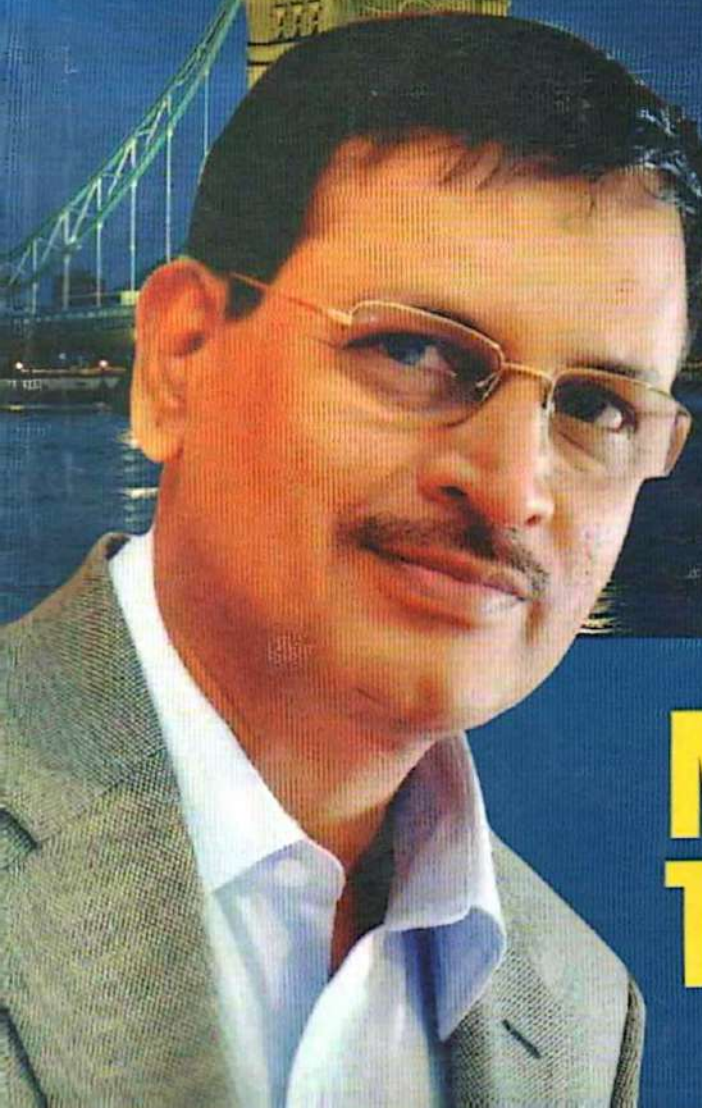


Kerala in Mumbai

Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

■ Vol.5 No. 04 ■ Price Rs. 70 ■ July 2014

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- Female presence in Kathakali
- Memoirs of V V Achuthan



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MASTER OF TRANSPORTS



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Publisher, Printer, Managing Editor

P V Vijay Kumar

Executive Editor

K V Satyanath

Feature Editor

Lakshmi Venkatachalam

Feature Writers

K R Narayanan

V N Gopalakrishnan

Sriprakash Menon

Gerard Joseph

Dr. Sujatha Nair

Bureau Chief -Thane Region

Rajan V Nair

Mob: 9004972655

Consulting Creative Director

Shankar S Bhogwekar

Designer

Sudhakaran K M

Photographer

Mangesh U Borade

Mob: 08691902124

Marketing Consultants

Ms Asha Soman

Mob: 08108771247

Ms Rakhee Sunil

Mob: 09820370060

Advertisement & Marketing

Reshma Nair (Mumbai)

Mob: 09930514940

T R Raghunandan

(Kochi - 09847169725)

Production & Logistics

K V Prabhakaran

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Website: www.keralainmumbai.com

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Malayalam Mission needs re-vision

Kerala-in-Mumbai was started with the noble ideal of propagating Malayalam among the second and later generations of Malayalees settled down in this metropolis. We remember that some Malayalam dailies published from Mumbai published Malayalam lessons with a view of popularising it, but soon such columns ceased for reasons unknown. From the very beginning we have been bringing out the articles on the history, growth and literature of Malayalam language and its litterateurs and still continue the mission.

We have been very happy when the Government of Kerala decided to launch Malayalam Mission in Mumbai with identical objectives. We thought we are in good company. We have written on several occasions about the Mission activities. We were closely watching its activities and progress. Recently we learnt that the state government decided to provide Rs.1000 per centre annually. If we say we are shocked, it would be an understatement. It is very comparable to the act of waking up people who are asleep and then tell them they are not being served with any food.

The state government and the concerned ministers should realise that Mumbai is an expensive city compared to any place in Kerala whereas the income of people of Mumbai is very much comparable. The teachers serving the Mission are giving not only a free service but also bearing the transportation as well as food expenses. The bus and train fare in Mumbai is much more than the expenses generally incurred in the city of Thiruvananthapuram. The teachers and other activists associated with the Mission might have approached the government for some compensation but that does not mean that the state government could take away their pride by offering this pittance. This happened when news papers from Kerala are throwing up banner headings of expenses in crores of rupees incurred on the personal staff of the ministers and also similar amounts are spent in refurbishing the ministerial bungalows where the honourable ministers are destined to stay not more than five years at a stretch.

It is beyond our comprehension how did the concerned department, minister or the Chief Minister dare sanction this pittance of funds. To add insult to injury, this news was splashed in the media as if lakhs of rupees are sanctioned.

The concerned officials, departments, ministers or the Chief Minister hovering over them should realise that the teachers volunteered to teach the children of Malayalees residing in Mumbai and its suburbs out of their personal feelings and those poor souls displayed better sense of pride than the collective state government. Majority of the teachers are female and hence carry more burden compared to the male. Their generosity should have sensitised the political brass of Kerala but alas, it is not to be.

If the Mumbai Malayalees study Malayalam, it is purely out of their love for the land they left years ago and not to gain jobs. Learning Malayalam anywhere outside Kerala is an additional burden for the children. When English medium schools are patronised by the ingenious Malayalees of Kerala, avoiding free education imparted by the state government through government and aided private schools, why should Malayalee children learn Malayalam, travelling kilometres from home, spending money and precious time and sacrificing other pastimes. It calls for a thorough rethinking on the part of the political bosses. We beseech the masters to wake up and not to insult the teachers who did what they thought would be suitably appreciated.

Respected teachers! Return the money the Malayalam Mission offers to you as compensation and show them that you are made of sterner stuff. You are not beggars but GURUs. Gurus do not go after disciples; disciples come in search of Gurus.

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Capt Krishnan Nair

Captain Krishnan Nair has left us all. In the seventies when I landed in Mumbai Hotel Leela was not there. Leela Scottish Lace was a retreat to many a Malayalee who reach Mumbai in search of a job. It was in the second half of the eighties Leela Penta hotel has come into existence. There were many stories how he came victorious over the plethora of objections the initiative had to endure. However it became a matter pride for Mumbai Malayalees.

My association with him goes back to over a decade. It started the day I received a call to meet at the hotel. I was deeply touched by the humility. When he came to the place in the Hotel where I was waiting, with his trade mark smile he said he was sorry for being a bit late. The charm

he emitted would convert anyone his humble fan.

He introduced me to Pinarayi Vijayan. That was the day we had a meeting in the Chairman's Chamber regarding a fund raising program for Kairali channel. Later we met on many occasions. The smile and the warmth in the relationship never faded.

It was in 2009 we conveyed to him that he was the choice of the Giants international for the Annual award for the Successful Business Entrepreneur. He was very happy and reached to receive the same in time. He captivated the entire audience by his down to earth narration. The selected invitees consisting of Businessmen, bureaucrats, professionals, film

personalities etc ate out of his palm. A captain who finally reached the destination to head one of the most successful chains of hotels in the Indian history! Profit making was not his only objective and he proved it beyond doubt when he received immense recognition for not only for his business acumen but also for the support he extended to beautification and environment.

Programmes organised by Malayalees always received his support.

Mumbai Malayalis had many occasions to enjoy his hospitality.

-Upendra Menon

True salute to Captainji by Kerala In Mumbai. Congrats for coming up with such a nice tribute. Keep it up!

- Gopinathan Marar, Powai.

I was going through the June issue of KIM. It was commendable and nice to have given utmost importance to our great and renowned Captain Krishnan Nair! It was imminent and inevitable !

-Bhaskaran Karath, Thane



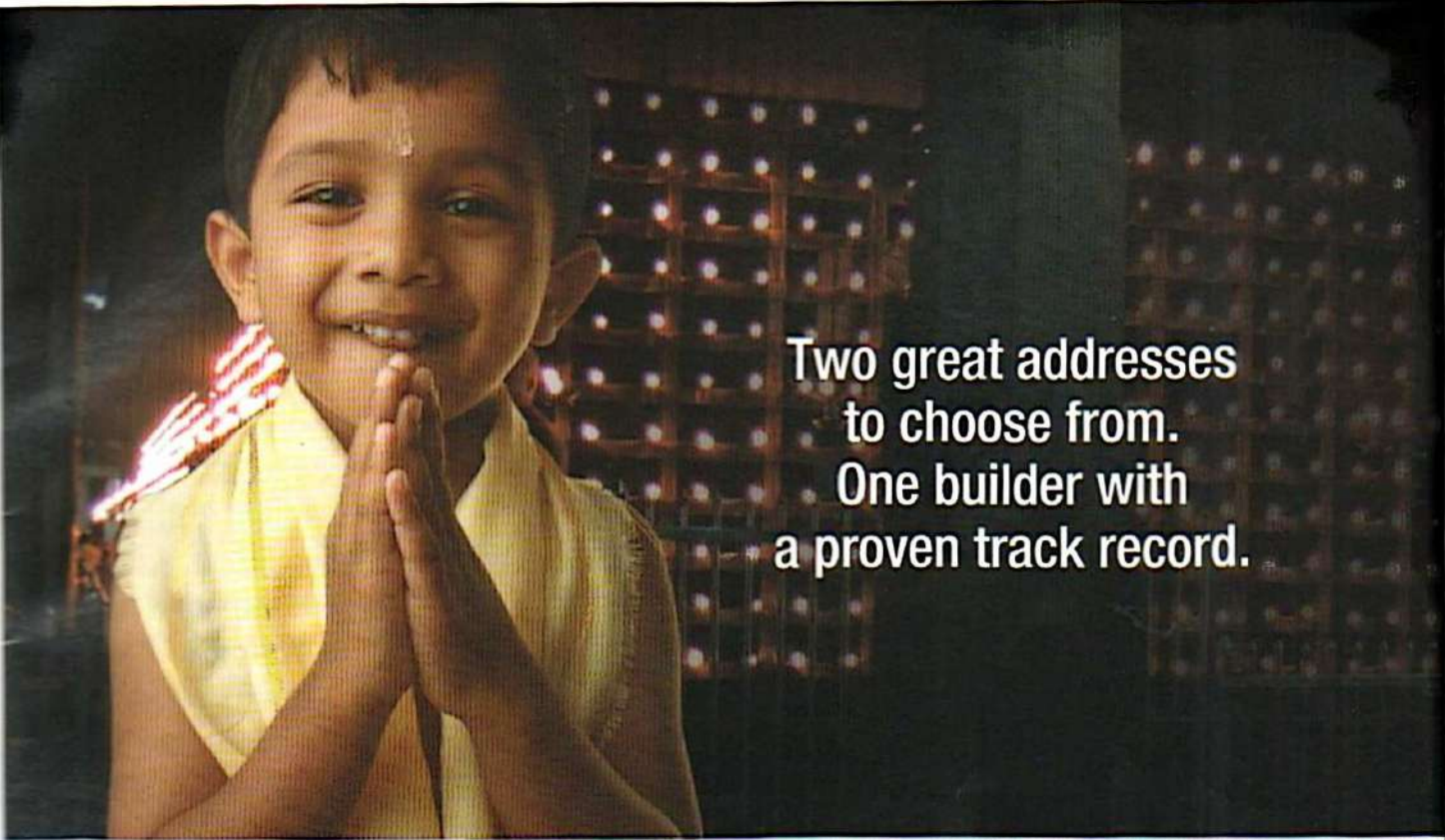
Capt Nair receives Successful Business Entrepreneur Award of Giants International.

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 or by post to Editor, Kerala In Mumbai, 105-B, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol, Andheri (E) Mumbai 400 059.

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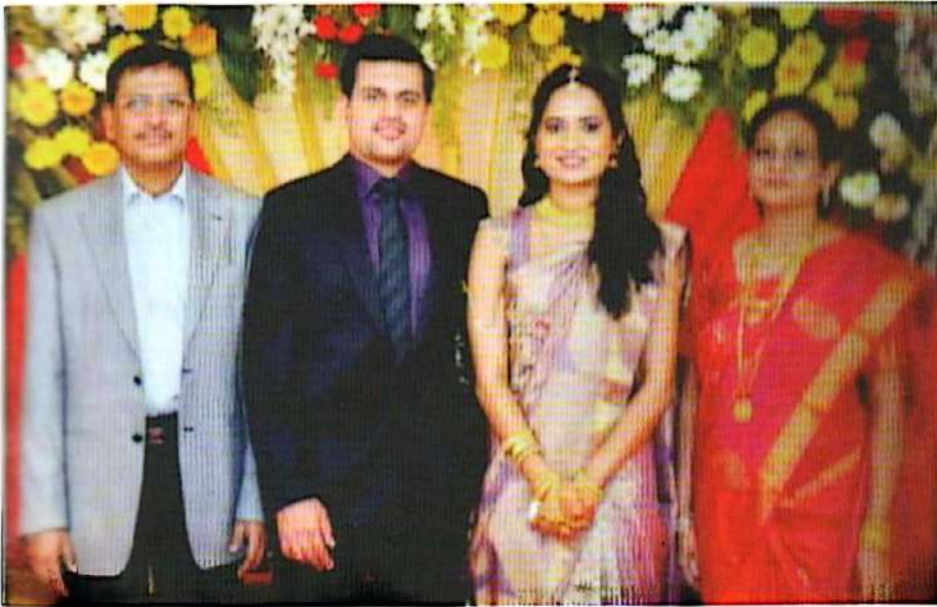


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He believed in work in a terrain conducive to it you may agree would be quite normal for a man who, only 62 years young, trekked Sabarimala 23 times continuously for that many years. Every day he bows before the deity Kochuguruvayal Matunga if he is in the city and also twice a week in Ayyappa Temple Kala Nagar, Bangalore East.

GOVINDAN KUTTY
PASSION
WITHOUT
ATTACHMENTS

Re



With son Girish and his wife Anuja on their wedding

To work alone have you the right and never to the fruits (of work). Don't be impelled by the fruits (at the same time) don't be tempted to withdraw from works. (Srimad Bhagavad Gita 2-47). In this twenty first century, it would be tough to identify a person who firmly believe in the dictum of Bhagavad Gita and also practice it religiously. For a man who always looked for a cause to rush to the Guruvayur Temple, it is not unusual.

It gives what it takes

That is Govindan Kutty, son of Puthen Veetil Kunhiraman Nair and Palakkad Pariyarth Janaki Amma, of Panamanna, Ottapalam, Palakkad district. He is the second of the three children of the couple. His

father being an employee of Government Ordnance Factory, Pune, Govindan Kutty grew up in Panamanna under the care of his mother. He was enrolled in Ananganadi High School and studied upto Std X there. He never missed an opportunity to visit the neighbourhood temples and often Guruvayur temple. His motto then seemed to take life as it comes. In an interview he mentioned that his life was so easy going and no tension whatsoever. He never planned anything for the morrow and the life went idyllic.

Someone was keeping an eye on him and never wanted him to be so. When he passed SSLC with flying colours, one of his relative called him to Bombay in 1970 and enrolled

him in Chetna College, Bandra. After completing his graduation, he joined a transport company, Bombay Okara Carriers, and it was his first and last job. Life went on.

In 1985, he left his job to start his own transport company, Sri Balaji Roadlines. He took carrier vehicles on lease and managed the show and in 1987, bought two trucks. Govindan Kutty proudly says that he still keeps those two trucks in Tamil Nadu and uses them daily on short trips. He treats them like pets who no master would like to part with. Come 1992 and another company was born, Sri Balaji Transportlines and business was widened geographically. He entered into packaging industry also promoting Sri Balaji Packaging in 1998.

His business now spreads across the nation and his client list is a 'who is who' of Indian corporate. Finolux, Bajaj, TVS, Sundaram Fasteners, Lakshmi Mills etc are a few of them. Govindan Kutty now owns 80 trucks and employs 300 people. In transporting industry, drivers are the elixir of the business and so he keeps a close bondage with them. Most of his drivers are with him for more than 15 years. He has offices in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Kerala. In Kerala, his main branches are in Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kannur, Palakkad and Kozhikode. In Tamilnadu, every important city has offices of Sri Balaji Transportlines. Erstwhile Pondicherry, now Pudusseri too have his office.



Madhubala (extreme left) in one of their charities



Wedding photo of Govindan Kutty and Madhubala

Family

Govindan Kutty is married to Madhubala, originally from Pattambi, Palakkad district but as her father was employed with Airport Authority of India, she grew up in cities of India. She graduated

from University of Bombay but is content to be a home maker. She is a voracious reader and indulges in charity especially with school going poor students. She is a Rotarian of long standing and is now arraigned to be President of BKC Rotary Club

in the coming year.

The couple has a son, Gir graduate in Management Sci and is now closely associate his father's business interest married to Anuja.

Social activities

Both Govindan Kutty and Madhubala are inclined to social activities. He was associated with many Malayali groups but the constraints force him to restrict few. Since his entry to Mumbai was associated with Asthika Samajam, Matunga and is its treasurer for many years. His incomplete if he does not visit temple. He is a regular in Sri Ayyappa Temple of Kala Nagar, Bandra where he stays.

He is closely associated with Rotary International but always declined positions in it for want of adequate time. This however does not prevent him from supporting their social causes. Madhubala gives him enough support in this regard. They are also associated with Malayalee Samajam for several decades. ■

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Kerala in Mumbai proudly announces a mega beauty contest **MISS KIM 2014**, exclusively devised and designed for the young Malayalee girls settled in Mumbai and distant suburbs. All girls of age between 18-25 years are eligible to participate in the contest, to be held during December 2014 in a prestigious auditorium of Mumbai. Contestants will be judged by a panel of eminent judges for poise, dress sense, haircare, intelligence etc. Winners of each category will compete for ultimate position of **Miss KIM 2014**. Fabulous prizes await them.



A Fashion Show consisting of informal, formal, social and bridal costume designs will be held, accompanied by music and dance programmes. Costumes and jewellery are to be borne by the contestants themselves.



It is open to all girls from zones of Mumbai city, Mumbai suburb, Navi Mumbai and Thane district. Interested individuals may fill in the entry form provided below and forward to us latest by July 31, 2014. Entry forms must be accompanied with photocopies of birth certificates, educational qualifications, proof of residence, consent letter from parent/guardian and three photographs (close up of face, frontal and side full size). These can be claimed after the contest. The registration fee is Rs. 3,000/- which would also enable you to receive copies of Kerala In Mumbai for the next five years free of cost.



1. Name of contestant in full _____
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3. Place of residence _____ Zone _____
4. Telephone: _____ Cell: _____
5. E-mail: _____
6. Educational qualifications: Under graduate / Graduate / Post Graduate / Professional / Others (Specify) _____
7. Name and address of the institution where the highest qualification is acquired from: _____

Date: _____

Signature of contestant

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E-mail: keralainmumbai@gmail.com Website: www.keralainmumbai.com

MR NAIR

M R Nair as a journalist or a literary commentator was not afraid of his critics or authorities. While working for *Viswaroopam*, he also used to write for *Mathrubhumi*. One of his editorials, on the atrocities committed by British troops in Kochi, led to a short term ban of *Mathrubhumi*.

For Malayalis, Sanjayan's writings are for all times. He is not only a great humourist but also a socio-political commentator who wrote with felicity on a wide range of subjects, in a language that sizzled with humour. His articles used to create big flutter in the political field. In real life he was not a comedian but a very serious person. He did in-depth studies in English and Malayalam literature. He translated Shakespeare's *Othello* into Malayalam. He was well versed in philosophy, Vedas and Astrology. Sanjayan's writings have a universality that transcends time and place. He was a great teacher too.



writers as there was no such man then to train them.

The first volume covers original poems written by well known poets in Kerala, from Kunchan Nambiar onwards. The first chapter of the book starts with *Kaviyute Kannu* (The poet) and describes three poems created by Vallathol Narayana Menon. M R Nair states that these similes occupy a high position in the Malayalam poetry as they depict objects in three different adverse premises and how well they come through before the reader and hold his mind for a long time. These are not a single one but a chain

Literary critic

M R Nair wrote on the developments taking place in Malayalam literature of his times. His observations are valid even today. He had his own way of describing the writer or his writings. His writings on litterateurs and their writings were done under the penname *Sahityadasan* (Servant of Literature). All those writings published in *Keralapatrika* have been compiled into a book (originally in two volumes and now in a single volume), *Sahithyanikasham*.

If any Malayali wishes to become a poet or essayist by way of a vocation or a hobby, there is no better book than *Sahithyanikasham* to understand and follow the finer points. Being a poet, essayist, critic, a teacher, an admirer of English literature etc he was well qualified to train anyone interested by pointing out well acclaimed examples in the world literature. This writer is yet to come across a book better than *Sahithyanikasham* to serve this purpose.

Mathrubhumi published it in 1949 in two volumes and for a long time this book was unavailable. Recently it was published in a single volume. The second volume is also available for free reading on the net.

Sahithyanikasham

From the composition of the book, we can gather that M R Nair devised this book as a guide to the young

(*Malopama*) to emphasise the situation. The first example is about Aniruddhan (*Banddhanastanaya Aniruddhan*) who is imprisoned by a king, the father of Usha who loved him and wanted to marry him. Seven similes are used to describe his state, starting with *Haa.. Mannkuta.. manipradeepam..* and they are so apt that the plight of the hero is only temporary and he would regain his glory once liberated. The second example depicts an object, from *Pattil potherintheekkolli*, (Burning wood wrapped in silk) that befalls under an adverse situation from where there is no liberation, the glory lost (*Uppanchitum vayalil..*). In the third one, the good thing brightens and glorifies the background by its simple presence. It is from *Oru Sandhyapranamam* (an evening prayer, *Korikoottiya..*). The remaining chapters of the book all discuss poems written by Ulloor Parameswaran Nair, N K Kumaran Asan, V C Balakrishna Panicker, Nair Narayana Menon etc. In none of the essays, he deplored the poets but points out their strengths. Nair had a special affinity towards V C Balakrishna Panicker who died at a prime age of 25 and was younger to the triumvirate. He remarks that VC Panicker par with the triumvirate of Vallathol, Ulloor and Nair and if the fate showed the mercy would have reached the standard of Kalidas. He also says that in one of his poems though the idea is a clear take off from the *Elegy* in a Country Church-yard by Gray, VC scored original. He describes *Kannuneerthulli* of Nalappan

Narayana Menon as the first rate poem of a second ranked poet.

He tells us why the scale should be appropriate to suit the theme and how the early miseries of the poets helped them to write better poems than that of the better placed poets. He quotes several examples to strengthen his arguments. In another essay, he valiantly argues to show that Kalidas was a better poet than Shakespeare, comparing *Abhijnana Sakuntalam* and *Tempest*. He says that while Shakespeare is Niagara flowing downward, Kalidas is heavenly Ganga spurting upward. This book is a text book to all aspiring poets to excel well. There are also some essays about the importance of the Scale and the feeling of the poem, purpose of poems, poems and modern ideals, picturesque poems etc.

This writer is yet to see a book to pinpoint the positive aspects of poetry in a single book in such a lucid manner and one has to really go through the pages of this book to evaluate its real value.

M R Nair the Person

M R Nair was a greater conversationalist but was also a good listener, provided the other person was known to him. Wherever he used to spend his time on a normal day, he had a group of people to talk to. "What we read from his writings is only a small fraction of what he used to tell us during our talking," one of his close friends used to say.

Though he could talk in fluent English, he preferred to talk in Malayalam using colloquial words and slangs. One of his creations, Devappa Kukkiliya of *Kochikathu*, used to speak Malayalam with a Tulu accent and was a favourite of his readers. Similarly he had a Travancore character Deveshakini of *Vanchicheythikal* writing in a Travancore Malayalam style while the northern Keralites talk in a Kasaragod tongue.

M R Nair was trained in martial arts and could use stick and sword like an expert. Incidentally, he was trained in Kalari with C V Narayanan Nair of C V N Kalari Sangham. He often surprised his friends with his acrobatics in water even after the lung operation. Writing poems like folk songs (*Mappila pattu* and *Vatakkann pattu*) and parody was just a simple game to him. For India's national anthem, he wrote three parodies. One of them is given below.

ജനഗണ തല അടി നായക ജയ, ഹേ!
 വഞ്ചിതവഞ്ചി വിധാതാ!
 പഞ്ചാബ്, കൊച്ചി, മലബാറു, മറാട്ടാ,
 ദ്രാവിഡ, കന്നട (വങ്കാ!)
 സഹ്യമഹാചല അറബി സമുദ്ര
 പര്യടിക്കുകുതി തരംഗാ
 താവക പാതേ വീണേ! ഭീകരമർദ്ദനപാണേ!

കേൾക്കൂ തവ ജയഗാഥാ!
 ജനഗണകുസൃതി വിധായക, ജയ, ഹേ!
 വഞ്ചിതവഞ്ചി വിധാതാ!
 ജയ, ഹേ! ജയ, ഹേ! ജയ, ഹേ! ജയ,
 ജയ, ജയ, ജയ, ജയ, ഹേയ്!

The above one was christened as *Lathi Gita* as it was written for the Travancore Police while proceeding to and during a Lathi charge.

M R Nair had a special affection for young and talented poets. Changampuzha Krishna Pillai was one among them. But it never became an obstacle in

criticising him vigorously. He even created a fake poet named *Korappuzha* (a river in the north Malabar) and jokingly said that the local people were calling it as Northern *Changampuzha* and probably after some years people would call *Changampuzha* the southern *Korappuzha*. Though he praised *Changampuzha* for his creation of Ramanan for its musical and romantic nature, he did not like the tragic atmosphere under which the whole story was built up. As the

readers would remember, most of *Changampuzha*'s poems had a tragic note. Once *Changampuzha* wrote one poem assigning unnatural functions [(നിന്നെ ഞാൻ കേൾക്കുന്നു നക്ഷത്രരാശിയാൽ (അശ്രുപുജ)] to the five organs of the body. Immediately, a parody from M R appeared.

കണ്ണുകൊണ്ടിന്നു ഞാൻ കേൾക്കുന്നു നിന്നെ
 നിർണ്ണയം നാവിനാൽക്കാണുന്നു നിൻസന്ദർശനം
 സ്പർശിപ്പുനിൻ സാദൃ കാതിനാൽത്തന്നെ - നീ
 കയ്യാൽ ചെകിട്ടത്തു മാം കടാക്ഷിക്കാലാ!

Sanjayan strongly believed that poems are meant to make the reader think and draw energy from it and therefore anything that make them withdrawn and remorse should not be written. This could be the reason of his criticism about *Changampuzha*. Once he happened to read the poem *Maninadam* of Edappalli Raghavan Pillai and he did not like the tragic story. He then told the editor of *Mathrubhumi* that if the young poets continue to write like that, soon they would be hanging to death. The very next day, the news of Edappalli's suicide was splashed on all newspapers. M R Nair was deeply disturbed by that news.

Sanjayan was an apolitical man though he was an admirer of Gandhiji's ideals. Since the Communists ridiculed Gandhi, naturally Sanjayan was made to hate them, not because of his opposition to its principles but because of its violent methods.

P Kunhanandan Nair of Thikkodi was a great dramatist. He sent a very serious poem criticising the World war. M R Nair made some corrections in that poem and made it a humorous one. About this Kunhiraman

Nair later said, "In that poem, there are four lines written by me. He also gave me a new pen name, *Thikkodian*. Now people as well as me do not know my real name."

Well known litterateur Cherukad Govinda Pisharody wrote a humorous poem and forwarded it to M R Nair. He also gave a pen name 'Malankad' to him. Sanjayan added some lines and corrected a few lines and published it. He then wrote a letter in verse to Cherukad and asked him if he did like the pen name. He also asked about the progress of his translation of *Sakuntalam*. Cherukad wondered how M R came to know about his secret project as he never disclosed it to anyone. Madhavaji consoled him by saying him that M R was a great astrologer and he was a jack of all trades.

M R Nair the poet

The public may credit him in any capacity but it is doubtful they would place him as a poet. M R Nair started his literary service as poet when he was only 14 and occasionally wrote till he was 18. It was earlier said that he was suffering from tuberculosis, then an incurable disease. To lift his own spirit from the acute pain, he turned to humour and wrote all types of literary pieces including poems. Most of his poems were published in various periodicals. However, only two compilations were published that too, with the effort of C H Kunhappa as M R Nair did not provide him copies of his poems. Those compilations are *Aadyopaharam* and *Thilodakam*. These compilations are not the sum total of his works but only a fraction of it. M R Nair stated that most of his poems were done as literary crimes and one should not take them seriously.



Thilodakam is a poem written by him after the death of his wife and it reflects his state of mind at that time.

പതിനീരലരേ പറഞ്ഞുവോ
 വിവരം നിന്നൊടു സാന്ധ്യമാരുതൻ?
 തവ മത്സഖി നമ്മെ വിട്ടുപോയ്
 ഭൂവനം പാഴ്വനമിനപാവനം.

ഒരു പിണ്ണുകിടാവിനേയുമെൻ
 മടിയിൽത്തന്നെ കിടത്തി,യേകയായ്
 ദയവിട്ടു മറഞ്ഞതെങ്ങു നീ?
 ദയിതേ! ചെറുപിഴച്ചതെന്തു ഞാൻ?

In *Chinthatharangini*, he again deals with the same feelings.

അതേ, മനസ്സാകുമതിപ്പിറാവു
 തൽപഞ്ജരം വിട്ടു വിയത്തിലൂടെ
 ഒരോമനപ്പെൺകൊടി തൻശരീര-
 ൂകാവിനെത്തേടുകയായിരുന്നു.
 അല്ലെങ്കിലെത്തിനലയുന്നു? പെൺമാൻ-
 കണ്ണാൾക്കിരിപ്പെൻ ഹൃദയത്തിലല്ലോ!

ചാപല്യമേ, നിൽക്കുക! കയ്യിലുള്ള
 മുത്തിന്നു മുങ്ങിത്തീരയേണ്ടതുണ്ടോ?

Using his knowledge of astrology, M R Nair estimated the date of his death and even prepared his mother for that eventuality.

Another poet he constantly criticised was Pallathu Raman. The main reason for his opposition was that Raman was a defender of Ravana and wrote *Ravanayanam*. He ridiculed Raman by saying that Pallathu Raman was a poet by birth. He went on to add that Raman wrote all the lullabies that his mother used to make him sleep. Pallathu Raman retorted that Kerala Varma Valiya Koyi Thampuran himself stated that he belonged to the group of the triumvirate. M R Nair then wrote that what the great poets did was not right as they went ahead without taking Raman with them.

His translation of Shakespeare's *Othello* to Malayalam is highly rated.

M R Nair in English

Dr. Somarajan who translated some of M R Nair's writings to English, rates Sanjayan as a world class humorist comparable to celebrities like P.G. Wodehouse, Stephen Leacock, Thurber, and Mark Twain. For those who do not follow Malayalam can go through his English translation. Here is a translated sample from "Hunting for fame" about the weird methods some people use to win

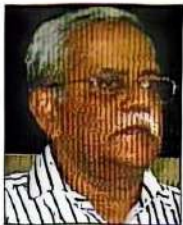
fame.

"Recently I happened to see a report in the newspaper about a person circling the world in a single-bullock cart. I understand that the unusually hot weather this year has, had this kind of effect on many people. The depth to which people are ready to stoop to get their names and photos in papers is amazing. Let me in all humility ask a question: if you circle the world in a single-bullock cart who should get the credit for it- you or the single bullock? Whose picture should be displayed prominently- yours or bullock's? If it is the bullock, how can you appropriate for yourself the fame and prize for the adventure?"

"There are various types of fame hunters; the chap who swam underwater for 10 minutes... the fellow who ran 40 miles... the person who remained silent for 40 days fame-hunters like these are countless. Their photos are published in newspapers. The press is after them. Their foolish utterances are copied down and printed as if they were Gandhiji's pieces."

"There is danger in all these, sir. Imagine you are an ordinary man like PS (Parappurathu Sanjayan). Imagine also you are crazy after fame. What will you do? You might jump into one of the gutters of Calicut or you might try to let Malabar Express roll over your neck. If you happen to come out of it alive somehow, you will be very famous indeed. This is the danger lurking behind the press reports on the feats of fame hunters." ■

Keram Keralam - II



K. R. NARAYANAN

■ According to an estimate of the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), the total coconut production in the world was 54.716 million tonne, in

2010, and the leading coconut producing countries in that year were as shown in the following table. Today, coconut palms are grown in more than 80 countries of the world, with a total production of 61 million tonne per annum.

Coconut trees are very hard to establish in dry climates, and cannot grow there without frequent irrigation. India is the third largest coconut producer in the world and Kerala is said to be the most fertile state for growing coconuts. In India, the traditional areas of coconut cultivation are the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal and the Islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar. Four

southern states together account for almost 92% of the total production in the country. They are: Kerala (45.22%), Tamil Nadu (26.56%), Karnataka (10.85%), and Andhra Pradesh (8.93%). Other states, such as Goa, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, and those in the northeast (Tripura and Assam) account for the remaining 8.44%.

The area under cultivation and the production of coconut in 2011-12 has been estimated by the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture and the same is incorporated in the table below.

The Science of the Coconuts

Popular as Coconut Palm in English and Palm-de-Coco in

Country	Production (Tonne)
Total	54,716,444
1. Philippines	19,500,000
2. Indonesia	15,540,000
3. India	10,824,100
4. Brazil	2,759,044
5. Sri Lanka	2,200,000
6. Thailand	1,721,640
7. Mexico	1,246,400
8. Vietnam	1,086,000
9. Papua New Guinea	677,000
10. Malaysia	555,120
11. Tanzania	370,000

(Source: Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Spanish, the Coconut Trees are scientifically referred to the species *Cocos nucifera*, and are monocotyledon plants. Their taxonomic hierarchy is: Kingdom Plantae (Plant Kingdom), Subkingdom Viridiplantae (Group of Green Plants), Class Magnoliopsida, Order Arcales, Family Areaceae, Genus *Cocos*, and species *Cocos nucifera*. The binomial nomenclature is derived from 16th-century Portuguese and Spanish *coco*, meaning "head" or "skull" from the three indentations on the coconut shell that resemble facial features.

Cocos nucifera is a large palm, growing up to 30 m (98 ft.) tall, with pinnate leaves 46 m (1320 ft.) long, and the pinnae 6090 cm long. The old leaves break away cleanly, leaving the trunk smooth. Coconuts are generally classified into two general types: tall and dwarf. On very fertile land, a tall coconut palm tree can yield up to 75 fruits per year, but more often yields less than 30, mainly due to poor cultivation practices. In recent years, improvements in cultivation practices and breeding have produced coconut trees that can yield more.

Botanically, the coconut fruit is a drupe, not a true nut. Like other fruits, it has three layers: the exocarp, mesocarp, and endocarp. The exocarp and mesocarp make up the "husk" of the coconut. Coconuts sold in the shops of some tropical and non-tropical countries often have had the exocarp (outermost layer) removed. The mesocarp is composed of a fiber, called coir, which has many traditional and commercial uses. The shell has three germination pores (stoma) or "eyes" that are clearly visible on its outside surface once the husk is removed.

An Agro-Industrial Crop

Kerala, which has the largest number of coconut trees, is famous for its coconut-based products: coconuts, coconut water, copra, coconut oil, coconut oil cake (coconut meal, copra cake, or copra meal), coconut toddy, coconut shell-based products, coconut wood-based products, coconut leaves, and coir pith.

The coconut is known for its great versatility as seen in the many uses



The Kernel and the shell

of its different parts. It is a part of the daily diet of many people. It is different from any other fruit because it contains a large quantity of "water" and (when immature) they are tender and jelly-nuts. These are harvested for the jelly and the sweet water. When mature, they still contain some water and can be used as seed-nuts or processed to give oil from the kernel, charcoal from the hard shell and coir from the fibrous husk. The endosperm is initially in its nuclear phase suspended within the coconut water. As development continues, cellular layers of endosperm deposit along the walls of the coconut, becoming the edible coconut "flesh". The mature flesh is grated and added to curries or added as garnishing in either fresh or fried form. It is used extensively in delicious Kerala Cuisine. The Keralites prepare most of their dishes using this nutritious fruit.

When dried, the coconut flesh is called copra. The oil and milk derived from it are commonly used in cooking and frying. Coconut oil is also widely used in soaps and

cosmetics. The clear liquid coconut water is a refreshing drink. The husks and leaves can be used as material to make a variety of products for furnishing and decorating. It also has cultural and religious significance in many societies that use it.

The coconut palms are also grown for decoration, as well as for its many culinary and non-culinary uses; virtually every part of the coconut palm can be used by humans in some manner and has significant economic value. These trees are also planted along the coastal land as avenue trees as well as wind breakers. Some are of the view that Kerala got its name on account of the abundance of the Coconut trees, known as *Kera Vriksham* in Sanskrit.

The Ebb Tides

Traditionally, Kerala has had the highest landed area under coconut cultivation. But, the experts say it is the low productivity that is hitting this trade in the state. The latest figures point out that productivity of coconut plantations of Kerala is less than the national average. The coconut plantation has been in vogue in this State for more than 3,000 years.

But these three thousand years, far from being helpful, might be one of the root causes of the poor productivity. The soil has been supporting these coconut palms for so many years now. Coconut is a tree in which every part of the plant is used. So nothing really goes back to the soil. Over and above, due to long

States/Union Territories	Area (000 Hectares)	Production (000 Tonne)*	Productivity (Kg per Ha)
A & N Islands	21.80	72.30	5184
Andhra Pradesh	142.00	270.00	13976
Assam	18.80	101.00	8397
Chhattisgarh	0.80	6.30	12309
Goa	25.70	88.70	5394
Gujarat	20.90	217.90	16296
Karnataka	506.80	3770.00	11627
Kerala	766.00	3973.00	8109
Lakshadweep	2.70	40.00	23156
Maharashtra	21.00	120.00	8931
Nagaland	0.90	0.30	521
Orissa	53.90	258.00	7482
Puducherry	2.10	20.00	14886
Tamil Nadu	420.70	3692.00	13717
Tripura	5.90	8.60	2278
West Bengal	29.10	367.50	19739
All India	2039.00	14006.50	10736

(* 1563 nuts - One Tonne)

(Source: Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture)

years' cultivation, the soil nutrients are sucked up but never replenished. Hence the soil has turned non-productive in course of time.

Moreover, though Kerala tops the list in terms of land under coconut cultivation, not many are maintained professionally. In the states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, coconut plantations are well maintained with several innovative farm practices. But more than 60% of the coconut gardens are "home gardens" in Kerala. The productivity suffers as most of them are adhered to the traditional ways with very negligible inputs. The coconut cultivation of Kerala is more a part of a culture rather than a full-fledged profession, and hence it is difficult to spread awareness on improvements/innovations in these practices.

Another issue that has been crippling the productivity is a disease called root wilting. The disease is now rampant in at least seven districts in the state. Once affected, the palm gradually loses its health and productivity. "The



The baby coconut (Machinga or Kurumba)



The climber

south and the central regions of Kerala are perhaps the most affected. Since it is a phytoplasmal disease, there is no permanent cure also. But the disease can be managed if the right practices are followed say the experts of the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute.

There is also an acute shortage of climbers and laborers. Many of the laborers who are employed in coconut farms here are from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal. Unless there is employment security and sufficient labor value and dignity, the 'educated' younger generation will keep moving away from the profession.

It may be remembered in this context that, as far as Kerala is concerned, rubber is considered a better product in terms of price stability and profit. But when rubber and coconut are grown together, it affects the productivity of coconut, say the farmer groups. The full-fledged farmers in the state, however, prefer rubber cultivation to coconut cultivation, due to obvious reasons. ■

Akbar Group

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T. M. VARGHESE

Leader of Abstention Movement in Travancore

T M Varghese was the founder member of the Travancore State Congress and became its President in 1947. He worked for the emancipation of the Harijans and for the Temple Entry Proclamation.



V.N. Gopalakrishnan

■ T.M. Varghese was a freedom fighter and a statesman. He was an eminent lawyer and one of the brilliant leaders of Kerala. He was born on April 22, 1885 at Pallikkal,

Mavelikara, Kerala. As a dedicated worker of the State Congress, he gave leadership to the freedom struggle. He was the founder member of the Travancore State Congress and became its President in 1947. He worked for the emancipation of the Harijans and for the Temple Entry Proclamation. As a member of the Working Committee of the State Congress, he guided its activities for a decade. During 1938-1943 he was arrested several times. He was one of the foremost leaders of the agitation for Responsible Government against Sir C.P Ramaswamy Iyer, the Dewan of Travancore.

He was also a prominent leader of the Abstention (Nivarthana) Movement of Travancore. The Abstention Movement had certain uncommon features. It was the first of its kind in modern India and it is not impossible to see movements and struggles aimed at social reforms in British India. But in no other princely States but Travancore such a Movement was started. The abstention activists hailing from the



T M Varghese



Statue of Varghese in Thiruvananthapuram

socially and politically backward communities were their own masters and guides. They were not in receipt of assistance from any other quarters.

On October 21, 1932 Maharaja

Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma issued a proclamation to constitute a new system of legislature in Travancore which came into effect on January 1, 1933. The government conceded the demands of the Joint Political Party to a certain extent by introducing communal reservation in appointments to the public service. On August 1936, a new constitution

was promulgated and elections for the Travancore State Assembly were held during April- May, 1937. T. M. Varghese won the election as a candidate of the Joint Political Party. In the Sree Moolam Assembly, he was elected as Deputy President, the highest position achievable by open elections.

C. Kesavan who was imprisoned in 1935 was released in 1937 after the elections. Welcoming C. Kesavan at Kollam and Alappuzha, T. M. Varghese said: "In the name of and on behalf of the 5.1 lakhs of people of Travancore, I accord with pleasure, a hearty welcome to the most-self sacrificing individual C. Kesavan". The Dewan who was the ex-officio President of the Sree Moolam

Assembly was furious and following his directive, a no confidence motion was moved against the Deputy President. In the voting that followed, 42 supported the motion, 24 were against, and 2 abstained. Thus T. M. Varghese was removed from his position as Deputy President.

Meanwhile, Dewan Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer mooted the American model of government which was opposed by prominent leaders of the Congress Party including Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai, C. Kesavan and T.M. Varghese. The Communists were also strongly opposed to the American model. In 1947 when India attained freedom, Travancore became a state of the Indian Union.

In the first general election to the



T M Varghese with his wife

Travancore Legislative Assembly held in 1948, T.M. Varghese was elected. Travancore and Cochin was unified on July 1, 1949 and he was chosen as the Deputy Leader of the House. After Independence, T. M. Varghese became a member of the Cabinet headed by Pattom Thanu

Pillai. With the integration of Travancore and Cochin, T.M. Varghese became the first Speaker of the Travancore-Cochin Assembly in July 1949. He later became the Home Minister in the Cabinet headed by A.J. John during 1952.

The State of Travancore-Cochin and the Malabar district of the State of Madras, excluding certain areas constituted the State of Kerala as per the States reorganization on November 1, 1956. In 1955 he quit from

politics and on December 31, 1961, this great freedom fighter and statesman breathed his last. A statue of T.M. Varghese was unveiled by Shri R. Venkataraman, the then President of India located at Kesavadasapuram, near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. ■

കവിത



ദൈവത്തിനൊരു ധാരജി

ഒറ്റയ്ക്കിരിക്കെ ഞാനോർക്കുന്നു പിന്നിട്ട സുന്ദരമോഹന ബാല്യകാലം വാർദ്ധക്യകാലത്തു ചാരത്തു നിൽക്കുവാനാരുമില്ലെന്നോർത്തു വേദമില്ല.

മക്കളല്ലേ തന്റെ, നോക്കാതിരിക്കുമോ? ഓർക്കേണ്ടയിത്തരം, കാര്യമില്ല.

അൾസിമെഴ്സിന്നു വഴങ്ങിയ ഭർത്താവും അല്ലലൊഴിയാത്ത വൃദ്ധ ഞാനും എന്തെല്ലാം ചെയ്യേണ്ടു ഞങ്ങളിരുവരും ഓതുക, കാർവർണ്ണാ, മുകുന്തി നേടാൻ.



കെ ജാനകി അമ്മ മണ്ണയാട്



Priya Nambudiri

GIFTED ARTISTE

Priya Nambudiri is a gifted Kathakali artiste who has been learning and practising this style for nearly two decades and one of the few female performers of this dance form.

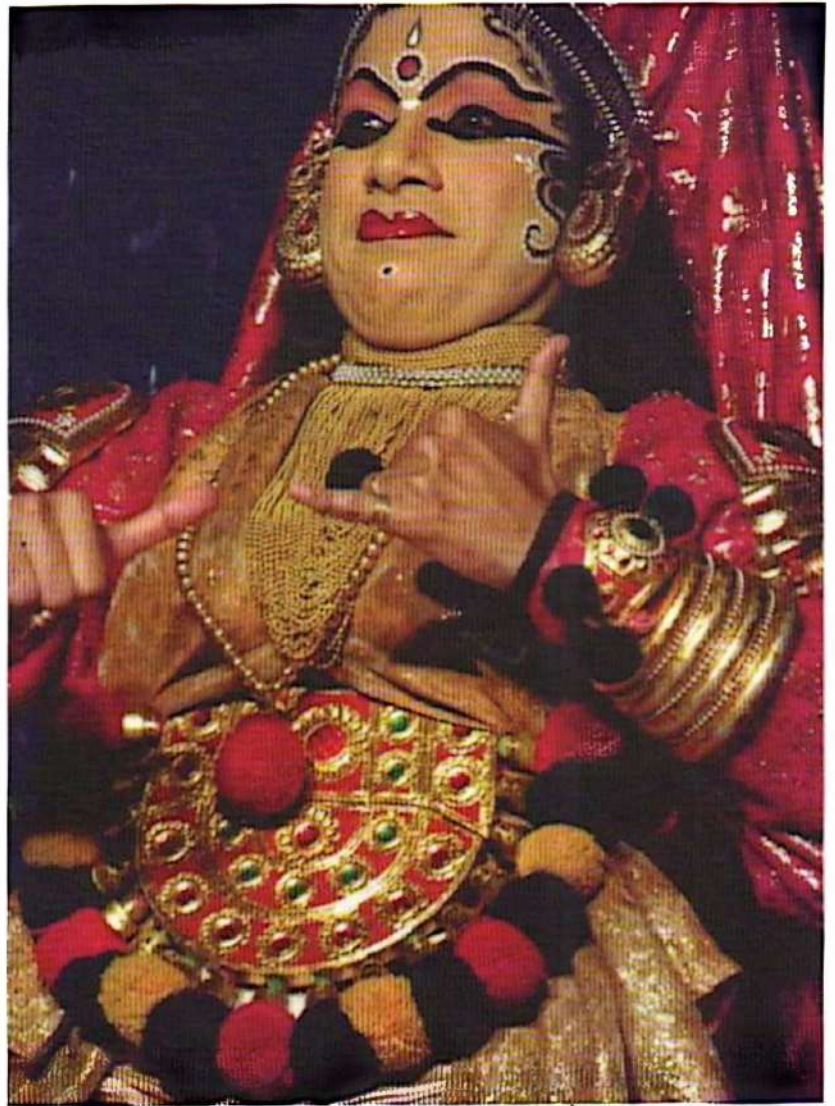


Priya is a disciple of noted Kathakali artiste Kalamandalam C Gopalakrishnan, who is much credited with the popularisation of this classical dance style of Kerala in Mumbai.

She started her training in Kathakali from a tender age. Since then she participated in numerous performances both in Kerala and in Mumbai along with her Guru and other renowned artistes. She enacted a variety of roles including *paccha*, *kathi*, *thaadi* and *minukku* and been widely appreciated. Her effective depiction of characters excels in technical finesse. Priya has even portrayed the most challenging and choreographically complex *kathi* characters in Kathakali like Narakasura and Ravana.

Priya had participated twice and won the first and second prizes at the K.K Raja Memorial *Cholliattam* competitions held at Trippunithura - the citadel of Kathakali. She had participated in the Shivali Young Dancers Festival and Raindrops Festival in Mumbai. She also had the opportunity of presenting the Kathakali style in a unique venture 'Ashtanaayika' presented by the Nehru Centre, Mumbai. The presentation covered all the classical dance forms of India.

Priya is still actively involved in various Kathakali performances under the guidance of her Guru and Kalakshethram Dombivili; an institution devoted to the promotion of classical art forms. ■



Stree vesham of Priya

Literary Contest

Kerala In Mumbai is organising a literary contest for the family members of the subscribers of Kerala In Mumbai, in Malayalam or English. The contest is for short story and poem and there is no specific subject. However the short story should not exceed more than 20 hand written pages and the poem not more than 40 lines. There is no age limit to the participants. The name, address, contact number and/or e-mail id should be written in a separate sheet of paper and not on the pages of the entries. The entries should be accompanied by a self declaration that the

entry is an original and that not published earlier in print or social/ electronic media. The envelope containing the entries should be superscribed "Literary Contest." The entries placed First and Second after scrutiny by our judges, will be presented with a trophy and cash award. The last date for accepting the entries would be July 31, 2014. The entries should be sent to:
Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt Ltd, 105-B, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 059.



LONDON NOTES

London is a popular tourist destination and there are several historic and magnificent sights awaiting a tourist there.

One thing about London is that there is no problem of language here. Unlike a few other countries of Europe where the people know only their language, in London, an Indian can speak English and keep his/her communications channels open.

Central London like any other metropolis teems with activity. Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus (name of a street) Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, reminds one of Mumbai's Colaba, only a little more brisk and business like. As one walks out from Waterloo station, equivalent to Mumbai's CST or Churchgate Terminus, commuters get out of the trains and hurry to their destinations. There are several railway lines in Britain, as well as the underground or tube passing through Waterloo and within a few minutes a person can easily reach his destination.

Rail services are very efficient, there is no overcrowding on the platform, and above all trains run on time. Of course during office hours there is 'office frenzy' but there is 'method in this madness'!

As one comes out of the Waterloo station, the familiar and famous landmarks of the city



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

are visible - the London Eye (a huge gear wheel), the Houses of Parliament, London Bridge etc. And above all, multitudes of tourists jostle with one another for space.

Restaurants line by the side of the river for a short stretch, the Big Ben chimes here with loud ringing, the majestic Houses of Parliament emphasise the democratic spirit of this country though the Queen of England is revered as their monarch and modern skyscrapers among the stately mansion buildings with their trademark red / light brown tinge, interspersed here and there remind us of the current times the city has adapted to.

Houses Of Parliament

The Westminster Palace, commonly called Houses of Parliament is the meeting place of the House of Lords and House Commons and lies on the banks of the river Thames in Central London. The Palace is one of the centres of political life in the United Kingdom. The Elizabeth Tower within the Palace, houses the gigantic clock Big Ben, an iconic landmark of London and the UK as well. Built by Edward John Dent in



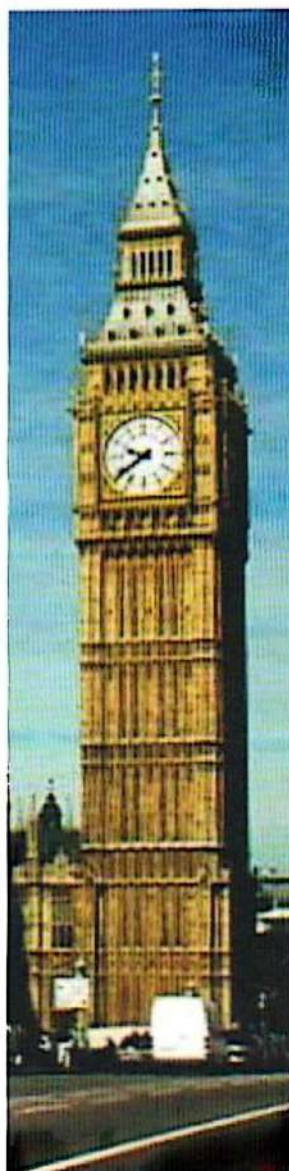
late nineteenth century on designs conceived by amateur horologist Edmund Beckett Denison, the time even today is accurately shown on four dials that are lit from behind at night. Five bells hang in the belfry. The largest bell officially called the great Bell of Westminster is popularly referred as Big Ben and is now more popular than the Elizabeth tower which houses it. The four quarter bells strikes the 'Westminster chimes', every quarter hour.

The Westminster Palace is an emblem of Parliamentary Democracy and is a UNESCO World heritage site since 1970.

There are two more towers in the Palace, the Victoria Tower with the Sovereign's entrance at its base through which the monarch enters formally to open the Parliament. The other tower is named Central Tower designed in the form of a spire in contrast to the other two lateral massive Towers.

Westminster Abbey

The Westminster Abbey in the heart of London - next to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, is another world heritage site. An architectural masterpiece of the 13th to 16th centuries, Westminster Abbey presents a unique pageant of British history. The coronation of Kings and Queens and royal weddings have taken place here since 1066. Many of the nation's Kings and Queens are buried in the Abbey. Principal among them is St Edward the Confessor, King of England from 1042 to 1066, whose shrine is at the heart of the Abbey. Also buried or memorialised here are over 3,000 great men



and women from almost every century of these islands' history: statesmen and politicians, lawyers, warriors, clerics, writers, artists and musicians.

Today it is still a church dedicated to regular worship and to the celebration of great events in the life of the nation. Neither a cathedral nor a parish church, Westminster Abbey (or the Collegiate Church of St Peter, Westminster to give it its correct title) is a "Royal Peculiar" under the jurisdiction of a Dean and Chapter, subject only to the Sovereign and not to any archbishop or bishop.

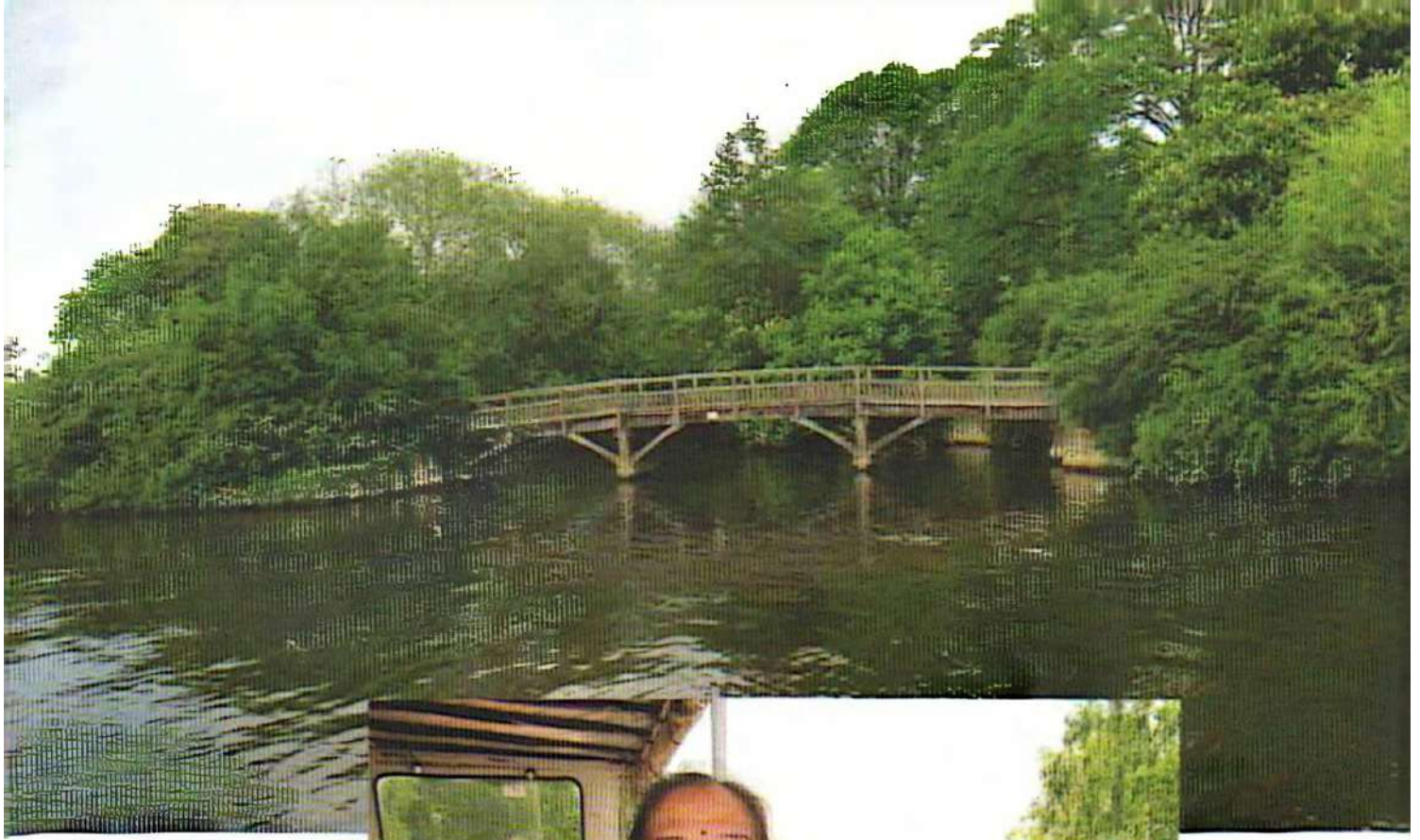
St Paul's Cathedral, the masterpiece of Britain's most famous architect Sir Christopher Wren, is a popular tourist destination well-known for its iconic dome and is a part of the British heritage.

Tourists, including a large number of Indians, as well as from other parts of the globe throng to all these and other places.

London is a city of tourists. Apart from the native English men and women, I saw a very large number of foreigners, by the Thames river, near London Eye (from where one can have a bird's eye view of the entire city), and on the historic bridges across the river.

The famous Big Bus tours across London takes the tourist to all the sight seeing places in and around London. A tourist can book tickets for this city tour that comes in packages of a single day tour, or four or five days according to his/her convenience .

The river Thames runs through London like a thread and also along Oxford, Reading, Henley On Thames, Windsor and



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

other towns and cities. In June the current Queen's birthday parade, trooping the colour and Wimbledon are a few of the attractions the city offers.

Malayalee Links

Malayalees in Britain are the third largest Indian community. There are Malayalee businessmen, restaurant owners, IT professionals, and office workers. Many nurses in hospitals are Malayalee women. As one of the nurses remark, "even English patients prefer us." Maybe it is the caring attitude inborn among Malayalee women that make them popular in this country as in several other parts of the world.

There are Malayalee hotels in several localities catering Kerala Cuisine. The Kayal Group has branches in Nottingham, Leicester, Leamington Spa, West Byfleet. According to its owner, Jaimon Thomas the restaurant offering 'backwater cuisine where tradition meets quality' has won several awards and recognition for its authentic Kerala fare. Another Kerala hotel is Travancore where one can have authentic Kerala food.

Several places in London like Wembley, East Ham, West Byfleet, Crawley and many more have a lot of Malayalees residing there.

UUKMA

The UUKMA (Union of U K Malayalee Association) is an umbrella organisation of UK Malayali organisations. A not-for-profit organisation serves to cultivate and support the exchange of ideas between Malayalee Association in the

UK. It strives to promote a deeper understanding of the Malayalam language and literature. A secular organisation, it celebrates all Kerala festivals like Onam, Vishu, Christmas, Diwali, etc. Through its meetings and programs, it seeks to promote fellowship through cultural exchange and provide for the artistic, literary and intergenerational needs of the wider Kerala community as it interacts with interested members of other cultures. Formerly called UKMA and now changed to UUKMA, it recognises and respects outstanding personalities in U.K. It also organises regional and national conferences to discuss matters which directly or indirectly affect the social and cultural well being of U.K. Malayalee community.

City Landscape

A significant aspect in the layout of the city is the buildings that dot the landscape.



Unlike modern cities where skyscrapers are the rule, in and around London, there are beautiful cottages with a small green plot in front with blooming roses and other flowers. The exterior has a reddish or brownish tinge and a tiled roof with a chimney to add. Even huge retail store chains, hospitals, etc are housed in reddish brown buildings. Such cottages adjacent to one another having hedges as borders (no walls), line the roads. In several other places there are branched trees lining the roads and lawns covering vast expanses of open ground. During summer this green umbrella of trees and carpet of grass is a delight to our sight. The greenery of the landscape reminds one of Kerala. In the English countryside that has the Thames river and the green trees, bushes and grass growing in profusion, there is a striking similarity with Kerala. A cruise down the river Thames in the countryside brings one close to nature and we can nostalgically imagine that we are boating on the backwaters of Kerala

Other Tourist Spots

Britain is a land of palaces and castles,



museums and galleries. The change of Guard at Buckingham Palace is one of the major tourist attractions. Blenheim Palace, the place of birth of one of twentieth century's most influential persons, Sir Winston Churchill, is a world Heritage Centre. Windsor Castle is a 'must visit' place on the tourist map.

Stratford Upon Avon the birthplace of William Shakespeare is a tourist paradise. The British Museum has rare and precious artefacts and is one of the best in the world.

The Tower of London has witnessed many gory murders and significant events in English history. Built as early as the eleventh century, the Tower has served

variously as a prison, an armoury, treasury, home of the Royal Mint, and crown Jewels of the United Kingdom. Today it is a major tourist attraction. Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum is another favourite tourist spot. The white cliffs of Dover from where we can see the French coast on a clear day is a British Icon.

London has lots to offer for the visitor. The best time to visit Summer is between May and November when the sharp sting of winter has not set in. ■



Alice Therattil

Therattil Gardens

The vegetable Garden inside the Therattil Family Compound is a fine example of how one can raise a chemical fertilizer free vegetable garden in a limited space as available in Mumbai to cater to the needs of a Mumbai family. The small bungalow in Kalina, Santacruz East of Alice and Johnson Therattil family sets a fine example how it could be achieved. Alice Therattil, the former Municipal Councillor, uses only bio-chemical fertilizers and natural pesticides for their plants grown around their home and on its terrace. The neighbours look at it with envy and wonder at their dynamism and imaginativeness. Alice is a busy social worker and fights for time and



yet she finds time to devote to her pet vegetation and the time she spends with them is well spent. In spite of having large track of land without using them advantageous people of Kerala are keenly waiting for the trucks carrying vegetables from Tamilnadu even for their daily need of curry leaves and other sundry green leaves. With that backdrop, Alice tenders her plants and trees whenever she finds time during her dawn to dusk rush hours. They in return, furnish her all the vegetables and fruits without any trace of poison in them so that the family could fearlessly lead a peaceful life. Alice certifies that all that is needed for this is a sincere devotion, dedication and willingness to show



some love for them as if they are your own children. The little work you do to tender them by loosening their soil and watering them to the just quantity to quench their thirst is all that it takes.

When you take a small round through the garden, you would be surprised to find all vegetables tendered there are all used by an ordinary Kerala family. You would find banana plant, pepper, coconut, drumstick, tamarind, jackfruit, guava, mango and many more are welcoming us. Besides there are seasonal vegetables such as ladies finger, tapioca, a variety of fruits and to cap them all, a honey beehive is also there to ensure year round supply of honey.

Curry leaves, ginger, green chillies are also there to add pep to the food. Lemon grass adds flavour to all.

In the garden, jasmine, geranium, basil etc are also adding flavour. It also helps enhancing the environment and thus the neighbours are also benefitted.

Alice is sending a strong message to all who care to take note that it is not difficult to grow a garden in Mumbai. It also helps us to help our neighbour by making the air that they breathe purer. It also provides ample opportunity to improve one's physical health at no extra cost besides providing a natural ambience to the surrounding thereby enhancing one's personality. ■



C Jayaram

Maiden flier to Nedumbasser



Sriprakash Menon

■ Air India (AI) may be in news often for wrong reasons but for some of its former employees, who are still loyal to this national carrier, AI makes them feel proud. "I joined AI

as assistant flight purser in 1970. It was the golden era of this government owned airline. It was a profit making company under our first chairman J R D Tata. I was lucky to be part of this world class airline which had set high standards then", recalled Mumbai based C Jayaram.

On June 10, 1999, he remembered, "I had the rare opportunity as in-flight supervisor to be part of the inaugural flight of AI to Nedumbassery (Kochi) airport. It was a great achievement in my flying career to have been asked to lead my crew for this maiden flight. It was a historic flight to India's first privately managed airport."

Edappally born Jayaram after graduating from St. Albert's College left Ernakulam for Mumbai and joined AI. During his long career with AI, he considered himself lucky to fly with several top celebrities,



Jayaram and other crew members being received by Mr Sharma, former Minister Kerala

sportsmen, film stars besides former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, V K Krishna Menon, Swami Chinmayananda and Amitabh Bachchan.

The decline of AI started in the early eighties, he stated pointing out that "too many interference from civil aviation ministry from time to time marred the professional approach of AI. All prestigious sectors of the AI

were opened to private airlines to add to the mounting problem Indian Airlines was merged with Financial mess, callous fleet expansion programme and corruption were the other factors which weakened AI".

Jayaram Nair married to Lakshmi in 1974, have two children Kavitha Nishanth both married and happy settled with children. Kavitha (s

teacher) is Singapore based and married to Santosh (working with Infosys) a Capt. Nishant Nair, Mumbai based and married to Pravitha (school teacher) was a pilot with AI and now working for a private airline.

Jayaram who is also a singer is involved with music shows besides social and cultural activities in Mumbai. He regularly visits Kerala after retiring as a senior manager in-flight service department of AI. "With proper route strategising, corporate approach and dedication am sure, AI will dominate the sky, as it used to do latest hi-tech aircraft and

services", he felt. ■



Jayaram with his family



Malayalees may have crossed over and settled on foreign shores but a genuine artiste will never forget his/her art. She would nurture, nourish and above all spread it to the other parts of the globe. This is what Mira Mahesh, a Mumbai born classical Bharatanatyam dancer does in and around London.

Mira Mahesh

Showcasing Indian dance abroad

- Lakshmi V

Mira Mahesh is a gifted dancer and dance teacher who lives in London and has a passion for dance.

A few of Mira Mahesh's students, including several foreign students, have performed their arangettam in the UK. She teaches dance to the teen and the adults who are interested in Bharatanatyam. Apart from being a teacher, Mira has given several dance performances on stage, solo as well as with her students in the UK.

Artiste Profile

Mira was earlier working with Manasamitra, a dance company based in Yorkshire that is committed to explore innovative ways of providing high quality experiences using the traditional arts of Indian music, dance, storytelling, crafts and visual arts to engage and inspire communities locally, nationally and





Students who attended the dance workshop conducted by Mira Mahesh for Manasamitra.

internationally. Mira has also participated in community based activities designed to benefit the general public particularly in areas identified as requiring additional social support.

Currently she teaches classical and semi classical dance at the Telugu Association of London (TAL), a UK registered Charitable Organization representing the Telugu Community in London that serves and works with local communities.

Dance Links

Born in Trivandrum and brought up in Dombivli, Mira took training in Bharatanatyam from Udyogamandal Vikraman Pillai of Kala Sadan in Mumbai, a prestigious sixty year old Dance Institute of Mumbai having its main Centre in Sion and branches in several suburbs of Mumbai and Thane. She did her schooling from Model English High School in Dombivli and completed her Masters in Fine Arts under the guidance of noted Bharatanatyam veterans Dr Padma Shree Kanak Rele and Dr Uma Rele from Nalanda University, Mumbai.

Even as a child and student of school and college, she has participated in dance competitions and won prizes. While in India she was working as a dance teacher and choreographer in Sudha Chandran's Nachya Mayuri dance troupe. After marriage she shifted to London

where her husband was working.

Mira has also learnt Carnatic music from Mrs Tara Ramesh of Dombivli.

Family bonds

Mira's father, the late Mani Iyer belonging to Nagercoil (erstwhile Travancore State) worked in Mumbai for a private company while her mother the late Krishna Mani Iyer hailed from Thiruvananthapuram.

Mira has a brother, Manoj, married to Archana also from Dombivli and they stay in Sharjah.

Mira's husband Mahesh Ranganathan, born and brought up

in Trivandrum, works in Acrotend Solutions, London as a Business Intelligence consultant.

Mira and Mahesh have a two year old daughter, Mitra, who like her mother is interested in dancing and in future may follow her mother's footsteps.

According to Mira, several English art lovers are very interested in Indian culture and they take pains to study in detail authentic classical art forms. "I am happy to share my knowledge of classical dance with them and grateful that I am spreading Indian culture in my own way in this land." ■



Arangettam of two of Mira's students (Sri Lankan) with their music teacher (Right).

Painkulam Ravichandran Chakkial

- Sriprakash M

When people are concerned about improving their material prosperity every day, there are some people who are dedicated to promote and preserve the art, culture and heritage of this country. One such person is Painkulam Ravichandran Chakkial.

The now Thrissur based Ravichandran Chakkial was a Mumbaiite, it was only after his retirement he pursued his passion for Chakkial Koothu once again by performing this art form across the country.

"I came to Mumbai in 1963 for a job. I worked with Nerolac as a lab assistant and did a two years course in pigment technology at UDCT. I worked for 35 years in Mumbai and later moved to Vapi, Gujarat as director technical for a private firm", Ravichandran recalled.

Yet, Chakkial Koothu was always in his mind, he said. "At the age of 8, students from my family (*tharavad*) are selected at an arangettam where looks and vocal quality (speech) are tested and that's how my uncle the famous Painkulam Raman Chakkial selected me to be trained in koothu", he explained.

In fact, "Raman Chakkial initiated the popular and versatile late K K Rajan who took koothu to all around the country and abroad. From 1965, Kalamandalam started a course in koothu and under the guidance of Rama Chakkial, another ancient art Koodiyattam was also started. Rama Chakkial was the first artist to bring *chakkial koothu* out of the temple premises and performed at the NSS premises at Dadar in 1958", he recounted.

Ravichandran began his koothu career at Mulund and he also supported Rajan for his koothu at Dombivili by playing mizhavu. Ravichandran has done about 500 koothu starting from 1998 in Kerala

and Mumbai. "Stories for koothu are taken from Ramayana, Mahabharata and the tales are blended with topical issues and situations to make it very contemporary", he said.

Describing the origin of koothu, he noted "chakkial koothu evolved as a 'solo art form' from the vidhushak of koodiyattam (2500 years old ancient Sanskrit theatre). It was Kulasekara Perumal (900 AD)

(scientist). His son Rajeev and wife Priya work and stay in Dubai. "After 35 years I wanted to revive koothu. This ancient art was recognised and patronised by the UNESCO and Rs 2000 (monthly) gurudakshina (royalty) is granted for the senior artists but politics have made life difficult for chakkials," he lamented.

According to Chakkial, "there are only about 10 performing chakkial



living and about 10 students are being trained by Kalamandalam. It is a sad state of affairs to allow an art form like koothu to wither without any patronage. Even the corporate world is slanted towards entertainment and cinema. Nobody seems to be in India realising the true value of our heritage.

who requested to noted humour poet Tholan to write interpretation of sanskrit verses in Malayalam for reaching out to larger audience though both Koodiyattam and Chakkial Koothu was an exclusive temple art".

Appreciating the work of K K Rajan to popularise Chakkial Koothu, he said "Rajan's koothu was based on Narayana Bhattathiripad's Narayaneeyam (Sanskrit) while the original verses for koothu was also written by Bhattathiripad", he stated.

Ravichandran comes to Mumbai with his wife Bhanumati to stay with their daughter Rajani (lecturer) and son in law Sanjeev Menon

Presently, Ravichandran said chakkial madoms (families) are confined to Ambalapuzha (Alapuzha), Pothiyil (Kottayam) Kidangoor (Kottayam), Irinjilak. Painkulam (Thrissur) and Manik. (Quilandy).

Will the government and business houses step in to nurture and preserve such dying art forms? Koodiyattam and Chakkial Koothu remain to be seen. Such dedicated and passionate artists deserve proper recognition and support from the society and the government in this era of digital entertainment dominated by pulp series highlighting valueless messages and competitive lifestyles. ■

Iyer's Sambar



K. S. Narayanaswamy
Mani's Lunch Home
Matunga, Mumbai-400019

Sambar is an extremely popular recipe from South India and relished by the whole India. There are varieties of sambar prepared in the southern states of India. The sambars prepared by Kerala Iyers were much popular and liked by all. They normally prepare sambar by grinding fresh spices and not by readymade powder available on the market.

Preparation:

- * Grate the coconut to form 1 cup.
- * Wash and cut the Vegetables; pumpkin, ash gourd, brinjal into square pieces and drum stick, lady's finger, Snowpeas into lengthwise pieces.
- * Heat oil and roast Hing, Coriander seeds (Dhania), Fenugreek seeds (Vendhayam) Bengal Gram (Kadalaparippu) and red chillies 2 to 3 nos. to a light brown colour.
- * Grind the Grate coconut with the roasted spices to a smooth paste.
- * Soak tamarind to a size of a small lemon in warm water for ½ hour and extract the juice and strain.
- * Cook the Tuvar Dal thoroughly well with turmeric powder 2 tsp. and enough water and smash to a smooth consistency.
- Boil the tamarind extract on a thick bottom vessel, add sliced tomatoes and cut vegetables. Then add turmeric powder and salt and continue to boil till the vegetables are fully cooked. Add ground coconut masala paste to the vegetable mixture. Allow to boil by adding smashed Tuvar Dal paste for another 2 to 3 minutes. Add little jaggery. Remove from fire.
- Heat oil in a frying pan, put Mustard seeds; when it breaks add, broken red chillies 1 or 2 nos. and curry leaves on in it and fry till golden brown colour. Pour it directly on cooked Sambar and close it with a lid to few minutes. Garnish the sambar with coriander leaves and serve hot.



Ingredients:

- 1) Lady's finger - 100 gms.
- 2) Pumpkin - 150 gms.
- 3) Ash gourd - 150 gms.
- 4) Drumstick - 1 or 2 nos.
- 5) Brinjal - 50 gms.
- 6) Snowpeas - 50 gms.
- 7) Tomato - 100 gms.
- 8) Tamarind - 50 gms.
- 9) Tuvar Dal (Red gram lentil)- 250 gms.
- 10) Fenugreek seeds - 25 gms.
- 11) Coriander seeds - 25 gms.
- 12) Bengal gram - 25 gms.
- 13) Asafetida (Hing) - Little
- 14) Red Chillies - 25 gms.
- 15) Coconut - ½ no.
- 16) Jaggery - Little
- 17) Turmeric powder - 1 tsp.
- 18) Salt -to taste
- 19) Oil - 25 ml.
- 20) Mustard Seeds -1 tsp.
- 21) Curry leaves - a few
- 22) Coriander leaves - a few



Cyrus Engineer, Head-Sales and Marketing of Tata Realty addressing the meet

Tata Realty and Infrastructure Ltd (TRIL), a 70 percent subsidiary of Tata Sons has entered into the real estate business in Kerala. Its residential project, Tritvam being managed by Tata Group on Marine Drive in Kochi has received a high rating from Credit Analysis and Research Ltd, one of the premier credit rating agencies. Tritvam gives a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea on the one hand and the Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary on the other. "Conceived and executed by Woodward Bagot, an Australian-based design company, Tritvam encompasses beautifully crafted towers giving privacy and better views", revealed officials of the TRIL management at a promotional programme organized at Meluha the Fern, Powai, Mumbai on June 14, 2014.

Set within a lush tropical landscape, Tritvam features a clubhouse extending over 15,000 sq.ft with a state-of-the-art gym, swimming pools, a squash court, a tennis court, a jogging track, a yoga studio and an indoor games room. It provides separate rooms for chauffeurs, domestic help and security.



TATA TRITVAM

Tata Group's foray into
real estate business at
Kochi's Marine Drive



personnel with attached bathrooms. "Tritvam Towers with 3 BHK and 4s BHK apartments are strategically designed to let in ample sunlight and natural ventilation and equipped with energy-efficient appliances and solar-powered lighting", says the brochure. For booking, contact site office: Goshree-Pachalam Link Road, Marine Drive, Kochi-682018. Tel: 0484-6400020 / 21.



DANCE TO A DIFFERENT MELODY CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

- VIJAY SH

Sixteen dance Institutions gathered together to celebrate International Dance Day at Dadar Matunga Cultural Centre as they defined the theme of 'Dance to A Different Melody' in a festival organized by one of the Vice Presidents of the World Dance Council of UNESCO, Smt Lata Surendra. The audience absolutely loved the manner in which each veteran of different styles used the potency of the dance idiom to reach out with the visual splendour of their styles. The programme was compeered by the renowned exponent and Choreographer Smt Lata Surendra.

Students of Smitalay of the renowned Odissi veteran Smt Jhelum Paranjpe, presented the Ganesh Vandana. The item was choreographed by Ankur Bhallal, the innovative choreographer and Senior disciple of Smt Jhelum Paranjpe. Ankur Bhallal's creativity was further endorsed in the item with a profound accent on Global

warming where he innovatively used the 'Earth Song by Michael Jackson'. It was a visual sheathing of Devi in two distinctive styles by the Mother-Son Duo, Sushama Gopinath & Rohit Gopinath accompanied by disciples. Rohit Gopinath stood out with his energizing and charismatic

disciples . . . Dr Jayashree Rajagopalan the renowned expert of Bharata Nrityam and Senior disciple of Maestro Dr Padma Subramaniam presented an interesting choreography 'Sangamam' representing the confluence of two different forms

Indian music Carnatic (Sri Ragam) and Hindustani (Kedar Raga) sheathing the classical dance item.

Maa-Nishaada- presented a Malayalam poem by the same name written by Vayalar Ram Varma, was skillfully choreographed by the committed Teacher & Choreographer Smt Jayshree



presence and neat lines in execution. The Raymond Miranda Company of Dance presented three distinctive dances in contemporary and Indo-jazz adding a new dimension to the festival. Theme was 'One World - One Dance'. Padmini Radhakrishnan's creativity - 'Imagination Boundless' has done full justice to by her committed

Nair. The agonising portrayal of love-birds separated by the piercing arrow of the hunter aiming at the female, the wrath of Sage Valmiki and the purposive deliberation the hunter was evocatively depicted by the choreography. Sujatha the daughter of the veteran artist with other disciples of Upasana Dance Academy- brought the



Kerala In Mumbai

to life through dance! An interesting confluence of Indian and Western music in the presentation of Meera was brought out by noted Dancer-Choreographer Shubhada Varadkar & Disciples which was followed by the Beej Dance Company's regal defining of Kathak. The noted Exponent and Director of Beej- Sanjuktha Wagh highlighted the opulence of Shiva through Rajat Chandrama and concluded with the high-powered kinetics of teen taal in a cycle of sixteen beats. Noted Western Dance Choreographer Richard D'Costa presented the journey of an Artist through contemporary dance while Veteran Latasanadevi through Manipuri presented the pure dance item Telena like the Thillana in south Indian Classical Dance.

Renowned Teacher & Choreographer Smt Jyothi Mohan



presented an expression of emotions in the midst of wondrous nature set to Johann Strauss' Blue Danube'. The dual aspects of the elements with the Sun as the epicentre was projected beautifully by renowned exponents Dr Sailaja Desai & Disciples (Kuchipudi) and Dr Suman Badami & Disciples in Bharata Natyam. The skillful usage of props and the dance syntax of Bharata Natyam had Shiva brought

to life in the choreography of noted Exponent Smt Geetha Venkateshwar Neat aligning and co-ordination was its striking feature. The renowned Teacher, Choreographer Smt Chhaya Khanvate in her inimitable style reached out with Thaye Yashoda in fusion music concluding with a breath-taking Thillana. Guru Lata Surendra in keeping with the theme presented an ode to dance by reaching out with a

blend of Contemporary and Bharata Natyam. Using the dancers from the Raymond Miranda School and her own talented disciples she had dancers in two styles blending with each other by bringing an Indo-Latin melody to life! The item was striking with two styles diversifying and merging and bringing the chords to life!

A Shivadas A 'work together succeed together' man

A Shivadas may be known as a successful businessman but he was a down to earth man with abundant love for his fellow beings.

He was born on 25th April 1943 to Lakshmi and T. V. Damodaran. He was their Second Child. He had his early education in Azhikode High School.

Mr. Shivadas came to Mumbai in the year 1957 after he lost his father at a very young age to support his family. He started his career with N M M Engineers in Kalwa and later he joined Windsor. His association with the company was for a period of 30 years and retired as the General Manager-Production.

After a long stint with the company he decided to start his own venture and finally in the year 1998 he started "Flitech". His company was the suppliers of injection molding machines, screws and barrels. From then

onwards there was no looking back. His motto was "coming together, sharing together, working together



and succeeding together". He was extremely hardworking and resolute. He would always say that goals and action must meet.

He was most loved as he always supported the good moves initiated by others but never publicized his support before others.

His pleasant disposition always attracted people to flock to him.

Life Sketch

He would always attribute his success to his wife for the immense support. He got married in May 1974 to Praseetha daughter of Janaki and Kunnikannan who was an advocate clerk. They have two children, son Yogesh and daughter Nimisha. Yogesh, a mechanical engineer having his own business unit, married Shilpa a home maker. They are now proud parents of Nikasha studying in std III and son Eshan who is one year old. Nimisha an MBA and now a home maker married Vinod, also a mechanical engineer, is working in an Australian based firm in Dubai. They have a two and a half year old son Reyansh.

Shivadas recently passed away due to sudden illness. Kerala In Mumbai expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

ജീവനം തേടി മുറുനാട്ടിലേക്ക്

[മുംബൈയിലെ പ്രമുഖ നാടകപ്രവർത്തകനായ ശ്രീ വി വി അച്യുതന്റെ ജീവിതസ്മരണകൾ വിപരീതദിശ ലക്കം മുതൽ കേരള ഇൻ മുംബൈയിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം ആരംഭിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അരങ്ങിലെ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ വെളിച്ചം വീശാത്ത പല അനുഭവങ്ങളും അനുസ്മരണങ്ങളും ഇതിൽ വായനക്കാരുടെ പങ്ക് വെക്കുകയാണ് ശ്രീ അച്യുതൻ]



V V Achuthan

■ 1960 ഡിസംബർ 31. സമയം രാവിലെ 4 മണി. മരം കോച്ചുന്ന തണുപ്പ്. ഭോപാൽ റയിൽവെ സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ വണ്ടിയിൽ നിന്നിറങ്ങുമ്പോൾ

ഓറ്റുമ്പോൾ ശ്മശാനശൂന്യത. എന്നെക്കൂടാതെ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ പേർമാത്രം അവിടെ ഇറങ്ങി.

കമ്പിളി പുതച്ച് മുഖം മാത്രം കാണിച്ച് ഒന്നു രണ്ടുപേർ യാത്രക്കാരുടെ ലഗേജ് എടുക്കാൻ കാത്തുനില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇറങ്ങിയ ആൾക്കാരെ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ അവരുടെ മുഖത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ആശ നിരാശയ്ക്കു വഴി മാറി. എന്റെ കയ്യിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ചെറിയ ഇരുമ്പ് പെട്ടി തൂക്കി, അവരുടെ അന്വേഷണത്തിന് മറുപടി പറയാതെ ഞാൻ മുന്നോട്ട് നടന്നു. സ്റ്റേഷൻ മാസ്റ്ററുടെ കേബിനിൽ ചെന്നു മുട്ടി.

അമ്പതു വയസ്സിനുമേൽ പ്രായം തോന്നിക്കുന്ന, ഒറ്റ നോട്ടത്തിൽ ബഹുമാനം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന, വെളുത്ത നീണ്ട ശരീരപ്രകൃതിയുള്ള ആ മനുഷ്യൻ അകത്തേക്കു വരാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. എന്താണ് കാര്യമെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം അന്വേഷിച്ചു. ഭോപാലിലെ ഭാരത് ഹെവി ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽസിൽ ജോലിക്ക് ചേരാൻ വന്ന ഒരു കേരളീയനാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. അപരിചിതമായ സ്ഥലത്ത് അസമയത്ത് അവിടെ എത്തിച്ചേരാൻ എന്താണ് മാർഗ്ഗം?

അദ്ദേഹം എന്റെ മുഖത്ത് സൂക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കി. എന്റെ നിസ്സഹായനില കണ്ടിട്ടാകണം, അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു: ഒരു കാര്യം ചെയ്യുക. അപ്പുറത്തെ വെയിറ്റിങ് റൂമിൽ വിശ്രമിച്ച് രാവിലെ ഏഴുമണിക്ക് എന്നെ വന്നു കാണുക.



Bhopal Railway Station



V V Achuthan @ 22

വെയിറ്റിങ് റൂമിൽ രണ്ടു പട്ടികൾ സുഖനിദ്രയിൽ. ഒഴിഞ്ഞുകിടക്കുന്ന രണ്ടു ബെഞ്ചുകൾ. എന്റെ കാലടിശബ്ദം കേട്ടാകണം, സുഖനിദ്രയ്ക്ക് വിഘ്നം വന്ന ഭേഷ്യത്തിൽ, ഉറക്കെ കുറച്ചുകൊണ്ട് പട്ടികൾ പുറത്തേക്ക് ഓടി. ഒഴിഞ്ഞ ബെഞ്ചിൽ പെട്ടിവെച്ച് അതിന്മേൽ തലയും വെച്ചു ഞാൻ കിടന്നു. ഉറക്കം വന്നില്ല.

ഏഴു മണിക്കൂറതന്നെ സ്റ്റേഷൻ മാസ്റ്ററെ ചെന്നുകണ്ടു. അദ്ദേഹം എന്നെയുംകൂടി മെയിൻഗെയ്റ്റി

ലൂടെ പുറത്തു കടന്നു. അരണ്ടുമൂന്നു കുതിരവണ്ടികൾ കാത്തുകിടപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. വണ്ടിക്കാരനോട് അദ്ദേഹം ഹിന്ദിയിൽ സംസാരിച്ച് മടക്കുന്നോട് പറഞ്ഞു: ഇവൻ കമ്പനിഗെയ്റ്റിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്ന അഞ്ചു രൂപ കൊടുത്താൽ ഞാൻ കുതിരവണ്ടിയിൽ യാത്ര തുടങ്ങുമ്പോഴും മഞ്ഞ് വീണുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

ഭാരത് ഹെവി ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽസിന്

വീതി കുറഞ്ഞ ചെങ്കൽ കുതിരയുടെ കുളമ്പടി ശബ്ദമാത്രം കേൾക്കാം. അരമണിക്കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾ BHEL-വിശാലമായ ഗെയ്റ്റിനു എത്തിച്ചേർന്നു.

ഗെയ്റ്റ് അകത്തുനിന്ന് തുറക്കുകയാണ്. ഒരു വാച്ച് കേബിനിൽ മുടിപ്പുതച്ച് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞാൻ ഗെയ്റ്റ് ശബ്ദമുണ്ടാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അന്നേറ്റ് വന്നു. BHEL-ൽ ജോലി വന്നതാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞ്



BHEL Plant

യുടെ കത്ത് കാണിച്ചപ്പോൾ അകത്തേക്ക് കയറ്റി. “നിങ്ങൾ മലയാളിയാണോ?” അയാളുടെ ചോദ്യം. അതെയെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രതികരിച്ചു.

“ഇന്ന് ഒഴിവുദിവസമാണ്,” അയാൾ തുടർന്നു. “നിങ്ങൾ ഒരു കാര്യം ചെയ്യുക. ഹോസ്റ്റൽ നമ്പർ അഞ്ചിൽച്ചെന്ന് വാർഡൻ ജോയ് മുഖർജിയെ കാണുക.” എത്തിച്ചേരാനുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും നൽകി.

അപ്പോഴും മഞ്ഞുവീഴ്ച നിലച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും പ്രഭാതസൂര്യന്റെ തങ്കരശ്മികൾ തെളിഞ്ഞുവന്നിരുന്നു. ചുറ്റും ഒട്ടേറെ കോൺക്രീറ്റ് കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ. വീതിയുള്ള നീണ്ട പാതകൾ. അല്പസമയത്തിനുള്ളിൽ ഞാൻ നിർദ്ദിഷ്ടസ്ഥലത്തെത്തി. കോളിംങ്ബെല്ലിന്റെ ശബ്ദം കേട്ടപ്പോൾ വാതിൽ തുറന്ന് ഏകദേശം നാല്പത്തഞ്ചു മതിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾ പുറത്തു വന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗ സംബന്ധമായ കത്ത് കൊടുത്തപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം അകത്തേക്ക് വിളിച്ചു. കത്ത് വിസ്തരിച്ച് വായിച്ച് എന്നെ അടുത്തുള്ള ഒരു മുറിയിലേക്ക് കൂട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോയി.

ഏഴാംനമ്പർ മുറിക്കകത്തു കടന്നപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ അക്ഷരാർത്ഥത്തിൽ അത്ഭുതപ്പെട്ടുപോയി. കണ്ണൂർ ഐ ടി ഐയിൽ എന്റെ സഹപാഠികളായിരുന്ന ഭാസ്കരൻ, രാഘവൻ, നാരായണൻ, ശിവദാസൻ എന്നിവർ എന്നെ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ചാടി എഴുന്നേറ്റ് സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്തു. ഇതു കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ജോയ് മുഖർജിക്ക് സന്തോഷമായി. എനിക്ക് ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ കാണിച്ചു തന്നശേഷം അദ്ദേഹം മടങ്ങിപ്പോയി.

സാമാന്യം വലിയ ആ മുറിയിൽ അഞ്ചുപേർക്കായി അഞ്ചു കട്ടിലുകൾ, അഞ്ചു മേശകൾ, അഞ്ചു കസേരകൾ, അഞ്ചുസ്റ്റിൽ അലമാരി

കൾ എന്നിവ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. വന്നുചേരാൻ ഞാൻ വൈകിയതെന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഭാസ്കരന് അറിയേണ്ടത്. ഭീലായിലേക്ക് പുറപ്പെടുന്നതിനുമുമ്പ് അച്ഛന്റെ അച്ഛനെ കണ്ടിരുന്നതായും അവൻ കോയമ്പത്തൂർക്ക് പോയതായി പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നതായും രാഘവൻ ഓർത്തെടുത്തു. കൂളി കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷം സംസാരിക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞ് ഞാൻ കൂളിക്കാൻ പോയി.

പ്രാതൽ കഴിച്ചു വന്നശേഷം അവിടത്തെ വിശേഷങ്ങൾ അവർ വിവരിച്ചുതന്നു. ഒരു മാസമായി അവർ വന്നു ചേർന്നിട്ട് പരിശീലനസമയം രാവിലെ 8.30 മുതൽ വൈകീട്ട് അഞ്ച് വരെ. മാസത്തിൽ 50 ക. സ്റ്റൈപ്പന്റ് ലഭിക്കും. താമസച്ചിലവും ഭക്ഷണവും സൗജന്യമാണ്.

പിറ്റേദിവസം പരിശീലനത്തിന് ചേർന്നു. വിശാലമായ ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ ഒരു എഞ്ചിനീയറിംഗ് ജോലിക്കാരന് വേണ്ടതായ എല്ലാവിധ സാധനസാമഗ്രികളും ലഭ്യമായിരുന്നു. നൂറുകണക്കിന് മെഷീനറികൾ, ലെയ്ത്ത്, മില്ലിങ്മെഷീൻ, ഡ്രില്ലിങ്ങ്, ഷെയ്പ്പിങ്ങ്, ഹാക്സോ എല്ലാം നിരവധി. ആഴ്ചയിൽ അഞ്ചുദിവസം പരിശീലനം, അതിൽ രണ്ടു ദിവസം രണ്ടു മണിക്കൂർ തിയറിയാണ് പഠിപ്പിക്കുക. ഒരു പുതിയ ലോകത്ത് എത്തിപ്പെട്ട പ്രതീതി. അഞ്ചു മാസങ്ങൾ കടന്നു പോയതിണി.

കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റിന് ജോലിയില്ല

1966 ജൂൺ 22-ന് എന്നെ ഓഫീസിൽ വിളിപ്പിച്ചു. അകത്തേക്ക് വിളിച്ചപ്പോൾ പതിവു സൗഹൃദം കാണാനായില്ല. സുപ്രവൈസർ ഒരു പേപ്പർ തന്ന്

ഒപ്പിട്ട് തിരിച്ചു നൽകാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. ഞാൻ അതിൽ കണ്ണോടിച്ചു. “യുവർ ട്രെയിനിംഗ് ഇൻ BHEL ഇന്ത്യൻ ടെർമിനേറ്റഡ് വിത്ത് ഇമ്മീഡിയറ്റ് ഇഫക്റ്റ്.”

“ഐ വോസ് എക്സ്പെരിയൻസ് ഇറ്റ്” ഒരു പരിഭ്രാന്തിയും കാണിക്കാതെ ഞാൻ ഒപ്പിട്ടു കൊടുത്തു. എന്റെ ശാന്തത അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് വിശ്വസിക്കാനായില്ല.

ഹോസ്റ്റലിൽ മടങ്ങിയെത്തി കട്ടിലിൽ മലർന്നു കിടന്നു. മനസ്സിൽനിന്ന് എല്ലാ ചിന്തകളും ഒഴിഞ്ഞുപോലെ. ഒരു അഗാധഗർഭതത്തിലേക്ക് താഴ്ന്നുപോകുന്നപോലെ. കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റിന് ജോലി ചെയ്യാൻ അവകാശമില്ലേ? ജീവിക്കാൻ അർഹതയില്ലേ? ഞാനെന്നോടുതന്നെ പോലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു.



A K Gopalan



Azhikodan Raghavan

മൂന്നുമാസങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് വന്ന കത്തിൽ അച്ഛനെഴുതിയ വരികൾ കൺമുമ്പിൽ തെളിഞ്ഞുവന്നു. “നിന്നെ കുറിച്ച് അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ ഒരു പോലീസ്കാരൻ രാമനളിയിൽ വന്നിരുന്നു. വിവരം അറിഞ്ഞ് ഞാൻ അയാളെ ചെന്നു കണ്ടു. നിന്നെ കുറിച്ച് നല്ല റിപ്പോർട്ടു മാത്രമെ നൽകാവൂ എന്ന് അദ്ദേർ രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് പണവും കൊടുത്തു.

അയാൾ വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യാമെന്നു ഏൽക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. കുറച്ചു ദിവസങ്ങൾക്കുശേഷം ഒരു സി ഐ ഡി നമ്മുടെ ഐ എൻ എ ക്ലബ്ബിനെ കാണാൻ വന്നിരുന്നു. നീയൊരു കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് ആണെന്നു ക്ലബ്ബിൻ അയാളോട് പറഞ്ഞതായി അമ്പമണി എന്നോട് വന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. ഇനി എന്താണ് സംഭവിക്കുക? ”

ഞാനൊരു കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് ആണെന്ന റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ എന്നെ പിരിച്ചു വിടുകയായിരുന്നു. ഒരു കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് എന്ന നിലയിൽ ഇന്ത്യൻ ഭരണഘടന അനുശാസിക്കുന്ന സമത്വവും അഭിപ്രായ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും വ്യക്തിസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും എനിക്ക് നിഷേധിക്കപ്പെടുകയായിരുന്നു.

അഞ്ചുമാസവും ഇരുപത് ദിവസവും മാത്രമാണ് ഞാൻ BHEL-ൽ ജോലി ചെയ്തതെങ്കിലും ഈ ചുരുങ്ങിയ കാലഘട്ടത്തിനിടയിൽ സഹപ്രവർത്തകരായ ഒട്ടേറെ മലയാളികളുമായി എനിക്ക് വളരെ അടുത്ത സൗഹൃദം സ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഗോപിനാഥ് (BHEL എംപ്ലോയീസ് യൂനിയൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്), പരമൻ (മലയാളി അസോസിയേഷൻ സിക്രട്ടറിയും BHEL ഫുട്ട്ബോൾ ക്ലബ്ബിനും), രാമനളിക്ക് സമീപമുള്ള പയ്യന്നൂരിലെ കെ ഇ കെ പത്മനാഭൻ, രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, സത്യൻ എന്നിങ്ങനെ ഒട്ടേറെ വ്യക്തികൾ.

എന്നെ പിരിച്ചുവിട്ട വിവരം അറിഞ്ഞ് പിറ്റേദിവസം രാവിലെ കുറെ സുഹൃത്തുക്കൾ താമസസ്ഥലത്തു വന്നു. ഗോപിനാഥും പരമനും സത്യനും കൂടാതെ അനന്തപത്മനാഭൻ, രാമചന്ദ്രൻ തുടങ്ങിയവരും അവർക്കിടയിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഗൗരവപൂർവ്വമായ ചർച്ചകൾ നടന്നു. രണ്ടുമൂന്നു വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ അഞ്ചാറു മലയാളികൾക്ക് ഈ അനുഭവം ഉണ്ടായതാണെന്നും ഇതിനിയും ആവർത്തിക്കപ്പെടാൻ അനുവദിക്കാനാവില്ലെന്നും എല്ലാവരും പറഞ്ഞു. ഈ അനീതിക്ക് എതിരായി നിയമപരമായിത്തന്നെ പോരാടണമെന്നും അതിനായി വിദഗ്ദ്ധനായ അഭിഭാഷകനെ സമീപിക്കണമെന്നും ഗോപിനാഥ് പറഞ്ഞു.

അനന്തപത്മനാഭന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ഇൻഡോറിലുള്ള സുപ്രീം കോടതി അഭിഭാഷകനും കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് അനുഭാവിയുമായ ഹോമി ദാജിയെ കണ്ട് നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ആരായുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കും. അനന്തപത്മനാഭന്റെ കൂടെ ഞാനും പോകണമെന്ന് തീരുമാനമായി.

ചർച്ചകൾക്കുശേഷമാണ് അഹിയുന്നത്, കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് നേതാവും എം പി യുമായ സഖാവ് ഏ കെ ഗോപാലൻ ഭോപാലിലെ സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഗസ്റ്റ് ഹൗസിൽ ഉണ്ടേന്ന്. പ്രഭാതമായതും അനന്തപത്മനാഭനും ഞാനും ഗസ്റ്റ് ഹൗസിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം ഞങ്ങളെ അകത്തേക്ക് വിളിച്ചു. കുറച്ചുനേരം എന്റെ മുഖത്തേക്ക് സൂക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കിയശേഷം അദ്ദേഹം എന്നോട് ചോദിച്ചു, “നിന്നെ എവിടെയോ വെച്ചു കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. എവിടെ വെച്ചാണ്? ”

“കണ്ണൂർ പാർട്ടി ഓഫീസിൽ വെച്ച്. സഖാവ് അഴീക്കോടൻ രാഘവന്റെ കൂടെ പാർട്ടി ഓഫീസിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിരുന്നു,” ഞാൻ വിനയപൂർവ്വം മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു.

“ഇപ്പോൾ എന്തിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് എന്നെ കാണാൻ വന്നത്?”

ഞാൻ കാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം വിവരിച്ചു. എല്ലാം കേട്ട് അദ്ദേഹം കുറച്ചുനേരം മൗനിയായി ഇരുന്നു. പിന്നീട് അദ്ദേഹം പറയാൻ തുടങ്ങി. “കേരളത്തിൽനിന്ന് ഇതുപോലെ ജോലി നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട പലരും എന്നെ വന്നു കണ്ടിരുന്നു. ഈ പ്രശ്നം പല തവണ ഞാൻ പാർലമെന്റിൽ ഉന്നയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഒരു ഫലവും ഉണ്ടായില്ല. കേരളത്തിലേയും ബങ്കാളിലേയും ഉദ്യോഗാർത്ഥികളെയാണ് ഈ പോലീസ് വെരിഫിക്കേഷൻ നടത്തി പിരിച്ചു വിടുന്നത്. ഇതിനൊരു ശാശ്വത പരിഹാരം അടുത്തുണ്ടാവുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഏതായാലും നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രശ്നം ഞാൻ അടുത്ത പാർലമെന്റിൽ ഉന്നയിക്കാം. ”

ഞങ്ങൾ ഏകെജിയോട് യാത്ര പറഞ്ഞു. അടുത്ത ദിവസം ഞാനും അനന്തപത്മനാഭനുംകൂടി ഇൻഡോറിലെത്തി ഹോമി ദാജിയെ കണ്ടു.

മറ്റു പല കമ്പനികളേയും പോലെ, BHEL -ലും ജോലിക്കു ചേരുന്നതിനുമുമ്പ് ഒരു ഉടമ്പടിയിൽ ഒപ്പിട്ട് കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി



Barrister Homi Daji

ട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാനവാചകം ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്: “ഒസസ് ഓഫ് എനി എംപ്ലോയേ കേംബി ടെർമിനേറ്റഡ് വിസിക്സ് മത്സ് ഓഫ് ഒ അമെന്റ് വിത്തൗട്ട് അസൈനിയെ എനി റീസൻ.” അത് വായിച്ചശേഷം ഹോമി ദാജി ചോദിച്ചു “BHEL -ൽ ചേർന്നിട്ട് എത്ര കാലമായി?”

“അഞ്ചു മാസവും ഇരുപത് ദിവസവും.”

അല്ലനേരം ആലോചിച്ചു ഇന്നിട്ട് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു, “ഇ കേസ് ജയിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമ് കേസ് ഫയൽ ചെയ്താൽത്തന്നെയും വിധി വരുമ്പോഴേക്കു വർഷങ്ങൾ കഴിയും.”

ആലോചിച്ചപ്പോൾ കേസ് കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് എനിക്കെങ്കിലും പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടാകുമെന്ന് തോന്നിയില്ല. നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞ് മടങ്ങി.

കാര്യങ്ങളുടെ കിടപ്പറിയാതെ എല്ലാ സുഹൃത്തുക്കളും ഒത്തു നിന്നു. ചുടുപിടിച്ച നീണ്ട ചർച്ചയുനിയൻ നേതാവായ ടി

യുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ജോലിപ്പെങ്കിലും ഞാൻ ഭോപാലിൽ തുടരണം. യുനിയൻ പ്രവർത്തനം ചെയ്യാം. ആയിരത്തിൽപരം പേർക്കുണ്ട് BHEL ൽ. കൂടുതൽ അംഗങ്ങളും കേരളത്തിൽനിന്നു തമിഴ്നാട്ടിൽ നിന്നുമാണ്. യുനിയൻ ഓഫീസിൽ താമസിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടാകയില്ല.

കുറെപേർ ഗോപിയുടെ മുമ്പേയത്തോട് യോജിച്ചു. ചിലർ ഇതിനെതിരായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ എനിക്ക് യോജിപ്പോട് യോജിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നില്ലേക്ക് മടങ്ങണം, ഞാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു. ഞാൻ തീരുമാനം അറിയിച്ചപ്പോൾ കുറച്ചുനേരം

ആരുമൊന്നും മിണ്ടിയില്ല. പിന്നീട് ഓരോരുത്തരായി യാത്ര പറയാൻ തുടങ്ങി.

പരമൻ ചോദിച്ചു, എപ്പോഴാണ് പുറപ്പെടുന്നത്? കഴിയുന്നത്ര വേഗത്തിൽ, പറ്റിയാൽ രണ്ടു ദിവസങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ.

പിറ്റേദിവസം കൂട്ടുകാർ ജോലിക്ക് പോയപ്പോൾ മുറിയിൽ ഞാൻ തനിച്ചായി. എന്റെ മനസ്സ് തികച്ചും അസ്വസ്ഥമായിരുന്നു. ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ വഴികളെല്ലാം അടഞ്ഞ പോലെ. ബാല്യകാലത്തിലെ കയ്പു നിറഞ്ഞ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ കൺമുമ്പിൽ തെളിഞ്ഞു. കട്ടിലിൽ മലർന്നു കിടന്നു.

വൈകീട്ട് കൂട്ടുകാർ വന്നപ്പോഴും ഞാൻ അതേ കിടപ്പായിരുന്നു. എന്നെ ഉത്സാഹം പിടിപ്പിക്കാൻ അവർ പലതും പറഞ്ഞു. പക്ഷെ അതൊന്നും എന്നിൽ ഏഴിയില്ല.

ആറുമണിക്ക് പരമനും ഗോപിയുമെത്തി. പിറ്റേദിവസം രാവിലെ 3 മണിക്കു പുറപ്പെടുന്ന എക്സ് പ്രസ്സിന് ടിക്കറ്റ് ബുക്ക് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് അറിയിച്ചു. കുറച്ചു



Farewell from BHEL. Achuthan sitting at centre

കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോഴേക്കും വിവരമറിഞ്ഞ് കൂട്ടുകാർ ഓരോരുത്തരായി വന്നു ചേർന്നു. അധികമൊന്നും ആർക്കും പറയാനില്ല. മനസ്സിന് ഭാരംകൂടിയപോലെ. അനന്തപത്മനാഭൻ ഏല്പിച്ച ഫോട്ടോഗ്രാഫറും എത്തി, ഗ്രൂപ്പ്ഫോട്ടോ എടുക്കാൻ. രാത്രി ചെറിയൊരു യാത്രയയപ്പു വാർട്ടി. ചിലർ ശോകഗാനങ്ങൾ

പാടി.

എല്ലാവരുംകൂടെ ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്ത ബസ്സിൽ കയറി രാവിലെ രണ്ടു മണിക്ക് റെയിൽവെ സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ എത്തി. വണ്ടി വിടുമ്പോൾ അവർ കൈവീശി യാത്ര പറഞ്ഞു. കാഴ്ചയിൽ നിന്നു മറയുന്നതുവരെ ഞാൻ വാതിൽക്കൽ അവരെ നോക്കിനിന്നു. ■

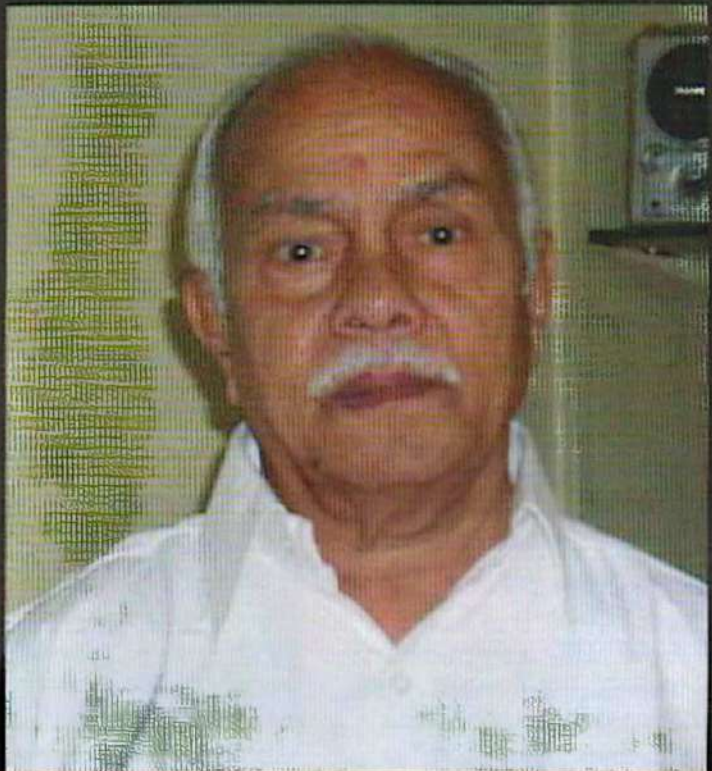
M P Sukumaran passed away

M P Sukumaran, a resident of LIC Colony of Borivli West for the last fifty years, expired on June 23.

He and his wife Komalam hailed from Ottapalam, Palakkad district. He was associated with many Malayali organisations. He was Secretary of Sri Ayyappa Seva Samiti, Borivli (W). Sukumaran was employed with a private company and his wife a home maker.

Sukumaran is survived by his wife Komalam, engineer son Keshavadas (Abu Dhabi) and daughter Divya (Mumbai).

Kerala In Mumbai expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

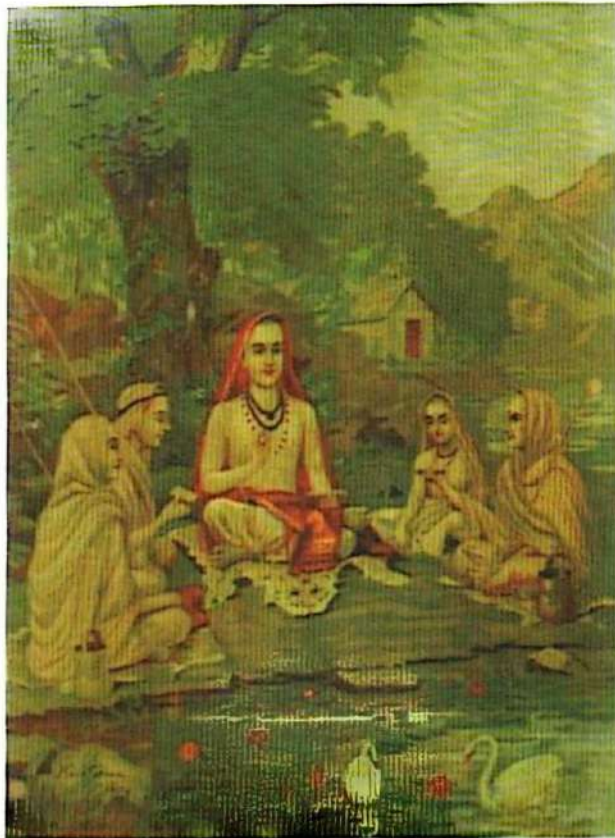




മന്ദാകിനി നമ്പൂതിരി

എന്റെ ഭിരൂഘകാലാഭിലാഷമായിരുന്നു കാലടിയിലുള്ള ആദിശങ്കരന്റെ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിലേക്കൊരു തീർത്ഥയാത്ര. ഇപ്രാവശ്യം നാട്ടിലേക്ക് പോയപ്പോൾ ആ അഭിലാഷം സാധ്യമായി എന്ന് സന്തോഷപൂർവ്വം പറയട്ടെ. കാലത്ത് ഒരു ടാക്സിയിൽ മരുമകന്റെ പത്നി രമയും ഞാനും തൃശ്ശൂരിൽ നിന്ന് പുറപ്പെട്ടു. അവിടെയെത്താൻ ഒന്നര മണിക്കൂർ എടുത്തു. നേരെ കാപ്പിള്ളി മനയിൽ പോയി കൈകാൽ ശുദ്ധി വരുത്തി ക്ഷേത്രത്തിലേക്ക് യാത്രയായി. കാപ്പിള്ളിയിലെ രാമേശ്വർ മാർഗ്ഗദർശിയായി കൂടെ വന്നു.

രണ്ടു ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങളാണ് അവിടെയുള്ളത്, ശ്രീകൃഷ്ണന്റെയും ആദിശങ്കരന്റെയും. രണ്ടും പൂർണ്ണാനദിയുടെ തീരത്താണ്. രണ്ടും സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നത് തെക്കുഭാഗത്തുള്ള നദിയെ ദർശിക്കുന്ന രീതിയിലാണ്. ആദ്യസന്ദർശനം ആദിശങ്കരന്റെ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിലേക്കായിരുന്നു.



Original painting of Adi Sankara by Raja Ravi Varma

നൂ. ഇവിടെ പടിഞ്ഞാറു ഭാഗത്ത് ശങ്കരൻ, കിഴക്ക് സരസ്വതി, രണ്ടിനും മദ്ധ്യത്തിലായി ആര്യാംബയുടെ സമാധി. സമാധിമണ്ഡപം ആര്യാംബയെ ദഹിപ്പിച്ച സ്ഥലത്തുതന്നെ ആണെന്നു പറയപ്പെടുന്നു. ഭവനസമയത്ത് തെക്കേ മഠക്കാർ

സമർപ്പിച്ച കല്ലുവിളകളെല്ലാം വൈകുന്നേരങ്ങളിൽ കത്തി കുന്നു എട്ടാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ (7E 820 വരെ) ആണല്ലോ ജീവിതകാലം.

നൂറുവർഷംമുമ്പ് ശങ്കരമഠക്കാർ ശ്രീകൃഷ്ണത്തോടു ചേർന്ന ഭൂമി പണിതതാണ് വിസ്തൃത ഈ ആദിശങ്കരക്ഷേത്രം. ഞങ്ങൾ അവിടെ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ നൂറുവർഷം നടക്കുകയാണ്. രി മറാധിപതി ജഗത്ഭാരതീതീർത്ഥ ശിഷ്യരേ അതിരൂഢ യജ്ഞം, ശങ്കര മഹായജ്ഞം എന്നിവലവിധ പൂജകളും നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ചണ്ഡികായജ്ഞത്തിന് യേറിയ പട്ടുവസ്ത്രം സ്വർണ്ണാരണങ്ങളുമഹോമിക്കുന്നത്. എന്തെന്നിങ്ങനെ എന്നറിഞ്ഞുവടക്കുനിന്ന് കയറുന്ന ആദ്യം കാണുക സപ്തമാക്കളെയാണ്. മാഹേശ്വരി, കൗമാരി, വൈഷ്ണവി, വാരാഹം ഇന്ദ്രാണി, ചാമുണ്ഡി, ബ്രഹ്മ (സരസ്വതി) എന്നിവരാണ് സപ്തമാതൃക്കൾ. ബ്രഹ്മാർ

ശ്രീകോവിലിനു ചുറ്റും വൃത്തത്തിലാണ് മറ്റു മാതൃക്കളുടെ പ്രതിഷ്ഠകൾ. ബ്രാഹ്മിയുടെ വിഗ്രഹത്തിന് മറ്റുള്ളവയേക്കാൾ വലുപ്പമുണ്ട്. പഞ്ചലോഹനിർമ്മിതമാണ് ഇത്.

അവിടെനിന്ന് പുറത്തു വരുമ്പോൾ ആര്യംബയുടെ സമാധിമണ്ഡപം അടുത്തുതന്നെയാണ്. പ്രക്ഷിണം വച്ചുവരുമ്പോൾ ശക്തിഗണപതിയുടെ പ്രതിഷ്ഠയുള്ള ശ്രീകോവിലിൽ കാണാം. പത്നീസമേതനാണ് ഗണപതി. ഇവിടെ തൊഴുതു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചതെന്തും സഫലമാകുമെന്നാണ് വിശ്വാസം. അവിടെനിന്ന് മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുമ്പോൾ ശങ്കരാചാര്യരുടെ ശ്രീകോവിലിൽ. ഇവിടെയും പഞ്ചലോഹനിർമ്മിതവിഗ്രഹമാണ്. ഭാവി പ്രശോഭോകാൻ മനസ്സിലുത്തി പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചു. ഒരു നിമിഷം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഹൃദയം വിതത്തിലെ മഹാസംഭവങ്ങൾ ഓർമ്മ വന്നു.

ആര്യംബയുടെ ശരണംസ്കാരത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ഒരു കഥയുണ്ട്. കാലകിഗ്രാമത്തിൽ പത്തു നമ്പൂതിരി കുടുംബങ്ങളാണത്രെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നത്. അവരിൽ എട്ടു കുടുംബക്കാർ ശവസംസ്കാരത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ വിസമ്മതിച്ചു. സന്യാസിയുടെ അമ്മയാണ്, സന്യാസി സ്വർശിച്ച ശരീരമാണ് എന്നൊക്കെയാണ് കാരണം. പക്ഷെ മറ്റു രണ്ടു കുടുംബക്കാർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. അവരിൽ കാല് പിടിച്ചവരാണ് കാപ്പിള്ളിക്കാർ. തലഭാഗം പിടിച്ചവർ തലയാറ്റംപിള്ളിക്കാർ. ശ്രീകൃഷ്ണക്ഷേത്രത്തിന്റെ നടത്തിപ്പ് ഈ രണ്ടു കുടുംബക്കാർക്കുമാണ്. ശവസംസ്കാരത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും ഒരു കഥയുണ്ട്. വിറക് വെട്ടാൻ ആലില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ ശങ്കരാചാര്യർ വാഴവെട്ടി ചിതയൊരുക്കിയെന്നും യോഗശക്തികൊണ്ട് ചിതയ്ക്ക് തീ കൊളുത്തിയെന്നുമാണ് ആ കഥ.

ശങ്കരാചാര്യരെ മുതല പിടിച്ചതിനെ കുറിച്ചും ഒരു കഥയുണ്ട്. എട്ടുവയസ്സു കഴിഞ്ഞാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഉപനയനം. സന്യാസിക്കണമെന്നായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിലാഷം. പക്ഷെ അമ്മയ്ക്ക്



Adi Sankara Temple

സമ്മതമായിരുന്നില്ല. ഏകസന്താനം സന്യാസിച്ചാൽ തനിക്ക് വാർദ്ധക്യകാലത്ത് ആരാണ് തുണ എന്നായിരുന്നു അവർ വിചാരിച്ചത്. ആയിടക്ക് ഒരു ദിവസം അമ്മയും മകനുംകൂടെ പുഴയിൽ സ്നാനം ചെയ്യാൻ പോയി. അമ്മ കുളിച്ചു കയറിയപ്പോഴാണ് ശങ്കരന്റെ കാലിൽ ഒരു മുതല കടിച്ചു വലിച്ചത്. യെന്ന അമ്മയോട് തന്നെ സന്യാസിക്കാൻ അനുവദി



Temple from a distance

ച്ചാൽ മുതല വിട്ടേക്കുമെന്ന് ശങ്കരൻ പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ, അമ്മയ്ക്ക് സമ്മതി കേണ്ടതായി വന്നു. മുതല പിടിവിട്ടു പോകയും ചെയ്തു. പുഴയുടെ ഈ ഭാഗത്തിന് മുതലക്കടവ് എന്നാണ് പേര്.

ശങ്കരാചാര്യരെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള മറ്റൊരു കഥ അദ്ദേഹം അമ്മയുടെ സൗകര്യത്തിനായി പൂർണ്ണാനിയോഗത്തിൽ തിരിച്ച് സ്വന്തം ഇല്ലത്തിനടുത്തുകൂടി ഒഴുക്കി എന്നതാണ്.

അടുത്ത സന്ദർശനം ശ്രീകൃഷ്ണക്ഷേത്രത്തിലേക്കാണ്.

ആര്യംബയും ആദിശങ്കരനും പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചിരുന്ന ക്ഷേത്രമാണത്രെ ഇത്. അത് ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ ആയിരത്തിരുന്നൂറ്റ് വർഷത്തിലേറെ പഴക്കമുണ്ടാകണം ഇതിന്. കൗമാരപ്രായത്തിലുള്ള കൃഷ്ണനായിട്ടാണ് ഇവിടത്തെ പ്രതിഷ്ഠാസങ്കല്പം. അതുകണ്ടപ്പോൾ എന്റെ നാട്ടിലെ കൃഷ്ണക്ഷേത്രത്തിലെ വിഗ്രഹംപോലെ തോന്നി. അതേ രൂപം, അതേ വലുപ്പം. സാന്ദ്രമായ പ്രാർത്ഥനയ്ക്ക് അതു കാരണമായി.

തൊഴുതു പുറത്തു വരുമ്പോൾ ഒരിടത്ത് ശൃംഗേരിസ്വാമിയുടെ ശിഷ്യന്മാർ ആദിശങ്കരന്റെ ബിംബത്തിനു മുന്നിലിരുന്ന് വേദമന്ത്രങ്ങൾ ഉരുവിടുന്നത് കണ്ടു. പക്ഷെ മഠാധിപതി വേറൊരു ദിക്കിലേക്ക് പോയതുകാരണം കാണാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല.

ഹിന്ദുമതത്തിന്റെയും അതുവഴി ഭാരതത്തിന്റെയും ഉന്നമനത്തിനു വേണ്ടിയായിരുന്നുവല്ലോ ശ്രീശങ്കരന്റെ പരിശ്രമം മുഴുവൻ. ഇന്ത്യയുടെ നാലുഭാഗത്തും, (കിഴക്ക് പൂരി, പടിഞ്ഞാറ് ഭാഗരുക, വടക്ക് കേദാരനാഥം, തെക്ക് ശൃംഗേരി) അദ്ദേഹം മഠങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുകയുണ്ടായല്ലോ. നാട്ടിന്റെ ഉദ്ഗ്രഥനവും ഉന്നമനവും ആയിരുന്നു ഈ മഠങ്ങൾക്കു പിന്നിലെ ചിന്താഗതി.

ശങ്കരാചാര്യരുടെ സമാധിയെക്കുറിച്ചും സർവ്വജ്ഞപീഠം കയറിയതിനെക്കുറിച്ചും പല വാദഗതികളുമുണ്ട്. സർവ്വജ്ഞപീഠം കയറിയത് കശ്മീർ ശ്രീനഗറിലാണെന്ന് ഒരു വാദമുണ്ട് (അവിടത്തെ കുന്നിൽത്താൻ കയറിയിട്ടുണ്ട്).

മുകാംബികയിലാണെന്നാണ് മറുവാദം. അതുപോലെ സമാധിയായത് കേദാരത്തിലാണെന്നും, അതല്ല, കാഞ്ചിയിലാണെന്നും വാദങ്ങളുണ്ട്. തൃശ്ശൂർ വടക്കുംനാഥൻ ക്ഷേത്രപരിസരത്താണെന്നും വാദഗതിയുണ്ട്.

ക്ഷേത്രദർശനം കഴിഞ്ഞ് കാപ്പിള്ളിയിൽ പോയി പ്രാതൽ കഴിച്ചശേഷം തൃശ്ശൂർക്ക് മടങ്ങുമ്പോൾ മനസ്സിൽ ശാന്തിയും സന്തോഷവും നിറഞ്ഞു നിന്നിരുന്നു. ■



Lord Sri Krishna Temple

Spice of Life



Gerard Joseph

If I were to zero in on a single herb which works on almost every part of the body, this would be it.

The word 'turmeric' (curcuma longa) comes from the Latin word terra merrita which means 'merit-worthy earth', possibly because of the bright pigment colour of brown turmeric. It is also known as Indian saffron in France (Safran de' Ind). It is grown in South India, China and other parts of Southeast Asia.

A multi-faceted herb, it is used as a condiment, healing remedy (sometimes, even in life-threatening ailments) and textile dye, and for spiritual activities in all the above-mentioned regions. Perhaps, its purifying nature is the reason behind using it for pooja and decorating deities. In many parts of India, turmeric paste is applied before bathing prior to Diwali festival. And, of course, there is no wedding without the 'haldi-kumkum' ceremony for the bride.

Ayurveda and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) have recognised and used turmeric for many ailments, and used it for its antibiotic, antiseptic and blood-purifying properties. In China, it is even used to treat depression.

It is only since the past hundred years or so that turmeric gained reputation for its therapeutic propensities. Turmeric is the most thoroughly researched herb. One reason for this could be that there is no other herb equivalent to it, whereas every other herb found in Ayurveda or TCM has a herb in the West with similar properties. Its chief active ingredients are curcuminoids. Curcumin has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, and is effective in treating jaundice, dyslexia, menstrual problems, toothache, joint pains and, even, rheumatoid arthritis because of its antioxidant effect. Curcumin also has the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier and prevent Alzheimer's disease and protect one from other neuro-degenerative diseases. It can also enhance

liver function, arrest tumour growth and accelerate wound healing.

Turmeric is also proven to prevent cancer and stop cancer cell proliferation. Cancer of the colon and prostate gland can be averted with turmeric. A meat-centric diet can cause cancer of the colon. This can be avoided if turmeric is used liberally in the food, along with a judicious intake of meat products. Curcumin is fat-soluble, so it is best added to the oil during sautéing for better efficacy. Always procure turmeric from a good source, preferably organic. Adulterated turmeric powder can be carcinogenic. When turmeric is added to curries, it has a purifying effect, besides adding flavour, and can prevent it from turning stale. It also prevents pickles from getting rancid.



Many modern research studies show that turmeric can replace conventional drugs to treat various ailments. Aspirin, or Ibuprofen, which has pain-killing and anti-inflammatory properties, can be replaced with turmeric in a safer way. A study conducted in 2008 in the Drugs in R&D journal shows that curcumin can prevent oxidative stress in Type-2 (non-insulin-dependent) diabetes. Another study released in 2009 by Biochemical and Biophysical Communication concurred that curcumin is very effective in treating diabetes and found it to be 500-100,000 times more potent than metformin, a diabetes medication. A 1999 study showed that curcumin can treat uvertis, an

inflammatory eye disorder, in a manner similar to steroids, but much safer without any ill effects.

Turmeric has anti-amoebic properties and can replace antibiotics like amoxicillin and sulpha drugs used as adjuvants to treat diarrhoea without any damaging effect on the intestinal flora. Turmeric also works as an anti-viral agent against HIV virus. Fresh rhizomes help in treating intestinal worms and parasites. Application of turmeric paste mixed in water or cow's urine can cure skin diseases caused by impure blood, including eczema. Juice of the fresh root can be applied on leech bites and other wounds for quick healing.

A word of caution: pregnant women and others with obstructive jaundice, gall stones or toxic liver conditions are advised to consult an Ayurvedic practitioner before resorting to turmeric as a healing remedy. Turmeric is best taken with meals; or else, it can cause irritation.

Turmeric is also an essential ingredient in traditional, natural beauty treatments. Ubtan, a beauty pack for the body can be made by adding a tablespoon of turmeric to a cup of chickpea flour (besan) preferably, all organic two tablespoons of coconut oil and warm water to make into a paste. This can be applied on the body, in a direction away from the heart. It can be applied on the face also. After it dries, it has to be scrubbed off in the reverse direction and the body washed with warm water. This treatment enhances the complexion, softens the skin and gives a unique radiance.

It is not a wonder that turmeric was often considered as a substitute for gold and saffron in vedic rites and tantric rituals. It's about time we offered our salutation to this great herb.

The author is the founder of kalpavriksh, and is an Ayurveda and Panchakarma consultant and a freelance writer on health, nutrition and Ayurveda.



Inauguration of Mass marriage in Mulund

Mass marriage organized

■ Nair Welfare Society, Mulund and Pithruvedi under Kalyan Roopatha joined hands in organizing a mass marriage mela for 32 young couples of economically weaker section. The mela was organized in Maharashtra Seva Sangh Hall in Mulund West on June 22. The couples belonged to different religions and followed the rituals according to their religions. 28 couples were followers of Buddhism and the remaining were Hindus and Muslims. The organisers provided them wedding clothes, mangal sutra and the priests. There was a sumptuous feast also. This type of events would follow in the coming years also, according to the organisers.



Marriage in progress. Below: Balachandra Menon of Nair Welfare Society, Mulund addressing the gathering



Need to revise Malayalam Mission

■ In a memorandum submitted by Mumbai Malayali Samyukta Samara Samiti to the Kerala government, it demanded revision in the action plan for Malayalam Mission so as to bring about distinctive direction for its action. The memorandum was submitted to Thalekkunnil Basheer, director of Malayalam Mission. The Samiti demanded at least travel expenses to the teachers who volunteered to teach the children without expecting remuneration. The State government should initiate necessary action in this aspect immediately. The memorandum also demanded inclusion of the President of Mumbai Malayalam Mission, a minimum remuneration of Rs 1000 per month for each teaching centres, elimination of short comings in the evaluation system, study tour to Kerala at state expense for all students who score high marks in



Thalekkunnil Basheer, director of Malayalam Mission handing over the certifi

Kanikkonna examination and orientation classes for all teachers every year. The Samiti has plans to visit Kerala to meet Chief Minister, minister for cultural affairs and Malayalam Mission director to press

for these demands. The Samiti chairman Jayapra Wilson Moorkoth, K Pavithra Menon and N Balakrishnan among the group that called Basheer to submit the memc



A section of the audience



Adv Prema Menon addressing the gathering

Funds for Malayalam Mission enhanced

■ Malayalam Mission director Thalakkunnil Basheer said that the state government has enhanced the funds for Malayalam Mission to Rs.80 lakh. Last year it was only Rs.25 lakh. He was addressing after distribution of Kanikkonna certificates. Mumbai was in the forefront in spreading the message of the Mission far and wide by the lively participation of the children. There are more children participating also.

This year onwards the learning centres will receive Rs.1000 to meet its expenses. Moreover the teachers will also receive appreciation certificates. Chairman of Mumbai Malayalam Mission novelist Balakrishnan presided. Malayalam Mission registrar K Sudhakaran presented the report. The zone co-ordinators and teachers of zones received the certificates of their students. Out of

2082 students, 2078 students secured the examination. While 1141 secured A grade, 832 got B grade and 105 C grade. Chief Academic co-Ordinator Sagar welcomed the audience. Science writer Dr P V N Nair, Development Officer Janardhan and Rajalakshmi Haridas spoke on the occasion. Adv Prema Menon proposed a vote of thanks.

Sree Narayana Guru College joins big league

■ Like the IITs and NITs, Sree Narayana Guru College, Chembur started setting up campus interviews for their students and 73 of them have already collected their letters of appointment. Mahindra Finance, HDFC, Kotek Mahindra, TMI Group etc were among the 11 companies who set up their interview boards. All the selected 73 candidates received their letters of offer. Dr S Parameswaran, director of TISS, was the chief guest in the meet held at the college premises. IT Incubation Centre, Data analysis, career advance programme, knowledge cell are on the anvil, according to Dr Parameswaran. Mandira Samiti Chairman Dr M I Damodaran in his address remarked that a good response for the National University Students Skill Development Programme, started last November with the active support of TISS, was evoked from the students and their parents. The



campus interview is the result of that cooperation, he said. The significance of this programme is that a student would receive an advance diploma from the TISS at the end of the three year degree

course besides the degree certificate. Further, internship with reputed companies is also arranged for the benefit of the students without any expense for the students, he explained.

New idols consecrated at Ayyappa Temple in Bangur Nagar

■ Consecration of idols of Kiratha Shiva and Naga devata was solemnised by Sabarimala Tantri Kantararu Maheshwararu, in the Ayyappa Temple premises of Bangur Nagar on 29th June.

Shree Ayyappa Temple of Bangur Nagar a prominent Ayyappa Temple in Mumbai and it has Lord Ayyappan and Lord Guruvayoorappan as its Main deities and with Upaprathishtas of Ganapathy, Durga Devi, Subramanian and Nava grahas.

During the four day Kiratha Shiva and Naga Prathista Day Celebrations



which commenced from 26th to 29th June, 2014 the temple held full day religious programmes followed with Cultural programmes in the evenings.

The Cultural Programmes such as Dakshayagam Kathakali

presented by Mrs. Prasanna Nambiar of Nityaprabha, Mumbai, Mohiniyattam and Dance Ballet by Dr. Geeta Radhakrishnan and her disciples, discourse by Rahul Eswar on Kshetrangalum Bharatiya Samskaravum and Chakyarkkoothu by Kalamandalam Prof. Eswaran Unni are held as part of the celebrations.





Shreya Sanal daughter of Sanal and Rajani, a student of standard IX of AIES High School Sakinaka staged her Bharatnatyam Arangetram at Guruvayur Temple on 7th May 2014.

Holy Angels School scores 12th consecutive 100%

■ Holy Angels School of Dombivli scored 100% in the recently held standard examination under CBSE syllabus. This is the consecutive 12th year that the school achieving a creditable result.

Vaibhav Hariharan scored 99.6% among 121 students scoring above 90%. Sakshi Fansole secured second place by scoring 96% and Rishabh Shab third with 95.8%.

The school is run by Trinity Foundation founded by Dr Oommen David and its Principal is Bijoy Oommen.

Office bearing of WMC (Pune)

■ K Harinarayanan is elected Chairman of World Malayalee (Pune) for the Year of 2014-15. Mr. Rajan R Nair (President), Raghubalan (Secretary), Jiji M (Treasurer), P C Nambiar, Mohan Nair, N G Haridas, T P Vijayaraj Nair (Various Committee Members). WMC Pune Province started in 2008 and has played a pivotal role among the community to develop business opportunities. This year WMC planned to felicitate SSC/HS/ Toppers & also look into various grievance of the people facing travelling problems due to inadequacy of Rail/ Air traffic. Chairman elected Mr. K Harinarayanan.

Atmopadesha Shatakam yajnam at Guru Centre

■ Sri Narayana Guru was a great saint who turned spiritual philosophy that was highly secretive and unattainable to the lower strata of the society, people friendly, remarked Dr M R Yeshodaran, the spiritual head of Brahma Vidyalayam of Shivagiri Mathom. He was addressing the devotees during the opening ceremony of saptaham of Atmopadesha Shatakam of the Guru, conducted at Guru Centre, Mira Road.

Atmopadesha Shatakam is the

detailed counselling of the inner self to the mind and senses. When Krishna and Arjuna were the masters and disciple in Bhagavad Gita, Atmopadesha Shatakam deals with the single entity, he added.

To surrender to one's inner self would result in enhancement of the self confidence, Dr Yeshodaran remarked. While rishis of yore attained supreme enlightenment through their prolonged meditation and penance, Narayana Guru attained the same degree through

his meditation, thinking and This is the cause of bringing Vedic thoughts into Atmopadesha Shatakam, Dr Yeshodaran explained.

Mandira Samiti General Secretary N S Salim Kumar, zonal secretary G Raghavan and A K Venugopal Chairman of cultural wing P F Sadasivan, Nirmala Mohan, Padma Divakaran, C Prakash Mohan and Surendran were



Malayalam Mission Thane Zonal

■ Chief Guest authress Smt Manasi spoke on 'Kuttikalile moolyachuthi' in the Malayalam Mission Thane Zonal meeting.

Adv. Prema Menon, Fr Benchamin Stephen, K Rajan and Upendra Menon spoke on the occasion. Samajam representatives, parents, teachers and students participated.



Malayali students to get reservation

■ According to a press release by Salimkumar, Secretary of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti, all educational institutions run by it would have 51% reservation for Malayali students as the minority status was accorded to them. B Com, M Com, B Sc IT, BMM, B Com (Banking and finance), BMS and in

Junior College Commerce and Science streams are available with their institutions.

The management is introducing B Com (Finance Management), B Com (Investment Management) and B Com (Transport Management) this year.

Educational Camp by Malayalam Mission, Thane Zonal Committee

■ Kilikkoodu (Nest) Malayala Mission Thane Zonal Committee is organising an educational camp for children of eight years and above on July 26 & 27 at Hiranandani Estate Club House, Thane. The camp will be

discussing various aspects related to children from 9 a m to 5 p m on both days. For details, contact Adv Prema Menon on 98921 80858, Suma Mukundan on 9324885996 or Vinija Viswanath on 8652002668.

Bombay Kerala Muslim Jama-at

■ The office bearers of Bombay Kerala Muslim Jama-at for the next two years, were elected. In annual general meeting held at Bisti Mulla Ganji Sunni Jama-at Hall, MMK Urmi presided.

15 Meritorious students who are children of the members, including two who passed MBBS this year were honored in the meeting.

The new office bearers are MMK Urmi (President), V A Kader Haji, K P Moidunni and T V K Abdulla (Vice Presidents), C H Abdurrahman (General Secretary), R K Abdulla, V K Sainuddin and Amanulla Ullanam (Secretaries) and K M A Rahman (Treasurer).

Athira S Pillai

BUDDING TALENT



Athira S Pillai is a budding talent from the suburban Mumbai. She is a fine example of the English saying, 'Good things are coming in small packages.' She is only 17 and is already displaying her multifaceted talents.

Athira is the elder daughter of Mannar native Surendran Pillai, a businessman engaged in clearing and forwarding and Ayoor native Geetha Pillai, a home maker. Athira has a younger sister Akhila and a brother Akshay. They are respectively studying in Std. X and VII. The family stays in Gorai, Borivli West.

Mumbai Police Commission rate a few months ago conducted an essay contest with a view of educating the youth of Mumbai about prevention of terrorism in India. Athira enthusiastically participated in it. Being an avid reader of current topics, Athira had no problem in dealing with the subject. Quoting from the historic speech of Swami Vivekananda at Chicago a century ago, she pointed out that the 21st century belonged to the youth of the world and the need to be vigilant against all anti-national forces. Dr

Satyapal Singh, then he Mumbai Police commissioner and presented a certificate and the prize money of Rs.5,001/-.

Athira is a trained Bharathanatyam dancer who has won several accolades and awards for her dancing. She also won many prizes for her oratory and painting, including one from the prestigious J J School. She also won a prize in a beauty contest at the



level.

Athira passed her examination with 95% and secured an A grade in the Elementary Intermediate examination. Now having passed her Std XII examination, she is awaiting her admission to J J School of Architecture.

Athira in her close family is known as Shilpa.

Kerala rivers polluted by faecal contamination

Coliform count in majority of the rivers in Kerala and ground water is far above the permissible limits whereas air in most cities was thick with Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), warned the Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

The findings are part of the Water and Air Quality Directory-2013, released by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on June 5, World Environment Day. The Ambient Air Quality was assessed between 2009 and 2013 after collecting data from 30 stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme and the State Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

Though the annual "average sulphur dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen (NOX) were never found exceeding the limit values during the assessment period, the RSPM values exceeded the limit value many times.

The RSPM values exceed the limit at seven stations during 2012 and in nine stations during 2013. In Ernakulam, the values exceeded the limit at five stations during 2012 and 2013," the report said.

The Board came out with water data after monitoring water samples from 128 stations covering 42 rivers, seven rivulets/tributaries and six reservoirs. Three fresh water lakes, eight estuarine lakes, three canals, two ponds and 34 stations in groundwater too were covered under the mammoth monitoring programme.

High levels of coliform in drinking water indicate "contamination from surface or hallow sub-surface sources such as soil, septic or cesspool leakage, animal feedlot runoff and treatment

failures." Ideally, water supplied to the consumer should be free of coliform bacteria. However, "practically this may not be always attainable," the report conceded.

Water quality of rivers in Kerala mostly conforms to the category A, which is defined as "drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection under the Best Designated Use classification of Central Pollution Control Board."

Water samples collected from Moonnattumukku sampling station in Karamana River shocked

ambient air quality at 30 locations in the State, which included industrial, commercial, residential and sensitive areas. According to the report, the RSPM values exceeded the limit at MG Road, Ernakulam South, Irumpanam, Kalamassery and TCC Eloor during 2012 and 2013. "There was an increasing trend in RSPM concentration during the past two years. The value at Irumpanam is far above the limit value." On one occasion, the 24-hour average value even went to 753 microgram per m³ against the permissible limit of 100 at the station, research report said.

The annual average concentrations of Sulphur dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen are never found exceeding the limit values during 2009 to 2013 whereas the RSPM values exceeded the limit value (60 microgram per m³) many times, the report pointed out.

Researchers pointed out that organic elements such as Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, heavy metals and some carcinogens may be

present in the particulates from industrial and vehicular emissions. Such emissions also contribute to the increased value of particulate matter. The particulate matter below 10 microns is considered to be RSPM, they said. Continuous exposure to RSPM can have serious health impacts including pulmonary diseases, warned Dr. Sunny P. Orathel, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Government Medical College, Ernakulam.

Children can develop bronchitic asthma if exposed to higher levels of RSPM. In elderly persons, it can lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. Long-term exposure can even lead to malignancy, said Dr. Orathel.



Aachankovil River

researchers as faecal Coliform count was found to be 14,000 colonies per 100 ml water.

The Total Coliform in the water sample was 54,000 colonies.

Contaminated water brought to the stream by tidal action from Parvathyputhanar might be contributing to the high Total Coliform and Faecal Coliform count, researchers said.

The study indicated an increasing trend in Coliform count and the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the rivers across the State. The BOD, indicator of water pollution, is defined as the "amount of oxygen required by aerobic micro-organisms to decompose the organic matter in water," it warned.

The Board monitored the

KUSAT in financial doldrums

The Kochi University of Science and Technology is currently facing a grave financial crisis. Though the salary revision and the pension benefits are implemented as soon as the University Grants Commission announces them, the proportional share of the state government is not forthcoming and this contributes mainly for this crisis.

The fiscal deficit is increasing year after year. This deficit in 2010-11 was Rs.7.37 crore. It shot to Rs.31.32 crore in 2011-12. In 2013-14, it is Rs.34.21 crore. During last year, KUSAT spent Rs.47.34 crore towards salary of teachers and other employees and Rs. 22.78 crore towards pension of the retired employees. The total

expenditure for this year was Rs.87.87 crore. KUSAT has only 130 teachers whereas the required number is 175. In effect 175 posts are lying vacant and 80 lecturers are on temporary basis. In other categories, 631 are vacant whereas required strength should be 844. There are 200 people on daily wage basis. There are 27 departments and 16 centres in KUSAT. 28 colleges and 21 research institutes are functioning under it. The university has already diverted Rs.17 crore of the self finance towards to tide over the deficit. Besides about Rs.11.29 crore, amount deposited in bank towards contribution to provident fund of teachers and other employees spent in other accounts. If the state government does not reimburse these amounts soon, there would be a financial turndown. If the university fills all the existing vacant posts, the deficit would rocket. This realisation is the reason for the vacant posts. The situation is already affecting the academic standards of the university adversely and hence would compel the authorities to fill the vacant



Koothattukulam Mary dead

Nonagenarian Communist leader Koothattukulam Mary (P.T. Mary), 93, is no more. Her end came at a private hospital at Piravam, near Vaikom, where she had been admitted with age-related health problems, on June 22. She was one among the prominent leaders who led the protest against Diwan rule in Travancore. She was also subjected to custodial torture while taking part in the freedom struggle. Mary, who born as the second child of Kochuparambil Pathrose and Eliamma, had her schooling at Mannathur school. Later she joined TTC. After completing her education, she continued as an active social worker. It was her contacts with people such as P. Krishna Pillai and E.M.S. Namboodiripad which led her to join the Communist Party of India (CPI) in



1948. She also met her future husband, C.S. George, through the party. As a full-fledged party worker, Mary was often in hiding, but within a year of her joining the CPI, she was jailed by the authorities as the party

had been banned by then. Her confinement continued several years till she came out of the jail in 1951. But this was only one of the confrontations with the police brutality. A fiery activist, she was in and out of jails several times. Her activism had contributed immensely to the growth of the Communist movement not only in the Travancore area but also in Kerala. When the party split, Mary continued with the CPI. Mary had penned her memoirs, 'Kanaleriyum Kaalam.' CPI leader and former Minister Benoy Viswom is her son-in-law. She is survived by daughters Shree Girija, Aysha, and Sulekha. The cremation took place at a public crematorium near the Kottayam Collectorate at 4 p.m. on Monday.

Fake marriages but now men are the victims

People in Kerala have been hearing about men on the prowl to make marriage proposals to spinsters and run away with their jewellery and money within a short time. There were men who married a dozen times and many victims filed complaints with the police stations. Now the time has changed. To avenge all that happened to the women, a very conning woman has come on the road and to teach men a lesson or two.

Shalini is only 29 and hails from Ayur in south Kerala. The exact score of her marriages is not known even to the police. From the very beginning she was attracted to a flamboyant life. She used to borrow gold jewellery from the neighbours under various pretensions and pledge them in private banks. Later she would give them fake jewellery. She even cheated the banks by pledging fake ornaments with them.

Ignoring the objections from the parents, she married a young man and started living in a rented house. With him, she has a boy, who is now 9. Shalini jointly with her husband pledged some fake ornaments with a private bank and borrowed Rs.7 lakhs. When the bank realised the folly, they recovered a part of the loan amount by confiscating the 65 cents of land owned by the husband and the poor manager paid the balance from own pocket to the bank. She repeated the same ploy with another bank successfully twice but third time on suspicion, the authorities informed the police. Her husband soon left for gulf in search of a job. Since then she started changing her residence in various towns and as a newly found vocation started marrying unsuspecting men and running away with their movable assets.

When her husband started sending money, Shalini had a field day. She had a lavish life style and squandered all the money. When he became strict, she ran away with an

auto driver who then became her partner in deceit. This happened six years ago.

Shalini abandoned her second husband also and moved from district to district. Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam etc became her area of con art. There are about fifty police cases against her and on three cases, she is considered 'as absconding'.

She always preferred to travel by taxi and used to take the driver's mobile phone on the pretext of talking to someone urgently and get



down from the vehicle. When the driver's attention is diverted, she would escape in any autorikshaw. With one of her husbands, she went to a bank to pledge fake jewellery and was caught. This resulted in a few months behind the bars.

All her relations have delinked with her. During the last election, she came home to exercise her franchise along with another husband.

Most of the time, she pretended to be an advocate practicing in high court. Early this year, she staged a drama of marrying an autorikshaw driver, the procedure was worth emulating for a movie on conning. At Karunagappalli, Sreejith, an advocate, fell for her tricks. Sreejith was a divorcee and inserted a matrimonial advertisement for remarriage. He received a call from a woman, introducing herself (Shalini herself from a different phone) as a relative of a former MLA. Later Shalini herself called and told him

that she was a widow and an advocate of high court and that her husband and child died in a motor accident. After several meetings, Sreejith's relations also supported the marriage and then she said her parents are against their marriage but she would marry him at any cost. She was for an elopement and a simple temple wedding. She reached Karunagappalli bus stand in an advocates' gown and was picked up by his relatives. They went to the temple in Alappat and the marriage was solemnised. For the marriage, Sreejith procured jewellery of about

80 grams of gold. Next morning she told him that she had to attend a case in Alappuzha court and left. By evening she was back and spent about nine days with him and then vanished with all the gold and Rs. 3 lakhs that she could lay her hands upon. During her stay with Sreejith, she took money from him citing various needs. When there was no trace of her for several days, Sreejith lodged a complaint with the police, along with a wedding photo. During the

same time, she staged a similar drama in Chingavanam also and this proved to be her undoing.

According to the police, she never stayed anywhere for more than six months and her son was entrusted with her mother. Most of the men she chose to marry were autorikshaw drivers.

Sasindran Nair of Chingavanam was an auto driver. When Shalini said that she liked him because of his simplicity, he fell for it. On March 6, he married her and she disappeared with all the gold and Rs 50,000 he had, on the same evening. His simplicity did not prevent him going to the police immediately. Many of her husbands never made a complaint against her, being conscious of their status in the society. This time the police traced her location from her cell phone when she called Ratish of Kalamasseri and reached Palani in Tamil Nadu to take her into custody.

School Education directionless

Kerala was claiming the first place in literacy among all states of India but it seems that the position is slowly slipping. The joint review commission of the Human Resources Department of the central government has remarked that the school education in the state is directionless. The eleven member expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ramakant Agnihotri accuses that the syllabi of the B Ed or D Ed course that prepare the teachers of the primary and secondary schools are prepared without deciding what should be taught to the children. It is therefore essential to remould the syllabi immediately.

Dr Agnihotri is the former head of the department of linguistic

science of the University of Delhi. He and his team visited several educational institutions and held discussions with the experts, after splitting their team three way, from April 21 to 27. Though their draft document is out, the detailed final report will be submitted to the authorities in July.

It is learnt that the committee has recommended modification of the syllabi of D Ed (old TTC) and B Ed in accordance with suggestions of the Verma Commission Report and National Education Right Act. Simply renaming the name from TTC to D Ed would not ensure quality, the draft report points out. A similar approach is essential for B Ed also. The students of B Ed colleges are drawn from four universities of

Kerala and they have no common approach and this would result in haphazard development of the curriculum. The state should ensure that they follow a similar pattern. A large number of languages are in Kerala colleges. There are 40 languages including Malayalam, Kannada and Tamil. The mother tongue itself should be the medium of instruction but teaching of English be done with more

Students with special abilities and the differently abled should have special class rooms with additional facilities and the central and state governments should provide additional funds, the committee recommended.

Venugopal seeks aid from philanthropists

Venugopal is a Malayali like you and now stays in a rented house at Kalamasseri, Kochi with his wife Parimala, son and daughter, a student of Std VIII. Venu is only 57.

When Venugopal was 43, one day he fell sick and doctors after a thorough examination found his both kidneys damaged. He was then running a consulting firm at Kozhikode. Doctors insisted immediate transplant of kidney and his wife donated one of her kidneys. When expenses mounted after the transplant, the family was forced to sell off their only house. The Indian Express offered him a job at Kochi and the family bought a small house there. Soon he was transferred to Chennai unit and the family sold off their Kochi house and bought one flat at Chennai, availing bank loans.

After a few months, the tragedy



struck again. Venugopal's body rejected the transplanted kidney and a new kidney is to be found out. Finding new resources for living expenses of the family, medicines and loan repayments, they were compelled to sell off their flat and return to Kerala.

His son is now working in a small FM radio unit and is the only support to the family. His income cannot meet even a part of their needs. Venu now needs four dialyses a week. A new transplant would cost a minimum of Rs. 13 lakhs.

The family badly needs financial support to move forward in life. Kerala in Mumbai appeals to all our kind readers to rush assistance to the family. Venugopal can be contacted 098953 01245 for further details.

Please do write to us if you come across such cases needing critical assistance. We will be glad to publish the same in our issue.



Dr Sujatha Nair

DENIALS IN CODEPENDENCY

The dictionary definition of Codependency is excessive emotional or psychological reliance on a partner, typically one with an illness or addiction who requires support.

Just as there are denials in those addicted to a substance regarding their addiction, so are there denials in Co dependents most times far more deeper and more intense than in the dependents.

Denial for the codependent can literally mean denying him or herself the attention that he or she needs or denying or neglecting his or her emotional well being in the excessive preoccupation with the addict or alcoholic. The dependent runs around the bottle trying to control his usage and the co dependent runs around the dependent and indirectly the bottle trying to control his/her usage thereby losing their individuality in the bargain. There is a constant pre occupation regarding the other . The denial that there is a problem existing in the form of addiction is a reflection or response to his or her own inability to control it.

In experiencing the denial of codependency, the codependent person will often have difficulty identifying their own feelings or emotions; they may minimize, alter

or deny how they truly feel about any given situation, and they may mistakenly see themselves as completely unselfish and committed to the well being of the other. They are often focussed on what others are feeling rather than on what they are going through [" I am fine ... he needs to take care of his drinking"]

Furthermore, denial can cause a codependent person to mask their pain in various ways such as anger, humor, or isolation, and express negativity or aggression in indirect and passive ways. Typically, codependent people have difficulty recognizing the emotional and/or physical unavailability of those individuals to whom they are attracted as they project their emotions on them and expect them to respond..

One of the problems people face in getting help for codependency is that they're in denial about it, meaning that they don't face their problem. "I do not have a problem ..he is the one who is drinking and destroying my life"

Thinking that someone else is responsible for his/her happiness and mental well being is the illusion that the co dependent lives in.

They might be in denial of their need for space and autonomy. They lack boundaries , hence do

not give themselves and others the space required .

Although some codependents seem needy, others act like they're self-sufficient when it comes to needing help. They won't reach out and have trouble receiving. They are in denial of their vulnerability and need for love and intimacy. They refuse help more often than not due to the fear of rejection.

Thus Co dependency is characterised by the need for feeling needed and the complete feeling of inadequacy and low self esteem and absolute lack of self love when that does not come about.

A crucial result of addressing the addiction of a loved one is to highlight existing codependent behaviors of all family members involved. Once a codependent person becomes aware of their behavior, they are encouraged to seek and accept support and help in modifying their behavior.

We at Anatta provide a loving and nurturing environment for the co dependent to recognise and go beyond their denials , recognise their individuality, revel in it and blossom into self loving individuals.



Anatta Humaniversity Pvt.Ltd.
Contact Person:
Ms. Vandana Hiranandani
+91 9967334000
Website- www.anatta.in

Chiriyo chiri (ചിരിയോ ചിരി) 1982



Lyricist: Bichu Thirumala
Singer: K J Yesudas

Composer: Raveendran
Raagam: Shivananjini

Rohini



Bichu Thirumala

ഏഴു സ്വരങ്ങളും തഴുകിവരുണൊരു ഗാനം...
ഗാനം... ദേവഗാനം... അഭിലാഷഗാനം...
മാനസവീണയിൽ കരപരിലാളന ജാലം...
ജാലം... ഇന്ദ്രജാലം... അതിലോലലോലം... (ഏഴു സ്വരങ്ങളും)

ആരോ പാടും ലളിതമധുരമയ ഗാനംപോലും കരളിലമൃതമഴ (2)
ചൊരിയുമളവിലിളമിഴികളിളകിയതിൽ മൃദുലതരളപദ
ചലനനമുതിരു... ദേവി...
പൂങ്കാറ്റിൽ ചാഞ്ചാടും തുമഞ്ഞിൻവെൺതുവൽകൊടി പോലഴകേ...
(ഏഴു സ്വരങ്ങളും)

ഏതോ താളം മനസ്സിനണിയറയിൽ ഏതോ മേളം ഹൃദയമനികളിൽ
ഏതോ താളം മനസ്സിനണിയറയിൽ ഏതോ മേളം ഹൃദയമനികളിൽ
അവയിലുണരുംമാരു പുതിയപുളക മലേഹരി ഒഴുകിവരുമരിയ
സുഖനിമിഷമേ.. പോരു...
ആരോടും മിണ്ടാതി ആരോമൽതിരത്തിൽഅനുഭൂതികളിൽ... (ഏഴു സ്വരങ്ങളും)



Raveendran

Transliteration
ā = ഞ; c = ച; ē = ങ; ī = ി; ḷ = ള; ṅ = ണ; ṇ = ണ; ṅ = ണ; ō = ഞോ; ṛ = റു;
rh = റ; ś = ശ; ś = ഷ; ṭ, ṭ = ത; ū = ു; ū = ൂ

Aezhu swaraññalum ṭazhuki varunnoru gānam...
Gānam... dēvagānam... abhilāshagānam...
Mānasaviṇayil karaparilāḷana jālam..
Jālam.. Indrajālam... aṭilōlalōlam... (Aezhu swaraññalum)

Ārō pātum laḷiṭamadhuramaya gānampōlum karaḷilamrūṭamazha
Coriyumaḷavililamizhikaḷililakiyaṭil mrūdulaṭaraḷapada
calananatamuṭirū... devī...
Pūñkaṭṭil cāncāṭum ṭūmaññin veṇṭūval kotipōlazhakē ...
Aeṭō ṭālam manassinaṇiyarhayil aeṭō mēlam hrūdayadhamaṇikaḷil
Aeṭō ṭālam manassinaṇiyarhayil aeṭō mēlam hrūdayadhamaṇikaḷil
Avayilunṇarumoru puṭiya puḷaka madalahari ozhukivarumariya
sukhanimishamē.. pōrū...
Ārōtum miṇṭāṭi ārōmalṭiraṭṭil anubhūṭikaḷil... (Aezhu swaraññalum)



K J Yesudas

Produced by P V Gangadharan for Grihalakshmi Productions, *Chiriyo chiri* had its story, screenplay and dialogue as well as direction by Balachandra Menon himself. The main actors were Balachandra Menon, Mammooty, Sreenivasan, Balan K Nair, Maniyanpilla Raju, Seema, Kaviyoor Ponnamma, Sankarati and Swapna. There were four songs written by Bichu Thirumala and they were sung by Yesudas, Jayachandran and S Janaki. There were also two folk or traditional songs rendered by Kaviyoor Ponnamma and Sankaradi.

Manju after almost a decade later again started the news columns for various reasons. The first reason is that she herself was surprised to see her come back film 'How Old Are You?' having a roaring business. It collected Rs.3.35 crore in the first week itself in Kerala. The collections outside is also showed the same trend. In many theatres

**MANJU WARRIER
BACK IN
THE NEWS**

the film ran beyond weeks, a rare feat these days.

The audience compared this film with 'English Vinglish', the comeback vehicle of Sridevi.

The film revolves around how a society compares an individual's capability with his or her age.

Directed by Rosshan Andrews, the film also features Kunchako Boban, Kanika and Lalu Alex in important roles.

Sometime ago, Manju gave an advertisement in newspapers stating that she was reverting to her maiden name in her passport that showed her name as Manju Gopalakrishnan, the second part being the real name of Dileep. This advertisement was a confirmation of the gossip that all was not well between them. Before it she had moved to her parent's home in Thrissur.

Now Dileep has filed in the family court in Ernakulam seeking divorce by mutual consent. He requested the court not to allow

Change of Name

I, Manju Gopalakrishnan, holder of Indian Passport No.K 2256832 issued at Cochin hereby change my name as Manju Warriar, Pullil Variyam, P.O. Pullu, Thrissur District, Kerala. Pin - 680641.

be present on that day. Dileep has filed a caveat in the court in Thrissur.

the leakage of the reasons cited in the application to the public as he had a daughter who might not understand things in the right perspective. He also requested for an in camera trial. The court would consider the case on July 23 and asked both the parties to

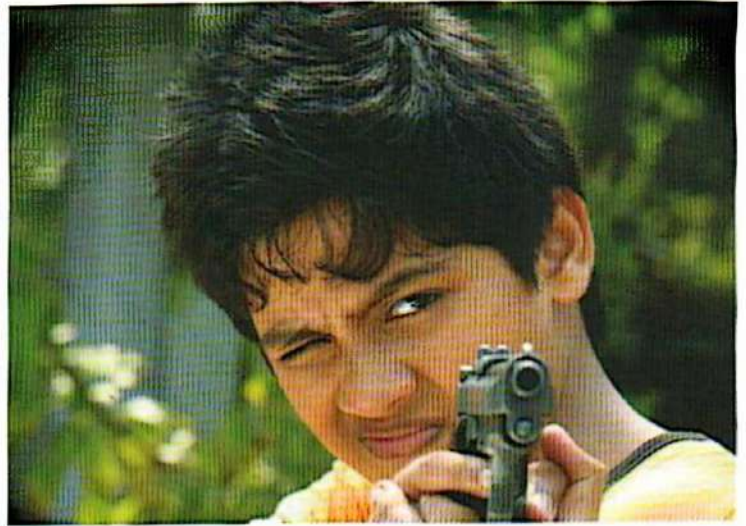
It is reported that Dileep was accusing Manju of mental torture, insisting on a comeback to the movies despite his objections. The first step towards the separation was her dance performance at Guruvayur temple and signing a film 'G for Gold' with Mohanlal. On his request, director Renjith dropped her from the project. Then Manju went all out with 'How Old Are You?' the success of which turned out to be the last nail on the coffin. Their only daughter Meenakshi has decided to stay back with her father Dileep.



Little Superman

Vinayan the director who dared to be different is busy with the post shoot work of his latest Little Superman, a 3-D film in The Mill, a VFX studio. It was The Mill that did the work of Life of Pie and Avatar.

Little Superman is spending about Rs 3 crores only on the graphics and Vinayan and V N Babu, the producers expect that the film would be a hit with the children whom they are considering as target audience. Deni, the 12 year old leads the cast of Baby Nayanthara, Madhu, Praveena, Krishna Ranjith, Baiju Kottarakkara, Sunil, Kakka Ravi, Aadinad Sasi, Pashanam Shaji, Chilanka and Navyasantha along with 300 hundred other children.



Dilip Kumar's biography by Uday Tara Nayar

An authentic biography of thespian Dilipkumar has been published and released on June 9th. It was one momentous night. Nightingale of India Lata Mangeshkar sang, filmmaker Karan Johar hosted and stars like Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan launched Bollywood thespian Dilip Kumar's long-awaited biography in Mumbai. The biography, 'Substance And The Shadow', was launched at a hotel, with the who's who of the film world coming together and being actively involved in the event.

Udaya Tara Nayar was earlier Editor of the Screen, an Express Group publication. She has been meticulously working on this biography for quite some time and was struggling against time to bring out this much awaited work.

While Amitabh Bacchahn read a verse or a paragraph from the book, Aamir recited a poem written by Prasoon Joshi. Veteran actor Dharmendra too read a few lines on the thespian, and Vyjayanthimala spoke a few words in honour of the legendary



Dileep Kumar with Dharmendra, Amir Khan, Saira Banu and Amitabh Bachchan

actor whose wife Saira Banu was by his side. Singers Javed Ali and Shaan added to

the evening's charm by performing a medley of Dilip Kumar's evergreen hits.

The attendees were also be able to experience a special audio visual-3D mapping video on Dilip Kumar's entire journey.

Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Hema Malini, Madhuri Dixit, Tina

and Anil Ambani, Kamal Haasan, Priyanka Chopra, Parineeti Chopra and Vidya Balan were other guests. The biography was earlier scheduled to be released on Dilip Kumar's 91st birthday in December last year.

It chronicles the life of the talented actor who dedicated six decades to filmdom and worked in much appreciated films like 'Jwar Bhata', 'Deedar', 'Paigam', 'Mela', 'Naya Daur', 'Devdas', 'Madhumati', 'Ganga Jamuna' and 'Mughal-E-Azam'.



Dileep Kumar with Saira Banu and Udayatara Nayar

Sreekumaran Thampi returns to cinema

Addressing reporters on July 4, Sreekumaran Thampi, a veteran who has produced 24 films and directed 29 films in a career that started in 1974, said he was forced to stay away for over two decades due to unfavourable changes in the showbusiness.

"I strongly believe that a director creates a star and not vice-versa. During my peak time, there were stars like Prem Nazir, Jayan and Madhu," said Thampi. "Mohanlal and Mammooty had just begin their careers and the latter through my film 'Munettam' established himself as a star. Then things changed and the stars started calling the shots and there were times when directors would wait with the scripts to get a call sheet. I just could not do that, hence decided to stay away," added the director.

Sreekumaran Thampi said that he was completely disappointed with the superstar driven Malayalam film industry, which made him to focus on the mini-screen for a while. Speaking at the press meet about his comeback movie Ammathotttil, Sreekumaran said, "After the 90s, theatre owners started insisting on superstar films. They only wanted films which had either Mammooty or Mohanlal and this situation made it difficult for us. Both the actors,

who reached this stage with our support, stopped giving dates and created a group of directors and producers for themselves. At this point, I relocated to television and focused on serials. So far I have made 13 serials and discussion for another is on." Thampi added that it was entirely unacceptable for him to see the superstars dictating terms to directors. He also said that now the era of superstars have come to an end in Malayalam films, which made him to plan for the comeback. Upcoming movie Ammathotttil will feature Madhu, Sharada, Indrans, Thara Varma and others in the important roles. It will be produced by Roy John Mathew.

A multi-faceted film personality, Madhu, now nearing 81, in his illustrious career, which began in 1963, has so far acted in more than 300 films besides producing over 20 movies, directing a dozen and even owned a studio on the outskirts of the city, which he later closed down.

"I am extremely delighted that Thampi has decided to return and he has chosen me and Sarada, which is really exciting. Over the years I have acted in eight films with her and I have already turned nostalgic because Thampi's love and passion for cinema is quite known to me," said Madhu.

Sarada, even though a Telugu by birth, was quite popular in Kerala during her prime.

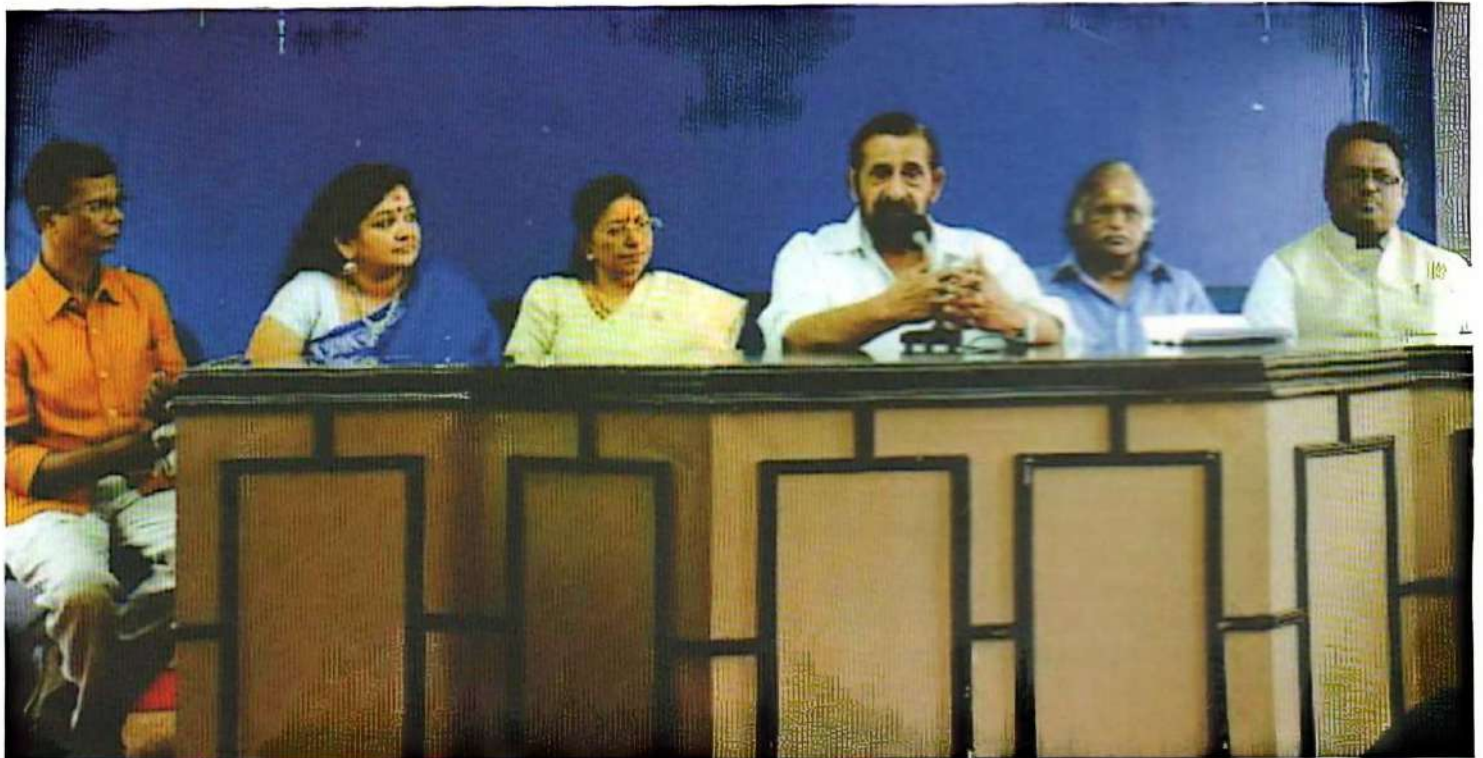
"I am like a deer as I sit between the two 'lions' of the Malayalam film industry and am very happy that an opportunity like this has come now.

"You should know that of the three National Awards I got in acting, two was for Malayalam films and in both these films, Madhu acted as a co-star," recalled the 68-year-old.

Madhu and Sarada had several hit films between them. Swayamvaram, Aabhijatyam, Manaswini, Murappennu, Ambalapravu etc are some of their hits.

Thampi will start shooting in August and the film will be readied for a December release.

"The film tells the tale of a joint family that has completely disappeared from our state. I know that this can never come back but through my film I want to create an awareness of what the joint family system meant," added Thampi, who is directing and co-producing it in collaboration with Mumbai-based businessman, Roy John Mathew.



Indrans, Tara Varma, Sarada, Madhu, Sreekumaran Thampi and Roy John Mathew

The Hope Diary



Devika Nambiar

■ Every morning when we wake up we look forward to two things - a great morning cuppa and HOPE that today would be a better day than yesterday, at least I definitely do. Today morning when I woke up, I found myself pondering upon many hopes I accumulated right from my school days. I

remembered a few during my school days let the Math test be easy tomorrow, let it rain tomorrow so school is closed, let there be no rush at the canteen today which I scribed on my mental hope diary.

Like me, many of us or I rather say all of us have hope diaries made in our mind that traces back to every wish that each one of us has ever made. When I had a full time job with Ad agencies, I travelled by public transport a lot. Waiting at the bus stop or waiting at the railway platform, I loved observing people as they fussed over the delay of the transport. The conversations going around fascinated me. A young girl breaks up with her lover over a loud argument, but the next call by her best friend calms her down and I hear her say that she is hoping tomorrow things would be okay between them. A young man is a bundle of nerves for an interview but tells his mother that he hopes to get through this. A working mother doesn't get leave to take care of her sick daughter and is worried to death about her, yet she manages to put up a brave front and tells her little one over the phone that she would be okay soon. The rainy season is the most fascinating of all. Perpetually, everything is at a standstill - traffic, people, telephone lines, water clogged roads, nothing is right during this season. Yet I saw people (I being one of them) hoping to get that bus or train on time, hoping to reach office on time, hoping to finish and leave work on time, hoping to be home early just to get a few extra hours to spend with their loved ones. In hospitals, a loved one can hardly make it through an operation yet there being no other option the family hopes desperately that he/she makes it through.

The reason I write about this powerful sentiment called hope is because very few of us realise that it is actually this very sentiment that keeps us going each day, every day. We pray each day hoping our wishes manifest, we work hard at our jobs hoping to get appreciated or promoted, we try different recipes while cooking hoping to make that perfect meal, we workout 4-5 times a week hoping to stay fit and active, we keep calm during an argument hoping for tempers to cool off, we write love messages to our partners hoping to please them, we have children hoping to move a legacy forward, we get our hair coloured hoping to look good. There is not a single day or a single effort that we put in without hoping for something good to happen in return. This is what keeps us going. This is what keeps the whole world going.

Take some time off to ponder upon your own hope diary today and understand yourself if all of this time were you not moving forward with immense hope in your heart. Wasn't hope the one that made you what you are today.

I sign off from this article hoping you would like it. A new entry in my Hope Diary!

Angel Messages for the month of July 2014

This month the Angels advise you to listen to your heart and do what gives you joy. Be it changing a job or proceeding with a romantic relationship, the Angels tell you to trust yourself and take that leap of faith. New beginnings are on the horizon and you are set for a positive and wonderful change coming your way.

Those who have been toggling with a decision regarding any matter are advised to consider an alternative approach to the situation. Let this approach be different from what you would usually think of doing, a non-traditional approach. Seek guidance from close and trust worthy friends, mentors, teachers and members of the family to get a new and clear perspective.

This month will see stability coming through in case of financial matters or relationships. But please know that a high level of commitment and efficiency on your part will be required to bring about this positive stability. The Angels assure you that fruit of your hard work is coming to you faster than you expect, please have patience and faith and trust in the divine order. This is also a good time to make long term plans and review your finances and career moves.

If you have a question which you need answers for, please email your question to keralainmumbai@gmail.com. Your question will be answered in the next issue of the magazine.

For appointments for personal consultation, you may

Email:

angelsogold777@gmail.com OR

Call: 09819872358



Kerala in Mumbai

LINKING MUMBAI MALAYALEES

Email: keralainmumbai@gmail.com

Website: keralaimumbai.com

— 98201 10509 —