakasipu*, according to Sukumar Azhikode. Events in the future had been foreseen in several of his other works as well.

His important novels are *Ennappaatam* and *Deivattinte Kanu* (God's eyes).

**M T Vasudevan Nair** is a narrator *par excellence*. Though he started writing short stories during his college days, he came to prominence when he secured the first prize for his *Valarthu Mrugangal* in



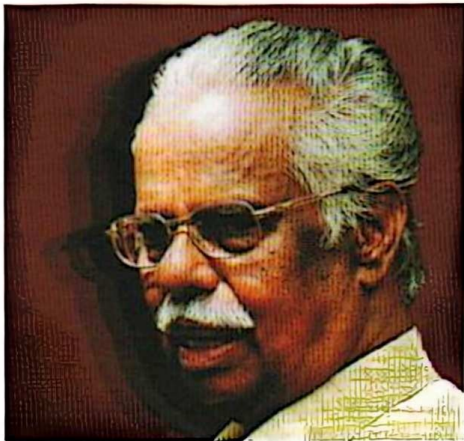
**M T Vasudevan Nair**

an International Short story contest. His important short stories include *Irutrinte aatmaavu* (Soul of darkness), *Kuttyetatti*, *Oppol*, *Snehathinte Mukhangal*, *Karkkitakam* and *Vaanaprastham*. He has won the *Jnaanapiith* award.

His *Pallivaalum Kaalchilabum* was adapted to a national award winning movie *Nirmalyam*. His *Snehathinte Mukhangal* was adapted for *Murappennu*, another award winning movie. Many of his short stories and novels were made into movies with the original names.

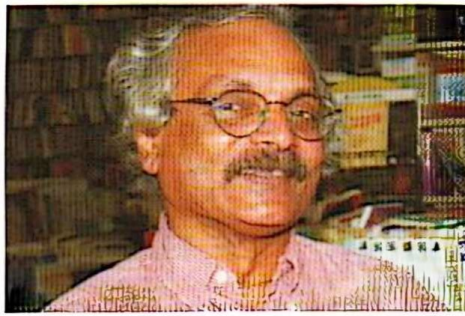
His other important stories are *Raktam Puranta Mantharikal* (Blood soaked sand), *Vedanayute Pookkal* (Flowers of pain, 1955), *Ninte Ormakku* (In your memory, 1956), *Olavum Theeravum* (Waves and the Shore, 1957), *Bandhanam* (Bondage, 1963), *Kaliveetu* (Playhouse, 1966), *Varikkuzhi* (Pit for catching elephants, 1967) etc.

**T Padmanabhan**, one of the important story writers of modern times, carved a niche for himself in Malayalam literary world through his works. He portrayed the human emotions honestly and presented his own views about life through his characters. For Padmanabhan, life and art are inseparable. Through his characters, he speaks about his ideas and ideals about life. They always have their own character and existence. As he courted controversies, Padmanabhan never chose to hide the fact that he is allergic to awards. He refused them several times. However, when the Vayalar award committee, which had never granted its prestigious award to the short story stream, chose to honour Padmanabhan for the year 2001, the writer did not refuse it. But, he expressed his displeasure over the attitude of the committee, which had ignored this stream of literature for long. Writing since 1948, he has been successful in taking short story to the realm of poetry and music. Padmanabhan with his unique and highly individualistic idiom, gave way to existential sorrows and individual problems. He has written 162 stories. His stories have been translated in almost every Indian languages and foreign languages such as Russian, French and English.



**T Padmanabhan**

His main stories are *Prakaasam parathunna penkutti* (A girl who spreads light, 1955), *Oru kathakrithu kurisil* (A story writer on the cross, 1956) *Makhan Singhinte Maranam* (The Death of Makhan Singh, 1958) *T. Padmanabhante Theranjetuttha kathakal* (Selected stories of T. Padmanabhan, 1971), *Saakshi* (witness, 1973), *Harison Sayvinte Naaya* (The Dog of Harrison, 1979), *Veetu nashtappetta kutti* (The child who lost its home, 1983), *Kalabhairavan* (Lord Siva, 1986), *Nalinakanthi* (Beauty of the Lotus, 1988), *Gouri* (1991), *Katal* (Sea, 1994), *Padmanabhante kathakal* (Stories by Padmanabhan, 1995).



**M Mukundan**

**M Mukundan** is a pioneer of modern Malayalam fictional literature. He heralded an era of creative literature in Malayalam and he continues experimenting not only with themes, localities and form. His first literary work was a short story published in 1961. Mukundan has so far published 12 novels and ten collections of short stories. His important compilations are *Veetu* (House, 1967), *Nadiyum Thoniyum* (River and boat, 1969), *Vesyakale ningalkkorampalam* (Prostitutes, a temple for you, 1971), *Anchara vayassulla kutti* (A five and a half year old Child, 1978), *Thattathippenninte Kalyaanam* (Marriage for the goldsmith girl, 1985), *Thevitissikkili* (Prostitute Bird, 1988), *Kallanum Polisum* (Thief and Police, 1990), *Kannatiyute kazhcha* (The sight of the Mirror, 1995).

**Lalithambika Antharjanam, K Saraswathi Amma and Madhavi Kutty (Nalappat Kamala Das)** are among the foremost women story tellers in Malayalam. They dealt with the pieties of domestic life. Antharjanam started writing during the period the Namboothiri community was undergoing major social changes and naturally the effects of those changes reflected in her stories. Her stories are marked by her innate sympathy for people in distress. She has also a great deal of variety of themes, as exemplified by *Pancharayumma* (A sweet kiss) on the



**Lalithambika Antharjanam**

one hand and *Sathyathinte Swaram* (The Voice of Truth) on the other. The former is personal, subjective, domestic delicate, and lyrical; the other is tragic social, public, harsh, and dramatic. The problems of a Namboothiri household are also taken up at times, as in *Kuttasammatham* (Confession). Her other works are *Kotunkaattil pette oru ila* (a leaf caught in a storm) and *Maanikyan*. Antharjanam's son N. Mohanan is also known for his adeptness in story telling. Her important short stories are *Mootupatathil* (Within the veil) (1946) *Kalathinte etukal* (Pages of Time, 1949) *Thakaranna Thalamura* (Destroyed Generation, 1949) *Kilivathililute* (Through the small window, 1950) *Kotunkattil ninnu* (From the Tempest, 1951) *Kanneerinte Punchiri* (The Smile of Tears, 1955) *Agnipushpangal* (Fire Flowers, 1960) *Theranjetuttha Kathakal* (1966) *Sathyathinte Swaram* (1968) *Viswaroopam* (1971) *Dheerendra Majumdarute Amma* (Dhirendra Majumdar's Mother, 1973) and *Pavithra Mothiram* (1979).

**K Saraswathi Amma** portrayed the woman in the man's world. Her works were intensely liberation-oriented and portrays the innate strength of the woman. Saraswathi Amma was a rebel whose stories in the nineteen forties and fifties were unvarnished portraits of love marriage and betrayal so far ahead of their time that she was branded a maverick.

Saraswathi Amma has a less sophisticated style. Her forthright analysis of man-woman relationship is not too common even in Western literature.

Her important works are the short stories *Cholamarangal* (shady trees) and *Orukkattinte otuvil* (At the end of the preparation).



**Saraswathi Amma**



**Madhavikutty**

**Madhavikutty** (real name Kamala Das and later Kamala Sorayya) has a unique place in the history of Malayalam literature. Her diction, presented with an extraordinary simplicity makes her works attractive and readable. She has a special way of exposing the bitter truths of life in a stunningly simple manner. She was a versatile writer, fluent in both Malayalam and English. Her important short stories are *Puzha vintum ozhuki* (the river flowed again), *Ammu*, *Driksaakshi* (eye witness) and *Pakkshiyute manam* (smell of the bird, 1964). *Mathilukal* (Walls, 1955) *Naracheerukal Parakkumpol* (When Bats Fly, 1960) *Tharisunilam* (Barren Land, 1962) *Chuvanna Paavaata* (Red Skirt, 1964), *Raajaavinte Premabhaajanam* (The King's Lover, 1969) *Prematthinte Vilaapakaavyam* (The Elegy of Love, 1971) *Ente Cherukathakal* (My Short Stories, 2 Vols. 1985) *Palaayanam* (Flight, 1990).

**VKN** (Vatakke Kuttala Narayanan Kutti Menon) was an eminent Malayalam author whose sense of humour was second to none. He paved the way to a unique humour literature in Malayalam. With the efficient strategy of language manipulation, he reveals a world different from the ordinary one. He ridicules the hypocrisies of the world thus producing peals of laughter. The main element found in his works is satire of the highest order. His important character is *payyan* that is a caricature of himself. His main works are *Vivaahappittennu* (the day after marriage), *Onnu thottal moonnu*, etc.

VKN started his writing career with stories of ordinary people who spoke dialect of Palakkad. They all had humorous backgrounds with characters of innocence. He caricatured Arshan who very soon gave way to Payyan. All such tales were compiled into volumes such as *Payyan*, *Kalaghattathile Payyan*,

*Payyante Kaalam*, *Salkaram*, *Mandahasam* etc. Slowly he moved away from his humorous ways and started using phrases that he alone can use. His male characters had no moral pangs and female characters were depicted as of loose morals, in the name of modernism or fashion. Though young readers swooped on these stories, elderly readers were moving away from them. His sarcastic remarks towards higher and lower caste groups distanced them. *Hajiyar*, *Chathans*, *Colonel Renu*, *Kaveri Amma*, *Murukan Nair*, *Sir Chathu*, *Bharani Tirunal* etc are some of the characters immortalized by him.

When VKN shifted his base to Delhi, the background of his stories also changed. His Payyan got transformed into an urban character of superior intellect who took life in a very light manner. A new hue took over his stories and readers who were not conversant with the unholy atmosphere of Delhi then could not grasp

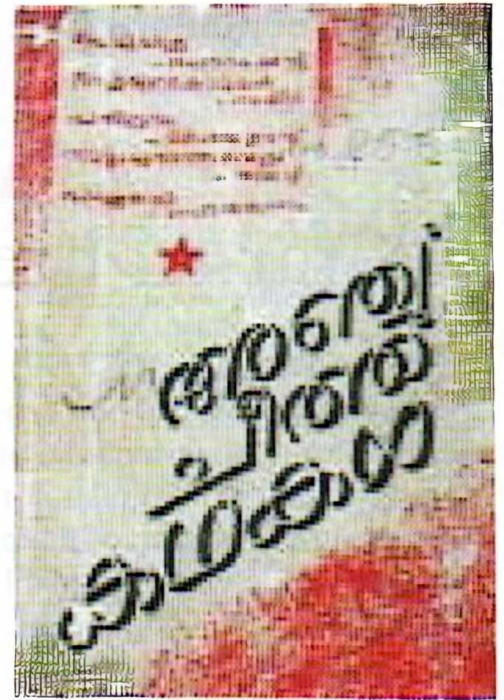


**VKN**

the undercurrents of his stories. His wide reading of world history also cast a shadow on his stories. In his story *Sammanam* (Gift), Payyan seeks permission from Renu to enter bathroom while she is under the shower and she refuses it. When she declines it as a Churchill-Roosevelt joke, an uninitiated reader gets puzzled. One critic compared VKN stories to *Vishnu Sahasranamam* in which every name of Vishnu invokes an episode of his multifarious activities. Another critic remarks that if one removes the silly dialogues and the soliloquies from the writing, there is no story left in VKN.

### Censored short stories

It may be very rare that short stories are banned by the government for its contents. The first one that comes to mind is *Premalekhanam* (Love letter) by



Vaikom Mohamed Basheer when Sir C P Ramaswamy Iyer was Diwan of Travancore. The reason cited then was immorality as it depicted the love between a Hindu and a Christian. Though this book is now categorized as a novel, by its structure and size, it is a short story. Another story banned was *Sabdangal* of Basheer himself as it contained reference to homosexuality.

The other book was *Anchu Cheetha Kathakal* (Five bad stories) published in 1946 by T K Varghese Vaidyan's People's Bookstall in Alappuzha. Out of 1000 copies printed, a few of them were sold, and the remaining copies were confiscated and destroyed in the backdrop of the Punnapra-Vayalar revolt. The printing press too was sealed.

This book contained a selection of five stories by some of the most prominent names in Malayalam literature '*Kalla Pashu*' (S.K. Pottekat), '*Bharyayude Kamukan*' (Vaikom Mohammed Basheer), '*Pathivratha*' (Keshav Dev), '*Naatinpurathe Veshya*' (Thakazhi Shivashankara Pillai) and '*Vithu Kaala*' (Ponkunnam Varkey). After independence, the ban was ultimately lifted because all the authors became stalwarts in the Malayalam literary world.

### Role of periodicals

All the above mentioned writers were encouraged by various publications such as periodicals, school and college

*To be continued on page 31*

# RAJA KESAVADAS

## A far-sighted Dewan of Travancore

Raja Kesavadas (1745-1799) was the first Dewan of Travancore popularly known as *Valia Diwanji* during the reign of Karthika Thirunal Rama Varma, the Maharaja of the erstwhile kingdom of Travancore. He was an efficient administrator and an able diplomat. It was he who laid the strong foundation of the political ties with the British Government. As Dewan, he was responsible for shifting the capital of Travancore from Kalkulam (Padmanabha puram) to Thiruvananthapuram. He encouraged industries and agriculture, repaired roads, built bridges and constructed ports. He is also credited with the construction of the Chalai market in Thiruvananthapuram.



V N Gopalakrishnan

**A**s a far-sighted statesman, Raja Kesavadas knew the importance of having a port town to trade with western countries and accordingly developed seaports at Kulachal, Vizhinjam and Alappuzha. He was the chief architect of Alappuzha known as the 'Venice of the East' and he was ably assisted by Thachil Matthoo Tharakan, one of his ministers. 'Alappuzha' means the land between the sea and a network of rivers flowing into it. Finding Alappuzha to be a good location for a port, he constructed two parallel canals - 'Vadaicanal' and 'Commercial Canal' - with the system of waterways for easy transportation of goods to the port. Canals were opened for the transportation of spices and forest goods.

Raja Kesavadas offered infrastructural facilities to merchants and traders from Surat, Mumbai and Kutch to start trading and cargo centres. Leading industrialists like Navaroji Khawaziji, Vallabha Das Kanchi and others found Alappuzha as their second home. For improving foreign trade, Raja Kesavadas invited shipping companies like Scindia Steamship Navigation Co. to start cargo centres here. During his time Alappuzha became the financial nerve centre of Travancore and a trading place for coir, copra, pepper, ginger, cardamom, rubber and tea. It became a maritime centre and a paradise for tourists. The light house at Alappuzha constructed during his time spreads light to a distance of about twenty kilometers.

Raman Kesavan Pillai or Keshavan as



Dewan Raja Kesavadas

he was known during his childhood was born in a small village called Kunnattoor in the Vilavancode district of Travancore on March 17, 1745 as the son of Kaliasamma Pillai an army personnel. Very little is known about his childhood days. Though he did not get enough formal education, he had shown exemplary skill in mathematics. Before completing 12 years, he had to search for his livelihood. Initially, he was employed by Puthukkada Chettiyyar, a wealthy merchant but later he was recommended to Poku Moosa Marackar, a leading merchant and

exporter who appointed him as a tall clerk on a meager salary.

Young Keshavan used to accompany Poku Moosa to the royal palace. Poku Moosa was very faithful to the Maharaja who was lovingly addressed as Dharmaraja. On one occasion, the Maharaja was unimpressed by the behavior of Keshavan but subsequently became very fond of him. The Maharaja gave him a job in his administrative staff. Kesava Pillai's life shot up step by step from the lower rungs of the official ladder. He was promoted as *Rayasamma Pillai* and later on as *Sambrathy*, to administrative positions. Later on he was appointed as *Sarvadhikaryakar* when the Maharaja was tipped about the impending aggression of Tippu Sultan of Mysore.

Kesava Pillai was the Commandant of the state army when Tippu Sultan attacked Travancore. However, the invading army of Tippu was defeated at the Battle of Kaladi on December 29, 1789. Recognising his victory over the Mysore Sultan, the Maharaja appointed Keshava Pillai as *Dewan* of Travancore when Chempaka Raman Pillai, the serving *Dalawa* was unable to carry out his responsibilities due to old age. He was shrewd, intelligent, honest and hard working brought him closer to the ruler who in turn entrusted him with matters related to commerce and business of the state. Gold and silver coins were also minted during his tenure for the convenience of trade transactions.

## Work Without Salary

Keshava Pillai was designated as *Dewan* instead of *Dalawa* taking into account the suggestions made by British officials and some top administrators. Thus he became the first Dewan of Travancore and people reverentially addressed him as *Valiya Diwanji*. Keshava Pillai never drew his monthly salary from the Treasury, instead he took only what was needed for his minimum expenses. When the Maharaja gifted him land and properties, he politely declined them. Seeing his loyalty and patriotism, the Maharaja awarded his family with the title of *Thampy Chempakaraman*. The British Governor General Mornington in appreciation of his administrative skills conferred on him the title of *Raja*. But hesitating to accept this honour out of humility, he linked his name with the word *Dasan* (servant) and liked to be called Raja Kesava Dasan (servant of the king) or simply Raja Kesavadas.

Kesava Pillai learnt defence strategy under Captain Dillanoi and other Europeans. He also learned Portuguese, English and Persian languages and constantly interacted with the Dutch and English officials for enhancing trade. He

made arrangements to collect pepper, spices and other natural resources and sold them to foreign companies in return for iron, copper, sugar and weapons. In order to protect forests and tapping forest resources for generating revenue, he created a Forest Department.

After the death of Captain Dillanoi, Raja Kesavadas became the Army Chief of Travancore and successfully led the Travancore army in various battles. He engaged in peace talks with the Dutch, the British and the Nawabs of Arcot resulted in maintaining peace and harmony in the state. According to Sardar K.M.Panicker, if Keshavadas did not become the Dewan at a critical time in the annals of Travancore, the state itself would have been dismantled. The constant threat of attack from Tippu Sultan prompted the Maharaja to seek British help at the instance of the Dewan. However, this eventually allowed the British to have control on the state which later led to the appointment of a Resident under the British rule.

Keshava Pillai's tenure as Dewan ended with the demise of Karthika Thirunal Rama Varma in 1798. Subsequently, Avittam Thirunal Balarama Varma

succeeded Kartika Thirunal as the Crown Prince at the age of sixteen. He was a puppet in the hands of sycophants and was misguided by Jayanthan Sankaran Nampoothiri. Subsequently, under the influence of Jayanthan Sankaran Nampoothiri, Raja Kesavadas was kept under house arrest and was proclaimed as a traitor. This helped Jayanthan Sankaran Nampoothiri to usurp the post of Dewan. Later the family assets of Raja Keshavadas were confiscated and eventually he died on April 21, 1799. According to a French surgeon who used to check his health, Raja Keshavadas died due to food poisoning. The death of Raja Kesavadas spread like wild fire in the capital. A riot followed in which Jayanthan Sankaran Nampoothiri was murdered. The Crown Prince Avittam Thirunal Balarama Varma was compelled to invite Velu Thampi and appointed him as *Dalawa* who brought peace and stability in the kingdom. Though Raja Kesavadas died in tragic circumstance, he still lives as a martyr in the minds of the people of Travancore.

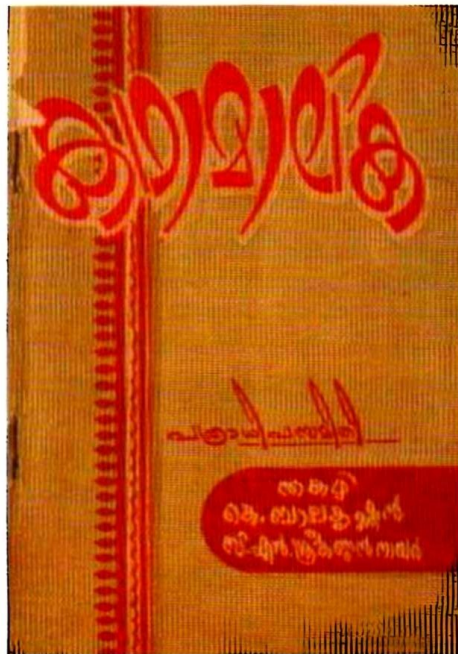
*(The Author is a freelance journalist and social activist)*

## Malayalam Short Story

*Continued from page 29*

magazines, and hand written magazines of schools, reading rooms etc. Among the leading periodicals, *Mathrubhoomi Weekly*, *Jayakeralam Weekly*, *Sahithya Parishathu Quarterly*, *Malayalarajyam*, *Anveshanam Monthly* played a great role. Most of these writers got their skills polished by these periodicals. Besides them, monthlies exclusively dedicated to short stories were *Cherukatha*, published from Chambakulam and *Kathamalika* from Thiruvananthapuram. The latter was published by K Balakrishnan and was edited by Thakazhi, C N Srikantan Nair besides the publisher himself. They were sold for four annas per copy. Most of today's writers used to depend on this monthly magazine for a break. It is not known if all these periodicals, except *Mathrubhoomi*, paid for these contributors.

All weeklies and monthlies in those days, used to have at least two short stories. Very soon, other periodicals started following them. *Janayugam*, *Malayali*, *Malayala Manorama*, *Kaumudi* et al started featuring at least two short stories in each issue. Even film magazines such



as *Deepti*, *Cinema Masika*, *Film* (all of them were very popular publications in the fifties and sixties), *Kumkumam*, *Malayalanadu* etc had their share of short stories. While most of them ceased publication, new publications have taken their place.

## Writers of today

The present generation has got a number of gifted people like Sarah Joseph. Her works are essentially liberalistic, and have always been powerful enough to convey the plight of suppressed groups. Sarah Joseph has written many short stories too.

Anand is an author who writes novels and short stories, depicting the ultimate pain of life. His main works are *Marubhumikal Untakunnatu* (Origin of deserts), *Araamate viral* (sixth finger) and *Naalaamate ani* (fourth nail).

Some of the other important authors of contemporary Malayalam fiction are Zachariah, N S Madhavan, Gracy, T V Kochubava, K B Sreedevi, Valsala, Sara Thomas, B M Suhra, Geetha Hiranyan, Rosemary, A S Priya, K L Mohana Varma, Punathil Kunhabdulla, Ashtamurthy, K P Ramanunni, Mundur Krishnan Kutty and C R Parameswaran each of whom, with his/her unique approach and style has contributed to the growth of the Malayalam novel and short story. There are others like Asokan Charuvil, Vaisakhan, Sathrugnan, Unnikrishnan *Tiruvazhiyodu*, *Mundur Sethumadhavan*, Sethu, Raghunathan, Aravindakshan and C V Balakrishnan who have their distinctive diction.

# SUNIL KUMAR

## Socially and Culturally Active Family

- Elvee

Born in Kodungalloor but staying in Mumbai since he was a child, Sunil Kumar and his family have not forgotten their roots and are active members of several Malayalee Samajams and participate in their cultural and social activities.



*Sunil Kumar with his wife Suja and their children Sruthi and Shlok*

V A Sunil Kumar, his wife Suja and their children Sruthi and Shlok have been staying in Mumbai for several years. His family is very active in the social and cultural field of Mumbai. While Sunil himself has participated in extra-curricular activities during his college days, his daughter Sruthi who has just written her Std X Board exam is a good singer and has won several prizes in music competitions of Mumbai Associations and performed at several music shows conducted by orchestra troupes of Mumbai and his son, Shlok plays the keyboard. His wife Suja organizes various cultural programmes for children and women at the Malayalee organisations and encourages her childrens' musical skills.

Sunil Kumar hails from Kodungalloor. He studied there till Std II and then went to Abu Dhabi with his parents, the late VC

Ayyappan and the late Kamala. Sunil's father ran an optical business VEE CEE Opticians and Vijay Opticians at Masjid Bunder and later New Optical at Abu

Dhabi. After studying in Abu Dhabi for some years, Sunil returned to Mumbai and completed his schooling from Adarsh Vidyalaya Chembur and did his

“As a champion of social causes, my aim is to work for the larger benefit of the society. We, Malayalees must work in tandem to solve our difficulties and problems. At the same time, we must be faithful and loyal to the land which gives us our bread and butter, that is Maharashtra.”



graduation in Economics from SIES College Mumbai. He did his post-graduation in Economics from Mumbai University and his LLB from New Law College in Mahim. During his college days, Sunil has participated in college and inter-collegiate folk dance competitions and won prizes, organized musical shows and choreographed group folk dances for inter-collegiate dance competitions. He has headed various Associations and was Student Council member and office bearer of college associations. He has even acted in a Marathi play during his college days.

Simultaneously, Sunil did a Diploma course in Optometry and Contact Lens under Dr Ashok Patel and practised at Harkisandas and BARC Hospitals and later started his own optical shop in Saki Naka. He also tried his hands at several other businesses like starting air/train/bus ticketing centre, xerox, courier services etc. He engaged himself with all this while studying in college. Sunil's day used to begin at 6 am and continue till 11 pm when he retired for the night.

In the meantime his father died and Sunil wanted to fulfill his father's desire that his son should become an IAS officer. He wrote several Government exams and got a Central Government job in the Central



*Sruthi and Shlok performing*

Excise Department. For the last 21 years, Sunil is working here and presently he is Superintendent of Central Excise, Customs, and Service Tax. Sunil says the Malayalees in his office are hardworking, and he is happy and at peace with his job. Sunil has an elder brother who was earlier in the family optical business but now settled in Kerala and running a Chit Fund. He has a sister who is married and staying in Kerala.

Sunil's wife Suja T Joseph hails from Thiruvalla and after completing her education in Kerala she came to Mumbai when she got a job here. It was a love marriage. Suja's father, Joseph Varghese was a rubber cultivation farmer and her mother was the late Sosamma Varghese.

Suja has an elder brother who after a long stint in Abu Dhabi is now doing furniture business in Thiruvalla. Her younger brother is working in Saudi and living with his family there. Suja's three sisters are in Kerala while their husbands are working abroad.

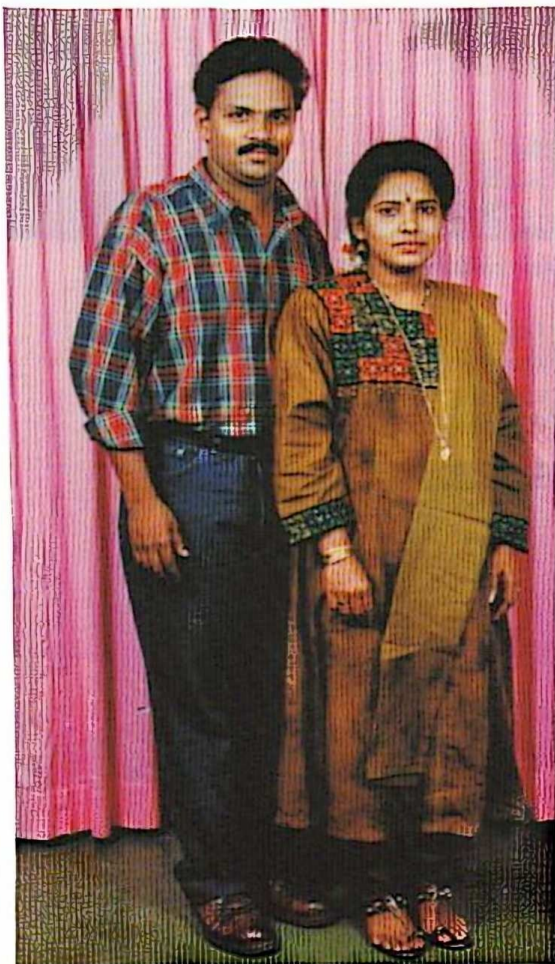
Sruthi has appeared for her Std X Board examination and is awaiting results. She has taken part in almost all extra curricular activities in school like singing, dancing, elocution, quiz competitions, and was awarded "amazing Kid of the Year" by the popular TV Channel POGO. Sruthi is learning Carnatic music, and is a regular orchestra singer performing with several orchestra troupes of Mumbai. She has won prizes at various musical competitions and is now a part of *Souparnika*, a musical band of young

emerging singers of Mumbai.

Sunil and Suja's son Shlok has passed Std VII and is learning keyboard and plays it at musical shows. He also takes part in various cultural activities in school and Malayalee Associations. Both of them have lent their voices for TV ads and commercials in several languages. Today when many Mumbai Malayalee youngsters can not read or write Malayalam, it is to Sunil's credit that his children know to read and write Malayalam well and speak Malayalam at home. They are equally comfortable with English, Hindi and Marathi.

As a family, they visit Kerala annually and stay with their relatives. Sruthi and Shlok love these visits to Kerala.

On the social front, Sunil is the Secretary of the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj and was instrumental in starting the Children's Camp and the free Malayalam Certificate course conducted by the Kerala Government there with the guidance of the then Secretary Devadass Nair. He is also a Committee member of Ayyappa Mission, Antop Hill, and the Antop Hill Muthappan Seva Sangham. Sunil is also a Committee member of Sion-Koliwada Ayyappa Seva Sangham. He is a Committee member of FEIMN (Federation of All India Marunad Malayalee Association), active member of CENCUS (an organization of Malayalee officers of Customs and Central Excise, Committee Member of Kodungalloor Kootayma, an organization of Kodungalloor Taluk residents.



*Sunil Kumar with his wife Suja*

## Mumbai Malayalee Associations

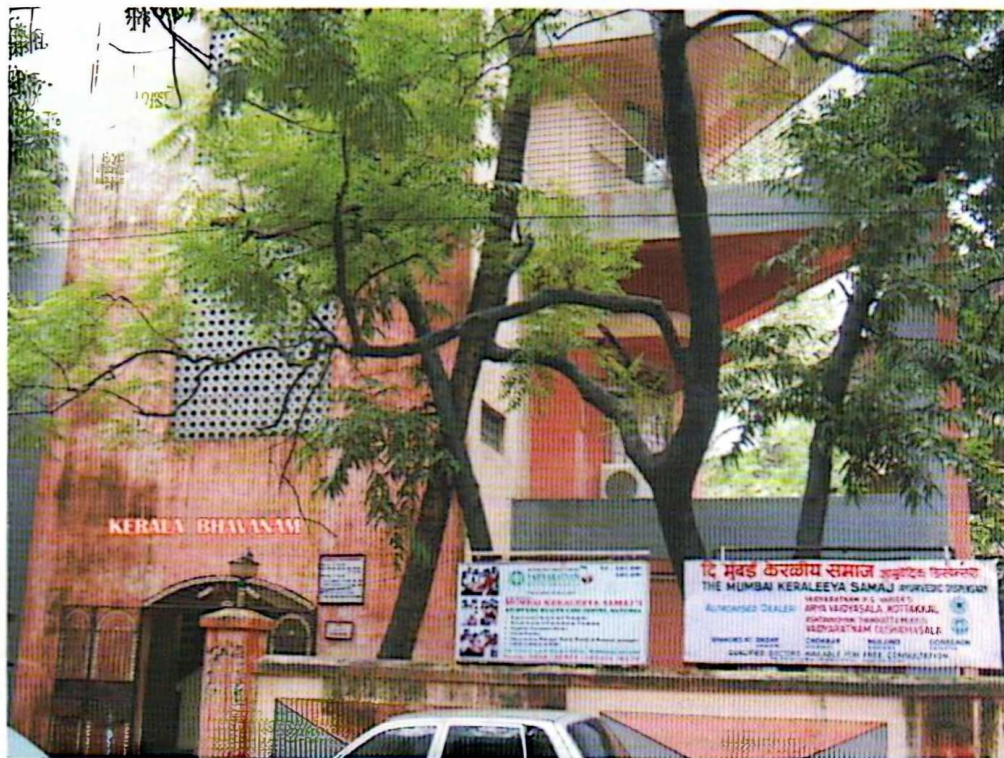
# The Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, Matunga

Christened by Kerala's poet laureate, Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon, the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj had a string of eminent, dedicated Malayalees of Mumbai to nurture it from the late 1930s. The organization took birth at the Blavatsky Lodge with a meeting of enthusiastic young men and women eager to set up a socio-cultural body to work for the welfare of Malayalees in Mumbai.

**T**he meeting was chaired by Mrs. Yasodha M. Karuvan, and went on to elect K Karuvan as the first President and KA Nambiar as the Secretary. As one of its principal aims of fostering fellow-feeling among Malayalees in the city, the Samaj celebrated "Onam", Kerala's harvest festival as an annual event.

Vallathol pointed out that the original name Bombay Kerala Samaj was inappropriate since there could not be a Kerala Samaj in Bombay. It could be only a Samajam of Malayalees. It thus, became the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj. It was registered under the Societies Registration Act in 1934 and as a Trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.

Dr. KB Menon, a Socialist leader, galvanized the activities of the Samaj in the early forties. Soon, he got involved in the Quit India movement, and his place was taken up by other young men.



In 1949 V K Menon energized the working of the Samaj, enrolling several eminent men as members and forming the Kerala Samaj Co-operative Hostel Society to provide accommodation for several members of the Samaj.

### Ayurvedic Health Care Centres and Dispensary

VK Menon also launched the Keraleeya Samaj's Ayurvedic Dispensary. This proved to be very popular and the Samaj had to set up similar Ayurvedic dispensaries in Matunga, Dadar, Chembur, Goregaon and Mulund where patients could be provided free consultation. Today, the dispensary has the in-house facility for Panchakarma treatment, weekend rejuvenation programme and specialized treatment for diseases like arthritis, spondylitis, joint pains, frozen shoulder etc. These treatments are carried out by experienced masseurs at reasonable rates under the supervision of experienced Ayurvedic Doctors. This facility is available to the public including non-members. Genuine Ayurvedic medicines for treatment are supplied by Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala, Vaidyaratnam Oushadasala, Kerala Ayurvedic Pharmacy etc.

### Kerala Bhavanam

The need to have premises of its own prompted the Samaj to launch a Building Fund in 1932. It was augmented with spurts of periodic effort by successive Managing Committees till in 1955 it was decided to set apart a portion of the net profits of the Samaj every year to augment the Building Fund.

At the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Samaj it was decided to allot surplus funds for the purpose of securing new premises for the Samaj. In 1957, with renewed efforts by GP Nair, N Balakrishna, M Madhavan, V Rajagopal, CA Menon, KN Nair, MC Menon, M Balakrishnan, PMN Menon and others the present Kerala Bhavanam was acquired.

The new premises of the Samaj was inaugurated by the then Union Defence Minister, VK Krishna Menon in 1958. With the expansion of the activities of the Samaj, even this was found to be inadequate. The Samaj therefore undertook the construction of two more storeys over the existing Kerala Bhavanam. After the two additional storeys in Kerala Bhavanam, the Samaj extended its activities in the multi-purpose hall to literary activities, symposium, seminars etc.

Kerala Bhavanam today is the nerve centre of various activities.

□ Aksharaslogam competition is conducted every year in the month of February/March.

□ Bala Samskarashibiram (Children's camp) for the age group of 6 to 14 which helps the children to know and understand Kerala's socio-cultural activities.

□ The Samaj runs 4 divisions of Pre-primary classes at Kerala Bhavanam. A large number of students from lower strata of society derive immense benefit from this facility.

□ The Dance school affiliated to Nalanda Dance Research Centre, imparts lessons in Bharata natyam through professionals in the field under the able guidance of Dr. (Mrs.) Kanak Rele.

□ Various temple arts are also being promoted viz., chakyarkoothu, koodiyattam Kathakali, Ottanthullal etc.

□ Free Malayalam classes for children to learn the language under a certificate course.

□ "Visalakeralam" was launched as an annual publication to bring together Malayalee writers in Bombay to develop their writing abilities and to provide a platform for them. This was in 1945 and the next year it was converted into a quarterly magazine, under the editorship of NR Nayar. Over the last 62 years it has earned recognition for itself as a quality literary magazine besides promoting a number of talented writers in Mumbai.

□ Yoga class for men and women twice a week.

## Social activities

When the flag-off ceremony was conducted for the Jayanthi Janata Express, Samaj Representative Mayor Madhavan and AP Narayanan had participated.

## Other assistance include:

□ Supporting the technically ill patients, financial assistance to cancer patients on case to case basis and socially and



*Onam Celebrations*

financially downtrodden people.

□ Helping the youth arriving from Kerala in search of jobs by providing hostel facilities.

## Reading Room and Library

□ All the leading newspapers, journals, magazines in Malayalam, English, Hindi and Marathi are provided in the Reading Room.

□ The library at Kerala Bhavanam has a collection of about 13000 books in Malayalam and a good number of reference books in different languages. The library is well patronized by the members.

## Walking Races

On the sports front, the Samaj conducts the R.G. Nair memorial 10,000 mtrs. Walking race every year and has entered into the 49<sup>th</sup> year and on the threshold of the Golden Jubilee celebration next year. The Walking Races are held for different age groups for men, women and children.

## Art & Culture

The Art and Culture wing of the Samaj has always been active over the years : has promoted several artistes, directors, singers and performers. To commemorate Mahakavi Changampuzha's 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, Samaj staged Kalidasa Kalakendra's new drama "RAMANA" in 2010.

## Supporting new train to Kerala

As a Samaj representing the Malayalees in this metropolis for the last 81 years, Samaj always urges the Central Government to introduce new train before the Railway budget every year.

## Governing Body members for 2011-12

Currently S Venkiteswaran is the President of the Bombay Keralee Samaj, while M Kunhiraman is the Vice President. VA Sunil Kumar is the Secretary, Premarajan Nambiar is the Secretary and member-in-charge Dispensary and Health care, K Velunni is the Treasurer, AK Vijayan Nambiar is the Member-in-charge, membership. Other members include P Suresh Babu, Construction and Maintenance, Vimala Bhaskaran, Womens' Wing, P Venugopalan 'Visalakeralam', Padmasundaran Sports, Ramachandran Reading Room at Library, MG Vijaykumar Arts and Culture, TA Sashi, Education and Chandran, Member.



*S Venkiteswaran*



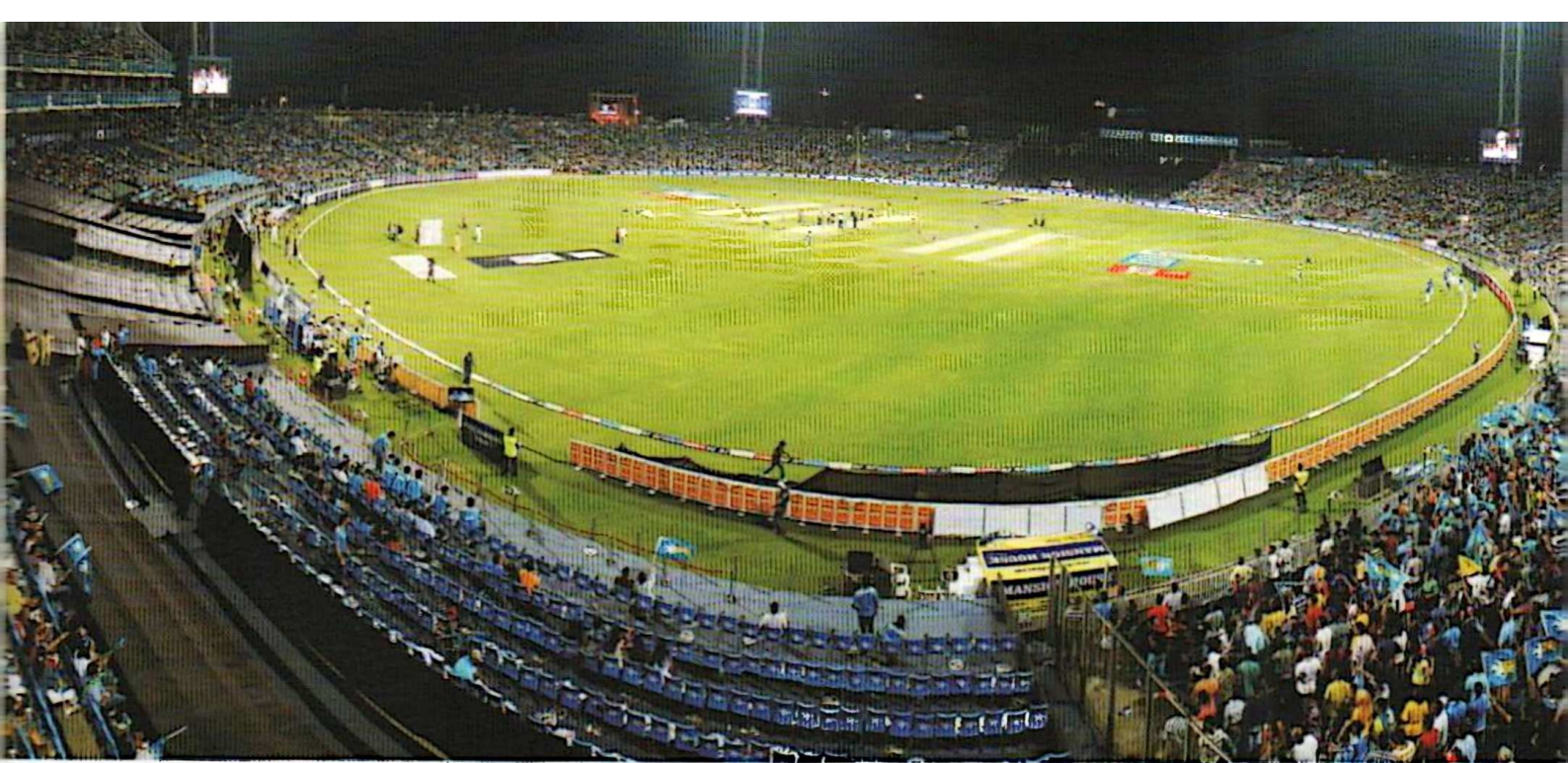
*Sunil Kumar*



*Premarajan Nambiar*



*K Velunni*



*The newly built Subrata Stadium Pune, photographed by Nambiar*

## IN PUNE

# A constructive karmayogi: Pune's Millennium Nambiar



**Sriprakash Menon**



**M B Nambiar**

**T**he clientele of Millennium Engineers & Contractors Pvt. Ltd., (a Pune based civil engineering company) include big names like Cadbury India, TCS, Syntel International, Mahindra United World College, Shree Vinayaka Hospitality, Kumar Motors, International Biotech Park, Vascon Engineers, YMCA, Sahara India, Vascon Engineers, Lavasa Corporation, Praj Industries, Ramakrishna Math and the list is endless. The man behind this success story is M B Nambiar, founder and chairman of Millennium.

As a young engineer Manikkoth Balakrishnan Nambiar reached Mumbai in the sixties, with a job offer from Military Engineering Service (MES) at Colaba. A civil engineer from Kannur, Nambiar hails from Kallayad in Kannur near Irikode. He later worked for Billimoria and Company for nine years and started his own business in partnership at Kalyan before moving to

Lonavala.

With Shreyas Construction, Nambiar was established and came to be known for his engineering and construction work in the Pune region as Lonavala Nambiar. "Lonavala is a beautiful place to live but for the sake of my childrens' education I moved to Pune. Now of course all my children are grown up. Jiten is in Australia working there, Jyothi is a director of a company and Julie is settled in Hyderabad as a child psychologist. In the eighties I lived more in Lonavala and then in the nineties I shifted to Pune. Of course, Lonavala is still my weekend home", he explained with a smile hidden under his grey French beard.

Nambiar recounted "I was associated with several business houses like Cadbury's, Venkateshwara Hatcheries, Pride Industries, Bekaert Industries besides educational institutions like Shree Chanakya Educational Society with corporate leisure projects like Amby Valley and Lavasa. I enjoyed my work and was keen to give quality work for my clients on time. I had a dedicated team helping me to achieve my goal in life to do good work for the society and country".

Building and construction activities need to be refined and stylish, he observed saying "the construction work in Mumbai is more from the utilitarian point of view whereas Pune's building activities are more creative and lifestyle oriented though there are many sub-standard work here as well. It is challenging as an engineer and contractor to execute projects in Pune as the scope for innovation is wider. Let me make it clear I am not a builder. Initially, my group



*Mumbai - Pune Expressway, photographed by Nambiar*

company was Shreyas and in 2000, I launched Millennium. We have done several projects in Nashik, Solapur and Hyderabad. We specialise in all kind of civil work".

Nambiar is a good professional photographer and has trained his camera on various subjects. He organised exhibitions of his photographs in aid of hearing impaired children and now is planning to sell his pictures to corporate houses for their calendars for extending his charity and support work. He uses both Nikkon and Sony cameras. He loves travelling. Whether it is Kerala, Sri

Lanka, Ladakh or Kenya his pictures tell some pretty stories. Married twice, Nambiar is not keen on discussing his marital life though at heart he seems to be still a romantic person'.

His group company has bagged numerous awards and accolade including from the Builders Association of India. "I like to be busy with my work and that is worship for me. I am not frequent visitor to temples and religious events though I have been associated with a few spiritual organisations", he cited saying "I am not very active involved with Malayalee organisation but I do support their initiatives".

Malayalees in Pune need direct flight to Kerala and "we had talked to the former aviation minister Vayalar Ravi. He said he will look into it. Even direct trains are periodic in a week. A direct super fast train daily is what is needed. With all external difficulties, what is amazing about Malayalees is that they adapt the local culture, language and become part of it. This is a very good aspect of their life, so they don't feel that they are left out despite being away from their roots. I think Pune Malayalee Federation (PMF) is active in taking up people related issues".

With dedicated execution and passion Nambiar's company is moving ahead with designer monumental work. Whether it is villas at Lavasa or research centre of TCS, the stamp Millennium ensures quality, safety and innovation according to the market responses.



*Another photograph clicked by Nambiar*



## MUMBAI NEWS DIGEST

KIM News Bureau

A galaxy of eminent industrialists and personalities lauded the contribution to public life of the former Maharajah of Travancore, Marthanda Varma and Capt C P Krishnan Nair, on the occasion of their ninetieth birthday in Mumbai on May 13.

The Navathi celebrations were inaugurated by the Governor of Maharashtra, K Sankaranarayanan. The function was presided over by M K Yusuf Ali, Chairman of the EMKE in the Gulf Emirates.

The Governor said unlike any other princely families in India, the royal family of Travancore had identified themselves with the needs of the people, whom they ruled on behalf of their family diety, Padmanabhaswamy. They introduced compulsory education, the rights of the "untouchables" to common amenities and their right to enter temples in the State.

# STERLING CONTRIBUTIONS LAUDED



*Marthanda Varma and Capt C P Krishnan Nair*

Capt Krishnan Nair's vision and drive had led to India being placed on the world map in terms of world-class hospitality, through their chain of Leela Hotels.

Yusuf Ali said Capt Nair had always been an inspiration for him.

R K Krishna Kumar, Director, TATA sons recalled how Capt. Nair had stood by him in difficult days in his career.

Amitabh Kant, IAS, recalled how Capt Nair had come to his rescue when vested interests in Kozhikode ganged up to get him suspended as Collector of Kozhikode. Without even knowing him personally, Nair had taken up his case with the then Chief Minister, E K Nayanar and saw to it that justice was

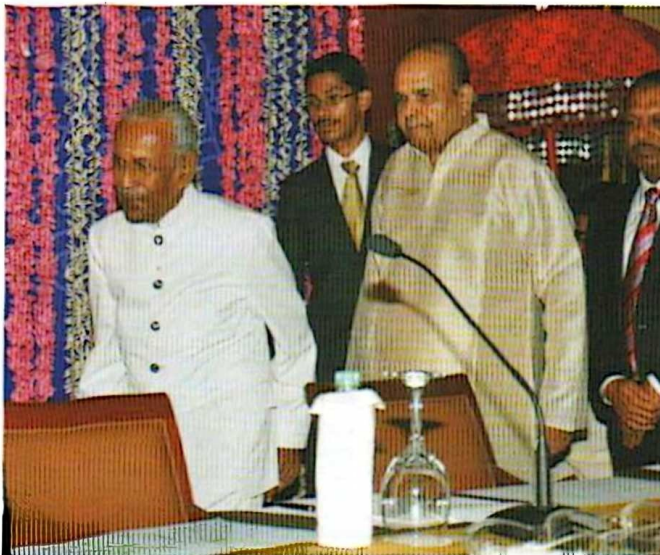
done to him.

Dr Ravi Pillai, Chairman, Raviz Group, said the two celebrities had put Kerala on the world map in their own ways in an extraordinarily remarkable manner.

K Madhavan, Vice Chairman, Asianet, paid tributes to Capt Nair's vision for the country and its future.

In his response, Capt Nair said he was convinced that India would soon become a superpower with enviable records of literacy, alleviation of poverty and upliftment of the conditions of the people throughout the country.

The function was organised by A K Prince Vaidyan and K B Uttam Kumar at the Leela Hotel.



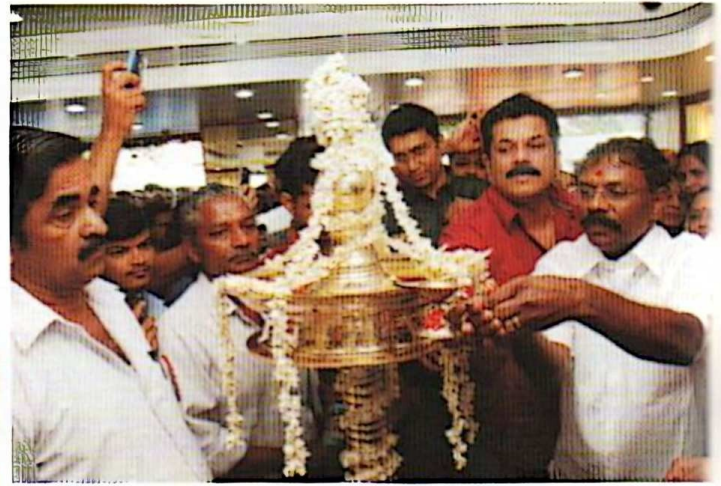
*Marthanda Varma with Governor K Sankaranarayanan*



*The Governor with Capt Nair and Marthanda Varma*

# Showroom Inauguration

S Kumar Jewellers opened their new showroom at Mulund Colony on April 22. It was inaugurated by Malayalam cine artist Mukesh and Roma. S Kumar was running a textiles show room S Kumar collection for the last 30 years. Now they have entered the field of jewellery and renovated their textiles showroom as S Kumar Silks with a variety of silks, dress materials and traditional Kerala dresses and ornaments.



Lighting the lamp at the inauguration



Mukesh and Roma at the inauguration

## Free Ayurvedic Medical Camp

Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal organized a Free Ayurvedic Medical Camp and Awareness Programme in association with Bombay Keraleeya Samaj at their Ayurvedic Dispensary at Goregaon on May27 from 9 am to 2 pm. A team of senior doctors from Kerala were available for free consultation and advice.

# Maharashtra Din Celebrated

The Speaker of the Maharashtra State Assembly, Dilip Walse- Patil, lauded the efforts of People's Arts Centre in celebrating the 52nd Foundation Day of Maharashtra by felicitating prominent Marathi intellectuals, artistes and writers, followed by a scintillating programme of *lavani*. Those felicitated on the occasion included Dr Snehalata

Deshmukh (medicine), Dr Narendra Jadhav, (economist), Kumar Ketkar, (journalist), Shyam Benegal, (film maker), Yuvraj Valmiki, ( Sports), Yamuna Vikram Vaikar ( Lavani). Dilip Walse- Patil reiterated that every Indian anywhere has the inherent right to live anywhere in the country and that no one should be discriminated against on the ground of not being a son of the

soil. PK Ravindranath, presiding over the function, held at the Mysore Association Hall on May 1, said the organization of a predominantly Marathi Event by an organization which had been specialising in Malayalam functions was highly commendable. Gopakumar Pillai, General Secretary People's Arts Centre, welcomed the audience in chaste Marathi.



Left to right: Hockey player Yuvraj Valmiki, drama actor Balaji, Speaker Dilip Walse Patil, KIM Consulting Editor PK Ravindranath, Gopakumar Pillai Secretary Peoples' Arts Centre, former V C Dr Snehalata Deshmukh, film-maker Shyam Benegal, Kunal Rege and Regi Kumar.

# In-House Communication Excellence Awards

In-House Communication Excellence (ICE) Awards is entering into its fourth edition. Initiated in 2009, by Shailaja Nair Foundation, as a CSR activity, ICE Awards received 107 entries and this steadily rose to 380 entries in 2010, to 497 entries in 2011 and to 674 entries this year.



ICE Awards is organised by a governing council of veterans and this year it was headed by the well-known journalist PK Ravindranath. The responsibilities of the governing council included selection of a jury panel, the venue, Chief guest for the function etc.

Zee Business is the media partner for ICE Awards 2012 while FEI Cargo Ltd is the title sponsor. Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Indo- American Chamber of Commerce were active partners in propagating ICE Awards. Publications such as Times of India, Kerala in Mumbai, Exim India, Matrubhumi, Malayala Manorama etc support the ICE Awards by covering the news on the competition. The Award function will take place on 22 June 2012 at Ramada Plaza, Powai, Mumbai and entry is only by special invitation.



Winners of ICE Awards 2011

## Shailaja Nair Antakshari

FEI Cargo Ltd. is celebrating their Founder's Day on 24th June 2012 at Manik Sabhagriha, Mumbai. Mr. Annu Kapoor, the creator of Antakshari in modern times, will host the show. The auditions will end on 23rd June and the

four finalist teams (Shilu's Deewane, Parwane, Mastane, Afsane) will compete for the SNF trophy. For invitations, please send your requests to [vidhi@feicargo.in](mailto:vidhi@feicargo.in)

## Citizens' Protest March at Vasai

Representatives of various social organizations formed a 'Justice to Rosamma Antony Citizens Action Committee' and along with residents of Vasai took a March from Bassein Kerala Samaj to the Dy SP Office to protest against the inaction by the Police for the murder of the senior nurse Rosamma Antony at Vasai. Their demands included bringing Rosamma Antony's murderers to justice, handing over investigation to the State CID and ensuring the safety of ordinary lives.



The Protest March

## Nasik Nair Samajam Association Annual Day

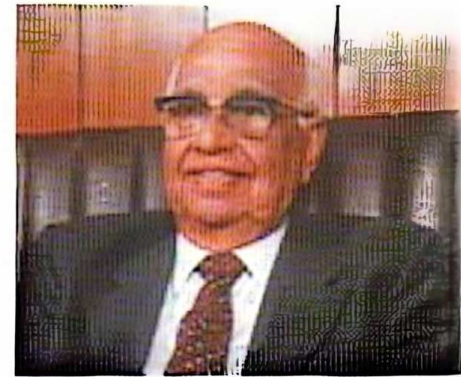


*Prof Parambil Jayakumar inaugurated Nasik Nair Samajam Annual Day celebrations. Chembur Balakrishnan Nair, Nasik Nair Samajam President MP Narayana Panicker, Dr G Gopakumar also seen in the picture.*

## K M Philip, Centurion

The father-figure of the Indian rubber industry, K M Philip, turned 100 on May 2. All through his life Philip has nurtured the rubber industry, ever since his family set up Madras Rubber Factory and made it into a giant organisation.

"I have been fortunate to witness the dramatic growth of our rubber industry in my lifetime. The start of the rubber manufacturing sector was the most difficult for the industry, with no proper technology available and little capital. Today, we have the most sophisticated



technology- it is today worth more than Rs. 50,000 crores," He said.

Philip's own contribution to the growth of the industry has been immense. Everyone associated with the rubber industry acknowledges the fact that Philip's own life has been an inspiration for everyone in the industry world-wide.

He has a word of advice for future entrepreneurs: Modernise the industry and ensure quality world-class products.

## Kalatilakam for Reshma Krishnan

Reshma Krishnan, resident of BARC Colony Anushakti Nagar, was conferred the *Kalatilakam* Award (Seniors) for winning the National level Music competition held by FAIMA. She received it from the hands of Rasool Pookutty on May 6 at a function held in Nerul. Reshma has learnt Carnatic Music and presently

learning Hindustani Music. She has been singing since childhood and has taken part and won prizes and certificates in several music and dance competitions. She has also taken part in Karali TV reality show 'Gandharva Sangeetham' in 2009. Reshma is doing her engineering at Pillai's College in New Panvel.



*Reshma Krishnan receiving Kalatilakam Award from Rasool Pookutty*

## Cash Awards for meritorious Malayalee students

Malayalam Foundation has declared a cash award of Rs 2000 each to all meritorious students of SSC and HSC from Kalyan East and West and Dombivli East and West. Concerned students have to send certified mark lists, telephone number, address, email id etc to: [malayalamfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:malayalamfoundation@gmail.com)  
Cell: 9757281837.

# MORE TRAINS TO KERALA

Ashokan PP, General Convenor, Yathra Samithi, Mumbai, emphasizes the urgent need of more trains to Kerala and cites the reasons for intensifying the struggle for improved railway facilities from Mumbai to Kerala under the banner of Yathra Samithi Mumbai.

The struggle of 25 lakh Malayalees residing in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts for adequate rail travel facilities from Mumbai to Kerala has a long history. Whatever railway facilities presently available from Mumbai to Kerala are the result of the sustained struggle of Malayalees.

There is only one daily express train available from Mumbai to Kerala the Netravati Express, introduced in 1984. When the Netravati Express was introduced, the Jayanti Janata Express running between Mumbai and Trivandrum was extended to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. For all practical purposes it became a Tamil Nadu bound train. There was assurance from the then Railway Minister of additional trains from Mumbai to Kerala when the Konkan Railway was commissioned. 27 long years have passed; there was manifold increase in number of railway passengers from Mumbai to Kerala; there were tremendous flow of tourists from Mumbai to Kerala and there was considerable increase in number of businessmen and people on official tours to Kerala. These developments should have brought more trains from Mumbai to Kerala. But all the Ministers of Railways and other Railway authorities ignored the pleas of the Kerala bound passengers for adequate railway travel facilities from Mumbai to Kerala.

During 1994, a weekly express namely Trivandrum-Mumbai Express was introduced. It runs via Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and then a smaller portion of Kerala. It does not at all touch half of Kerala and hence is not useful to the passengers from northern Kerala. Kerala bound passengers have demanded the diversion of the Trivandrum-Mumbai express via Konkan Railway with increased frequency.

Laloo Prasad introduced a bi-weekly Garib Rath during 2008 and it was followed by another bi-weekly Duranto during 2011. Garib Rath is an air-conditioned train and hence out of reach of the common people. Duranto is a non-stop express train and it is not affordable to the common people. All the above trains together cannot meet even 25% of actual requirement. This was the reason for intensifying the struggle for improved railway facilities from Mumbai to Kerala under the banner of Yathra Samithi Mumbai.

When it became clear that the demands of the Kerala bound railway passengers from Mumbai would not get any support and consideration from the Kerala rulers and politicians the Yathra Samithi Mumbai decided to explore other possibilities. They got a helping hand from Dr. Sanjeev G. Naik, MP. With his help the Samithi met the Railway Minister on 29.03.2012 in New Delhi and explained the gravity of shortage of rail travel facilities from Mumbai to Kerala. The Minister assured positive action.

Dr. Sanjeev Naik could garner the support of more MPs from Kerala, Mumbai, Thane and Konkan. He invited the representatives of Yathra Samithi Mumbai to New Delhi on 17.05.2012 and had the second meeting with the Railway Minister. In addition to Dr. Sanjeev Naik, MP Srikanth Nair, P.P. Ashokan, Oommen Michael and M. Thomas participated in the discussion. Dr Sanjeev Naik is confident of getting a new daily express train from Mumbai to Kerala in the near future.



Photograph of the meeting with the Railway Minister



28 2012 (simply).....

Malayalees admit unabashedly that they have peculiar characteristics traits.

Here is one analysis reduced to basic numbers.

One Malayalee - A voracious reader

Two Malayalees - Spends the evening with a bottle

Three Malayalees - One Samajam

Four Malayalees - Two Samajams  
- Unnikrishnan

(If you agree with this or not, please respond.

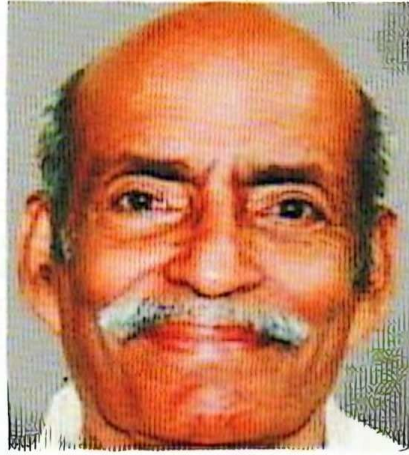
Books worth Rs. 1000 await the best response. - Managing Editor)

## Novelist 'Ekalavyan' is dead

**M**alayalam author 'Ekalavyan' died on May 6 afternoon following kidney related ailments at Amala Hospital, Thrissur. His real name was Kollannur Veettil K M Mathew and he was 78.

Ekalavyan belongs to that category of authors who emerged from Indian armed forces following the footsteps of Parappurathu, Nandanar, VNP Namboothiri, Kovilan etc.

Born in 1934 at Kunnankulam, Mathew joined army when he was 18 and retired as Subedar Major. During his career of 32 years in the defence forces, he wrote 33 novels and 3 compilations of short stories and one travelogue. His first short story



Rantu lokavum oru jeevithavum (two worlds and one life) appeared in

Mathrubhumi weekly in 1968. Kallu (stone) was his first novel. Since government employees were not allowed to write in general publications, he used the pseudonym Ekalavyan, like Nandanar, Parappurath and Kovilan. Among his novels, Chora chinthiyavar (The ones who shed blood), Entu Neti (What was the gain?), Trench, Shivajikkunnukal, Darpanam (Mirror), Mounanombarangal (Silent pains), Neerali (Octopus), Ayanam (Tropical time), Aarum swanthamalla (None is one's own) and Chuzhikal (Whirlpool) are very popular. Manasaa vaachaa karmanaa, paapathinte shambalam, Kanchanam, Orittu snehathinnayi and Ayanam were adapted to movies by I V Sasi, N Vasanthakumar and Harikumar. He is survived by his wife Leelamani, sons Salil Mathew (Pune) and Dr Sunil Mathew (Dallas) and daughters in law.

## Watermelon called Sugar Baby

**T**he experimental farming of watermelon variety 'Sugar Baby' became a success. The experiment was jointly conducted by Mookkannur self dependent farming council and Njarackal Agricultural Research Institute. It is for the first time that this variety was tried in Kerala.

The experiment was conducted in the farm land of P M Joemon, Vice President of the Mookkannur Farming Council. The success of the trial encouraged the farmers of the village and they are now preparing themselves in a big way to do it next season. This is a summer activity.

Once the seeds are planted in December, the harvest can be done from March onwards. This investment farming will help Kerala to reduce the import of this variety from Tamilnadu considerably.



Joemon in his farm

**W**henever a farmer makes money by shifting to a new produce, other farmers in Kerala are fast in imitating him, in their rush to make fast money. Southern Kerala was known to produce tapioca in a big way many decades ago but when some changed their produce and made good profits, others immediately followed suit. This trend resulted in an increase in price of the old produce and a loss for the new.

Thousands of farmers abandoned their tapioca farming and shifted to other things during the last several decades.

## Tapioca prices crash

Last year the tapioca prices shot up to Rs.20 a kilo and those who persisted with it made handsome dividend. Driven by the greed, many farmers borrowed heavily from banks and shifted back to Tapioca and now the prices crashed from Rs. 20 to Rs. 5 a kilo. Even for this price, there are no takers. When the tapioca production touched a nadir, old sago (starch) factories were forced to close down. Due to the paucity of demand, now tapioca is getting destroyed below the ground and farmers are trapped.

The banks have now started sending notices to the defaulters of the loans and the farmers want the state government to come forward to help them out of the bank debt.



More than half a century ago, tapioca was a staple food of the people but now they lost their taste for it due to non-consumption. This has even closed the doors of local consumption leading to absolutely no demand for it.

# POOCCHEND

(Bouquet of flowers)

A collection of 'feel good' stories

Story telling is an art. The critics find it hard to explain. Some compliment the authors for their craftiness, others believe that it is the sincerity that matters. This writer believes in the latter. Craftiness, style, mode etc change from time to time and what is palatable today may be detested tomorrow. Any story that is told with utmost sincerity lasts the time and in some cases, it may turn out to be a classic, the one that people read over and over and gives the reader happiness, calmness and a sense of bliss.

Many may not agree with the above point. M T Vasudevan Nair wrote 'Karkitakam' or Uroob wrote his 'Nanaja Saayahnam'. Readers relished them and even today they are read with utmost concentration while their later stories are readable and appreciated, they could not hold the reader in a magical aura though the style was much progressive considering the time factor. We have seen the writer's earlier works were very close to heart, and as they acquired a stylish pattern in the narrative method, a lack of sincerity was unambiguously projected in them. Even the authors found their initial creations were better even though they lacked polish.

The book on hand is the second collection of short stories by Sulochana Achan. It has three sections related to small incidents in the life of a grand mother, some targeted at children and the last, a few short plays for children. As you go through the first section, you find the contents are not much relevant today but the mode of story telling is very appealing, all seen through the eyes of a woman who had gone through the ups and downs of life but managed to remember only positive aspects. The stories give the reader a 'wellness' feeling. It is difficult to separate the stories on the basis of their contents as all of them relate to small incidents and nostalgia there on. As we progress, we suspect that the incidents were picked from the life of the authoress herself. It



is obvious in the case of 'Lakshmi'. Nonetheless, Sulochana Achan does surprise us with her endings. *Ammayiye!* (Oh, Aunt), *Thanichallallo* (Not alone), *Mukhacchaya* (Facial resemblance), *Othucheral* (Union), *Koottukaar* (Peers), *Easwareccha* (Will of God) etc are a few of them. Thus the title of the book is quite apt. In 'Ormayilninnu' (From memory), the

protagonist brings the well known stage artiste Nanappan, her two sons and husband into the core of the story. In this, Nanappan says, "When we see a well dressed mannequin of a beautiful young woman in front of a textile shop and another woman a little away from it, whom would we like to stand by and talk to? Certainly to the woman not necessarily beautiful but energetic, lively and loving! Your poetry is like that. After going through them, I did not feel like changing an alphabet from it. Write, continue writing." Do we have to say more?

Sulochana Achan stands apart from most of the short story writers of Mumbai who see only the negative aspects of life and thus become non-convertible pessimists.

However, one word of caution! The type setter committed serious lapse on his/her part as the printer's devil is omnipresent. A careful proof reading would have made the book sweeter.

*[Poochchend A collection of short stories and short plays by Smt Sulochana Achan, pages: 136, published by CNS Chikitsalayam, Mezhathur, Palakkad Dist, 679 534. Price: Rs. 95]*

- Ashwathy

## Happy Wedding



Saumya daughter of Geetha S Nair and TKS Nair married Abhilash, son of S Rema Devi and Chandrasekharan Nair on April 26 at Dombivli.

LATA DESHPANDE

VERSATILITY,  
FLUENCY IN  
SEVERAL  
LANGUAGES

- Lakshmi V

Lata (Nair) Deshpande has been singing on the Mumbai Malayalam musical stage for the last several years. With a mellifluous voice, she sings semi-classical, light, filmy non-filmy, and devotional songs in Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi and Marathi.

Even as a child, I used to sing. I have learnt these popular Malayalam songs like *kesyadi padam*, *chetti mantharam tulasi*, ... from my mother Saroja Nair when I was a kid. Both my parents were interested in music. I started learning Carnatic music from Thailambal Mami teacher at Santa Cruz from the age

of six. She groomed my singing, she says. She has performed Carnatic Music concerts with her teacher.

Lata has also learnt Hindustani music under the late Indira Bai Kelkar. So though today Lata sings light music numbers, she has a strong classical



foundation and this is reflected in her performances.

During her school and college days Lata has participated and won prizes in several music competitions. It was after one of her stage competitions during her college days at Shanmukhananda Hall that the noted musicians Kuruvilla and Devarajan heard her singing and suggested to her father that with her good voice she should take up singing professionally.

Devarajan who was the founder of Sri Ragam Orchestra gave her the opportunity to sing a few solo songs and duets in Malayalam and Hindi in one of his musical shows and her musical career took off from here. Lata has sung with several orchestra groups of Mumbai on various stages, at temples and Malayalee organizations' programmes, both devotional and light filmy music. She has been a judge at several Music Competitions conducted by Raagalaya and other organisations.

She has sung with Dr KJ Yesudas at Chembur, Nagpur and Chandrapur. Lata



Lata being felicitated at the Pratheeksha Trust event by Urmila Unni, Prince Vaidyan looks on



**“Any music is God's gift, an offering to God. Music has no language. To become a good singer, a student must practise at least two hours of singing daily with sincerity.”**

has teamed with Malayalam playback singers Unni Menon, Marcose, Krishnachandran, Venugopal and others when they come to Mumbai for Malayalam musical shows and performed with Abhijeet, Kumar Shanu and Sudesh Bhosale at Hindi Musical shows. One of her earliest performances was at the Vivek Vidyalaya in Goregaon before the Ayyappa temple was constructed as part of its Mandala Puja celebrations. She has sung for several Dance performances for programmes of Geetha Radhakrishnan (Mohiniattam), Deepak Majumdar (Bharatanatyam) and their students. She also sings jingles in several languages.

Lata had the opportunity to sing as a playback singer in Mani Nair's TV film *Daisy*. She did an *alaap* for 'Parinda' and was an AIR artiste.

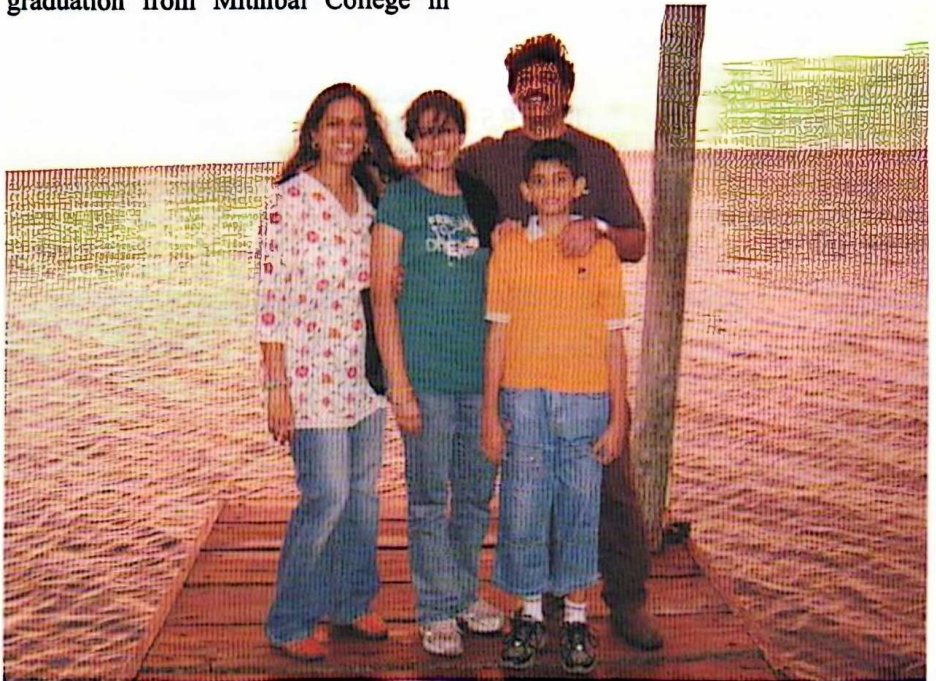
“I got a lot of encouragement and opportunity to sing from Mani Nair of Tharangini, and PV Vijaykumar of Raagalaya. I owe a lot of gratitude to them, Ravi, Devarajan, Prem Kumar, Surendran Unni, now in Bangalore, who helped me with my diction and so many of my friends whom I must mention here,” she says.

This April Lata won the Pratheeksha Puraskaram 2012 for completing '25 years performance in the field of Malayalam Orchestra in Mumbai Stages' bestowed by Pratheeksha Trust of Vasai. Lata was born in Mavelikkara, but since her childhood she has been living in Mumbai. Her father, the late GS Nair was in the Railways and Lata spent her childhood in Santa Cruz. She studied at St Theresa's Convent and did her graduation from Mithibai College in

Sociology. She is married to Neelesh Deshpande, a Maharashtrian. Neelesh had studied with her in the same college. He was Captain of the shipping company Dole Reefership Marine Services Ltd and currently its Director of Operating Vessels posted at Costa Rica in Central America. Lata has travelled all around the world with him.

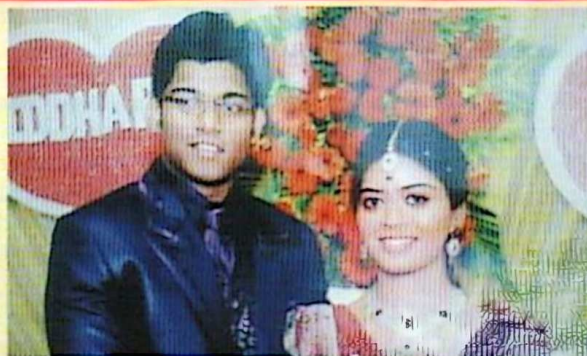
“My husband is very supportive of my singing and encourages me”, she says. “Also my in-laws, Chandrakant and Neelima. Both of them are no more”. Lata lost her mother-in-law recently. Lata and Neelesh have a daughter Pooja who is in her Final year Fashion Designing Degree Course from INIFD and is currently doing her internship. Her son Siddharth has just passed his Std X Board. He wants to join the Science Stream. Her children are fluent in both Malayalam and Marathi.

Pooja and Siddharth have learnt Hindustani Music and sing well.



*Lata with her family*

## Happy Wedding



*Ranjini daughter of Girija and KNP Nambisan married Siddharth, son of Mrs Alamelu and Naresh Mudaliar on April 29 at Dombivli .*

Dr A K Viswanathan

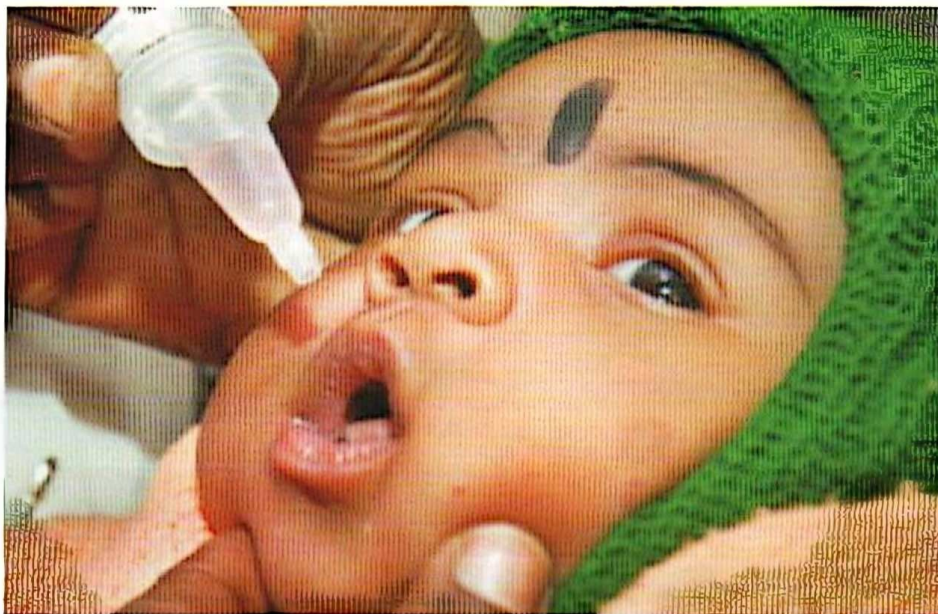
# MOULD YOUR CHILD IN THE LEARNING MODE

Dr A K Viswanathan is a paediatrician who has been practising in Mumbai for more than 20 years. He is consulting Child Specialist having consulting room at Carewell Nursing Home in Andheri (East), and Hon. Asst Paed. BCJ Hospital, Santa Cruz and Panel doctor, IAAI. Dr Viswanathan shares some pointers with parents on how to effectively bring up children in the contemporary age.

**D**r A K Viswanathan hails from Palakkad. His father RS Akileswaran had come to Mumbai in the early 40's to make a living. He worked in the mills and made a modest living with his wife, Seetha. Honest and

Diploma in Child Health.

The goal of parenting is to make the next generation boy or girl, a useful, independent and responsible citizen of society. Three simple words but a most difficult job The child is like a block of



hardworking, he provided his son with good education. Viswanathan did his schooling at SRWS School in Andheri, his Junior College at Sathaye College (then known as Parla College), scored exceedingly well at his XII Board exam and completed his MBBS at KEM Medical College and went on to do his MD in Paediatrics from Wadia Childrens' Hospital. Dr Viswanathan also holds a

wood that has to be carved into an exquisite work of art.

It is the duty of every parent to inculcate in the child an urge to learn all through his life and be on the right side of law. As parents, they must set an example which their offsprings will emulate.

Dr Viswanathan says that he was influenced very much by his Std I teacher Dakshayani Amma, his grandparents and



his own mother and father. They taught him the basic ethics to be honest and remember God.

Till the age of 4, a child should be treated like a king, for he has no sense of reasoning, but is full of moods and emotions. So parental bonding and affection is important. After six, they slowly develop reasoning and a sense of right and wrong. This is the time when they must have a good teacher.

Dr Viswanathan says that our epics, Mahabharata, Ramayana, tales from Panchatantra, Birbal and Akbar, Vikramaditya are treasure troves that fuel a child's imagination and mould their personalities for the better. These stories must be narrated to children.

Another pointer for bringing up toddlers is never ever to be easy with money. Let the child understand the value of effort and the joy of achievement. By giving them money on the slightest context, we are actually spoiling them.

Children should be given independence as they grow older, but limits to this independence must be demarcated. As useful citizens of the land, they must be taught by their parents to protect and follow the laws of the land which will eventually make them law-abiding citizens of our country.

## Health of the Indian Child

Today medical facilities have improved substantially and several villages and interiors have medical facilities to treat children. Vaccinations against the common childhood diseases are available in rural areas as well and India has almost become polio free with the pulse polio drive that is being

implemented. Vaccinations against polio, tetanus, diphtheria whooping cough, meningitis, Hepatitis A and B, typhoid, chicken pox, measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), should be administered to children at the prescribed ages in prescribed units. Recently vaccination against cervical cancer is being given to girls above nine years. All doctors have a list of vaccinations that are to be administered and the parents can ask their doctors for this list and follow the time

## Dr Viswanathan's Laws of Communication

**F** Fear  
**A** Assumption  
**I** Insensitivity  
**L** Labelling  
**U** Uncertainty  
**R** Resentment  
**E** Egoism.

**S** Self-Awareness  
**U** Understanding  
**C** Care For Others  
**C** Control of Emotions  
**E** Esteem of Self  
**S** Self-confidence  
**S** Sharing of one's self.



Children should be encouraged to play outdoor games. This helps them to develop team spirit and the virtue of sharing. They are also pointers to assess the child's social interaction levels and remedial actions can be carried out to correct deficiencies, if any.

In today's world we can not completely prevent the use of electronic gadgets and games and the TV. But restrictions must be planned out on the time spent with these things so that they do not become addicted to them.

Regarding fever, vomiting, loose motions and such other illnesses, it is always better to seek medical advice from a qualified doctor instead of going to quacks or indulging in outdated home medicines. Medical science has progressed rapidly and at the hands of a qualified doctor, a child gets a new lease of life after he had been sick or had a medical problem.

limits for the vaccinations.

## Nutrition

Another important aspect is to take care of the nutrition of children. There is nothing like breastmilk for an infant upto one and a half years. Weaning can be started from the sixth month. Children must be seated at the table and eat a balanced meal consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables, pulses, milk and milk products. There are iron and fortified

biscuits in the market which can be eaten by children. This helps in supplementing and replenishing his natural needs. Good nutrition is very important for the child's mental and physical growth.

## Sports and physical activities

Sports and physical activities are other areas that should not be neglected.

## Recipe for Curryleaves Chicken or Karivepilla Chicken



### Ingredients

Curryleaves	- 10 stalks
Chicken	- 1 kg (boneless optional)
Onions	- 4 medium sized
Tomatoes	- 4 medium sized
Coconut milk	- 300 ml
Red chilly powder	- 30 grms
Black pepper balls	- 40 grms
Jeera	- 20 grms
Turmeric powder	- 30 grms
Ginger garlic paste	- 150 grms
Garam masala	- 30 grms
Oil	- as required
Salt	- to taste

In today's modern cooking, taste and flavor have become an important variable keeping count of the health benefits sourced from our ingredients which we usually lose out due to ignorance or inappropriate methods of Cooking.

Down South India, especially in Kerala one of the most important ingredients extensively used in cooking is curry leaves (*karivepilla*) or *kaddi-patta* as popularly called in Mumbai. The induction of curry leaves in the recipe given below not only adds an enormous flavor and zest to the recipe but also contributes in stabilizing indigestion, heart burns and is good for healthy hair and eyesight.

**METHOD:** 1) In a pan take 2 spoons of oil and sauté half the curry leaves for 2 mins and keep aside. 2) Mix the rest of the curry leaves whole black pepper and jeera and bring to grind into a coarse powder and keep aside. 3) In a pan with 2 spoons of oil sauté onions till brown and keep aside. 4) Use a large pan with 4 spoons of oil, add ginger garlic paste followed with the curry leaves and onions and sauté. 5) In the same pan add the ground powder mixture along with some oil if needed and sauté. 6) Add chopped tomatoes fry for 2 minutes. Add red chilly, turmeric and garam masala powder and sauté. Add salt to taste 7) Simmer the flame and add the coconut milk and bring to stir. Then add the chicken (preferably small boneless pieces) sprinkle water as required till chicken is cooked on low flame. 8) Serve hot with aappams (preferred combination).

Above recipe serves 4-5 portions.



**Manoj Nair**  
Shubham Greens



Rashma Anand

# Drink Water for Healthy Skin

Water hydrates, revitalizes, detoxifies and oxygenates the skin. No wonder it is called the elixir of life.

**S**ummer is still here. The sun's rays are fierce. Yet we have our routine chores to run, in spite of the sun. Along with our throat, our skin also feels parched. This is what is called skin dehydration—the imbalance between the intake of water and the requirement of water for the skin.

Dehydration is a deficiency of water in the skin, whereas dryness occurs because of loss of oils and hence the latter should be treated with oil based creams.

## Why is water important for our skins?

We all know that the human body is made up of 70 percent water. Water is very important for actions such as digestion, circulation and excretion, among others. Toxins build up in our body if we do not have enough water. Not only does water flush toxins from our body, but it also flushes it from our skin.

Water helps control and regulate the natural balance of our skin. Warm water

also gets rid of blackheads and makes large pores smaller. Drinking water makes the body more relaxed and invigorated. It also replaces the moisture lost due to everyday activities. Water keeps the epidermis healthy. Like blood, water facilitates the transport of nutrients inside the body. It keeps every organ healthy, most especially the skin. Water-based moisturizers remedies dry skin. You can also use cold water for skin toning.

It is also important to make sure that the water you drink or apply to your skin is absolutely clean and germ-free. Our body naturally loses a lot of water in summer and hence it is necessary to drink lots of water this season.

So let us get ready to hydrate, revitalize, detoxify, and oxygenate the skin with water.

## For healthy skin, drink 8 to 10 glasses of water each day

Drink a glass of water as soon as you get up in the morning and before you go to bed each night. Focus on fruits and vegetables that are high in water content such as watermelon, cucumber, tomatoes, grapes. Green tea is also a healthy option. Carry bottled water in with you. When you get thirsty drink water. Take advantage of every opportunity to hydrate your skin by drinking water.

## Avoid Hot baths

Long, hot baths cause the skin to be dry, also causing it to age prematurely. Also do not overcleanse with hard cleaners.

Bathe with only mild soaps and warm water.

## Moisturize

Apply your moisturizer within 3 minutes after toweling dry after every bath or shower.

## Water for skin at night

Skin regenerates itself at night. On warm nights, it would be a good idea to keep a bowl of water in your room at night, which will keep the humidity levels high, preventing your skin from losing moisture.



## Coconut Water

Coconut water is good for hydrating the skin. Hydrated skin is soft, supple, healthy, and glowing. If you drink it regularly and apply moisturizer and sunscreen on your face, you can prevent wrinkles.

A healthy skin creates a certain glow that makes you look beautiful and younger than you really are. Start that habit today. Drink water for a healthier skin!



KALLARA GOPAN

# SINGER WITH CLASSICAL BASE

TS Gopakumar, more popularly known as Kallara Gopan, was in Mumbai at the Raagalaya Music Awards 2011 event. He was part of the group of singers who sang some of the late Johnson Master's compositions in his memory.

Simple and unassuming, Gopan wins over the listeners' hearts with his pure and melodious style of singing. Music is close to his heart and he shares here a few moments of his musical life and career.

**G**opakumar popularly known as Kallara Gopan is a Malayalam singer of *lalitha gaanam*, drama songs and film songs. He has composed and sung for music albums, TV serials and in musical stage shows. Kallara Gopan is also a trained Carnatic Music singer, having completed the seven year Carnatic Music course at the the Swati Tirunal Music Academy in Thiruvananthapuram. Kallara Gopan was born in Kallara, a small village in Thiruvananthapuram district. His parents Subhashitam and Thangamani were music lovers and encouraged him to sing. He first entered the stage to sing when he was in Std II. Later he studied at the Swati Tirunal Music College in Thiruvananthapuram . Kallara Gopan's songs have a purity and clarity of tune and pitch. It could be because of his classical base.

For the past 30 years he has been singing classical songs and ghazals, filmy and light music for Malayalam dramas, films, TV serials, musical shows and orchestra troupes. He has worked with well-known music directors like Sreekumaran Thampi, Dakshinamoorthy, K Raghavan, Devarajan, Arjunan, Johnson, Vidhyadharan, MG Radhakrishnan and others.

Kallara Gopan says that it was his friends and his parents who encouraged him to take up singing as a profession.

"Music is a language. I know only music. I love music, I teach music. Film music, serial and drama music, all are important



for me," he says. He has also directed several drama songs and performed at several music shows in Kerala, Mumbai, the Gulf countries and America.

### Status of today's music

"Today emphasis is given more to the rhythm and fast moving numbers are preferred by the listeners," he says. "However Mumbai audience prefer melodious numbers and old songs. Maybe it is because they are far from their native place. I do not have any message to Mumbai Malayalees but I send across my love to all of them. Actually they love Kerala and Malayalam music, more so because they are far away."

Gopan's wife is Sharmila. She is an MA in Music. They have a daughter Narayani studying Sd XI and a son Mahadevan studying in Std VI.

In appreciation of his contribution to music, Gopan has won the State Government Awarad thrice and the Sangeeta Natak Akademy Award.



Kallara Gopan performing along with Madhu Balakrishnan during Raagalaya Music Awards 2011 event held at Shanmukhananda Hall

## Music Reivew

### Ranjini Chander

## AN EVENING OF SOULFUL MUSIC

Ranjini Chander, daughter and disciple of TR Balamani, veteran Carnatic Music teacher who has taught eminent singers of today like Shankar Mahadevan, Bombay Jayasree, and several others, presented a Carnatic Concert organised by Powai Fine Arts.

Ranjini has a rich voice and she sang the nuances of the ragas with confidence. She bore traces of her mother's style of teaching and this was reflected in her concert. At the same

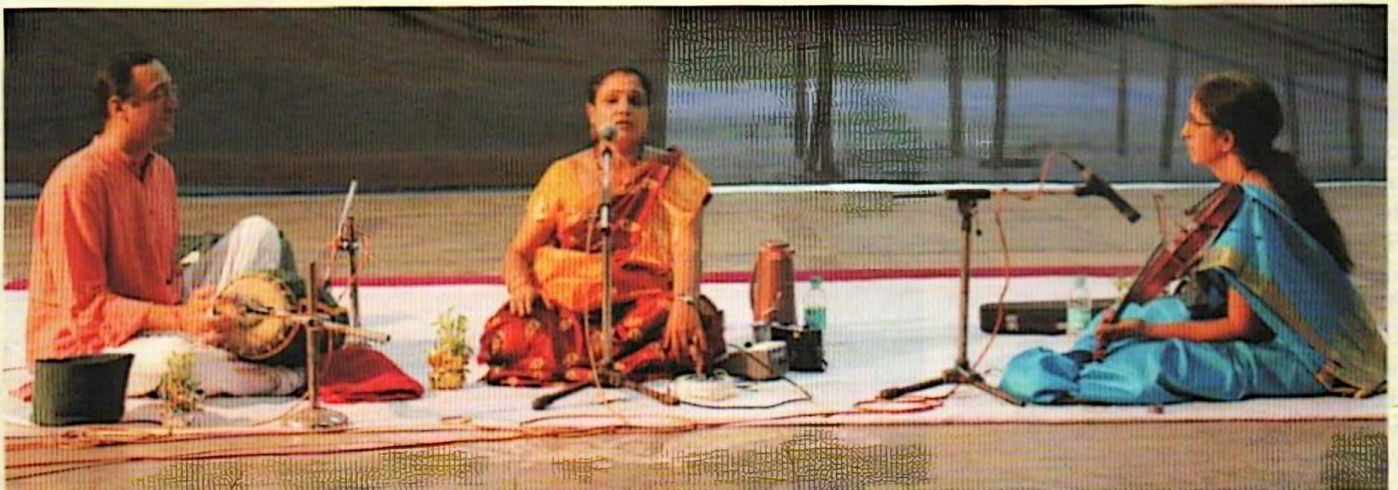
time, there was spontaneity and verve in her raga *alaapanas*.

Ranjini chose Shyama Sastri's *Ninne Naminanu* in raga *thodi* for detailed *alaapana*.

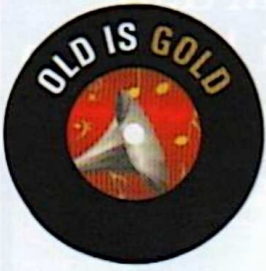
Other ragas she chose were *siddhivinayaka* in *nattai* composed by Parthasarathy Iyengar, a Swati Tirunal composition *Pahi sripathe* in *mohanam*, *deva devam* in *hindolam*, Dikshitar's *revagupti kriti*, *evarani*, *marivere* and some popular *tukadas* and *bhajans*. They included a Malayalam song on Ayyappan

composed by TR Balamani in raga *madhukonsh*.

Smt Sharada Murali on the violin and Sreeram Subbaraman on the mridangam contributed to the success of the concert with their enthusiastic support. Ranjini Chander has also learnt Hindustani music. She is a regular performer of Music concerts in Chennai. The Powai Fine Arts event provided an evening of soothing and relaxing music to the music lovers who attended it.



Ranjini Chander performing at Powai Fine Arts event



# Divyadarsanam ദിവ്യദർശനം (1973)

**Lyrics:** Sreekumaran Thampi    **Music:** M S Viswanathan  
**Raagam:** Sindhu Bhairavi    **Singer:** P Jayachandran



**Sreekumaran Thampi**

സ്വർണ്ണഗോപുരനർത്തകീശിലും  
കണ്ണിനു സായുജ്യം നിൻറുപം  
ഏതൊരു കോവിലും ദേവതയാക്കും  
ഏതു പൂജാരിയും പൂജിക്കും - നിന്നെ  
ഏതു പൂജാരിയും പൂജിക്കും!(സ്വർണ്ണഗോപുര....)

പ്രേമവ്യസാവനഹേമന്തമേ - നിന്റെ  
പേരു കേട്ടാൽ സ്വർഗ്ഗം നാണിക്കും  
ആ രാഗസോമ രസാമൃതം നേടുവാൻ  
ആരായാലും മോഹിക്കും!  
ആനന്ദപന്ദികയല്ലേ നീ  
അഭിലാഷമഞ്ജരിയല്ലേ നീ.....(സ്വർണ്ണഗോപുര....)

രാഗവിമോഹിനീ ഗീതാഞ്ജലി - നിന്റെ  
നാവുണർന്നാൽ കല്പം പൂവാകും  
ആ വർണ്ണഭാവസുരാമൃതധാരയെ  
ആരായാലും സ്നേഹിക്കും  
ആത്മാവിൻ സൗഭാഗ്യമല്ലേ നീ  
അനുരാഗസൗരഭ്യമല്ലേ നീ!(സ്വർണ്ണഗോപുര....)

Svarṇṇagōpura nartṭakī śilpam  
kaṇṇinu sāyūjyam ninrūpam  
ētoru kōvilum dēvaṭayākkum  
ētu pūjāriyum pūjikkum ninne  
ētu pūjāriyum pūjikkum!(swarnagōpura....)

Prēmavīndāvanahēmanṭamē ninte  
pēru kēttāl svargam nāṇikkum  
Ā rāgasōma rasāmṛṭam nētuvān  
Ārāyālum mōhikkum!  
Ānandacandrikayallē nī  
abhilāṣa māñjariyallē nī....(swarnagōpura....)

Rāgavimōhini gīṭāñjali -- ninte  
nāvunaṛnnāl kallum pūvākum  
Ā varṇṇabhāvasurāmṛṭadhārāye  
Ārāyālum snehikkum  
Āṭmāvin soubhagyamallē nī  
anurāgasourabhyamallē nī!(Swarnagōpura....)



**M S Viswanathan**

**Transliteration:** Ā, ā = ആ, ഓ ; Ē, ē = ഏ,ഈ ; Ī, ī = ഇ, ി ; Ō, ō = ഓ, ൠ ; Ū, ū = ഉ, ു , ũ = ൃ ;  
C, c = ച, ch = ച, , d = ട, Dh, dh = ട, Ḍ, ḍ = റ, Ḍh, ḍh = റ, ḡh = റ, Ḥ, ḥ = ള, Ṇ, ṇ = ഞ,  
ṁ = ണ, ṇ = ണ; rh = റ, ṭṭ = റ; ṛ = റ; Ś, ś = ശ; Ṣ, ṣ = ഷ, T, t = ട, Th, th = റ, Ṯ, ṭ = ത; ṭh = റ



**P Jayachandran**

Produced by A B Films and directed by Sasi Kumar, Divyadarsanam had Madhu, K P Ummer, Jayabharathi, Bahadur, Thikkurissi, Kaviyoor Ponnamma among the cast. Other songs were Aakasaroopinee, Ambalavilakkukal, Karpooradeepathin,

Thripura sundaree, and Udichaal asthamikkum were popular and they were rendered by K J Yesudas, P Jayachandran, B Vasantha, M S Viswanathan, P Leela and Sreelatha. Its story, screenplay and dialogue were written by Jagathi N K Achari.



Malayalam  
Movie World

## Meera Jasmine returns

**M**eera Jasmine is returning with full thrust. She has been away from the limelight for sometime now. She was last seen in East Coast Vijayan's *Mohabbat*, which didn't do her much good. Now she is all set to make her comeback with *Samuelinte Makkal*, directed by Babu Janardhanan.

The film is a sequel to the Lal Jose film *Achunarangatha Veedu*, which had Salim Kumar as the father of three daughters. He is shattered when his youngest daughter is subject to a gang rape. The film was obviously



inspired by certain highly controversial true incidents. Muktha played the youngest girl's character in the earlier film and this role will now be done by Meera.

## Child artiste Taruni killed in plane crash



**C**hild artiste Taruni was killed in an air crash last month in Nepal. She and her mother Gita Sachdev went to Nepal on a pilgrimage. They were among the 15 passengers killed. However 6 passengers had a miraculous escape. Taruni has acted in many films including Amitabh Bachchan's 'Paa'. She acted in Vinayan's *Vellinakshtram* and *Sathyam* besides appearing in more than 50 advertisements. Taruni was a Mumbaikar.

The plane journey was of a short distance of 60 kms. After 15 minutes of being airborne, the plane was about to descend when it was suddenly burst between two mountains.



## Manjadikkuru

**A**fter a long time in waiting, director Anjali Menon will get his debut movie 'Manjadikkuru' (Lucky Red Seeds), into theatres soon. The movie which had been accorded with plenty of awards and citations in festivals have Prithviraj, Rahman, Urvashi, Thilakan, Bindu Panickar, Kaviyoor Ponamma, Praveena and Sindhu Menon in its cast. Produced by Little films, the movie about a 10-year-old boy who returns to his village to attend the funeral of his grandfather, had a dream run at every festival in which it participated.

The movie had been awarded with the Best Indian Debut Director Award instituted by Mira Nair at the IFFK, the FIPRESCI Award by the International Federation of Film Critics, the Best Film,

Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Screenplay and Best Emerging Talent Awards at the South Asian International Film Festival, US, a Certificate of Appreciation at the Schlegel International Film Festival, Germany and the Best Directorial Debut by a Woman Award at the New Jersey NJISACF, US.



## Mammootty returns to the fifth edition of *Oru CBI Diary Kurippu*

The first in this series titled 'Oru CBI Diary Kurippu' was released in 1988 and it turned out to be one of the biggest grossers. This provided Madhu the impetus he needed to come out with *Jagratha* (1989), *Sethurama Iyer CBI* (2004), and *Nerariyan CBI* (2005).

Incidentally, in all these films Mammootty played the role of a CBI officer Sethurama Iyer, who cracked complicated murder cases with ease. The background score of these films became quite popular, and years after the release of the first two sequels, became popular as mobile phone ring tones. All the sequels use the same



background score, composed by music director Shyam. 'The rest of the cast and all other details are yet to be decided.'



## Upcoming Heroes In Malayalam Film Industry

**Asif Ali**-Asif has made his debut in Shyamaprasad's *Rithu*. He is a most promising face for the Malayalam film industry. He was part of the biggest hit of the 2010-'Traffic' and the biggest hit of the year 2011-'Salt n Pepper'. *Kadha Thudarunnu* and *Apporva Ragam* had also collected well in the Box Office. Apart from these, the forthcoming projects *Sevens* and *Asuravithu* to be released this year will be another milestone in the career of Asif.

**Dulquar Salam**, Mammootty's son debuted in Srikanth Rajendran's film-*Second Show*. It is heard that he had already signed with the projects of Tamil hit maker Linguswamy-(he is the one among the best young directors in Tamil industry who delivered hits like *Run*, *Paiyya*, *Bheema*, *Sandakkozhi*) and Anwar Rasheed (the promising upcoming director of Malayalam who has delivered all time hits like-*Raja Manikkam*, *Chotta Mumbai* and *Annan Thambi*).

**Fahad Fazil** (Shanu) - son of director Fazil. Still Fahad was unable to deliver a big hit in Malayalam, but the actor is a likable one for the Malayalam cinema. *Cocktail* and *Chappa*

*Kurishu* were turning points in his career. In *Mrityunjayam* of *Kerala Cafe* and *Pramani* he had roles and proved himself in doing serious as well as romantic characters.

**Kuchako Boban**-The romantic and all time college boy is now back in the track of the most successful hero in the last two years. His movies *Elsamma Enne Ankutty*, *Mummy and Me*, *Sakudumbam Syamala*, *Seniors*, *Traffic*, *Three Kings* were well received. He managed to ensure his place in the industry since 1997. The upcoming project - *Sevens* (directed by the hitmaker Joshy) will be yet another milestone in his career. He is ready to prove that he is the real campus hero in his upcoming project *Dr Love*.

**Jayasuriya**-The anchor turned actor Jayasurya hasn't delivered any big hits last year. His film *Cocktail* was a landmark movie in his career. His upcoming projects include *Vadhyar* and *Kunjaliyan*.

**Indrajith Sukumaran**- son of Late Malayalam actor Sukumaran and he is also the brother of Prithviraj Sukumaran. He is one of the fabulous actors who had created his own place in the industry and he is able to play all types of roles. His villainous role in *Baba Kalyani* was applauded well. The two movies *Chekavan* and *Nayakan* released in 2010 were well received.

**Narein**-Narein is active in both Malayalam and Tamil movies. His debut movie was with Jayaraj's *4 the*



Kuchako Boban



Asif Ali



Fahad Fazil



Vineet



Indrajith



Narein



Jayasurya



Prithviraj

people. *Achuvinte Amma* and *Classmates* were remarkable hits for him. In Tamil also he managed to find a place against stiff competition from

young stars.

**Prithviraj**-Prithviraj is the younger son of Late Malayalam actor Sukumaran. Prithvi had already embraced stardom

in both Malayalam and Tamil films. The film *Urumi* released last year was a landmark in his career as well in the Malayalam film history. His role in *Ravan* was a remarkable one. Gradually the actor turned into an action hero through *Puthiya Mugham*. The upcoming projects *Theja Bhai* and *Hero* will be the forthcoming attraction from the rising star. It is heard that the mallu heartthrob is debutting in Hindi too. He is definitely one of the promising stars in Indian film industry. **Vineeth Sreenivasan**-Vineeth Sreenivasan is the son of the legend Director, Actor cum Scriptwriter Sreenivasan. Vineeth had proved his talent as an actor, playback singer and director. He made his debut as a director in *Malarvadi Arts Club* that was a hit in 2010. His *Cycle* (2008), *Makantae Acchan* (2009), *Traffic* (2010) were successful. The film *Chappa kurishu* released this year was also critically acclaimed.

## End of a Card Player

By virtue of being a member of Parliament, Sankaran Kutty Kunhiraman Pottekkat (S K Pottekkat) became a member of Visitors' Board of Central Prison, Kannur. During one of his visits to the prison, he was walking along the corridor that passed before the 'Condemned Cell'. Suddenly he saw a prisoner of the condemned cell smiling at him. Pottekkat knew him well. It was Muhammed Sranks, the killer of his friend Mullaveetil Abdurahiman.

Wheat House Hotel of Kozhikode was an unofficial club for many rich men of that city. They used to assemble there to play cards and also to enjoy a secret drink. Abdurahiman, V Abdulla, M T Vasudevan Nair, S K Pottekkat and Sranks were regulars there.

One evening some of them, Abdurahiman, V Abdulla and Sranks started playing cards there around 7 pm. A couple of hours later, Sranks lost all the money he had on the card table and requested others to lent him some money. They did not oblige. More over, the man who collected most of the money, Abdurahiman, mocked at him, saying "Get out of here if you don't have money in your pocket!" Others joined in the laughter.

Sranks got up, stared at them, snored once and left.

After 9.30, they were coming out of the hotel and they heard a loud cry "Don't kill me, Sranks" of Abdurahiman and saw the rising of a blood dripping knife. After attacking Abdurahiman, Sranks turned to Bappan Koya and he also had a violent death. Abdulla realised that he was the next target and rushed to the nearest room

and locked himself in.

Sranks had no remorse after committing a double murder and surrendered before the police. It was this Sranks

that Pottekkat met at the Central Prison.

Controlling his emotions, Pottekkat asked, "How are you, Sranks?"

With a broad smile, Sranks replied calmly, "Fine! I am fine and need nothing. I am quite comfortable."

When Sranks was sentenced to death by hanging, he refused to appeal in higher courts. Whenever his old friends visited him, he asked them, "How was my stabbing?" and laughed.

He asked the same question to M T Vasudevan Nair when the latter called on him inside the prison.

When the Black Warrant was issued, the prison authorities asked Sranks about his last wish. He said he would like to meet Mathrubhumi Editor K P Kesava Menon. Menon called on him and spent some time with Sranks. He told Sranks what went inside the mind of a condemned prisoner as he himself experienced that during his days in Singapore. Sranks replied that he had no regrets but wanted to just see him once.

Kesava Menon mentioned this meeting in one of his weekly columns.

Vasudevan Nair wrote a short story, one of his best. It was translated into English and was published in *The Illustrated Weekly of India* during its last stint.

Pottekkat wrote a poem *Thoorkumaram* (Gallows) based on this incident.

Sranks was hanged to death on August 14, 1967.



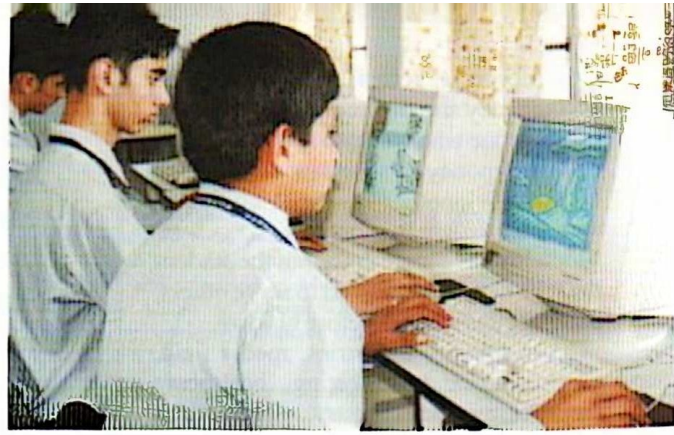
K P Kesava Menon



S K Pottekkat



M T Vasudevan Nair



## STUDY OPTIONS AFTER STD X AND STD XII

Std X and Std XII (SSC, ICSE, CBSE, HSC, ISC) are crucial stages in a students' life. The marks they secure here decide their careers.

Pressure mounts up and while students themselves are unsure if they have made the correct choice, parents are worried if they have succeeded in helping their wards take an informed decision.

KIM gives a round up on the study options after Class X and Class XII.

**G**enerally students after Std X join the plus II course or Std XI XII or Junior College for the next two years. The most favoured options are joining the Science, Commerce or Arts stream. The choice of the stream must be made taking into account the child's aptitude and interest.

One basic rule to follow while selecting the course is to see in what area lies the child's interest and skills. For instance, parents may notice that their child scores high marks in the languages but is poor in maths. They can then find out if his interests and strong points are language skills and he can opt for the Arts. This is better than forcing science stream on the child and watch him suffer and struggle.

Several schools have these aptitude tests and student counselling. It is good that the student takes these tests so that his parents will know where their wards / childrens' interests and skills lie. There is Psychometric Assessment, that is, aptitude tests, intelligence, personality, interest tests, followed by a career counselling session for the students along

with their parents from a qualified counsellor so that a correct choice can be made.

### The three basic streams of courses

Science is the most preferred choice. It can be divided into 3 broad sections : Physics Chemistry and Biology.

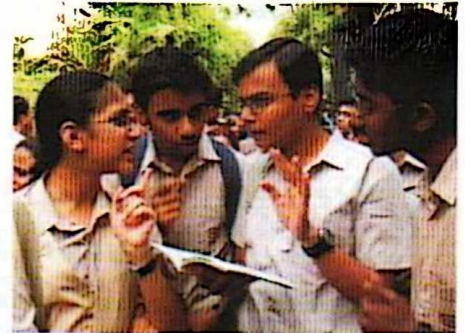
Computers and Computer Applications is another most favoured subject .Its opportunities are manifold. In today's technology driven world computer training and applications are minefields of a golden future. Doing the Computer course after a degree course, or after Std XII, gives a boost to one's employment opportunities. There are accredited courses run by Government and private institutions and give good job placements.

Commerce is the next preferred choice. Its options are vast and a student choosing Commerce has a vast choice of career opportunities for later specialisation since Commerce deals with knowledge of

financial security and handling business.

The next option is Humanities. Its opportunities are vast.

History, sociology, the languages, psychology, political science come under this.



### Course Options after Std XII

Like Class X, Class XII is crucial in a student's life. What he chooses as his subject, will carve his future.

Professional courses in Engineering and medicine are the best options. IIT's, AIMS, JIPMER etc have their charms. But not all students can get into the hallowed gates of professional colleges.

The majority of students go for graduation, preferably Science or Commerce, then branch out into a Diploma in a specialized subject. Bachelors in Business Administration has also become a favourite choice. Arts is the least preferred option. The advantage of choosing Science is the analytical bent of mind it inculcates in the students' mind.

### Gains for Malayalee Institutions

Some educational institutions under Malayalee administration registered commendable success in the recently conducted HSC examinations.

Holy Angels School and Junior College of Dombivli East, VK Krishna Menon Junior College of Science and Commerce of Bhandup East, Sree Narayana Guru College of Chembur, Vidya Vikasini School and Junior College of Vasai, BKS Junior College of Bassein Kerala Samajam, Holy Family Convent School and Marol Education Academy's High School and Junior College of Andheri East are some of the institutions that find their places in the list of meritorious institutions.

Commerce teaches the basics of accountancy and finance which is helpful for someone who wants to start a business and earn money in abundance. A Degree in MBA is another favourite choice of students after graduation.

Medicine has a huge draw, but the student must be naturally inclined to serve others, placing others' needs before his own.

The hospitality industries, media field, advertising and marketing, healthcare facilities, aviation industry, all have their advantages and armed with a basic degree the student can learn a diploma course in these branches.

Today there are several vocational courses also available after Std X. Unless it is financially difficult, it is advisable to complete Std XII or Junior College and then join a vocational course.

The Union Budget 2012-13 has doubled its allocation of funds for skills development under the National Skills Development Fund.

The National Skills Development Fund has identified 21 key sectors including the unorganized sector that will be of importance. Of these manufacturing, textile, construction, automotive, retail and healthcare are key ones. It has also brought in service tax exemption for vocational training institutions.

### Some Vocational training courses include

- ▶ Typewriting
- ▶ Stenography
- ▶ Secretarial Practices
- ▶ Computer Operator and Programme Assistant
- ▶ Architectural Draughtsmanship
- ▶ Desk Top Publishing
- ▶ Electrical Technician
- ▶ Electronics (Radio/TV/Tape Recorder Mechanic)
- ▶ Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- ▶ Plumbing
- ▶ Library Assistant
- ▶ Cutting/Tailoring and Dress Making
- ▶ Hair and Skin Care
- ▶ Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Programs



In India, there are many graduates but they do not have sufficient practical training. It is here that vocational courses are very useful. They give the students hand-on experience, stimulate creativity and encourage entrepreneurship.

### Vocational Courses

Vocational education in India aims to develop skilled manpower through diversified courses to meet the requirements of mainly the unorganised sector and to instill self-employment skills in people through a large number of self employment oriented courses. Vocational education is imparted through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.



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  - ▶ Directed by founder Principal Oommen David, Winner of National and International Awards.
  - ▶ Admissions for Jr. K.G for the Academic Year 2013-2014 will commence on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2012.
  - ▶ Admissions to Std. XI Science & Commerce begin after declaration of S.S.C Results.
- \*\*50 % Offline Admissions in Std. XI for Christian/Malayali Minority.\*\***



# Let's learn Malayalam

## Consonants (*Vyanjanangal*, വ്യഞ്ജനങ്ങൾ)

-Guruji

Consonants in Malayalam are divided into five sections (*vargam*) and each has five variants. The sections are further divided into velar, palatal, retroflex, dental and labial. In each of them we have two aspirated, two non-aspirated and one nasal sounds. You may find them a little confusing being unexposed to the linguistic terms. But when these characters are arranged in a tabular form, it would be easier to comprehend.

	Voiceless plosives		Voiceless plosives		Nasal
	Non-aspirated	Aspirated	Non-aspirated	Aspirated	
Velar	ക ka क	ഖ kha ख	ഗ ga ग	ഘ gha घ	ങ ña ङ
Palatal	ച ca च	ഛ cha छ	ജ ja ज	ഝ jha झ	ഞ ña ञ
Retroflex	ട ta ट	ഠ tha ठ	ഡ ða ड	ഢ ðha ढ	ണ ña ण
Dental	ത ða त	ഥ ðha थ	ദ da द	ധ ðha ध	ന na न
Labial	പ pa प	ഫ pha फ	ബ ba ब	ഭ bha भ	മ ma म

	Palatal	Retroflex	Dental	Labial
Sonorants	യ ya य Young	ര ra र Aryan	ല la ल less	വ va व valve
Sibilants	ശ śa श	ഷ ṣa ष sure	സ sa स saliva	In English, there is no word having the syllable of ശ or ഷ.
Fricatives	ഹ ha ह hall	ള la ळ Volume	ക്ഷ Ksha क्ष	
Others	ഴ zha worse	റ rha rat	റ്റ (ഠ) ṭṭa vendetta	

In the second part of the consonants, Devanagari script has from യ to ഹ and the Hindi language has all of them. But it has three characters such as क्ष, ञ and ञ as independent characters while Marathi script has ञ. Malayalam script adopted only क्ष written as ക്ഷ while ञ and ञ are treated as diphthongs. However to use Sanskrit words in Malayalam it adopted ञ written as ള. To accommodate the Dravidian languages, it also adopted the consonants ള, റ and റ (ഠ) (written in both ways). Our neighbouring language Tamil has all these three characters.

### Correct if there is any error

A sign board seen in Shoranur Railway Junction:

പണം കൊടുത്തു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന കുക്കൂസ്

What is wrong with the above phrase? If you feel that there is a mistake, write what it should be.

Names of senders of correct answer will be published in our next issue.



# Kerala in Mumbai

**LINKING MUMBAI MALAYALEES**

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