

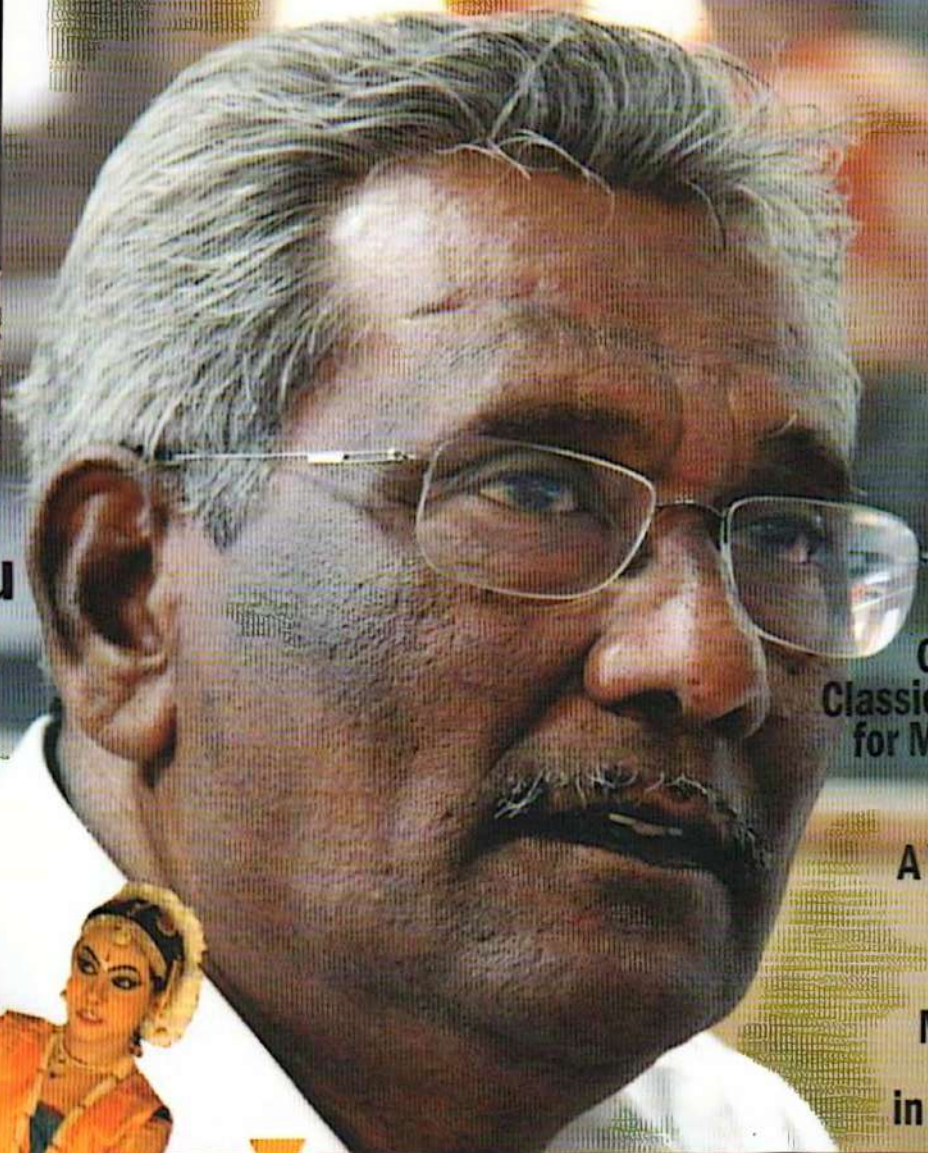
# Kerala in Mumbai

Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

Vol.4 No. 3 Price Rs. 70 June 2013



**Versatile  
Dance Guru**



**Genesis of  
Classical Status  
for Malayalam**



**A Vanishing  
Paradise**



**Malayalee  
Presence  
in Sakinaka**



**Young  
Talent**

P P SUKUMARAN

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PACKAGER**

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# The agony and the shame

**P**oet Vallathol stated in one of his poems: "When we hear the name of Bhārat, our heart should fill with pride and when we hear Keralam, our veins should have blood boiling." John F Kennedy asked his countrymen: "Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for America." Winston Churchill told his Parliament: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." And Mahatma Gandhi submitted before the court that tried him for treason: "...as a man of responsibility, a man having received a fair share of education, having had a fair share of experience of this world, I should have known the consequences of every one of my acts. I know that I was playing with fire. I ran the risk, and if I was set free, I would still do the same."

All the above statements are made in different contexts but all of them had something in common: patriotism, honesty, sincerity and resolve to work hard, commitment to see one's country beyond self, and above all, the means more important than the end. Any material gain by one's foul action is to be forsaken and a sincere and honest commitment should be shown to those who reposed their faith on the culprit.

Santhakumaran Sreeshant, a fast bowler from Kerala, was till recently considered by the Malayalees around the world as the only one cricketer from their land to show some capability to remain in the Indian team for a reasonably long period in comparison to his predecessors whose number could be counted with a single hand. Now the expectations of all his fans, admirers, fellow Malayalees and the sports world are shattered beyond any repair and each one of them is hanging his or her head in shame. They are never going to pardon him for his treacherous act bringing disrepute to their state. What compelled him to resort to this shameful act? What did go wrong with him? His upbringing, peer pressure, greed, profligacy, lust for women?

After a few games in the initial period, Sreeshant was noticed more for his arrogance, flamboyance, exhibitivie gestures and excessive expressions than for his cricketing abilities. Yet, he was pardoned by most people as 'he being one among them' and everyone, who loved the game, considered him to be a substitute for oneself who could only dream but never fulfill. Now all of them must be cursing with self pity.

Sreeshant had a normal upbringing, so everyone thought, with parental supervision but his lifestyle was beyond their imagination. Yet none thought he would fall so fast, so deep so soon. A fall that is irreversible! With the IPL, Sreeshant, often finding no place in the playing eleven, somewhat found some match practice but his lust for money and the power that comes with it, engulfed him. We do not feel he is a victim but he was driven to it by his salacious lifestyle with practically none to guide him in the right direction. The days that he spends now are nothing but a gate to more calamities that are bound to follow from one's misdeeds. Sreeshant is not a small boy not to realize the pitfalls but he took a deliberate risk to achieve his end discarding the path of hard work, honesty, loyalty and commitment.

His fans now realize that his ardent prayers before the popular deities in various temples of Kerala and outside were mere exhibitionistic and not that of an ardent devotee. His gestures and expressions within and without the grounds were mere signals to his co-conspirators and his innocent admirers felt cheated and betrayed. He was, by his actions, proved a professional actor who could win any award for acting from any authority. Alas, now even the films he signed will never be opened before him. The scar he unexpectedly received would never be fully erased and only time would tell us what is in store for him.

Let's pray no other player be induced to imitate him and let us never place any faith in any popular player however good he could be, until he retires. Till then let us hold our head low so that none would see that deceitful look on our faces. For, we have no black cloth to cover our faces.

## If you can't learn, then don't ridicule

Your editorial titled "Ponder before spout" in the Kerala-in-Mumbai, Vol.4(2) of May, 2013, is of great significance and deserves great appreciation, as it tells explicitly that the Government functionaries (whether they are politicians or bureaucrats) are bound by certain protocol and etiquettes, while dealing with their counterparts from other states and the common public. It is very unfortunate that the Government functionaries of our 'most educated' State need to be reminded of this basic code of ethics.

I need not tell here the efficiency and the speed at which the Government of Gujarat is functioning and this is evident from the statistics/data made available by the Union Government and the international development /monitoring agencies. I have known this Government very intimately for the last fifty and odd years, and have been a witness to the enviable growth and development in this part of the country. Even the opponents of Shri. Narendra Modi have openly admitted this on many occasions and some of them always dream of and aim at 'Gujarat model development', irrespective of their political affiliations.

We should not forget that the people of Gujarat have confidence in him (that was why he was elected consecutively three times as the CM) and so have very many Indians who want their country to develop and progress. Under these circumstances, there seems to be no rationale in treating a well-respected, efficient Chief Minister of a well-developed state in an inappropriate manner by those in the Government of the 'most educated state' in the country. The reasons could be nothing except political vendetta. Or is it because of a fear psychosis or a sort of inferiority complex we do not know!

We all know that Gujarat is 'home' for more than 16 lakh Keralites at present. It has been so, ever since the state was formed in 1960. These Keralites have been playing very important roles in the socio-economic development and industrial promotion of the state (as if it was their own home-state) and the Government of Gujarat too has been treating them respectfully and on par with the local people. Very often the Government openly acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of Malayalees in its achievements; It is one of the major reasons why the Malayalees of Gujarat want to be in Gujarat, even in their old age or after retirement, and settle down there happily, blending with the Gujarati environment.

Many who tried their luck to settle down in Kerala, after retirement, have returned to Gujarat, because the changed atmosphere and attitude in their home state do not suit them well. We very often hear their remarks: "Kerala maa majaa nathi aavti". Thanks to the friendly attitude of the Gujaratis and the

Government, the Malayalees have since become a part of the Gujarati fabric and they feel at home there.

Under these circumstances no Malayalee of Gujarat would appreciate this sort of treatment to the CM of a state, which supports and nourishes thousands of Malayalee employees, industrialists, businessmen, students, social organizations and the like. We feel a Government should function above all sorts of personal and political enmity and should not violate its own conventions and norms.

Our only prayer is: "God, please, may your own land and its people show some basic humanitarian and political courtesies to their fellow countrymen"

K.R.Narayanan  
Worli

## Uroob and Neelakkuyil

I wish to point out some errors cropped up in the article "Uroob and his stories" by Satyanath. It has been mentioned that *Pather Panjali* of Satyajit Ray secured Gold medal for best feature film in 1954. It was Hindi film *Mirza Galib* that got gold medal in 1954 and *Neelakkuyil* (Malayalam) and *Biraj Bahu* (Hindi) were awarded All India Certificate of Merit. *Neelakkuyil* secured silver medal for best feature film in Malayalam also. Therefore it is not correct to say that *Neelakkuyil* secured the award for second best film in India as no such award was given. However in the award document it has been shown next to *Mirza Galib*.

*Pather Panjali* was released in the year 1955 and it was adjudged as best feature film in that year and secured the Gold medal. In fact no silver medal for best feature film in Malayalam was awarded in 1955 as no film was found suitable.

It has also been mentioned that RamuKariat wanted to make movies but had no sponsors. Mr.Pareekkutty agreed to put money provided he had a reliable team. Ramu approached P. Bhaskaran, a contract employee of AIR. In fact RamuKariat, P. Bhaskaran and Vincent were childhood friends and they were making efforts to make a typical Malayalam film with a good social, human, progressive message. *Neelakkuyil* was made in 1954 and by that time P. Bhaskaran was already in the cinema field. Let us read P.Bhaskaran's own words:

"RamuKariat was my childhood friend. So was cameraman Vincent. We always argued about a new sensitivity for Malayalam films. We criticised the films with neither Malayali life nor nature in it. From then on we had a desire to make a film...a typically Malayalam one with a good social, human, progressive message. Meanwhile Ramu Kariat called me from Madras saying a producer has come in handy, he doesn't know anything about cinema, but is willing to invest. We can make the

Continued on page 27

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, Mumbai 400 059.

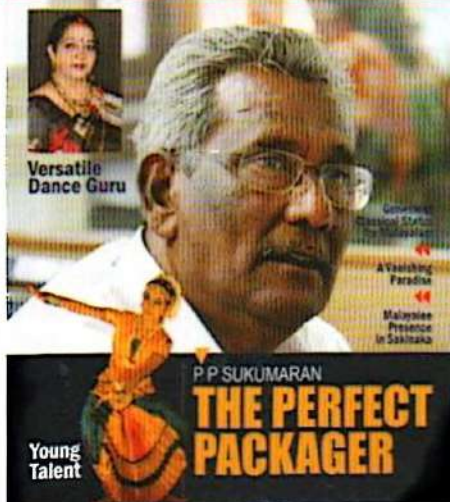
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Elmach building in Bhiwandi



P P SUKUMARAN

# TRENDSETTER IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

- Lakshmi V

An unassuming personality, PP Sukumaran owns a two acre plot in Bhiwandi that manufactures blister packs machinery for tablets, caplets and capsules for some of the most important pharma giants of the world. Elmach Packages (India) Pvt Ltd, of which Sukumaran is the Director, manufactures blister packing, cartoning, stickpack and blister feeders.

**L**ike any other Malayalee youth PP Sukumaran started his career by joining a private company in Mumbai as an Accountant. After working there for a few years, he and three of his friends decided to do something on their own. Thus was born Elmach Engineering Co, a trading company in 1979, dealing with motors, pumps and gears. Gradually the partners decided

to part ways and ELMACH Packages (India) Pvt Ltd was established in 1988. Earlier the company had offices/factories at Vashi and Ghatkopar. Last year the office and factory have been consolidated and shifted to Bhiwandi.

A 5 ft nilavilakku and Ganesha near the entrance greet visitors to his new office. Every other day he has visitors from abroad, inspecting his

**Elmach's clients include MNCs and pharmaceutical companies like Dr Reddy's, Cipla, Ipca, Lupin, Alkem, RPG Life Sciences, Strides Arcolab, Novartis, Intas and Merck.**



**Sukumaran with his family**

machineries to buy them for their pharmaceutical units. Sukumaran has set standards for blister pack industry in India and has kept pace with market development in the packaging industry, packaging specifications, cost-efficacy of packaging machines, packaging materials and environmental conditions which the product has to withstand. Starting operations with blister pack machines in 1988, today Elmach (abbreviation of electrical and machinery) holds a market share of over 2700 blister pack machines installed in 100 countries worldwide. Elmach's clients include MNCs and pharmaceutical companies like Dr Reddy's, Cipla, Ipca, Lupin, Alkem, RPG Life Sciences, Strides

Arcolab, Novartis, Intas and Merck. Elmach's customers in Great Britain, USA, Germany, South East Asia, Holland, Africa, Latin American countries, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela underline its global presence.

The company has the most comprehensive range of blister pack machines for pharmaceutical, food and cosmetic industries. Its philosophy of introducing and offering most advanced technology to meet the needs of the packaging industry has effected technical tie ups. These tie ups serve as stepping stones for bringing in high end European machines to India. It has tie ups with Weipack Packaging Group Germany, for cartoning machines, with Alyward Enterprises USA, for high speed blister feeders, with Merz Germany for fully automatic stickpack machine for the production of all stickpacks sizes and designs, with Valmatic Italy for monodose blister machines catering to the pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors, and speciality packing for the veterinary sector.

"Use of advanced engineering technology, processes, machining capability, fully equipped quality control give us a high degree of refinement essential for high quality machine building," he says.

All Elmach machines are GMP models. Through cutting edge expertise and lateral thinking, the company offers a promising range of 20 machine models that include both Flat-bed and Rotary types. Consistent innovation and developments fuelled by customer needs for productivity, durability, flexibility and cost-efficacy have resulted in Elmach's comprehensive range of machines that offer output of 25 packs to 750 packs



**Sukumaran with foreign clients**

**Elmach's customers in Great Britain, USA, Germany, South East Asia, Holland, Africa, Latin American countries, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela underline its global presence.**

per minute thus ensuring that technology is available to a gamut of end-users.

The company has a work force of nearly 200. It has branch offices at Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkotta, Hyderabad and resident representative at Rourkee and Baddi (in Himachal Pradesh) and a representative in Delhi.

PP Sukumaran hails from Chombala near Wadakara in Kozhikode. His parents are the late Kunhiraman and Parvathy. Coming from a family of six brothers and four sisters, Sukumaran came to Mumbai in 1965 after completing his schooling at Madapally. In Mumbai he did his B Com, Diploma in Taxation, and ICWA Inter Examination.

Sukumaran's wife Sulochana hails from Muttungal near Wadakara. They have a son Sudish who completed his Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Somaiyya College and did his MS from Michigan Universty and is currently working in his father's company. He is married to Rashmi and they have twin daughters aged six



**Sukumaran with grand daughters**

years. Daughter Sushija is Associate Professor at Somaiyya Medical Hospital and College. She did her MD in Mumbai and Healthcare Management from England.

Sukumaran is a hard task master and his day starts at 8.30 in the morning when he leaves for office, ending by 9.30 at night, when he reaches home.

In his silent way, he helps people in need. His spacious office grounds have mango trees, papaya, cashew, pomegranate, ladyfingers and other fruits and vegetables lovingly planned and planted under his supervision.

"It is tough to start a business and even more tough to keep it running," he says. "Hard work and dedication are necessary to succeed in business," he adds. ■

## MACHINE OUTPUTS

■ Elmach started with rotary blister forming machines in the late 1980s and proceeded to compressed air forming machines in the 1990s. Technology evolution of Elmach machines has been hand-in-hand with the pharmaceutical



industry, meeting the needs of their increasing packaging volumes and the evolution of packaging materials. The growth of cold-form blister technology forms the basis of the modern version of Elmach's cold-form blister pack machines. Model EPI-500 XT [PLUS] SERVO launched in the year 2003, made cold-form technology affordable to the pharmaceutical industry. The growth of cold-form blister markets stimulated the development of EPI-SERVO 3020 Blitz, India's fastest blister pack machine capable of cold-formed and thermo-formed blisters. The latest addition to the range of cold-formed blister pack machines is the model EPI-3010 PDA. This machine caters to the market segment of EPI-500 XT [PLUS] SERVO customers, who need bigger production batch sizes. The large format model EPI-3522 GRAND, introduced in the year 2009, caters to a high volume product segment of the pharmaceutical industry. Elmach's Cartoning Machine WKH-100 has set a benchmark in cartoning technology in India. The launch of the continuous motion Cartoning Machine WKH-300 in the year 2009 emphasizes Elmach's philosophy of continuous technical development to keep up with the growing needs of the pharmaceutical industry.



SAKINAKA - II

# MALAYALEE HUB

Sakinaka is a busy suburb of Mumbai, easily accessible from both western and central suburbs. With the completion of Metro One rail project, the area will get a facelift and hopefully clear traffic jams and bottlenecks that are today's problems in Sakinaka



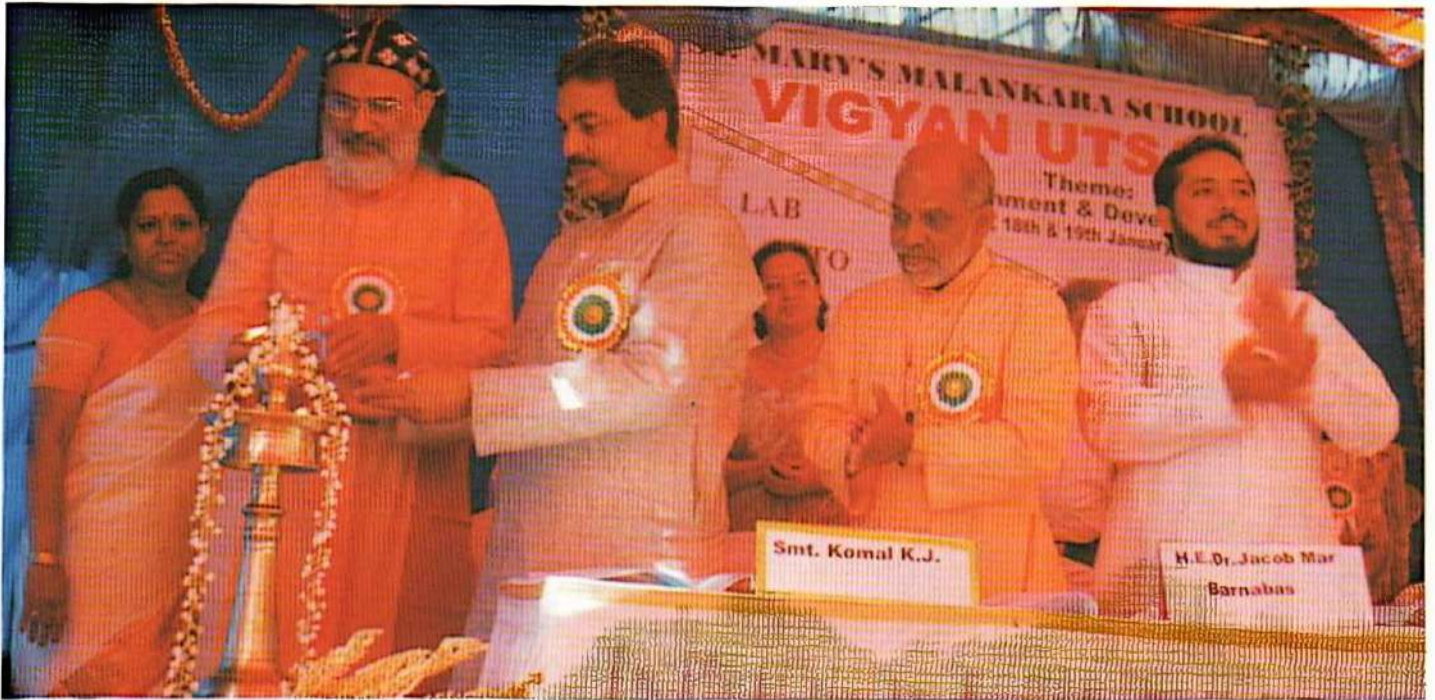
Lakshmi Venkatachalam

**T**he Malayalee presence in Sakinaka is visible throughout the length of Sakinaka. Small groceries run by Malayalees, hotels that have nameboards in Malayalam, Marathi and English with notices of availability of lodge facilities are familiar sights on the roads. Medium to small businessmen ply their own manufacturing business from small spaces and many of Kerala's Ayurvedic dispensaries have a retail outlet there. Trinity Marthoma Church, St Joseph's Syro Malabar Church, St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, St Anthony's Church etc are also located here.

## St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church

■ The origin of the Malankara Catholic Church in Mumbai goes back to 1974 when Fr. Augustine Kailathu OIC celebrated the first Malankara mass at Holy Cross Church, Kurla. As years passed the first Bethany Ashram built at Andheri in 1982, was shifted to Sakinaka, eventually giving birth to St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church in 1992.

It started with a small community and grew into a large parish consisting of more than 100 families. It was inaugurated by Late Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios and His Grace Simon Cardinal Pimenta declared the establishment of three personal parishes for Malankara Catholics in the Arch Diocese of Bombay. Fr. Ignatious



Thangalathil OIC was appointed as the first vicar of the church and under his guidance along with Fr. John Berchmans OIC, the parish was rebuilt into a beautiful ashram and church. The blessing and inaugural mass were conducted by Late Archbishop Cyril Mar Baselios.

St. Mary's MCC has prospered spiritually as well as socially under the guidance and leadership of many vicars who served the church. The church is under the ecclesiastical control of His Excellency Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas of Malankara Catholic Church Extra Territorial Region in India (MCCETRI), based in Delhi. Fr. Sam Pathackal is the present vicar of the church and is also the coordinator of MCCETRI Southern Region. The church conducts Holy Eucharistic service every Sunday morning at 7am and celebrates its feast from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The Malankara Catholic Children's League

(MCCL), Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM), Mathrusangam and Pitruvedi are the important parts of this church. The MCCL students actively participate in various arts and competitions organized by the church. MCYM has active youth members who focus on the spiritual and social growth of the church. They not only participate but also conduct community activities such as Prajodhana (food distribution to the poor and the needy), blood donation camps, rice distribution, raising money for various charities etc. They dedicate themselves to live up to their theme "GROW IN FAITH, LIVE IN CHRIST". Mathrusangam and pitruvedi likewise are socially active and are the backbone of the church. The church organizes Adoration on the first Friday of every month and conducts rosaries on every Saturday. Malayalam classes are also conducted every Sunday after the mass.

## St. Mary's Malankara School

■ St. Mary's Malankara School was built in 2004 at the adjoining premises of the church, starting with 120 students. Over the years this institution crossed several milestones of development. At present the school is well furnished and well equipped with 1800 students on the roll. The school is under the trust of Malankara Education Society initiated by Fr. Zacharias Nandiyattu OIC and Fr. John Berchmans OIC with the unstinted support of trust members and His Excellency Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas the President of this school. The school imparts quality education to students by efficient teachers under the guidance of Fr. Sam Pathackal (Manager), Sr.Arsha SIC (Admini-strator), Mrs. Liji Varghese (Principal) and Sr. Anjali SIC.



St. Mary's Malankara Church

## Eden High School and Junior College



Junior college (Science and Commerce) namely Eden High School and Junior College in Safed Pool, Sakinaka. All these are recognized by the Government of Maharashtra and the school has been obtaining 100 percent result in the SSC examination for the last several years. The Science faculty provides subjects like Computer Science and Electronics.

50% of the online admission for FYJC students are reserved for Malayalee students.

The strength of the institution is 3000 students and it has a teaching and non-teaching staff of 90 plus. Jagdish Kumbhar is the Principal of Eden High School and Junior College.

The school celebrates all cultural programmes in its premises especially Onam when several competitions like essay, elocution and floral decoration are held and the staff have a taste of Ela sadya.

Malayalam Classes are held in the school premises which is conducted by Kajupada Malayalee Samajam under the Kerala Government initiative of Malayalam Mission.

Various Cultural programmes and Malayalee festivals are also celebrated by the Samajam in the school premises.

In order to cater to the migrants of Hindi speaking people, the Trust is also managing a Hindi Medium school, Swami Nityanand Hindi High School on the hills of Kajupada. Ravi Nair's wife Sandhya is the Headmistress of the School.

■ Nityananad Guru Educational Trust is a registered Malayalee Minority Trust founded by Ravi Nair in 1995 to provide educational facilities to the slum children of Kajupada, Kurla (W).

The Trust is currently managing an English medium Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary and



The local market

# Gurushree Maheshwara Temple

■ The Guru Maheshwara temple at the Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi Guru Centre in Sakinaka was consecrated in 2010 by Satchidanandaswami and the rites officiated by Parappanangadi Vijayakrishnan Tantri. The current idol of Sree Narayanaguru in panchaloham as well as the earlier one were donated by V Sadasivan. The Shivalingam (Maheshwara) was donated by Raghavan PV while the Devi idol was donated by S Devarajan. The temple is kept open on all days from 5.30 am



Devarajan



T K Mohanan

to 10.30 am and 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Chathaya dina special puja is held every month followed by annadaanam. The Centre's Mahila wing holds Guru Bhagavatha Parayanam regularly and shivaratri is celebrated with special

pujas.

This Guru Centre has the privilege of being the first Centre where Sree Narayana Guru's statue was installed. Malayalam classes under the Malayalam Mission are conducted here by trained teachers.

The Centre's youth wing and Mahila Wing are active in organizing several events and the annual day celebrations are conducted with entertainment programmes.

S Devarajan is the Unit Secretary and TK Mohanan is the Local Community Secretary. Council members are G Muralidharan, B Sivaprakash, PR Prasad, S Prabhasan, TD Purushothaman and R Madanan. Committee members are G Soman, Purushothaman, PK Sasi Vijayan and PK Sasidharan. Mahila Vibhagam Central Committee members are Sasikala Devarajan, Tulasi Mohan, and Pushpa Gopalakrishnan. Mahila Vibhagam President is Komalavally Vasudevan, Vice president Sathibhai Muralidharan, Secretary Asha Soman, Jt Secretary Ponnamma Rajan and Treasurer Rajani Purushothaman.



Artist's perception of the temple

## Nair Samaj Sangham



Balakrishna Pillai  
President



A V Das  
Vice President

■ Nair Samaj Sangham in Sakinaka was formed after the visit to Mumbai by NSS General Secretary PK Narayana Panicker in June 1999 and was called the Nair Service Society & Welfare Association. The first General Meeting was attended by 122 members and well-known social worker KG Balakrishnan was appointed the first President along with 22 Managing Committee members. It is also one of the founder member units of KNSS. In November 2011 the Association was registered under the name Nair Samaj Sangham, Sakinaka.

Today the Samaj has 380 families and KG Balakrishnan Pillai is the President while Harikumar Pillai is the General Secretary. Treasurer Rajagopalan Nair passed away in April this year. The members of NSS are closely associated with other Malayalee organisations of Sakinaka. It helps needy Malayalee families of

the area in medical emergencies, untimely death, and educational scholarships to deserving students and financial help in times of marriages of poor girls, irrespective of their caste or religion. At its annual day celebrations, the Samaj conducts variety entertainment programmes, felicitates merit holders of SSC and HSC examinations with cash prizes and certificates. Senior members as well as newly married couples who are Samaj members are honoured with shawls and mangalapatra every year. It holds competitions in dance and music for its members' children, conducts Malayalam classes, and several other cultural activities. The members pay floral tributes and offer prayers during Mannath Padmanabhan and Chattambi Swami Jayanti at the office premises.

The samaj has active Mannath Parvathi Amma Memorial Mahila Samajam and Nair Youth wing.

## Personalities



### Ravi Nair

Ravi Shankar Nair, Chairman, Founder and Trustee of Nityanand Guru Educational Trust, that runs Eden College, hails from Palakkad District but was born and brought up in Mumbai. He completed his schooling from Karthika High school, Kurla,

#### Ravi Nair

graduated from K J Somaiya College and did his Masters in Commerce from Mumbai University. He completed his Bachelor of Education from Chembur Comprehensive College, M.Phil in Commerce from Annamalai University and is currently pursuing MBA in Education. He worked as Asst. Teacher at St Jude High School, Jerimeri for 15 years. Presently he works as Manager of all the schools of the Trust.

Ravi Nair is a member of several social and cultural organisations like Mohalla Committee, Lions Club of Sujok, committee formed by Sakinaka Police station during Ganesh Chaturti and Navaratri Festivals. He is ex - Member of Maharashtra state Consumer Forum and Special Executive Officer, Government of Maharashtra. His parents are the late Parambil Koparmath Shankaran Nair an ex - service man and Sarojini Nair both from Pattambi, Palakkad District but settled in Mumbai since 1940.

Ravi Nair's wife Sandhya is also born and brought up in Mumbai. An MA, BEd from Mumbai

University Sandhya is the Headmistress of the Hindi Medium school of the Trust. The couple has a daughter Radhika doing her Final year BSc IT at SIES College and a son Rahul who has appeared for his SSC examination this March.

### Padma Nair



#### Padma Nair

Kurla Taluk.

Padma Nair hails from Chengannur in Alappuzha District and came to Mumbai in 1965 after her marriage to PK Vasudevan Nair. The same year she got a job in BMC as office staff and she worked there for 18 years till she took retirement on medical reasons. Since then she has involved herself in helping the people of her locality. Free nursing course for poor girls who have passed Std X, speeding up pension schemes for widows, distributing sewing machines to women to become self-sufficient are all part of her social activities. Since 1985 she is Special Executive Officer (SEO) appointed by the Maharashtra Government. Padma Nair is Chairperson Jagadambika Mandir Trust, President of Anu Mahila Sanstha, President All India Education Society, Member Vigilance Committee (Maharashtra Government) and Member, All India Medical and Life member Aalpanakaavu Temple Trust.

Padma Nair's husband Vasudevan Nair is also from Alappuzha District and worked with Kamani Engineering Corporation till retirement. They have a daughter Lalitha who is a trained teacher, currently not working and a son, Ramesh who is an Engineer working for a private Company. Both their children are married.



Padma Co-op. Housing Society



Appachan T. Joseph

### Appachan T. Joseph

Appachan T Joseph, son of Joseph Augustine and Mrs Pouly, hails from Alleppey and came to Mumbai in 1978 when he was 18 yrs old to find a job.

He got a job in '79 and struggled for some years. Joseph being a photographer realized that he had the talent to make a career in photography. He started his own shop, Bright Studio. The initial days were very tough but slowly people started appreciating his work and his studio became well-known. In 1988 he married Latha Manjaly who hails from Thrissur. Latha was an international athlete who participated in the International Athletic Meet Bombay 1982 where she was awarded for her skills in Hurdles and High Jump. She is very fond of sports. She did her D.Ed from Mahatma Education Mumbai and was working as a teacher. They have three children. The eldest one Alex is a Student of J.J Shcool of Arts and is working with Bollywood movies. Their daughter Brigeetha on completing her Degree in Mass Media is now working as a HR Executive in an advertising company. Christopher their second son is doing his second year in Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Insurance. Appachan involves himself in the social and religious activities of St Anthony's Church in Sakinaka.



Hari Kumar Pillai

### Hari Kumar Pillai

Hailing from Chengannur in Alleppey District, Harikumar has his own

aluminium fabrication business. He came to Mumbai in 1994 and is a member of Bombay Keraleeya Samajam, Jt Secretary Aalpanakavu temple and an active social worker. His wife hails from Thiruvananthapuram and the couple has a daughter who has just completed her graduation and a son who is studying in Std VI.



Babu P Nair

### Babu P Nair

Babu P Nair who is partner in a company named Data Soft Services has been living in Sakinaka for several years. Hailing from Kannur, he is Vice President of Aalpanakavu Temple Trust, life member of Progressive Arts Club, Kanjur Marg Ayyappa Temple, NSS Sakinaka Unit, Bombay Keraleeya Samajam and does a lot of social activities in his neighbourhood. His wife Rema hails from Changanesseri and the couple has a son Vishnu going to Final year BCom and a daughter Vidya going to Std IX.

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**P Kesava Dev**

# The writer who challenged the system

-Satyanath



Kesava Dev belonged to the triumvirate of modern Malayalam Literary World and his compatriots were Vaikkom Mohamed Basheer and Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai. Being born into a poor matrilineal family, he always felt the need to rise above all others and to get his lawful due from the family and the society. From a very young age, he revolted against everything that suppressed people like him.

**K**esava Dev (20 July 1904-1 July 1983) was known to be a rebel among the writers as he revolted against existing traditions and customs. He was also known as the first communist in India as he declared himself a communist before Marxism found its first root in India. He was also the first trade union leader as he led the first trade union struggle in Kerala.

## Kesava Pillai the person

Nalletathu Lakshmi Kutty Amma had four children, Karthyayani Amma, Padmanabha Pillai, Krishna Pillai and Madhavi Amma besides two sisters Kavamma and Kalyani Kutty Amma. Padmanabha Pillai being the head of





Dev with kids



Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai



Vaikom Muhammed Basheer



the family would relax on an easy chair and command others for his needs while Krishna Pillai was a police constable whose powers were not questioned by anyone in the village. The responsibility of looking after the entire family thus fell on Karthyayani Amma. She was married to Appu Pillai and had six children, the sixth being Kesava Pillai. Other children were Narayanan, Sreedharan and Janaki. One son and a daughter, elder to Kesavan died before he was born.

Karthyayani Amma toiled hard to feed all these people while others enjoyed the fruits of her hard work. Often there was not enough food to satiate them and the scarcity of food made Kesavan hungrier. His mother never scolded him for demanding more food. She often ended her days by consuming the liberally diluted rice gruel. This condition made him to love and respect his mother more than anyone else and made to rebel against others.

During his younger days Kesavan witnessed the evil effects of casteism prevalent then. The treatment meted out by the members of the Namboothiri and royal communities who were land lords, towards other castes, was unfathomable. They looked down at Nairs though they were not averse to have conjugal relations with their women. Nairs in turn remained away from backward castes like Ezhavas who behaved similarly towards harijans. Temples and schools owned by the upper caste were out of bounds to the lower castes. This untouchability pervaded even to the hotels and other shops. While food was served to Nairs and other upper class people on a

table, it was served to lower castes on the floor. Young Kesavan could not comprehend this physical separation on account of open untouchability and whenever an opportunity arose, he defied them.

When Kesavan was studying in sixth standard in a middle school that offered English as one of the subjects, he revolted against the head master who exempted one student, belonging to a rich family, from the mass punishment meted out to all other students. He questioned the Headmaster about the rationale of exempting him. This act resulted in his leaving the school and formal education. This incident shows the unwavering attitude of young Kesavan against injustice (this incident finds its way in 'Odayil ninnu').

Unable to bear the pain of witnessing the misery of his mother, Kesavan, then only 14, decided to leave the village in search of a job so that he could supplement her income. He became a collector of chit money from clients. In the evenings, he took tuition to his employer's children. He felt an immeasurable joy when he handed over Rs.4 to his mother, keeping only Rs.3 for himself. However his passion for reading overtook his career interests and so, he lost his job. He then turned to the sale of khadi from house to house. Soon he realized that Gandhiji's message had no takers among common people. He returned home empty handed, to become a reclusive. When Narayana Pillai and Janaki Amma started earning, his mother felt slightly relieved.

***When the Communist Party stopped inviting him for their meetings as their star speaker, the Revolutionary Socialist Party extended welcome to him. Kesava Dev's openness created problems to them also when he started criticising their policies in their own meetings.***

The situation did not last longer. As soon as Narayana Pillai got a promotion, he distanced himself from the family and Janaki Amma kept most of her earnings to chits and other private savings. Mother had to find additional income to meet the expenses for Sreedharan Pillai's drawing classes as well.

With his mother's blessings, Kesavan left for Kochi to find his own bearing. Being under aged, he failed to get any remunerative employment and this helped him to get more time to read and attend spirited public discourses. Two of the speeches that influenced him

greatly were that of Swami Sathyavruhan and Editor of Sahodaran, K Ayyappan who spoke about the menace of casteism. When one hotelier refused to provide food for two of his friends on a table, Kesavan revolted and decided to fight against untouchability. The best mode to educate the people against this evil was public speaking, he felt. His continuous attendance at various public functions, taught him the nuances of public speaking. His friends provided him the platform for this new passion and thus Kesavan the fire brand speaker was born.



Dr Jyothidev and mother Seethalakshmi Dev



P Krishna Pillai



A K Gopalan

The miserable life led by the workers of coir industry and the harbor workers compelled him to talk to them and to encourage them to stand united. He made them understand that while it was necessary to find work for their survival, the factory owners also needed them to carry out work in their own selfish interest. For the first time the workers heard the slogan, that they had nothing to lose but their chains that bound them. Soon he led them to the first 'stop work' agitation. Thus he became the first trade union leader also. EMS Namboothiripad, P Krishna Pillai and A K Gopalan in their memoirs acknowledged the contribution of Kesava Pillai towards the popularity of socialism and trade unionism. EMS writes: "When I was a college student, I happened to meet him with Amsi Narayana Pillai. Pillai started a news paper 'Mahatma' with Kesava Dev as one of the editors. He was the spokesman and propagandist of socialism... Kesava Dev has also played an important role in the formation of a trade union for coir workers and its progress. Because of this very reason, the coir workers and communists could never forget him."

Kesava Dev in his three volume autobiographical novel Ethirppu (Revolt) proudly claimed that he was the first Indian Communist and Kerala's first trade union leader. He prepared a booklet on Russian Revolution named 'Agniym Spulingavum' (Fire and Spark), printed it and distributed personally. He took upon himself the

responsibility of organising the coir workers in Alapuzha into a Trade Union. He thus became the first person to initiate trade union movement in the State. It was he who taught communism to AKG Krishna Pillai and EMS Namboothiripad etc who were members of Congress Socialist Party, he claimed. Being a ferocious speaker, Kesava Pillai was favoured as a crowd puller by the communists. Later when he found that the new leaders were not practicing what they preached and encroached other fora to make inroads for the party, he was the first person to revolt against the formal Communist Party. There were many others who shared his views but hesitated to displease the party and continued to remain co-travellers. Thus the first communist was branded as anti-communist by the party.

One trait that was unique to Kesava Dev was that he never hesitated to join a new outfit if it was found to share his views but also did not hesitate to abandon it if found wanting in principle. When Arya Samaj was fighting against caste system and superstition, he joined it and abdicated his caste surname Pillai and accepted a new surname Dev. He participated in the Palakkad riot and polluted the Brahmins' Agraharam. But when he found the Samaj encouraging rituals of another kind, he left it without even bothering to say a good bye.

He then joined the Nivarthana samaram, the freedom struggle of Travancore. But his friends in arms were found praising the king while agitating against the Diwan. His speeches comparing the Diwan to Rasputin of Russia were not palatable to his friends though they were cheered by the masses. He took part in the agitation for responsible government and was arrested. In the prison he was subjected to severe violence.

When the Communist Party stopped inviting him for their meetings as their star speaker, the Revolutionary Socialist Party extended welcome to him. Kesava Dev's openness created problems to them also when he started criticising their policies in their own

meetings. Slowly aloofness was created between them. Realising their coldness he decided to find a new medium to communicate with the masses. It was thus he turned to writing. Soon he found his niche in literature by writing plays, articles, short stories and novels. The only literary form he did not touch was poetry. For him words were swords and poetry could not be effective in this respect. He started writing articles and short stories in various periodicals like Sahodaran, Mahila Mandiram, Swarad, Swadesabhimani and Mathrubhumi and

***One trait that was unique to Kesava Dev was that he never hesitated to join a new outfit if it was found to share his views but also did not hesitate to abandon it if found wanting in principle.***



Seethalakshmi Dev (centre) with son Dr Jyothi Dev (on her right) and family



EMS Namboothiripad



Rasputin

worked for some of them. He also worked as a journalist in Malayalarajyam and Bhaje Bharatham.

His association with drama and stage earned him a job with Akasavani as Producer of Drama. During this time he married Gomathi Amma and his friends thought that finally he was settled down. The marriage was a disaster as the couple could not see eye to eye. His literary activity faced a setback. Soon Dev reverted back to his old habit of travelling across the state. Finally the marriage broke down.

During this time, Dev was staying in a rented house in Thiruvananthapuram along with a male servant. Opposite his house, there was a family with three daughters staying. The eldest daughter Seethalakshmi, a ninth standard student, was an ardent fan of Dev. Considering the difference in their ages (Dev was more than forty years senior to her), none suspected anything amiss when she visited him frequently. Hell broke out when both of them eloped and her parents filed a complaint with the police. They were arrested and produced before a magistrate but were set free as they were already married. However this marriage resulted in a loss of job with the Akasavani.

Kesava Dev then decided not to seek any job but make a living out of writing. And he succeeded. His 'Odayilninnu' was made a text book twice and many of his novels ran repeated editions. He built a double storied home called 'Lakshmi Nilayam' for his wife Seetha-lakshmi at Mudavanmugal. *Odayilninnu, Rowdy, Swapnam, Aadyathe katha*

and *Oru sundariyute Katha* became successful movies too.

Kesava Dev was President of Kerala Sahitya Akademi for three years from October 1974 and the governing council consisted of stalwarts like Basheer, Uroob, S K Pottekkat, ONV Kurup and Pavanan. During this period, he was slowly surrendering to ill health and the drinking sessions, heavy smoking and irregular routines escalated it further. After several trips into and out of hospitals, he breathed his last on July 1, 1983.

## Kesava Dev the litterateur

For Kesava Dev "Literature was nothing but a reflection, interpretation, analysis and construction of life. Though he did not travel extensively, he considered the entire India his home. His play 'Tharavadu' exemplifies this approach. He never rejected old traditions to welcome the modern concepts nor reinforced traditions by rejecting modernism in its entirety. He stood for good things from both while rejecting the bad.

The first communist, even after giving it up later, helped its cause for friendship. EMS Namboothiripad remembers: "I remember the first Congress Socialist Party conference of 1934. To present before the conference, P Krishna Pillai persuaded Kesava Dev to prepare a manifesto and the constitution of the party... He (Kesava Dev) was a true co-worker who helped us while opposing

our policies..." His caliber to draft powerful and aggressive notes was acknowledged even by his opponents. This is from a person who did not even complete his elementary education! For him, "a litterateur is one who leads the masses and not led by them."

***Kesava Dev took to writing as a means to educate the ordinary people about the various issues that tormented the country. When education was a luxury, this was the only means to bring people closer.***

Kesava Dev took to writing as a means to educate the ordinary people about the various issues that tormented the country. When education was a luxury, this was the only means to bring people closer. V T Bhattathiripad, MRB and MP Bhattathiripad used the drama platform to awaken the

Namboothiri community from its slumber. Kesava Dev used it to address the inter caste causes. However he used it to popularize the ideals dear to him as well as to ridicule such ideas that were anathema to him.

For a few years Kesava Dev turned to drama as a mode of expression. He turned a critic of the pernicious tendencies that existed in drama troops at that time. His political satires namely 'Njanippo Communistavum' and 'Mazhayangum Kudayingum' became very popular. The themes and plots of 'Orumuri thenga', 'Ona blouse',



M P Bhattathiripad (Premji)



VT Bhattathiripad

'Kollanum Kollathiyum Onnu' were drawn from day-to-day life. Powerful dialogue and skillful characterization made these plays popular. Nevertheless, Dev the dramatist had seat only behind Dev, the orator and the litterateur.

From 1955 to 1965, Dev wrote ten novels including 'Ayalkar' (Neighbours), eight one-act plays, and four dramas, besides 71 short stories. During the period from 1965 and 1970, Dev touched the zenith as a short story writer. SPCS brought out two volumes of his selected short stories and they were sold out in no time. Several of his novels too published in serial form and then in book form, making him financially comfortable.

After his marriage with Seethalakshmi in 1957 for about twenty years Kesava Dev remained a prominent entity in the literary scenario along with Thakazhi and Basheer. Dev's residence became a meeting place of writers, journalists and politicians. Seethalakshmi's loving care, provided Dev with a better environment to indulge in writing. He derived a good deal of joy. Seethalakshmi gave birth to a baby boy on January 14, 1967. A successor was born to the rebel! Kesava Dev and wife accepted the name Jyothy Dev, suggested by K Balakrishnan, for their only child. Dev proved to be a very loving father and as his son Dr Jyothy Dev, reminisces, "I wonder how my father became a rebel. There was no trace of a rebel in his love for me. He used to dance to my tune. If I were late by a few minutes from school he used to lose his temper. When I was home he always wanted me near him".

### Evolution of Dev's philosophy

Hunger played a great role in shaping Dev's philosophy. The sufferings of his mother despite having capable brothers and cousins, shocked and pained him. From sowing the seeds to harvesting, processing of paddy to rice and cook and serve - she did all and yet starved at some point of time. She reared cows, milked them, sold milk and curd to the needy and yet drank black tea. She took all blames for the shortcomings at home. Kesavan tried his best to help her in domestic chores, even at the cost of his studies. This was one of the reasons for his discontinuation of studies.

The wealth of knowledge acquired through extensive reading and the wisdom he gained through his interaction with the leaders in various fields helped him to excel not only as a writer but also as an orator. Dev never used to refuse an invitation to address a gathering. He travelled far and wide addressing meetings often spending out of his own pocket. It was during this time that Dev read about the Russian Revolution. He thought that he received the answer for all the problems that the country faced. He even hoped that the second socialist revolution should take place in India. But Kesava Dev would not stick to anything permanently. He could not digest the post-

revolutionary changes in Russia. He not only ceased to be a communist but also began working against it. And for the same reason he vehemently opposed adoption of a politically coloured manifesto at the Progressive Literary Conference held at Trichur. Many tried to explain away Dev's attitude saying that he had a weakness to rebel against everything. But the fact remained that Dev rebelled because he had the courage of conviction to do so.

### Kesava Dev and his stories

Kesava Dev earned name and fame through his short-stories and novels. Dev has written about one hundred short stories, which were published in three anthologies. Dev experienced the miseries of two world wars, and had participated in the struggle for Indian Independence. What he wrote and spoke was not different from the life he lived. Farmers, peasants, low-class civil servants and prostitutes, became heroes and heroines in his fiction. He said that his writings were meant to serve a purpose. The purpose was to bring out the humanism in human beings and to curtail their beastly instincts. He revolted against the norms and techniques prescribed by certain critics, and he was in full blast when it came to defending his stand.

Of his short stories 'Deenamma', 'Bhavi varan', 'Bus Yatra', 'Prathijna', 'Ayalkari', 'Gusthi' (wrestling) are some of the most popular ones.

His first novel 'Odayil Ninnu' (1944) is considered by many as his best and the most popular one. Pappu the Riksha-puller is the hero. 'Bhrandalayam' (1949), 'Rowdy' (1958), 'Kannadi' (1961), 'Swapnam' (1967), 'Ayalkar' (1963) were his important novels. Dev had his own concept about the craft of the novel. In a series of lectures delivered at the invitation of the University of Kerala, Kesava Dev detailed his concept of Novel. A rare honour conferred by the highest seat of learning on a person who has not gone beyond primary education.

A number of his novels have been translated to other Indian languages and also to foreign languages.

One of his important works 'Bhrandalayam' was published and was well received. When Dev was financially secured, his creativity was at its peak. A person who rebelled against inequality and injustice, a person who revolted against petty parochialism, suddenly found the hero worshippers around him turn puritans. As was usual with his nature, Dev had only contempt for them and did not keep a secret of that. The marriage with Seethalakshmi brought about a lot of changes in Dev's usual self. The ten years between 1955 and 1965 were the most productive period for him as a writer. As many as ten novels were published during this period including 'Ayalkar' (1963) which won him the coveted Kendra Sahitya

It happened with-15

## Lalithambika Antharjanam

Lalithambika Antharjanam was one of the few Namboothiri women who came out of the *goshas* protesting against the then existing suppressive measures in her community. Though her father was supportive of her protests, his brothers were against her while mother was scared of the consequences. Antharjanam was to be complimented for her enthusiasm for learning and entering the field of literature though she was never enrolled in a school. Though a few teachers provided her with tuition in the early years, her mother was the principal inspiration.

Like the young women of her times, she admired Gandhiji and did everything to follow his teaching. Since cotton was difficult to procure, it was cultivated in their own fields, they spun the thread and weaved own clothes. Since Gandhiji's philosophy demanded a lot of transformations in the community, the youngsters supported it and chanted his name like a mantra while the puritans abhorred him. There were many songs eulogizing Gandhiji while some existed laughing at him.

Chengannur Nedumbrath Narayanan Potti was a small time writer and he used to visit Lalithambika's father. Though he authored many poems, only a few of them were published. The girls used to sing songs written on Gandhiji and they needed something new that others did not have. So when he came to her house, Lalithambika and her friends requested him to write something on Gandhiji. He asked them to give him some white paper to write and closed his eyes going into deep thinking. Within half an hour, Potti came with a new

poem with 8 slokas, titled *Gandhiashtakam*.

The girls learned the new poem by heart and soon it was on the lips of all girls in the village, to the chagrin of the leaders. Potti was slighted for this whenever some opportunity arose but he did not bother.

A few years passed and Gandhiji's messages lived on the lips but very little was implemented. In a temple there nearby, a religious discourse was going on and an elderly Namboothiri was doing it. Though Lalithambika liked his reading style, she disliked his explanations as he had the habit of criticizing Gandhiji bitterly. Though she was helpless, she decided to do something about it. One evening she remembered *Gandhiashtakam* and wrote it down on a piece of paper. Next day she reached the venue of the discourse very early and kept the paper containing *Gandhiashtakam* inside the holy book where a bookmark was kept.

When Namboothiri opened the holy book to continue, he saw the paper and read it but did not say anything about it.

Next day Lalithambika went to the temple as usual in the morning and became a subject of ridicule from the men sitting in the mandap. Being a woman she could not react to them in the same manner and hence had to gulp down the insults.

Several decades later, she recollected that most of the issues she fought for were indeed realized such as eradication of untouchability, entry of backward castes to the temples and parity between the sexes etc.



Akademi Award.

His first novel 'Odayil Ninnu' was prescribed as a text book, more than once. Kesava Dev was appointed President of Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham (1966-68). He was also appointed as the President of Kerala Sahithya Akademi (1974-77). Kesava Dev was conferred with Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1970. The Kerala Sahithya Akademi also honoured him by granting him a Fellowship. The Freedom Fighters Award was also conferred upon him in recognition of his participation in the freedom struggle of the country.

While writing about the life and work of Kesava Dev, we cannot ignore his autobiography aptly named as 'Ethirppu' (revolt), published in three volumes. There is also his 'Ormakalude Lokathil'. The autobiographies are not complete, but they reflect the life around him. The most striking feature of his biography is the truthfulness. Kesava

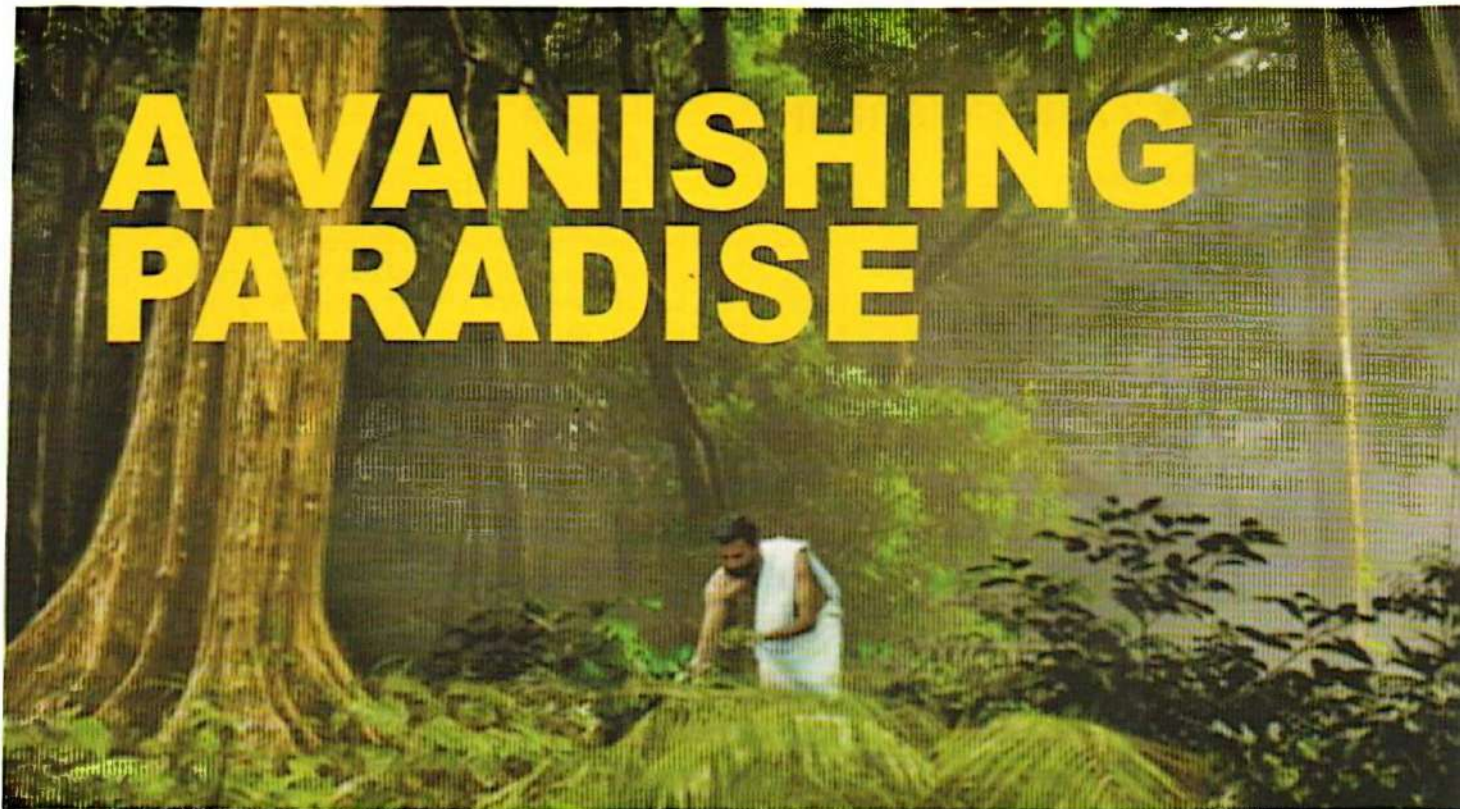
Dev could have presented a sugar coated autobiography but he willfully remained truthful. That is the most distinguishing characteristic of Dev as a writer and as a man. The intellectual honesty of Kesava Dev was something even his staunch critics could not disapprove.

The credit of being the exponent of progressive Malayalam literature, goes to Kesava Dev alone. He was the first writer to bring the Malayalam literature from the elite to the lower class. Dev wrote their language of his characters with the own characteristics with all its inherent power in a style that was unknown till then. As Kesava Dev had himself admitted, he was a writer with social commitment, especially to the downtrodden. Dev was a prolific writer producing thirty-one novels, over one hundred short-stories, over forty dramas and one act plays, a number of essays and an autobiography. ■

(To be continued)



Sahodaran K Ayyappan



# A VANISHING PARADISE

സരസം മസൃണം മനോഹരം, സരളം ചാരു  
 ഗംഭീരമത്സ്യതം, പരമീവകയെ സമാഹരിച്ചുര-  
 ചെച്ചുനിതരണ്യമെന്നു ഞാൻ!..

wrote Kuttippuzha Krishna Pilla, years ago, about the forests of Kerala in his "Aranyakante Athmagatham".



K. R. NARAYANAN

**F**orests have been on the earth, even before man appeared on the scene. Evidences indicate that the dense forests covered most parts of India in the very distant past. Historians feel that Kerala of the present day used to be a very thick forest, full of wild animals and dangerous insects. That, according to them, was the reason why human migration to this region was very minimal initially. As the Dravidians entered here, they cleared the forests and drove away the primitives to the forested mountainous regions. But, we have to admit that the forests of our country are no more what they were. Kuttippuzha Krishna Pilla's "Aranyakante Athmagatham" needs a re-look in the changed circumstances.

## The Sahyadri

The Western Ghats or the Sahyadri Ranges is a chain of mountains, running from the north to the south along the eastern boundary of Kerala. They possess varied vegetation, such as the scrub jungles and grasslands, dry and moist deciduous forests, montane grasslands and shoals, and the precious tropical evergreen and semi evergreen

forests. A complex pattern of topography, intensive rainfall, inaccessibility and the like have helped the region to remain isolated from the rest of the land and retain its biodiversity during the past many centuries.

It is said that out of the 15,000 flowering plant species in India, 4,780 species are in the Western Ghats region. There is also a great diversity of traditional crop plants and an equally diverse animal life. A large number of carnivorous animals, ungulates, proboscides, snakes, monkeys, amphibians, fresh water fishes, invertebrate worms and other animals are endemic to the Western Ghats.

The Western Ghats region wherein Kerala is situated, is one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots in the whole world. The state has 1,500 taxa of flowering plants, which are endemic in nature. There is also an equally rich fauna belt in the state. The diversity of lower plants and animal groups, and the marine flora and fauna in particular (even though not fully known) are remarkably rich here. The forests of the Western Ghats sustain innumerable animal and plant resources. Some

details of this information on animal resources are shown in the following table.

Animal Resources	World	India	Kerala
Fishes	31000	2439	196
Amphibians	6184	277	117
Reptiles	8734	408	159
Birds	9782	1179	484
Mammals	5416	410	145

The available total floral (plant) wealth of the state is given below.

Category	Kerala	India	Kerala's Share (%)
Flowering Plants	4500	17500	25.71
Gymnosperms	4	64	06.25
Pteridophytes	236	1100	21.45
Bryophytes	350	2850	12.28
Lichens	520	2000	26.00
Algae	325	6500	05.00
Fungi	4800	14500	33.10

## A Potential Resource

All the ancient Indian scriptures speak about the importance of our forests and the forest related activities of yore. Forests were revered by the people and many religious ceremonies used to be centered on trees, plants and forests. The Agni Purana states that man should protect trees to obtain material gains and religious blessings. About 2,500 years ago, Gautama Buddha preached

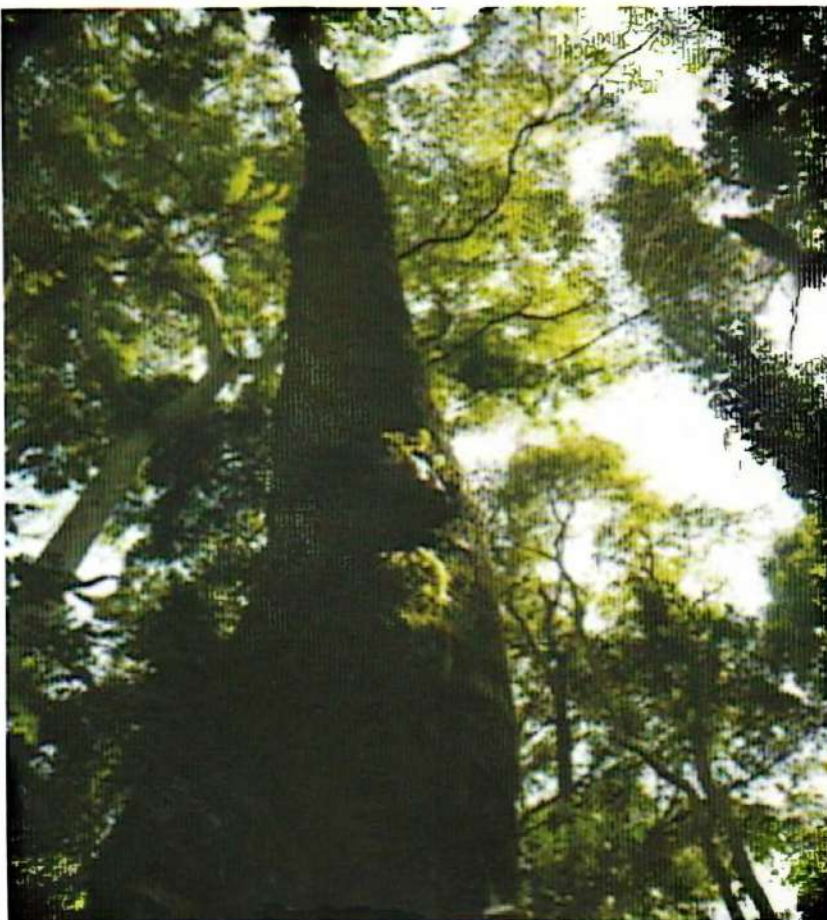
that man should plant a tree every five years. Sacred groves were marked around the temples, where certain rules and regulations were imposed upon for their maintenance. The Mughals showed great interest in gardens and their development. Akbar ordered the plantation of trees in various parts of his kingdom. Jahangir and Shah Jahan, on the other hand, were well known for laying out beautiful gardens and groves.

During the early days of the British East India Company, trees were felled indiscriminately without any forethought. Large numbers of trees such as the Sal, Teak, and Sandalwood were felled for export purposes.

The history of modern Indian forestry was a process by which the British gradually appropriated forest resources for revenue generation. But after some time, the British realized their folly and began to regulate and conserve the forests. In 1800, a Commissioner was appointed to look into the availability of teak in the Malabar forests. In 1806, the then Madras Government appointed Capt. Watson as the Commissioner of Forests for organizing and augmenting the production of teak and other timber suitable for the building of ships.

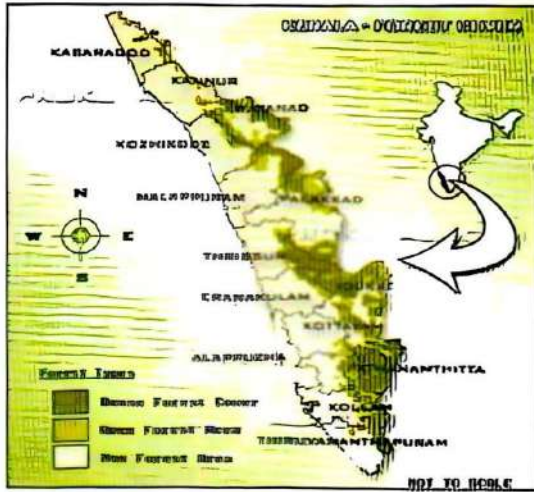
Forests play a vital role in our economy and the social life. They are an important source of fuel and also of raw materials like the timber, bamboo, lac, gum, katha and many other useful materials for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes. They provide materials for defence and communication purposes as well. They are the natural source for grazing and cattle-feed. Forests play a major role in the conservation of soil fertility and the maintenance of the water regime of the land. The organic matters they yield improve the tilth and increase the water holding capacity of the soil and reduce the run-off. The presence of vegetation acts as a physical check on the velocity of the run-off and reduces its soil carrying capacity. Thus, the hilly terrains are protected from soil erosion by the forests. Similarly, they protect the flat lands against dessication and erosion caused by winds. They exert a beneficial influence on the growth of agricultural crops and on the climate of the region in which they exist. Thus, these natural resources are a must for human subsistence and sustenance as well.

It is estimated that, presently, India has an area of 635,400 square kilometers notified as forests, representing some 22.27% of geographic area. India is one of the few countries, that has a forest policy since 1894 (revised in 1952 and again in 1988). The main plank of the current policy is protection, preservation and development of forests. Only about 38 to 40 million Ha. of forests are well stocked (above 40% in crown density) in the country now. But, remember, this resource has to meet the demand of a population of 1100 million people and more than 7 million cattle.



## The Kerala Scenario

The forest cover of Kerala is largely spread over the Western Ghats which border the state in the east. The Western Ghats represent one of the World's 18 hot spots of bio-diversity and is considered to be a repository of endemic, rare and



endangered flora and fauna. In tune with the National Forest Policy, the Government of Kerala developed a vision and strategy for the management of forest resources with an endeavor to reconcile the disparate demands on forests, to conserve the bio-diversity on one hand and to meet the demands of the society on the other. The forest management policies envisage technology improvement, response to

the needs of people and development of partnership with the forest-dependent communities.

The recorded forest area in Kerala is 11,125.59 sq.kms. The percentage of forest cover in Kerala is 28.90% which is higher than the national coverage of 19.50%. This includes 9157.10 sq. kms reserve forests, 214.31 sq.km proposed reserve and 1754.18 sq. km vested forest. Out of the total of 11,125 sq.km. of recorded forest area, the effective (actual) forest area in Kerala is only 9400 sq.km. which is broadly classified- for the sake of convenience- into 5 major categories, as follows.

Sr. No.	Forest Type	Area (Lakh ha.)
1	Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests	3.480
2	Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests	4.100
3	Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests	0.094
4	Mountain Sub Tropical Forests	0.188
5	Plantations	1.538
Total		9.400

As mentioned earlier, the forest cover of Kerala is spread over the Western Ghats. About 51% of the total forest cover is in the southern districts and the remaining 49 percent is in the central and northern regions. Idukki and Pathanamthitta districts have the largest area under forest cover. Alappuzha is the only district without any area under forest cover.

The classification of forest area in Kerala in the context of land utilization shows that 64 % of the area is under dense forests and 19 % of the area is under plantations, while 17 % of the area is given to other agencies (2004). The reports of the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department further show that the actual forest area in the State during 2003-04 was 9,400 km<sup>2</sup> which forms 24.19 % of the total geographic area of the State.

Still, with a population density of 819 person per square kilometer (as per the State Census Report, 2001), the per capita availability of forest in Kerala is only 0.035 ha.

Over the past years the state government has been striving for the conservation of its forests and wildlife. The state government banned clear felling of natural forests in 1983. With the aid of various organizations, including the World Bank, the government has implemented various programmes for the afforestation of degraded forests. These include community afforestation, compensatory afforestation and general forestry programmes.

At present there are 5 National Parks in Kerala: Silent Valley National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Paampadum Shola National Park, Anamudi Shola National Park and Mathikettan Shola National Park. Apart from this, there are 11 Wildlife sanctuaries, 2 bird sanctuaries and a tiger reserve (the Periyar Tiger Reserve) in the state. In the beginning of the 19th century, 75% of Kerala



was under forest cover which diminished to 50% by the beginning of the 20th century. In order to avoid further degradation, most of the forest areas were brought under Reserve Forest.

It is estimated that about 1.88 lakh ha. of Kerala forests are degraded with crown density below 40 per cent. Afforestation of the degraded forest is one of the thrust areas for forestry development, supported under various programmes which include compensatory afforestation, general forestry and World Bank-aided Kerala Forestry Project. Afforestation of degraded forests has been carried out in 68,532 hectares under various programmes during the Ninth Five Plan till 2000-2001.

Also, the State Government banned clear felling of natural forests in 1983 to arrest further degradation. Moratorium on selective felling in



Major forest produce includes timber, bamboo, reeds and firewood. Their total production shows a declining trend from 1993-94 onwards. Reeds and bamboo show sharp decline in supplies during the period while the extraction of timber is on the increase. The quantity of timber produced in 1999-2000 is 44,337 cubic meters, as against 19,246 cubic meters in 1997-98 and 28,664 cubic meters in 1998-99. The number of bamboo and reeds has come down from 656 million in 1997-98 to 402 million. These are species promoted under farm forestry with people's participation.

natural forests was imposed in 1987, with the objective of preventing disturbance and damage to the eco-system.

Forest plantations constitute a major source of raw material to the forest based industries. The total area covered by forest plantation of various species is about 1.70 lakh ha, which has remained more or less stagnant during the last three years. Teak is the major (45%) species planted, followed by mixed plantations (26%) and eucalyptus (15%).

The revenue from the forestry sector by way of sale of timber and other forest produce was Rs.115 crore during 1999-2000. The revenue from reeds and bamboos has come down considerably during 1999-2000 due to the drastic reduction in the quantum of extraction.

## National Parks

Some important National parks established in Kerala are listed in the following table.

Year	Name of the Park	Remarks
1978	Eravikulam National Park,	Idukki District, 97 km <sup>2</sup>
1982	Periyar National Park	Idukki District, 350 km <sup>2</sup>
1984	Silent Valley National Park	Palakkad District, 89.52 km <sup>2</sup>
2003	Mathikettan Shola National	ParkIdukki District, 12.82 km <sup>2</sup>
2003	Anamudi Shola National	ParkIdukki District is composed of Mannavan shola, Idivara shola and Pullardi shola, covering a total area of 7.5 km <sup>2</sup> .
2003	Pambadum Shola National Park,	Idukki District, 1.318 km <sup>2</sup>

The major Wildlife sanctuaries of Kerala include:

Name	District	Area (Sq.Km)	Year of establishment
Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary	Idukki	427	1950
Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary	T'puram	427	1950
Peechi-Vazhani Sanctuary	Thrissur	125	1958
Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary	Wayanad	344	1973
Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary	Palakkad	285	1973
Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary	Idukki	70	1976
Perappa Wildlife Sanctuary	T'puram	53	1983
Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary	Idukki	25.16	1983
Chimmony Wildlife sanctuary	Thrissur	85	1984
Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary	Kollam	171	1984
Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary	Idukki	90.44	1984
Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary	Kannur	55	1984
Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary	Emakulam	0.027	2004
Kunjimala Sanctuary	Idukki	32	2006
Ranipuram Wildlife Sanctuary	Kasaragod	80	2007 (?)



## Forest Ecosystem

A Forest Ecosystem can be as small as a tiny Forest Pool or as large as the entire Forest. A Forest Biome is generally larger like the Desert Biome or the National Forest System Biome. A Forest Biome designates the area and generally does not contemplate the workings within which is what halting Climate Change is all about.

It is the Trees and the Forest Ecosystem that produces oxygen, removes the particulate matter, cleans, humidifies and cools the atmospheric air. The Forest emits water- vapour which rises and forms the clouds ... This is the beginning of Forest Hydrology ... and our rainfall.

In addition to assisting in climate control, forests have other ecological benefits. They prevent erosion by reducing the force of the rainfall on the surface of the soil and by absorbing water and not allowing it to directly run off and remove top soil. Forests also act as water filters, collecting and



storing water and recharging underground aquifers. Tropical montane forests are especially important to watersheds. Forests also increase the atmospheric humidity by transpiration, which affects temperature and rainfall.

Forests contain a greater range of biodiversity than any other ecosystem on earth. Only a fraction of the species found in forests have been examined and studied. A single massive tree in the Amazon rainforest can be home for thousands of species. The wide variety of trees and plants found in tropical forests comprises particularly intensive biodiversity. This biodiversity is important on its own terms in ways we may not immediately understand, as interdependent species have evolved over millions of years to interact and flourish.

Mankind derives many benefits from forest ecosystems. Many medicines and pharmaceuticals have been discovered in plants native to these forests. Local communities survive on

plants and animals culled from the forests. Products that modern society depends on such as wood, paper and bamboo all originate from forest ecosystems. Many other desirable products such as spices, gums and dyes, even vitamins are also found in forests. Forests are important to humans for aesthetic reasons as well, and ecotourism is one way to use and promote the protection of forests in a sustainable manner.

## At the Receiving End

The Western Ghats in the Kerala territory are the life line for millions of people, besides being a world natural heritage site and a place of topmost biological diversity important for the world. They form one of the major watersheds of India, feeding the perennial rivers of India. They provide the drinking water source to the millions of people. They are also the depository of gene pool and reservoir of natural resources and biological diversity. But these ranges have a delicate sensitive and fragile eco-system consisting of evergreen tropical rain forests, moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests, sholas, montane rain forests, montane grasslands and grassland ecosystem, swamps, wetlands and the like.

They sustain several National Parks, Wild life sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and reserved forests. Most of the fauna including mammals and avian fauna as well as the flora in the Western Ghats are both endangered and endemic. For instance, the Nilgiri Tahr, and the Hornbills are endemic to this area as well as they are endangered. So also is the case of tiger, elephant and several other wild animals.

Several species have become extinct and several others are classified as threatened/ endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and listed in the IUCN red list of threatened species. In spite of them, there are several problems and issues which threaten and endanger the safety and conservation, biological and ecological values of the Western Ghat ranges. Issues like mining for metals and minerals and other exploitation of natural resources, encroachments, constructions, Hydro Electric Power Projects, Wind Power Projects and other Power Projects, Irrigation Dams, religious activities, Social Forestry, Deforestation for wood, Tourist Resorts and residential constructions and resorts pose serious threat and danger to the ecological balance and biological diversity of the Western Ghats and also lead to large scale destruction of the forests, wildlife and eco system. These activities result in blockage of corridors of passage for the wild animals (like the elephants) from one side of the forest to another and thus wild life is seriously choked.

Several tea, coffee and teak plantations of Kerala lie enclosed within the reserve forests and are surrounded by thick forests on all sides. Most of

these plantation estates have been created during colonial period by the British, after clearing vast tracts of forest land. Erection of fences, electric fences, boundary walls, trenches etc in the estates and around them cause obstacles and hurdles for the smooth passage of mammals from one side of the forest to other side of the forest thereby affecting the movement of wild animals and blocking the forest corridors. Moreover further construction and development activities within the estates, increased human activities in human settlements inside the estates and on the fringes of forests, conversion of land use pattern and construction of resorts etc. cause substantial damage to the surrounding biodiversity and ecological balance and disturb and annoy the surrounding wild life, creating an adverse ambience and atmosphere for wild life.

Deforestation, tourist activities, religious activities, construction and development activities also create serious disturbances to the flora. Expansions and extensions of human settlements in the Western Ghats and its foothills, human construction, encroachments and land grabbing in and around forest areas in the Western Ghats and its foothills and the deliberate and ill motivated acts of fragmentation of large estate holdings have all resulted in breaking the corridors and passages of wild animals and loss of natural habitat for the wild life. This has resulted in creating man-animal conflict. Several instances of man-eating leopards as well as elephant attacks are reported regularly from many areas of the Western Ghats. Likewise destruction of crops and forays into human

settlements by wild elephants in several areas of the Western Ghats as a result of the shrinking and loss of natural habitats of the elephants, too are quite common. Another very important threat faced by the forests is the rapid change in the landscape and land use patterns affecting the watershed function, biodiversity and the ecological balance of the Western Ghats which in turn would cause substantial depletion to the drinking water sources, loss of natural habitat of wild animals and loss of wild life corridors and connectivity.

It may well be noted though there exist numerous legislations in India aiming at the Protection of Forest and Wildlife - such as the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, The Indian Forest Act, 1927, The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, The Kerala Forest Act, 1961, Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Act, 1971, Kerala Grants and Leases (modification of Rights) Act, 1980, The Madras Preservation of Private Forest Act, 1949, The Kerala Preservation of Trees Act, 1986, The Kerala Forest (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile Lands) Act, 2003, The Kannan Devan Hills (Resumption of lands) Act, 1971, and so on, encroachments into forest lands, destruction of the biodiversity and ecological balance of the Western Ghats and destruction of the flora and fauna are a regular and continuous feature/phenomenon. These legislations are practically found inefficient to deal with the threat or unable to prevent such encroachments and destruction to the forests in many situations.

#### *Continued from page 4 (Letters to the Editor)*

film the way we want to. T K Pareekutty was the producer. All the film stories till then were based on South Kerala. Therefore a story based on the life of Malabar, Kochi and Central Kerala would be a novelty. We also decided to have folk music, a natural one and agreed to call our friend Raghavan of AIR. Neelakuyil was created after much discussion and pondering on points like this."

According to my knowledge and the print materials available, *Neelakuyil* was based on a story written by Uroob himself and not on a Kannada story. The above para also substantiates the same. The screen play and dialogues were written by Uroob along with P. Bhaskaran.

Wishing all success for 'Kerala in Mumbai'.

*Girijavallabhan  
Borivili*

#### **Satyanath responds:**

I deeply regret the error committed in the article 'Uroob and his stories'. The year of winning gold medal for *Pather Panchali* was a mix up between 1954 and 1955. Of course, my memory failed me. Thank you for pointing out the error.

The part about Ramu Kariat chasing a producer was given to me by Kariat himself in a friendly chat decades ago. He did

say that he contacted Bhaskaran and roped in most of the people of AIR, Kozhikode. There was nothing in the letter to contradict this fact.

*Neelakuyil* being based on a Kannada short story was given out by Shri P C Kuttikrishnan himself through one of his articles published in a leading Malayalam magazine when the film was celebrating its silver jubilee and he mentioned in the same article that Bhaskaran himself directed the films based on his other two stories. Every person associated with *Neelakuyil* had something to say about it, including Raghavan, Bhaskaran, Balakrishna Menon, Kochappan et al. While some had bitter experience, others had memorable ones. It was said by Ramu Kariat that Pareekutty offered only Rs.10000 initially out of which Sathyan took Rs.5000 and Kumari Rs. 3000 while Raghavan received Rs.1000. Raghavan had recorded that he was promised more money if the film made profits but never got any on that account and that forced him to part with Pareekutty after *Rarichan Enna Pouran*. *Neelakuyil* was made on an adventurous spirit and for self gratification. Of course Pareekutty invested more money later when he started enjoying the production and smelling a golden chance to make much more money. ■

## The Changing Forests

"The changing forest composition and cover are attributed to the developmental growth and change of civilizations. Over the years, as man progressed, the forests began to deplete. The growing population and man's dependence on the easily available forest resources could bring in more catastrophes. In view of the above, the forests have become the most threatened bio-sphere",

according to P S Indira (2011).

Increase in human population coupled with rapid urbanization and industrialization and consumerism, without due regard to environmental considerations, have led to extensive pollution of air, water and land. The raw materials consumed during these activities has resulted in the dwindling of non renewable forest resources and accumulation of detrimental wastes. These wastes are indiscriminately disposed and as a consequence, the water, air and land become more polluted. Added to these, the recurrence of drought and water scarcity and sand mining, resulting in the death of rivers and rivulets, change in land use pattern leading to severe soil erosion, depletion of biodiversity, increasing incidence of natural disasters like earthquakes, landslides and so on are undermining the once serene and splendid environment of 'God's own country'.

Kerala's forests are under severe threat.

High population density, flawed State decisions in opening up for cultivation, artificial fires and corruption even among the law enforcing agencies in encouraging illegal encroachments and deforestation have resulted in the destruction of forests. Thus the suitability of the habitat for their wild animals is also seriously jeopardized, with the result that a number of forest animals have become scarce if not extinct. Moreover this has skewed the rainfall pattern, substantially reducing the water in its rivers, creating a drought-like condition even in traditionally water rich areas.

Sustained development of the forest resources of Kerala would call for a rational and dynamic approach, which among other things should include management of existing natural forests for non-destructive uses, such as conservation of biodiversity, rehabilitation of degraded natural forests through protection and care, promotion of agro-forestry and social forestry for meeting local needs and promotion of effective people's participation in all types of forest activities particularly plantation forestry.

Sacred Groves, the unique islands of biodiversity is fast disappearing in Kerala. They are the home of the local flora and fauna, a veritable gene pool and a mini biosphere reserve. Within these groves are locked ancient secrets of herbs and traditional medicine. In addition to functioning as a cradle of biodiversity, sacred groves are responsible for water cycling, nutrient cycling and water conservation areas. The upper soil of sacred groves containing decaying leaves and crores of microorganisms are responsible for slowing the flow of water and absorbing the water into the underground. People are prevented from entering into kavu and taking even a dried branch or leaf of tree, and if one does so, it is believed that he will incur the curse of God. Disappearance of the 'tharavadu system', human interference through grazing, poaching and other anti-social activities and changing socio-economic scenario are the major threats to the sacred groves of Kerala. The preservation of the fast-disappearing sacred grove of Kerala is as important as preserving the forest for protecting biodiversity and securing the underground water table (Indira, P.S: 2011).

To summarise, the country has to meet the need of about 18% of the world's population from 1% of the world forest resources. Also, it has to cater to the needs of about 20% of the world cattle population. The Indian forests are very rich in biodiversity and very vital for environmental protection and considered to be a repository of rare and endangered flora and fauna. Humanity cannot sustain itself without them. But, they need protection not through statutes alone but through human willingness to keep them alive!

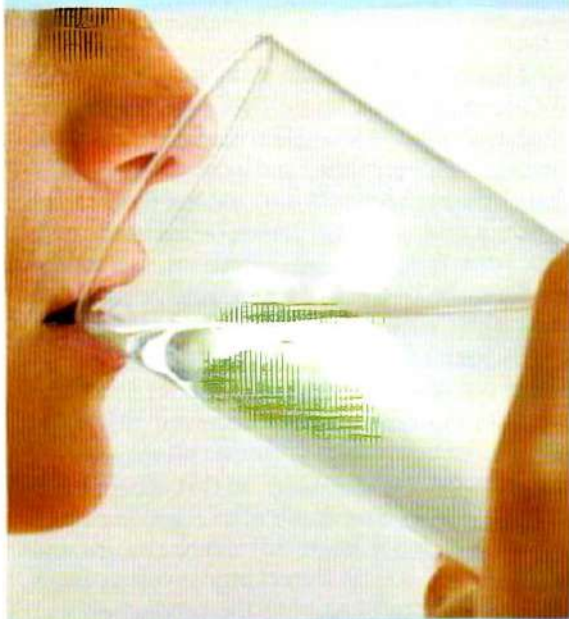
*(Based on many published documents and research papers on the Forests of Kerala)* ■

## Benefits of water

About 90% of heart attacks occur early in the morning and it can be minimized if one takes a glass or two of water before retiring in the evening.

Drinking water at the correct time maximizes its effectiveness on the human body.

- 1 glass of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs.
- 1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion.
- 1 glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure.
- 1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack.



Compiled by Sudhir Nair



# Genesis of Classical status for Malayalam

**T**he Union Cabinet at its meeting held on May 23, 2013 has decided to grant Classical status to Malayalam spoken by 3.33 crore Malayalis spread all over the globe. With this decision, Malayalam joins all members of the Dravidian linguistic family such as Tamil, Kannada and Telugu, as the fourth 'classical' language in South India. Accordingly, a new panel was constituted and the decision was made.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, Leader of the Opposition V.S. Achuthanandan, Jnanpith award winner O.N.V. Kurup and a host of literary personalities appreciated the Union Government's gesture. With this decision, the Kerala government will be getting Rs.100 crore in financial assistance and support for various projects for promotion of the language and its literature in the coming years. Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages also will be announced besides setting up a Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages. The University Grants Commission also will support the establishment of Malayalam Chairs in various Central universities.

The efforts for securing Classical status for Malayalam was commenced by Achuthanandan, former Chief Minister and M.A. Baby, former Culture Minister. A Committee was constituted by Prof. O.N.V.Kurup, Dr. Puthussery Ramachandran and other linguists to prove Malayalam's antiquity. A meeting of the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted by the Sahitya Akademi was held in January, 2011 and the members deliberated on the subject. A three-member panel of experts, constituted by the Sahitya Akademi, had heard experts on the subject before making its endorsement. Oommen Chandy and K.C. Joseph, the Culture Minister took up the issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

It may be recalled that while inaugurating the Vishwamayala Mahotsavam on July 12, 2012 Oommen Chandy stated that Malayalam has all the qualifications to receive the classical language status. The Kerala government has approached the Centre subsequently to extend the classical status to Malayalam and the Chief Minister has personally apprised the Prime Minister and the Central Minister for Culture in this regard.

Earlier, in a report to the Ministry of Culture, Linguistic Committee of the Sahitya Kala Akademi has passed a unanimous verdict saying that Malayalam does not meet the main criterion of high antiquity stating that as per the rules laid down by



V.N. Gopalakrishnan



Thunchan Parambu

the Central Government, a language can be accorded classical status only if it is 1,500-2,000 years old.

Subsequently, a new report was submitted to the Centre with comprehensive evidences that Kerala has the right to have classical status for Malayalam. The state government urged the Linguistic Committee to reconsider its decision. Countering the Linguistic Committee's argument, Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran, a member of the Expert, Committee of Scholars headed by O.N.V. Kurup

stated that even the Malayalam alphabet is 1,500 years old and obviously the language had existed before the evolution of the script. He argued that even 'Tolkapiyam, the fourth-century AD grammar work for Tamil has references about Malayalam.

Silapatikaram of 6<sup>th</sup> century AD written by a Chera prince of Kerala and several love lyrics of Sangham Literature written by 30 plus poets belonging to the Chera kingdom constitute the bulk of Sangham Literature, according to Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran. "All these literary works are written in Kerala dialect which reflects the first phase of the linguistic development of Kerala. The culmination of this

development could be seen in the Vaisava Shakti songs of King Kulasekhara and the songs of Saiva King Cheraman Perumal Nayanar. All these works of poetry and the earlier inscriptions constitute the first stage of the development of Malayalam language."

The script used by Malayalam writers had a long history than that of Telugu and Kannada scripts. It should be noted that the Grantha script was used for writing Sanskrit in South India after Southern Brahmi fell into disuse. This Grantha script is the script in which Malayalam is written today and it has got an antiquity of 1500 years. It was first used by the Pallava Kings to write Sanskrit Language 1500 years back, according to Dr. Ramachandran.

It is interesting to note that the Tamil Scholars fought for 150 years for getting the classical status for Tamil. In 1887 Shri. V.G. Suryanarayana Sastriar gave a clarion call at the University of Madras for giving classical status to Tamil along with Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Sanskrit. Tamil language received classical status on October 12, 2004. Similarly, Kannada and Telegu languages were accorded classical status



Oommen Chandy



Achuthanandan

by the Centre.

The criteria for determining classical status derive from Greek and Latin literature. The characteristics of Greek and Latin literature, by and large are antiquity, harmony, clarity, restraint, serene idealism, universality, reason, order and humanism. The Sahitya Akademi's Expert Committee mentioned following four criteria for classical language:

- The high antiquity of early texts/records history of over 1,500 to 2000 years.

- A body of ancient literature/texts that considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.

- The literary tradition should be original and not borrowed from another speech community.

- The classical language and literature should be distinct and there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later form or off-shoots.

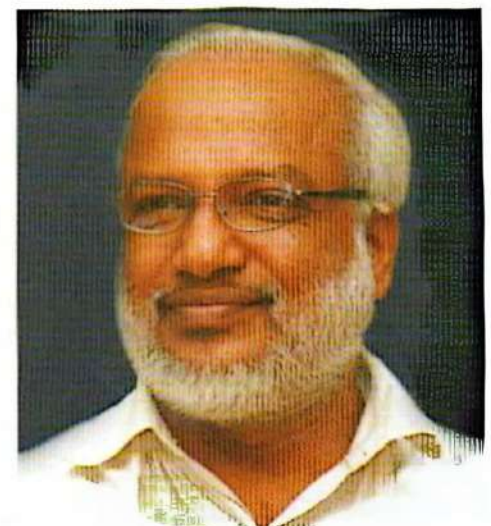
By granting Classical status to Malayalam, the Union Government has recognized the culture of the people of Kerala. It is through Malayalam, the mother tongue of Keralites, the Malayali trait has developed. Hence the language, literature and culture are inseparable.



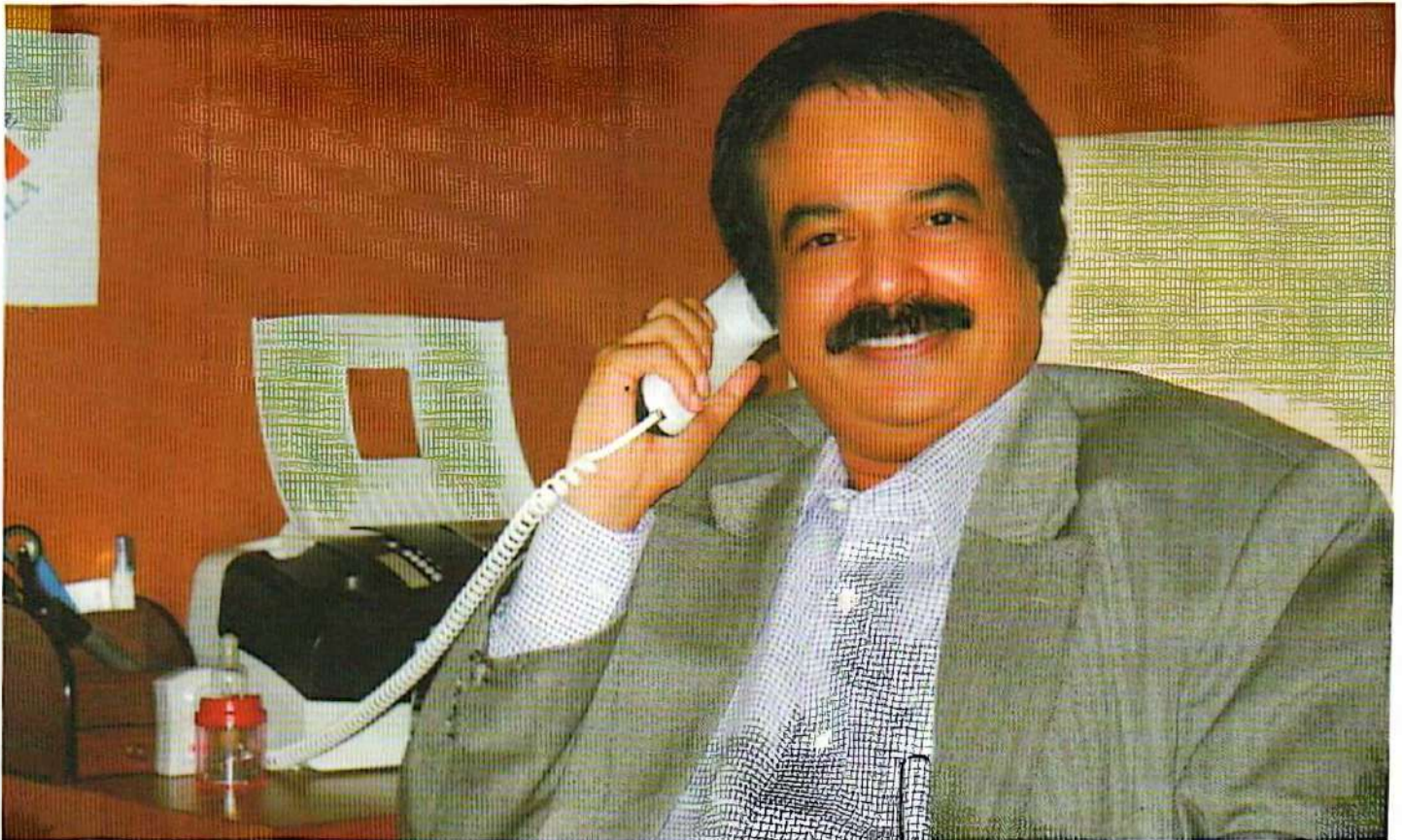
O.N.V. Kurup



Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran



M.A. Baby



## Prince Vaidyan the social activist turns brand ambassador

- KIM News Bureau

*Alexander Prince Vaidyan is a well known social and cultural activist of Mumbai and is known to well known personalities of not only Maharashtra but other states of India by and large.*

**A**lexander Prince Vaidyan has been chosen Ambassador for Global Business for Choice International Ltd, a company that has a net worth of Rs 2000 Crore.

Choice International Ltd is one of the major corporate bodies providing merchant banking, infrastructure and global finance facilities to other institutions. It has a chain of Hotels popularly known as Byke Resorts. The group manages several resorts in India - Sunflower Beach Resort in Goa, The Byke Heritage in Matheran, The Byke Paawana in Rajasthan, The Byke Redwood in Matheran, The Byke Neelkanth in Manali (Himachal Pradesh), The Byke in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), The Byke in Jodhpur (Rajasthan), The Byke in Aronda (Goa), The Byke in Khopoli (Maharashtra), The Byke in Kudal (Maharashtra), and a few other upcoming projects in Ashtamudi, Kollam and Kochi in Kerala.

Alexander Prince Vaidyan is a well known social and cultural activist of Mumbai and is known to well known personalities of not only Maharashtra but other states of India by and large. It appears that it is this well connectivity of Prince Vaidyan, with all top giants and business tycoons in India and abroad, that prompted Global

Business Chairman Mr Sunil Patodia, Vice Chairman Mr Anil Patodia and Managing Director Mr Kamal Poddar to opt for him as their ambassador. Prince Vaidyan, as usual, is happy to take up the new assignment as it would be immensely challenging. He would not only be the Business Ambassador for Choice International Limited and The Byke Resorts but also handle major investment representations from India and abroad for the upcoming projects of the group.

Dr Prem Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar complimented Prince Vaidyan on his new assignment at a function held at Hotel Leela in Mumbai. The Deputy CM sought the services of Prince Vaidyan to develop the infrastructure of Bihar as he did for Jammu & Kashmir.

Choice International Limited is spread all over the world with Mumbai as its headquarters. Its other prominent offices are in UK, Dubai, Hongkong and Singapore. It is planning to set-up a World Class Conventional Centre with a capacity of 5000 and a seven star hotel near International Airport. This will be the largest Hotel and Conventional centre in Mumbai. A similar setup with Hotel & Conventional Centre will be built in Goa also.

Chitra Viswanathan

# Nourishing Classical Dance Forms

- Elvee

A committed artiste, Chitra Viswanathan through her Bharatanatyam dance classes, strives to nurture in her students an awareness of the richness of this ancient Indian classical dance form.



and traditional folk dances. She also underwent a course in Dance and Body Movement under the guidance of Mahesh Mehubani of Laban Centre, London.

Geeta says that she owes a lot to her mother Saroja Krishnan who encouraged her to nurture her love for dance and for the position she has achieved in this field. An MFA from I Sandhya Purecha's Bharata College of Fine Arts and Culture, Mumbai Chitra has founded

Abhinayaa Institute of Research and Fine Arts in

1997 to teach classical dance to the younger generation. She

has been associated with film actor and dancer Sudha Chandran

and her Nache Mayuri Academy for the past 7 years and her senior students are

performing with Sudha Chandran for all her

*"I would like to tell the youth of today who are interested in making a career on dancing to go ahead and fulfill their desire. You should not leave it halfway, thinking there is no future in it."*

**D**ance teacher and choreographer Chitra Vishwanathan traces her ancestry back to four generations of Carnatic musicians originally belonging to Guruvayur. Her father Krishna Iyer left Kerala to work in Calcutta at LMI. Chitra was born and brought up in Calcutta. But she was in touch with her native language and roots. At the young age of 4, she started learning Bharatanatyam from Geeta Mahadevan, (one of the Coimbatore sisters) later learning several other dance styles like Mohiniattam, kuchupidi,



Chitra and her disciples during a felicitation



Chitra (file photos)

dance programmes. Chitra has choreographed most of Sudha Chandran's classical and semi-Classical dances. About 140 students have performed their arangettram under Chitra's guidance.

### Arpana Ballet Troupe

Chitra's Arpana Ballet Troupe features her original choreographies of ancient and contemporary compositions. She has choreographed and presented various recitals on Lord Ganapathy, Devi Shakti, Krishna Raasa Leela, dramatic portrayal of Maa Ganga, Life of Mahatma Gandhi and Dark consequences of Terrorism and Corruption in a country etc all over India and in Thailand. She is working on Brahma samhita, a project on Indian art and culture organized by ISKCON. She is the only person who has successfully completed all the 64 verses on this subject which was premiered at Delhi ISKCON and has been performing at various ISKCON temples in India.

She represented India with her students at Abu Dhabi for the World Kannada Cultural Meet.

### Awards and Recognitions

In April this year Chitra was awarded the title Vidushi by Gyanamandara Trust in Bangalore and Karnataka Jyothi by kannada Vishwa Sammelana Hassan. In 2010 Bharat Vikas Parishad honoured with the Guru title. She has been honored by the National Congress Party, for her contribution to art and culture in the Vasai Virar belt. The Government of Gujarat has also honoured her for her dance performance on the life of Gandhi and Gujarat Vichar Manch for spreading Gandhian philosophy in India.

Chitra's Dance Institute goes a step further and imparts training of this classical dance art form to Adivasi children of the Vasai - Virar region for special occasions. It also teaches free of charge to poor students who are truly interested in learning Bharatanatyam but can not afford to learn the same due to economic reasons.

Chitra Viswanathan completed her schooling and college education in Calcutta and got

married in 1991. Her husband is PE Viswanathan belonging to Puthukode but brought up and educated in Kannur. For

*She represented India with her students at Abu Dhabi for the World Kannada Cultural Meet.*



Chitra with husband Viswanathan

some time he was working with Deccan Chronicle but now he is a fulltime professional singer. He has sung on more than 2000 stages in Mumbai, Bangalore and abroad and has shared the stage with SP Balasubrahmaniam, LR Easwari. Viswanathan also takes music classes. He sings for Abhinayaa's dance programmes and arangettrams.

After marriage Chitra was in Bangalore for a short period and shifted to Mumbai in 1996. The couple's niece Meena Santhosh is Chitra's most important disciple and also has a leading role in Sudha Chandran's dance shows.

Chitra has learnt Carnatic music and in her family one of her two brothers, GK Venkiteswaran is a violin artiste in Dubai and the other brother Venkatachalam is a popular mridangam artiste and acts in Tamil dramas in Calcutta where he is living. Her sister is an artiste who does Tanjore paintings, and drawings.

"I would like to tell the youth of today who are interested in making a career on dancing to go ahead and fulfill their desire. You should not leave it halfway, thinking there is no future in it," Chitra says. According to her there are many options to make a living after learning the classical dance style. "Today several schools of ICSE and ISC have dance as a subject where the students can get employment as teachers. There are a lot of Government recognitions and scholarships for pursuing study of dance. Abhinayaa Institute of Dance Research and Fine Arts helps its students to secure a job in a dance related field," she says. ■



Chitra's disciples during a performance

# Guruprasada Puraskaram to Ashiq Abu

■ Novelist John Paul handed over the *Guruprasada Puraskaram* instituted by P Bhaskaran Foundation to young Director Ashiq Abu at the Bhaskaran Smruthi Sandhya organized by Malayalam Foundation in Mumbai. For the past four years Bhaskaran Foundation



Ashiq Abu receiving Guruprasadapuraskaram from John Paul

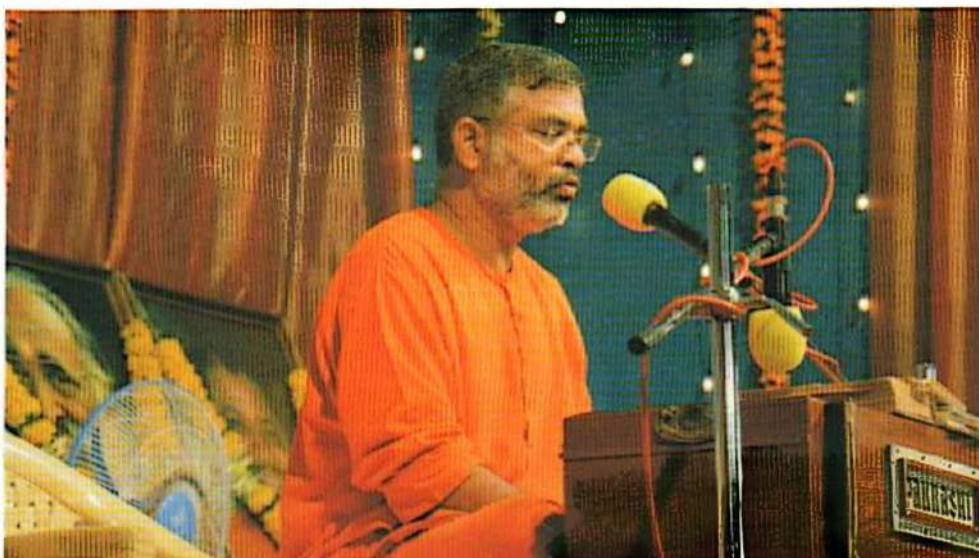
has been bestowing awards to eminent personalities from the film fraternity. Madhu, Dakshinamurthy, M T Vasudevan Nair, and K J Yesudas have been recipients of the awards. From this year the Foundation has instituted the *Guruprasada Puraskaram* to be given to an upcoming young personality from the film world. The jury consisting of Sreekumaran

Thampy, M K Arjunan and John Paul chose Ashiq Abu for the first Guruprasad Award. Malayalam Foundation President Malayalabhoomi Sasidharan Nair presided over the function and Mumbai Airport Customs Commissioner P M Salim was the chief guest. P Bhaskaran Foundation President Bipin Chandran welcomed the audience and Jt Secretary C Nandakumar proposed a vote of thanks. Dr CM Sankarankutty, Radhakrishna 'Chanakya' Pillai, Rajendran Padiyur, and Swetha Warriar were felicitated at the function.

The inaugural function was followed by a musical programme, dance and mimicry show organized by artistes of P Bhaskaran Foundation, Kerala in which Mumbai Malayalee singers, P V Vijaykumar, Reshma Menon and mimicry artiste Ashish Abraham, also participated. The Mumbai artistes sang only those songs written by the late Bhaskaran and composed by music director Raghavan Master who will turn 100 on December 2, 2013.

Adv Padma Divakar headed the Co-ordinating Committee of the event with K V S Nelluvai as the chief co-ordinator and there were 12 members namely, Bindu Menon, Ashish Abraham, K M Sharad, V A Sunil Kumar, Joseph Sebastian, Don Paulose, Sheela Raj, E Ramachandran, K V Chandrasekharan, Govindan Unni, B Rajasekharan, and Shaji Chiroth in the Co-ordinating Committee. Malayalam Foundation is a Mumbai based Association with a co-ordinating office in Thrissur.

## Discourses on the Essence of Ramayana and Kenopanishad



■ A discourse on the Essence of Ramayana in Hindi was held at Olympia Quadrangle, Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, organized by Zone of Chinmaya Mission Jagadeeshwara temple, Mumbai. Swami Advaitananda, Resident Acharya of Chinmaya Vibhooti, Kolwan conducted the discourse. Another discourse on *Kenopanishad* in Hindi was also held from May 2 at the same venue. Both the discourses continued till May 7.

◀ Swami Advaitananda, Resident Acharya of Chinmaya Vibhooti, Kolwan giving discourse

## Policemen felicitated

■ Mumbai Malayalee social workers felicitated women police officials from Kerala as well as policemen of Sion police station who took action to help a depressed woman return to Kerala on May 4 at Sastri Bhavan in Kings' Circle .



Rescued Malayali woman with social workers

According to the organizers this feat could be achieved because of the co-ordination of several Malayalee social organizations and their members.

Rajani Vinod Nair, working at a private hospital in Byculla saw a mentally depressed woman at the steps of Our Lady Church near Sion Station and moved by her helpless plight informed Tru Information & Guidance society President Cee Gee Warriar who took the effort to find out the woman's workplace and asked them to give her temporary shelter which they refused. In the meantime other social workers Shajan M John Anson Thomas also intervened and with sustained police help they could arrange to send the woman back to her native place in Kerala under police protection. Along with the police escort Cee Gee Warriar also accompanied the woman to Kottayam by Jayanti Janata Express. Cee Gee Warriar, President Tru Information & Guidance, Kalyan Lions Club President PK Anandan, Karunya Trust Director Fr Paul Kunduparambil, Anson Thomas, Shajan M John Fr Abraham Joseph, Rajani Vinod Nair and Senior Inspector Dhanjay Bhagavant from Sion police station were present at the event and spoke on the occasion.

Other social workers namely Roy Philip, E S Vasudevan, Thomas Simon, K O Jose, Titus Jeyadv Adv Kumar, Jose Varghese, Unnikrishnan (Panvel), Sasi Nair (Sanpada), Rajan Panicker, P Janardanan, Dominic D' Souza, Sister Betty George, attended the function.

Dear subscribers,

Like in the previous years, **KERALA IN MUMBAI** will be publishing photos of students of SSC/ HSC/ ICSE/ CBSE who have scored 90% and above. This facility is offered to children of our subscribers. Please mail / courier a passport size photo of the student along with Xerox copy of mark list, % obtained, and his name and school.

## Arangettram

■ Kum. Megha Bhaskar Kotian and Shraddha Shankar Poojary disciples of Smt. Prasanna Nambiar of Nrityaprabha School of Indian Classical Dances, Andheri performed their Arangettram. Megha and Shraddha have been learning Bharatanatyam for the last seven years from Smt. Prasanna Nambiar and her daughters Smt. Ajitha Nambiar and Smt. Amrutha Menon. Krishna Hegde, MLA, Jagdish Amin, Ex- Corporator and Smt. Janet D'Souza, Mumbai Congress Mahila President graced the occasion. Kairabettu Vidhwan Vishwanath Bhat, Chief Guest of the function, emphasised the need to preserve the Indian cultural ethos. T.P.K. Nambiar anchored the programme.

Megha Kotian and Shraddha Poojari



## Pooja for Drama Staging

■ Bombay Keraleeya Samithi Malad West performed the puja at its office in Malad in preparation for the Malayalam drama *Divyabali*



During the Pooja inauguration of *Divyabali* Drama.

which they plan to stage at the Drama competition that is scheduled to be held in February 2014 in memory of noted drama actor and social activist the late Rajan Kadannapally. The drama is scripted by Paravur George and will be directed by Rajendran Padiyur. President of the Samithi, Advocate Padma Divakar inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp and handing over the script to Rajendran Padiyur. The event was attended by P Balakrishnan (Secretary), T Madhavan, (Jt Secretary), P Nambiar, (Vice President), Rakhee Sunil, (Treasurer), Adv.Raj Kumar, Vijayan Pullad, George Thottathil, P Shivdas, Jose Francis, Rajan Thekkumala and others.

## Nritya Manjeera Award



Ratheesh receiving the Award from Mayor of Thrissur

■ Nritya Manjeera Award instituted by Nrityanjali Kuchipudy Dance Academy Kochi has been awarded to G Ratheesh Babu, Director of Nrityathi Kalakshetram, Chattisgarh. The award was handed over to him by Mayor of Thrissur M P Paul at the Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy Hall. Ratheesh Babu, a disciple of Kalaimamani Padmasri Adayar K Lakshman, has won several national and state awards. He is the recipient of titles like Natyakalai Chudamani, (Chennai), Nritya vaibhava (Pune), Balraj Sahani National Award ( Mumbai), Gopikrishna National award (Shimla) etc. Last year Ratheesh Babu won the Tru Indian Information and Guidance National Award.

## Vichara Vedi Seminar held



Dr. C.M. Sankarankutty presenting the paper at the Vichara Vedi Seminar on Bhakti literature. From left are: V.N. Gopalakrishnan, Peramangalam Gopi and Dr. G. Ramakrishnan

■ Vichara Vedi, the Literary Wing of the Powai Kerala Samajam organized a Seminar titled "*Bhakti Sahityam: Oru Avalokanam*". Shri. V.N. Gopalakrishnan was the Keynote speaker who spoke on *Bhakti Sahityam-Cherusseri Vare*. Peramangalam Gopi spoke on *Ezhuthachanum Melpathurum Bhakti Sahityavum*. Dr. G. Ramakrishnan spoke on Poonthanavum Bhakti Sahityavum. Dr.C.M. Sankarankutty spoke on *Vanchippattukalum Bhakti Sahityavum*. Gopinath Anjath was the Convenor of the Seminar. Dr. M. Pushpangadan, Ms. Manasi and C.K.K. Pillai participated in the discussion. P.M. Rajasekharan made an evaluation of the deliberations. A suggestion was made regarding the setting up of a reference library attached to the Samajam and the participants showed their willingness to donate books for the proposed reference library. Those who wish to donate books may contact General Convenor (9819363533).

## K P CHON PASSES AWAY

■ Famous Indologist, Purushotham Chon, died in Mumbai on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at RCF Hospital, Chembur, Mumbai. He was 81. Cremation was done on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by his wife, Mythili, a former lecturer of Maharashi Dayanand College, and daughters Dr Sheeja Parikh and Dr Meenu Menon, their husbands, daughter-in-law Leena Manoj, and the grand children. Hardly a month back, his son, Manoj, a senior executive in RCF, died in a freak accident. Born in Thrissur, as the son of Peringottukara Kuttikkattu Kelukutty and Lakshmi, he landed in Mumbai in 1954. After passing his Pre-Degree from Thrissur St. Thomas College, he had learnt stenography. He pursued his studies in Mumbai and secured his degree in Philosophy from Poona University. He served in a private company first, in the Railways for six years and then for 30 years in RCF, Mumbai.



Purushotham Chon

A keen student of Indian history, Chon was convinced that our history is "moulded in religious myths which have only a few grains of truth". Therefore, he studied and researched on Indian history. In addition to *Vedas* and *Shastras*, more than 200 ancient histories of other nations were also gone through to arrive at the 'true story of India and Indians'. After extensive research spread over 25 years, he came out with his books: *Nayarude Adi Mathavu Pulayi, Cherumi - Ezhavarudeyum* (in Malayalam), *India's History Behind History, Remedy The Frauds in Hinduism, The Cross - A Hindu Symbol and Manifesto of Bharat Renaissance Movement*.

In the background of India's Independence movement, he has finished a novel too in English (unpublished), which was tentatively titled *Leela*.

-K Raja.

## Seminar on 'Temple Concept: A Scientific Analysis'

■ The *Vichara Vedi*, the Literary Wing of the Powai Kerala Samajam, will be organizing a Seminar in Malayalam titled 'Temple Concept: A Scientific Analysis' (*Kshetra Sankalpam-Oru Shashtriya Visakalanam*) on Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 from 4.00 p.m to 6.00 p.m. at the Powai English High School, Powai.

P.M. Rajasekharan will be the Keynote speaker. He will speak on 'Emergence of Temples and Their Necessity' (*Kshetrathinte Avirbhavavum Avasyakatayum*). Manannur Ravindran will speak on 'Temples and Tantric Tradition' (*Kshetravum Thantrika Parambaryavum*). N.B. Kurup will speak on 'Temples & Temple Rituals' (*Kshetravum Kshetracharangalum*). Vaikom Unnikrishnan Nair will speak on 'Temple & Temple Arts' (*Kshetravum Anushtana Kalakalum*). Narayanan Nampoothiry will speak on 'Temple Pujas and Offerings' (*Kshetraradhanayum Vazhipadukalum*). Gopan will speak on 'Significance of Pranapratishta' (*Pranapratishtayude Porul*). Ms. Manasi will speak on 'Why Temple Rituals' (*Ksheraradhana Enthinu?*). M. Gangadharan will be the Convenor for the Seminar. All are welcome. For details, contact: V.N. Gopalakrishnan, General Convenor 9819363533 or email: telegulf@gmail.com.

## T A Khalid New President of AIMA

■ T A Khalid has been selected as the President of AIMA (All India Malayalee Association) in the meeting held at Kerala House, Vashi in the place of former president Rajan Kadanappally, who passed away recently. Khalid is also Chief patron of Kerala Muslim Jama'ath and General Secretary of Malayalee Chamber of Commerce. His native place is Kasargode. The meeting was presided by Mohan Kandathil, Vice President of AIMA. Adv Prema Menon welcomed the gathering. Others who attended the meeting and spoke on the occasion were Adv Padma Divakar, G Komalan, K Harinarayanan, T Balasubramanian, Zachariah M Zachariah, Rakhi Sunil, Babu Kaviyur, M Ramachandran, P N Muraliedharan, T Madhavan, John Mathew, Prof Murali Nair and Adv G A K Nair. K T Nair proposed a vote of thanks.



# Vikhroli Ayyappa Temple Pranaprathishta



■ Consecration of idols of Ganapathy, Swami Ayyappan, and Devi Parashakti was performed at the Vikhroli Ayyappa Temple Devasthanam at Bharat Nagar, Tagore Nagar Vikhroli under the aegis of Sri Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham Vikhroli from May 17 to May 19. The *pranaprathishta mahotsavam* was carried out under the guidance of Tantri Idappilly Narayanan Namboodirippad and the installation of the idols were performed on May 20 in the morning.

## Prathishta varshikam at Malad Kurar Maheshwara temple

■ First anniversary celebrations of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti Malad Kurar Maheshwara temple was conducted at the temple premises. The pujas were held under the aegis of the temple heads Panavally Ashokan Tantri and *melshanti* Ramankutty. The cultural conference during the function was inaugurated by the President of Mumbai Billavar Association J C Suvarna.

President of SNMS N Sasidharan presided over the conference while M I Damodaran, N S Salim Kumar, V V Chandran, AK Venugopal, P K Venu, Adv Padma Divakaran, Panavalli Ashokan Tantri spoke on the occasion. The Malad Kurar Unit SNMS Secretary C Venugopal proposed a vote of thanks. This was followed by a variety entertainment programme.



Sudha Chandran at a dance Performance held recently in Bangalore



# WORLD MALAYALEE COUNCIL HEARTFELT PROJECT

■ 'Have a Heart , Save a Heart'- World Malayalee Council Mumbai Province inaugurated the second stage of its Heart 2 Heart project where their target is to provide treatment to 113 heart patients in 2013-24 with special focus on children, the underprivileged and give them a new lease of life. The function was inaugurated in a glittering manner at Shanmukhananda Hall on May 19 2013, by Kerala Minister for Home and Vigilance, Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan. Noted cardiologists of Mumbai Dr James Thomas, Dr Bijoy Kutty, Dr MG Pillai attended the event and pledged their support to the cause. World

be associated with World Malayalee Council for conducting free Heart surgery and urged them to publicise their achievements so that more and more people can get to know the noble activity undertaken by them and they too will contribute towards this cause.

Dr. Bijoy Kutty also said that he was happy to be part of the free heart surgery conducted for the patients referred by WMC and added that there were about 15 members in the Operation team and all of them should be thanked for their voluntary contribution to this noble cause. He also urged people to come forward and contribute generously



**Chief guest Kerala Home Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, dignitaries and members of WMC at the event held at Shanmukhananda Hall**

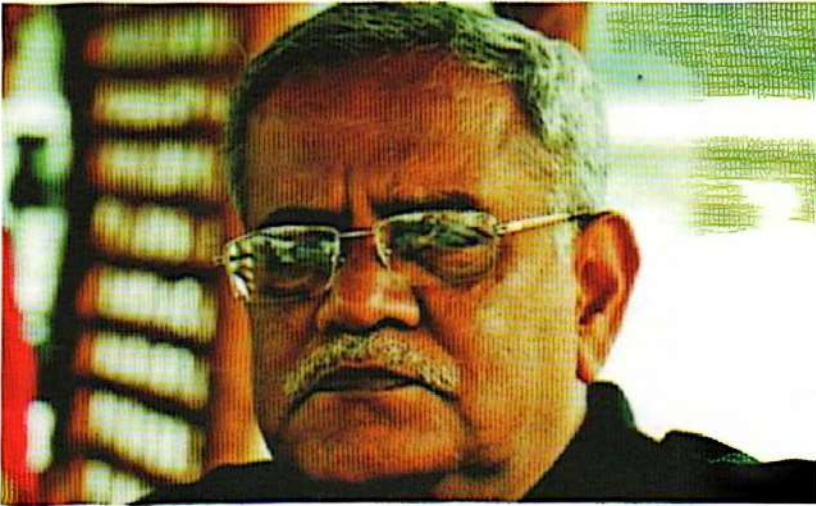
Malayalee Council Chairman KK Nambiar and General Secretary Ramachandran Nair spoke on the occasion. Film actor Navya Nair with her team regaled the audience with a Ramayanam dance performance. There was a musical show (*ganamela*) by Afzal, Jyotsna and party. Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan said during his speech that he had an opportunity to attend one of the events organised by Tamil Nadu Government at Madurai in connection with the Special Status for Tamil Language. He was very happy to see the unity among all in TN for their language. Similarly he urged World Malayalee Council to work towards attaining Special Status for Malayalam Language. Dr. James Thomas said that he was very happy to

for this. They would be blessed and happy when they see the smiling face of the poor patients after their heart surgery.

During the first stage of the project that was launched in 2011 the Council met its target of completing and going beyond treating 111 heart patients. The members of WMC pooled their resources identifying beneficiaries based on pre-fixed criteria. An interesting aspect of the project was that all the funds that were raised were used solely for treatment expenses. The administrative costs were borne by WMC members resulting in 100% utilization of funds for the needy patients. Partnering with hospitals, medicos and volunteers and fund raising events were part of the project from its first year.

## Green Books to publish “Kudayoor Kathakal”

■ The history, mythology, legends, superstitions and the way of life of the then society in the pre and post independent days in a small town *Kudayoor* - in Central Kerala has been brought out by K.R.Narayanan in his *Kudayoor Kathakal*. It is understood that the work has



K.R.Narayanan

## Malayalotsavam 2013

■ The cultural festival of Mumbai Malayalees conducted under the aegis Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Sangham, Malayalotsavam 2013 will be held this year too. This decision was taken in a meeting of the Sangham after analyzing the success of the last year's festival. For this purpose the areas under Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane will be divided into 12 zones and contests will be held for them during Diwali vacation in folk dance (single), folk dance (group), oppana, Margamkali, light music, film music, mappila pattu (single), poem recitation, Ottan Thullal, Kathaprasangam, reading, essay, quiz, carrol, farce, literary contest, drama workshops etc and the first and second place winners will compete in the finals during Christmas holidays. For details, Secretary Harikumar (9970164635) or General Secretary Ramachandran Mancharambath (9892451900) could be contacted.

## Eleventh 100% in a row for Holy Angels School

■ Holy Angels School, Dombivli has gained an enviable position among the schools of Mumbai region by securing a 100% result in the recently concluded SSC examination under the CBSC Board. This is the eleventh time in a row that this school has achieved this result.

Of the 97 students appeared for the examination, Ms Suparna Neglur secured top position with 94.4% with a CGPA of 10. Ten students got a CGPA of 10/10, eleven students scored above 90% and over all 36 students scored above 80%.

Even in the HSC Examination of 2013, their Junior College secured a pass percentage of 100 in both the science and Commerce streams. In Science, Bhavesh Thakur secured 86.5% while Ms Anu Chandrababu topped in Commerce stream with 85.8%.

reached its final stage and would go for publication within a short time.

K.R.Narayanan used to write these stories in English long ago in the web-site [www.irinjalakudalive.com](http://www.irinjalakudalive.com) under the title “*Yearning for the Past*”. Later, he wrote these stories again in Malayalam, as a serial, in the [www.whitelineworld.com](http://www.whitelineworld.com) of Mumbai. Though these stories are the nostalgic memories of the author about his own home-town, they reflect the history and the then social life of this region in the erstwhile Cochin State.

Narayanan started writing scientific articles for the *Mathrubhoomi Weekly*, Kozhikode, in Malayalam, way back in 1968, and later changed over to English writing on the environmental issues of the seas and marine animals.

Subsequently, he diverted to ancient history of the then kingdoms, communities and societies of Kerala. He has three biographies and more than four hundred scientific and popular articles to his credit.

Narayanan is a regular feature writer of *Kerala-in-Mumbai*, since its inception.

## Upendra Menon Central Committee Member

■ At the international Convention Upendra K Menon, Mumbai, has been appointed as Central Committee member of Giants International. The Central Committee is the governing body of their entire India and International groups.



# Kerala shines brightest in Civil Service examination



Haritha V Kumar

**T**hree candidates from Kerala bagged top ranks in this year's civil services examination. While Haritha V Kumar bagged first rank, Dr V Sriram of Kochi got the second rank and Dr Alby John Varghese of Muvattupuzha the fourth rank. Last time a candidate from Kerala, Raju Narayana Swamy, emerged topper in examination was in 1991. In all there are five Keralites who figure in the first 50 ranks and at least 8 from the top 100 ranks. While Avinash Rajendran Menon secured 30th rank, Gayathri Krishnan Bhavani was placed at 37th, S Vineeth ranked 56 and K Manjulakshmi at 63. Shreyas P Singh from Thrissur secured 86th rank.

The state can have pride as all these examinees were trained to face the examination from the state run Kerala State Civil Services Academy, TVM. 34 candidates from this Academy found their names in the rank list this year. In all about 50 Malayalees found their way into the rank list. Haritha is an engineer by training and has appeared four times for this examination. She is currently a trainee officer in the Indian Revenue Service. Sriram and Varghese are in medical profession. Sriram is doing his MD at present while Varghese is serving a public health centre. Besides the State, the Malayalam language also has something to cheer about. Both Haritha and Varghese chose Malayalam Literature as one of their optional subjects. Their other optional subjects were Economics and Medicine respectively.

A trained Carnatic vocalist and a lover of old Malayalam film songs, Haritha felt the most important issues in contemporary India were corruption, poverty, women's safety and unemployment in that order. She credited her thumping victory to the open discussions she had with her friends at NACEN around the dining table on any subjects under the sun.

Haritha V Kumar, who topped the All-India Civil Services Examination, initially did not believe her success as true as she thought her friends were joking.

Haritha Kumar, who resides at Thycaud, did her schooling at the St. Theresa's Convent School, Neyyattinkara before joining the Electronics and Communication programme at the Government Engineering College, Barton Hill. She has two younger brothers who are twins. One of them is currently preparing to write the civil services examinations.



Dr V Sriram



Dr Alby John Varghese

# Murky politics of Kerala

**T**he state of Kerala is going through a political turmoil and it affects all aspects of administration and the life of Keralites. This situation is not isolated to a single party or a coalition. The ruling UDF, the opposing LDF or the dreaming BJP is coming under the turmoil. During the last government under V S Achuthanandan's dispensation, it looked that only the CPI(M) is facing fissures as the followers of Pinarayi Vijayan the State Secretary of CPI(M) and Achuthanandan the Chief Minister are coming face to face and fight it out while the opposing UDF alliance was solidly behind Oommen Chandy. We saw the funny situation of leaders fighting election for the CPI(M), wanted



V S Achuthanandan



Pinarayi Vijayan

VS to canvass votes in their respective constituencies. These leaders were till then baying for the disciplinary action against VS echoing the views of the State Secretary. VS who was denied a ticket earlier was also given one from his favourite constituency Malampuzha. VS did more than what was asked for. When the curtain fell for the end of public canvassing, he rushed to the house of T P Chandrasekharan to offer condolence to Rema, wife of TP. This act of his angered his opponents in the party. Had VS not there for electioneering, LDF



Oommen Chandy



Ramesan Chennithala

would have lost a chunk of their seats that it ultimately won. The internal squabbling in the UDF following the seat distribution also contributed in expanding the number of seats for LDF. Once installed on the seat of power, the UDF also did not lag behind. Despite a wafer-thin majority, the alliance partners squabbled for ministerial berths and better representations. The issue of fifth minister for the Muslim League was quite laughable. The initial camaraderie between the CM and the KPCC President soon evaporated. The clamour for ministerial position for the President was evident from constant denial of it. There were demands from various quarters for installing the KPCC President as Deputy Chief Minister with an important portfolio

but both the CM and the President were busy denying it. The President insisted that he never aspired for it as his present position was superior to the post of CM and the CM in turn clarified that the President not only asked but declined when offered.



P K kunhalikutty

The comedy was soon realized by the public that more the President decline, others should insist on it compelling him to take on it but it never happened. Even the NSS asked for it but it was politely sidelined. When all doors remained closed, the President was forced to use his ultimate weapon, a Kerala Yatra for Development. Once it was flagged off by the CM, the poor President was made to rot on the roads for a month and even after it ended, there was no sign of ministerial post coming on a platter. Words flew thick and fast with the sultry remark, "relationship will not be the same in future." Kerala newspapers had a field day during this period. The VS-Pinarayi feud and the CM-KPCC President face off filled more than half of the total pages while the remaining pages were content with accidents, deaths, mafia and bad environment. For the icing, they had a feud between a bitter father and rebellious son or the latter and his wife. In all probability, very soon President would be content to become a Dy CM with an important portfolio snatched from another minister of his own party. Otherwise he should get the Home portfolio or the CM himself should take over that ministry. All Congress ministers are now, as this report goes, under a security threat from their own President who 'would agree to be one among them' keeping his earlier posture aside. For the dessert, now R Balakrishna Pillai wants his son Ganesh Kumar back in the cabinet though he led a crusade for his removal from it quite recently. The scene becomes murkier as the NRI Industrialist M A Yousuf Ali wants to be out of the Bolgati project. While the Ernakulam District Secretary of CPI (M) wants to throw out the Lulu Mall from Edappally, VS, former minister Paloli Mohamed Kutty, Chandran Pillai et al wanted the Lulu to continue. The party workers are confused about the approach to be adopted in this matter. That the present CM too supports Yousuf Ali is interesting. Both the current and former CMs are on the same side is a coincidence that ordinary workers cannot comprehend. Pinarayi has not taken a firm stand in this matter. BJP State President Muralidharan is also in an unenviable position that he cannot constitute a proper governing body to move forward. If you want to have a sound peaceful sleep, better keep away from Kerala politics. ■

# Amphibian plane ready to service

**A**n amphibian plane that would fly in the sky as well as run on the surface of water landed in Kochi on May 30 after obtaining all clearances from the concerned ministries of the union government. The plane commandeered by Pilot Michael Fabria of Belgium, was accorded a warm



welcome at Nedumbasseri airport first by fire engines jetting out water at it and then by breaking a coconut on the ground. The plane is set for Kollam where Chief Minister Oommen Chandy would inaugurate it on June 1. Currently five agencies have come forward to provide service using this type of planes. When pressed into service, Kerala can be seen from the air as well as from the water. Kerala having a good water transport system will surely benefit from this. Currently only in Andaman Nicobar Islands is using these planes but not for the benefit of tourists but to reach the island from the Indian continent. From Kasargod to the southern tip of Kerala, the tourists can go on sightseeing in one day. Six people including one pilot can travel in this Sesna 206 Amphibian plane. Soon bigger planes can be pressed into service. The estimated cost of travel in this would be around Rs.8,000 per hour. The positive factor about this plane is that it would not obstruct fishing from the river, lakes, etc, and would not cause water pollution. Neither it would cause sound pollution. The refueling would be done only at the airports. The government will have no role in fixing the tariff for the time being.



## Silver Wedding

**Rajan Nair  
and  
Usha Rajan Nair  
of Mulund  
celebrated  
their  
Silver Wedding  
recently.**

*Best Wishes to the  
Silver Couple  
from  
KIM*

# Swetha Warriier Dancing Genius

Thirteen year old Swetha Warriier is a child prodigy. Dancing seems to be in her genes as she keeps on winning prizes in the various dance competitions she participates.

- Lakshmi

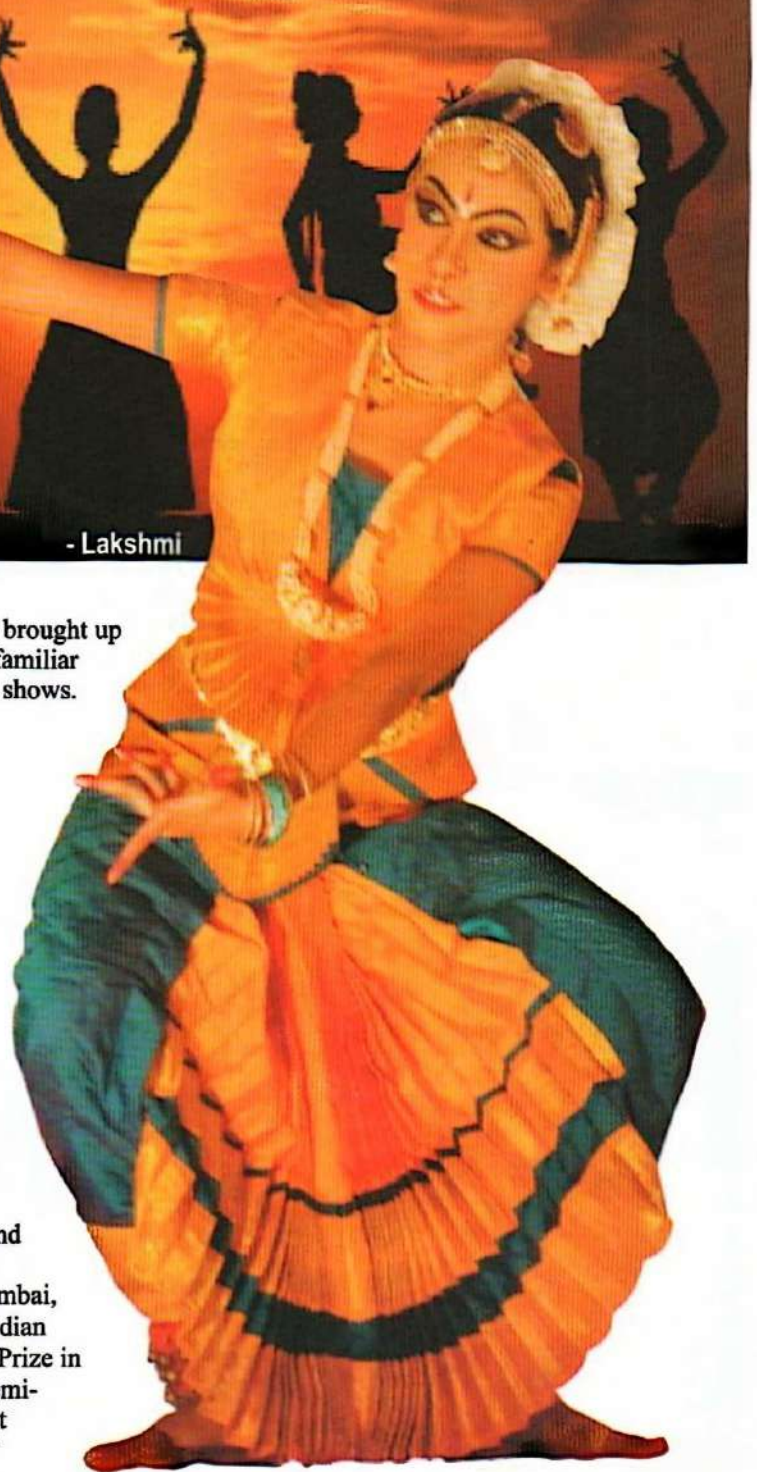


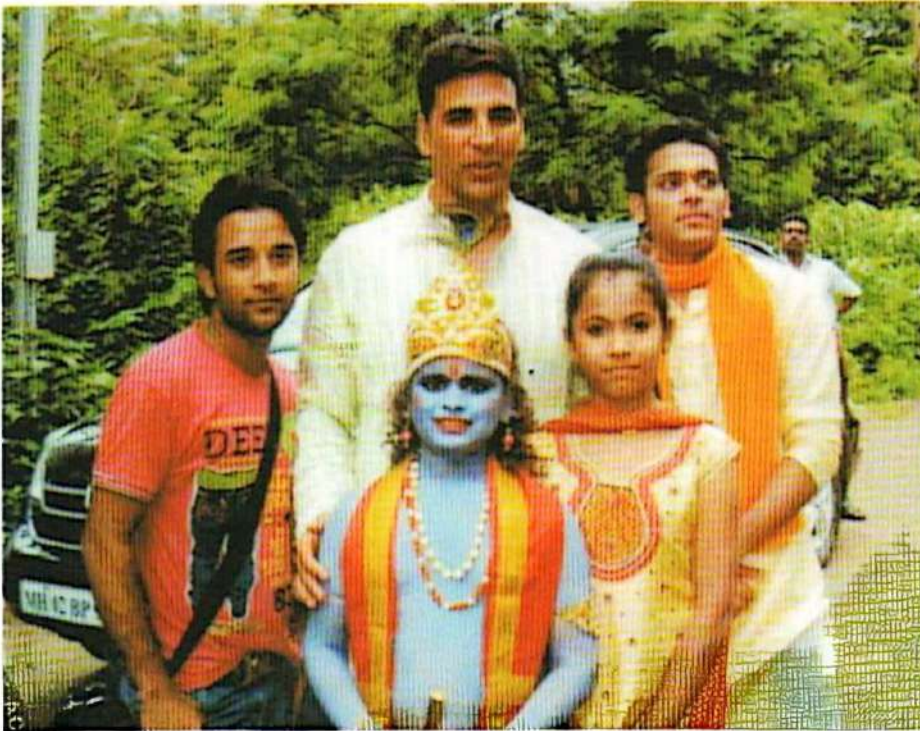
*Recently Swetha Warriier has won the national Natyamayuri Award at the three day annual Dance competition held by Kalanilayam at Chilakaluripet in Guntur.*

**B**orn in Kodungalloor and brought up in Mumbai, Swetha is a familiar figure in Mumbai Dance shows.

At this young age, she is a mesmerising performer of Bharatanatyam, Mohiniattam, Indian Folk and Western dances.

Swetha has been awarded many awards at the national level for her unique and incomparable performances. At the All India Dance and Music Competition at Chhattisgarh conducted by Durg Kerala Samajam, she won the 'Kalathilakam' for having won prizes in all the events she participated in the competition. In Mumbai too, at another All India Dance, Music and Drama competition organised by Amateur Artists' Association, Mumbai, she bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in both Indian Folk and Classical Dance and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in Western Dance and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in Semi-Classical dance. She won the First Prize in Bharatanatyam at the 47<sup>th</sup> National Level Music and Dance





Sawetha with Akshay Kumar

Competition conducted by Swar Sadhna Samiti, Mumbai.

Recently Swetha Warriar has won the national Natyamayuri Award at the three day annual Dance competition held by Kalanilayam at Chilakaluripet in Guntur. She received the award from Kalanilayam President Pragad Rajamohan Rao. This dance competition is a prestigious one in South India and there were about 1500 participants from all over the



Swetha Warriar receiving Natyamayuri Award from Kalanilayam President Pragad Rajamohan Rao

country. She won the Nritya-Shree award from Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangh, Orissa. She is the youngest to get honoured by this UNESCO recognised award at the age of nine.

She won the first prize at the first Raagalaya Music and Dance competition held this year when she competed with older girls in this dance style.

Swetha has brought the folk dances of Kerala especially pulluvan pattu to national fame when she performed it at India competitions. She has also performed the lavani dance and won the first prize at a competition.

At the Chemmannur Nice Fest conducted in Mumbai, from among more than 600 participants, she was chosen as Kalatilakam for obtaining the maximum points with First prize in both Bharatanatyam and Indian Folk and Second prize in Western Dance. At the day dance competition held by All India Bharateeya Sanskrutik Sangham Pune she

won the Chairman Puraskaram for folk dance (junior) competition among 714 contestants. She has participated in many interschool competitions and has never returned without a prize.

This little girl had a chance to dance with Shah Rukh Khan in the film Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi, with Salman Khan in Dabangg II and Akshay Kumar in Oh my God! She also had a chance to dance with Sushmita Sen at a function in NCPA Mumbai and with Amitabh Bachchan in Kaun Banega Crorepati.

Swetha started learning dance at the age of three from her dancer - mother and Director of Tru Information and Guidance Society's Creative Wing, Ambika Warasiar. She is learning western dance from Rhythm Riders Dance Academy in Dombivili.

Swetha is interested in painting and fashion designing and her aim is to become a choreographer of dances in Bollywood and also a fashion designer. Her first dance award she dedicated to Mookambika Devi whose devotee she is. Her father is Cee Gee Warriar, a well-known social worker, who runs a Travel Agency in Dombivili. Swetha has a brother, Sharad Warriar who has written his Plus One examination and is Secretary of SIES University Malayalam Association and writes a column for Sunny News, Navi Mumbai. He helps in scheduling Swetha's dance programmes and in giving the professional touch to recording of her dance songs. ■

# Ummachu **ഉമ്മച്ചു** (1971)



**Lyrics: P Bhaskaran      Music: K Raghavan**  
**Singer: P Jayachandran**

Rohini



P Bhaskaran



K Raghavan



P Jayachandran

ഏകാന്തപഥികൻ ഞാൻ  
 ഏതോ സ്വപ്നവസന്തവനത്തിലെ  
 ഏകാന്തപഥികൻ ഞാൻ... (ഏകാന്ത...)  
 എവിടെനിന്നെത്തിയെന്നറിവീല  
 ഏതാണു ലക്ഷ്യമെന്നറിവീല  
 മാനവസുഖമെന്ന മായാമൃഗത്തിനെ  
 തേടുന്ന പാമ്പൻ ഞാൻ... (2) (ഏകാന്ത...)  
 പാറകെയിരുട്ടിൽ പതിക്കുമ്പോൾ  
 പാദം നടന്നു തളരുമ്പോൾ  
 പാതതൻവക്കിൽ ആകാശം വിടർത്തിയ  
 കൂടാരം പൂകിയിറങ്ങുന്നു... (2) (ഏകാന്ത...)

Transliteration: Ā, ā = ആ, ാ; Ē, ē = ഏ, ഐ; Ī, ī = ഇ, ി; Ō, ō = ഓ, ോ;  
 Ū, ū = ഉ, ു, ũ = ൃ; C, c = ച, ch = ച, അ, d = ട, Dh, dh = ഡ, Đ, đ = ള,  
 Đh, đh = ഴ, jh = ജ, Ĺ, ĳ = ള; Ñ, ñ = ഞ, ṅ = ണ, ṛ = റ, ṛṛ = റ, ṛ = റ;  
 Ś, ś = ശ; T, t = ട, Th, th = റ, ṭ, ṭ = ത; ṭh = മ

Ēkāṅṭa paṭhikan ñān  
 Ēṭō swapnavasantaṅṭavanattile  
 Ēkāṅṭa paṭhikan ñān... (Ēkāṅṭa...)  
 Eviteninneṭṭiyennarhivīla  
 Ēṭāṅṭu lakshyamennarhivīla  
 Mānavasukhamenna māyāmrūgaṭṭine  
 Ṭēṭunna pāṅṭan ñān... (2) (Ēkāṅṭa...)  
 Pārākeyiruṭṭil paṭikkumpol  
 Pādān natannu ṭālarumpol  
 Pāṭāṅṭan vakkil ākāśam vitarṭṭiya  
 Kūtāram pūkiyirhaṅṅu... (2) (Ēkāṅṭa...)



This movie directed by P Bhaskaran and produced by Tarachand Barjatya for Swargam Films, had six songs written by Bhaskaran and composed by K Raghavan. The story, screenplay and dialogues were written by P C Kuttikrishnan (Uroob) based on his own famous novel of the same name. The main actors were Madhu, Raghavan, Sheela, Adoor Bhasi, Nellikode Bhaskaran, Kunhava, Master Sathyajit, Santha devi, T R Omana, Philomina and Vidhubala. Other songs were rendered by K J Yesudas, Vasantha and S Janaki.

# Kāttum Mazhayum

**L**al and Unni Mukundan in stellar roles, Kāttum Mazhayum is progressing well under the direction of Harikumar. Sudhish Karat and Arun M C are the producers. Meera Nandan and Swasika are in the female lead. Other actors are Sudheep, Irshad, Mamukoya, Kochupreman, Balachandran Chullikkad, Sunil Sukhada, Prakash, Sreejith Kaiveli, Rohit Menon, Master Shambu, Master Koshi and Ambika Mohan. Its screenplay is by Santhosh Echikanam, lyrics by Rafiq Ahmed and music score by M Jayachandran.

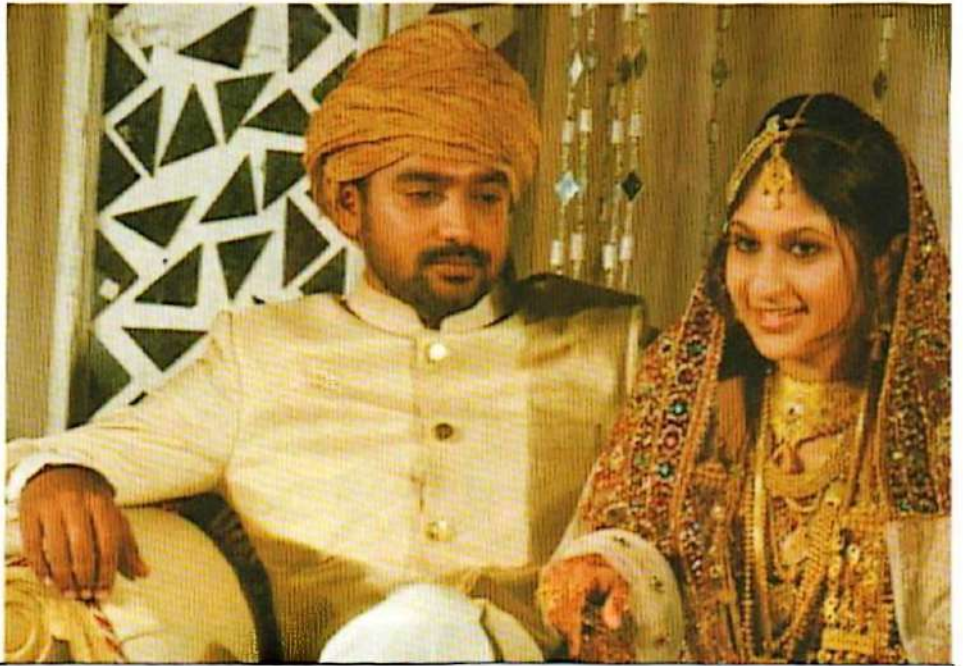


## Olippo

**D**ebutant director A V Sasidhas is busy with shooting of his film Olippo with Fahad Fazil, Kalabhavan M Aju Varghese. Tamil actress Subhiksha paired with Fahad. Other actors are Baisil, Deepak, Thalaivasal Vijay, Ar Sunil Sukhada, Zarim Wahab and KPAC Lalitha. P N Gopikrishna wrote the screenplay and Jee Varkey provides music score.

## Actor Asif Ali weds

**T**he young actor of Malayalam films, Asif Ali married Sama Mazrin in Kannur on May 26. The bridegroom is the son of M P Shoukat Ali and Nehjan Ali of Thodupuzha and the bride is the daughter of A K P Azad and Mumtaz Azad of Kannur. The marriage was solemnized according to the religious rites at Dinesh Hall. Sama is a student of first year BA in Providence College, Kozhikode. A reception for his colleagues from film world will be held on June 1 at Sial Auditorium, Nedumbasseri. Many film actors, politicians and celebrities attended the wedding.



## Documentary on M T



**A** Moment's Life in Creativity: M T Vasudevan Nair' is the title of a documentary film made by K P Kumaran for series of 'Great Masters' of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi. As the title indicates, it is made on the life and creativity of the inimitable Malayalam writer M T Vasudevan Nair. This English documentary film produced jointly by the Kerala Sahithya Akademi and University of Calicut, throws light on the twists and turns in the life of Vasudevan Nair and this would be useful to the future generation. The various aspects such as editor, writer, screenplay writer, director etc are covered in this documentary. Other personalities covered earlier in this serial are Bhishma Sahni, Ustad Fahimuddin Dagar and B C Sanyal.

## Pattukaran



Abdul Khader

**L**ife of Kozhikode Abdul Khader who was fondly called Kerala Saigal, inspired M G Ranjith, assistant to Lohithadas and Rajasenan, to make a movie titled 'Pattukaran' (Singer). Naturally it is a musical with eight songs written by Suresh Parapparam and set to tune by Ramesh Narayanan. Extensively shot in Chennai, Abudhabi and Kozhikode, this film will feature prominent artistes of Malayalam movie world.

## AaKuPu Complex

**A**aKuPu Complex is not the name of a new residential Complex coming up in our neighbourhood. Complex is not a site but the attitude or character shown by man when met with others. AaKuPu is the abbreviation of three Malayalam words Asooya (Envy), Kushumb (Jealousy) and Puchcham (contempt) exhibited by an average Malayali.

AaKuPu Complex forms the basis of a screenplay written by N Prasanth and K Ambady, two IAS officers of 2007 and 2002 batches respectively from the Kerala cadre and to be produced and directed by V K Prakash. Ambady has already written screenplay for 'Ayaal' yet to be released.

The story is about the discovery of 'Malayali Particle' by a scientist and effect of this particle on politicians, bureaucrats, celebrities, reality shows and visual media.



N Prasanth and K Ambady



## Actress Leena Maria Paul arrested

**L**eena Maria Paul who acted in a few Malayalam films like Mohan Lal's Red Chillies, John Abraham's Madras Café, Husbands in Goa etc was arrested on May 28 by the Delhi Police from a Delhi farm house. Her live-in partner Balaji Chandrasekhar escaped in his car. Leena and Balaji were wanted in a number of cheating cases including one involving Rs 19 crore with Canara Bank and another of Rs 76 lakh from a businessman. Her partner Balaji did it by impersonating as an IAS officer. Nine luxury cars including a Rolls Royce, an Audi, a BMW, a Range Rover and 81 watches besides four guns were recovered from the farm house. Police has slapped various sections pertaining to impersonation, cheating and criminal conspiracy against them. The farmhouse where the couple stayed was on a rent of Rs. 4 lakh per month.

## One for Three

**J**aison Puthukatil produces One for Three for Pooram Arts. Directed by Anish Kumar, this film has Manoj Jayan, Bhagat Manual and Aju Varghese in important roles. Ethan and Mithra Kurian are in the female leads. Other actors are Suraj Venjaramoodu, Sreekumar, Siddhanth Siva, E A Rajendran, Nandakishore, Vijayan Chathanur, Pradip, Sarit Raj, Vanitha Krishna Chandran, Kaveri Rajkumar, Manju and Baby Dia. Screenplay, lyrics and music are done by C George, Augustine and Anil Gopalam respectively.



## Arukil orāl

**S**unil Ibrahim directs Indrajith and Nivin Poli for Arukil Oral for which the screenplay is written by the director himself. In this film produced by Ashish Usman for Milestone Cinemas, the female lead is Remya Nambissan. Pratap Pothan, Lena, Srinda and others are in the support cast.



## Changampuzha in movie

**C**hangampuzha Krishna Pillai inspired not only poetry lovers but also poets during and after his time and now his life is inspiring a film called 'Ramanam'. After prolonged attempts spanning two decades, Balram Mattanur is coming out with his own screenplay based on the poet's life and also is directing it. While TV presenter Rahul Eashwar enacts the role of Changampuzha, all other characters are drawn from new entrants.

Balram in the past wrote the screenplay for Kaliyattam based on Shakespeare's Othello and earned accolades for Suresh Gopi, Lal, Manju Varier and director Jayaraj. Suresh Gopi received his Bharat award and Lal, till then a director along with Siddique, established himself as a busy actor.



## T M Soundararajan died

**T**M Soundararajan, the quintessential Tamil playback singer, who was the voice of the two mega stars M.G. Ramachandran and Sivaji Ganesan of the Tamil film world, died on May 25. TMS, as he was known in the Tamil speaking world, had been unwell for quite some time and was in and out of hospital. He was discharged on May 25th morning but his condition worsened soon, and he passed away in the afternoon. He was 91 and is survived by his wife, two sons T.M.S. Balraj and T.M.S. Selvakumar, both of whom sing for light music troupes and a daughter.

Thuguluva Meenatchi Iyengar Soundararajan was born in Madurai in 1922. He learnt Carnatic music from Ariyakkudi Rajamani Iyengar and started giving stage concerts in the voice of M. K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, the most celebrated film singer of the time. He left Madurai in search of a career and joined the Royal Talkies in Coimbatore for a monthly salary of Rs. 50. Only in 1950 did opportunity knock at his door. He rendered his first song in the film Krishna Vijayam. The song was 'Radhey nee yennai vittu pogathadi' and its

music director was S M Subbaiah Naidu. His robust and full-throated singing perfectly suited MGR and Sivaji, who had their roots in Tamil theatre. A

versatile singer, he modulated his voice to suit the two stars perfectly. A listener could identify the star in the movie through TMS' songs, even without watching the film. He also acted and sang in a couple of films. He had a voice that could catch the nuances and majesty of the Tamil language, but could not replicate his success in other languages. In Malayalam, he had sung one song for Chayam.

He was a living legend among film music lovers. The nonagenarian singer, in a career that spanned decades and several generations of filmmakers, had sung songs of all genres and for audiences of all kinds. Classical, folk, western or popular,

everything turns mellifluous at the touch of his magical voice. TMS rendered his voice for more than 10,000 songs for Tamil movies and hundreds of devotional songs. He was a recipient of Padmashri and Kalaimamani award.





Prof K A Sivaramakrishnan

**EASY STEPS**

# To Learn Carnatic Music through keyboard

Continuing our series on learning Carnatic ragas through keyboard/harmonium, here are a few more raagas that can be learnt through these instruments.

**Raag: Bhairavi.** This is Janya raaga derived from the 20th Mela Kartha Natabhairavi. Visheshha prayoga's are SGRGM. Janta swaras and Dattu Swaras are lend beauty to this Raaga. RGM and N raaga chaya swaras.  
Arohana: S R2 G1 M1 P D2 N1 >S Avarohana: >S N1 D2 P M1 G1 R2 S

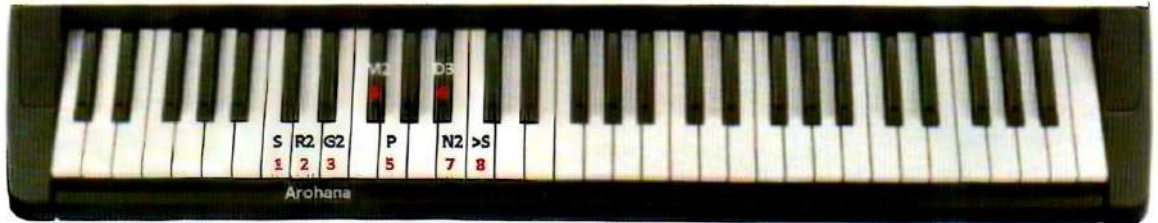


Shadjam, Chathusruthi Rishabam, Sedharana Gandharam, Suddha Madhyamam, Panchamam, Suddha Dhaivatham - Chathusruthi Dhaivatham - Kaishiki Nishadam



**Raag: Chitrambari.** This is a melakarta raaga of 66th. The old name of this raaga was Chethurangini. Very few composition s are in this raag.

Arohana: S R2 G2 M2 P D3 N2 >S Avarohana: >S N2 P M2 G2 R2 S



Shadjam, Chathusruthi Rishabham, Anthara Gandharam, Prathi Madhyamam, Panchamam, Shatruthi Dhaivatham, Kekali Nishadam

Raag: Chitrambari ( Chethurangini )



# Janaki Iyer and G Sathyaprasad Upcoming artistes

## Janaki Iyer



Credited with her first performance at the age of five, Janaki Iyer went through the rigours of training in music under the able guidance of Padmashri Kalyanjibhai and took lessons in classical music from her mother Smt. Shyamala Gopalakrishnan and from her gurus Smt and Shri Jaeel. Her debut song in Hindi was for the movie 'Pyaar Ishq aur Mohabbat and continues to lend her voice to many jingles, T.V. serials and films. *Azhaghai Pookuthae*, her debut song in Tamil from the film

*Ninaithaale Inikkum*, under the baton of renowned music director Vijay Antony has brought her accolades and adjudged her the Best Female Playback Singer for the year 2009 by Ananda Vikatan. She has also won the Radio Mirchi award for the song *Azhaghai Pookuthae* in three different categories namely Best Female vocalist, Best upcoming female vocalist

and best song of the year for the year 2009 and has also won the Variety Film award for best female singer of the year 2009 for the song *Azhaghai Pookuthae*. Her capability of singing encompasses seven different languages namely Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu and Marathi and also styles like filmi, folk, pop, hindustani and carnatic. The intensity of emotion and sweetness of her voice truly makes Janaki Iyer a name to reckon with.



## G Sathyaprasad

G. Sathya Prasad is a music composer, pianist, keyboard and rhythm programmer and also a highly efficient and skilled sound engineer. He has worked as a chief music director for Kosmic music company for twelve years and has worked with all the renowned musicians globally. He has travelled worldwide for his solo piano concerts.




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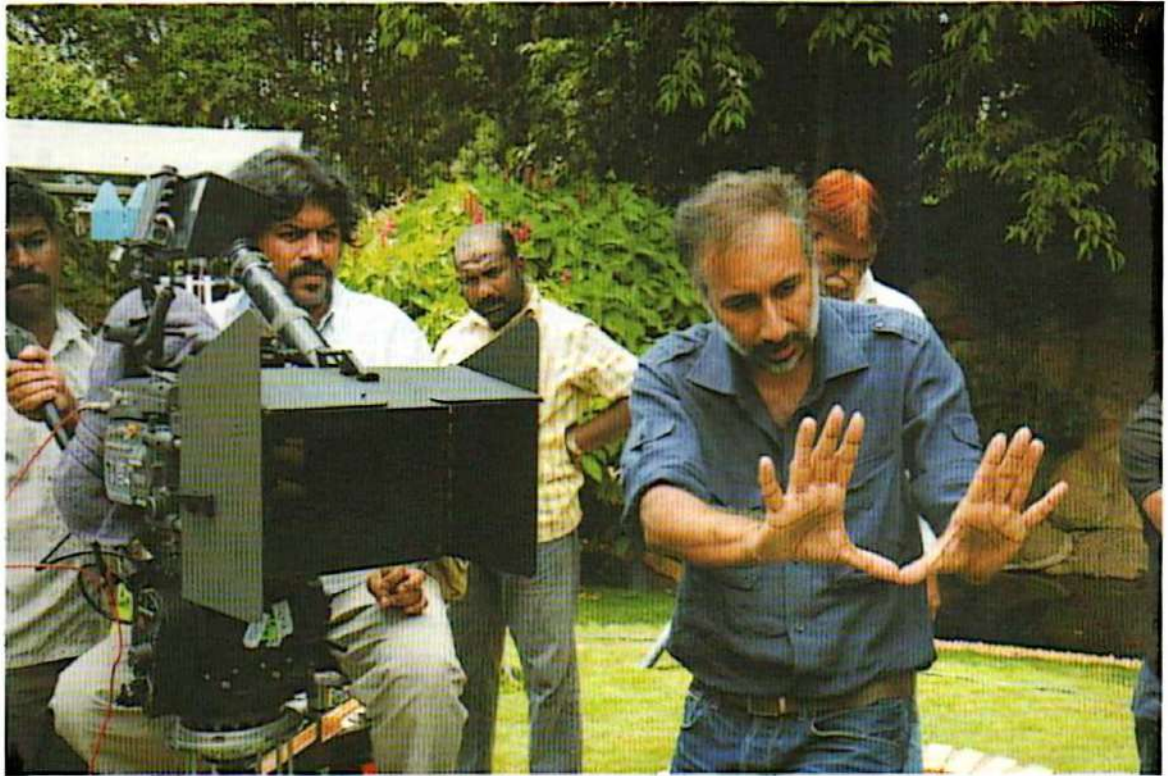


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Sriprakash Menon

## Unni Vijayan's film "Lessons In Forgetting"

**N**ational award winning Unni Vijayan's film "Lessons In Forgetting" cannot be forgotten. In his debut movie, he has displayed his strong grip on the narration and production values. Though the film is set in Tamil Nadu, the story is told in English about a single father whose relentless efforts to know about his only daughter's death takes the audience through one of the most interesting and contemporary happenings. Social issues, family drama and younger generation form the canvas of this film produced by Prince Thampi. Bangalore based editor turned film maker Vijayan outlines his challenges and other details of his first film to Sriprakash Menon.

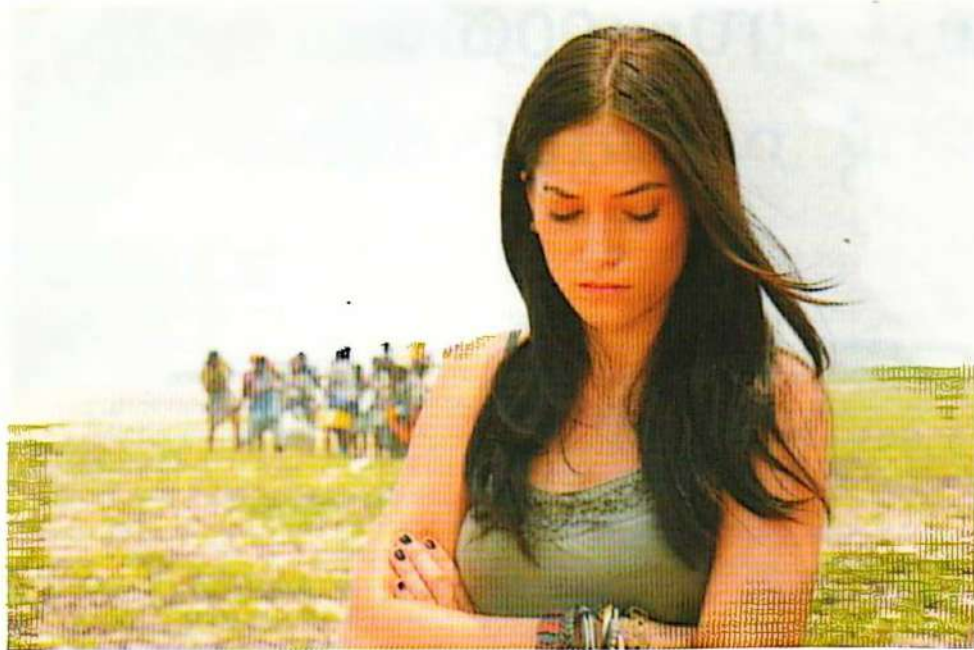


**What were the challenges when you thought of adapting the novel of Anita Nair into a film?**

■ The biggest challenge was the unnerving thought that can we first timers be able to swing such a film. The film has a big vista, spanning across urban Bangalore and rural Tamilnadu. The book was from a middle aged woman's perspective which was familiar to Anita Nair but a father's perspective was as such alien to her. So we really worked on it together to get the right feel.

**The story has two parallels, female infanticide - the dormant constant factor while the lives of urban people are in the forefront. While one is about the problem women face, the other one delves into problems women create. Comment.**

■ Yes, it's often said that woman is the enemy of woman. Female infanticide and foeticide has been and is still tacitly practiced by women



across class and region in India. It's the dominant male mentality that has to be tackled here as much as that is seen in the urban issues. The film talks about male gaze, gender biased sex selection (female foeticide) and gender violence. The practice of prenatal sex selection has resulted in approximately 5.7 lakh girls missing annually during the period 2001-'08. This is an estimated 4.5 million girls missing over the last eight years. Through this stark parallel in the film, I wanted to tell that no class is immune to these sensitive gender issues.

**Why do you keep father's first relationship out of the story and evolve the story only from father - daughter bonding ?**

■ This film is from a father's perspective- His guilt, his need to know and to redeem himself.



His broken relationship remains a shadow, to suggest the desperate need of the girl to do something, to ennoble herself. The father's lone effort to care for the child also offsets the other woman's efforts to hold her family together. We wanted to totally focus on the character arch of the teen aged daughter. From a negative one to a positive one in the end.

**The backdrop is Tamil Nadu but you chose to make the film in English. Does it come closer to the characters in the book ?**

■ It was a conscious effort. With rural Tamilnadu speaking the language of Tamil, I needed a language which would polarise the two segments of the society sufficiently. We kept the language normal, Indian just as urban English speaking people would do.

The girl's upbringing, her naivete vis a vis her understanding of this country and its complexities. Her urban friends are as distanced from the rural India.

**Don't you think the film's focus is also on the declining family values in modern India ?**

■ I don't think so. Family values may be changing but I wouldn't put it down as declining. Yes, people are going through strange mid life crisis and single women are expected to take care of their family. A single father looks after his daughter with the same maternal care. The confused teenager, from that maze of teenage angst, emerges to become socially aware and fights for justice. It's important to understand this generation and nurture these noble thoughts rather disregard them as politically naïve and inconsequential.

**Have you ended the story as it is in the book or were you wanting to have it a dramatic ending like father getting justice for her daughter? A feel good climax for the audience!**

■ No, it ends as it is in the book. We took it to the next step and gave no face to the villainous act. I didn't want the father to go on a vendetta spree but wanted the audience to come out of the theatre emotionally drained and ready to talk. To act.!

**Are you working on you next film? What is it about?**

■ We are working on a Malayalam film. It's about car thieves. ■

# നന്ദകിഷോർ - സർഗ്ഗാത്മക ഹാസ്യത്തിന്റെ പുതുഭാഷ്യം



കെ.വി.എസ്. അല്ലാവായ്

**മ**ലയാള ഭാഷക്കും സംസ്കാരത്തിനും ഊന്നൽ കൊടുത്ത് അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഉദാത്ത ഹാസ്യപ്രഭാഷണങ്ങളാണ് വിദ്വന്ത്

എന്ന പേരിലും ഫലിതപ്രഭാഷണങ്ങൾ എന്ന പേരിലും പ്രശസ്ത സിനിമാനടനും ഫലിതസാഹിത്യ കാരനുമായ നന്ദകിഷോർ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഹാസ്യപ്രഭാഷണം. നാട്യശാസ്ത്രത്തിലെ ആറാമത്തെ രസവികല്പം എന്ന അദ്ധ്യായത്തിൽ ആറുതരം ഹാസ്യങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ചു പറയുന്നു. സ്തിതം, ഹസിതം, വികസിതം, ഉപഹസിതം, അപഹസിതം, അതിഹസിതം എന്നിവയാണ് അവ. കേരളക്കരയിലങ്ങോളമിങ്ങോളവും മറുനാട്ടിലും ഫലിതപ്രഭാഷണങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു കയ്യടി വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ് നന്ദകിഷോർ. മലയാളഭാഷയുടെ നിലനില്പിനുതന്നെ വെല്ലുവിളി നേരിടുന്ന ഒരു കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഭാഷയുടെ തനിമ ഒട്ടും നഷ്ടപ്പെടാതെ നമ്മുടെ പുരാണങ്ങളിലെ കഥകളും കവിയും മറ്റു സംസ്കൃത ശ്ലോകങ്ങളും തികച്ചും അർത്ഥപുഷ്പതയോടെ വർണ്ണിക്കുമ്പോൾ തെല്ലൊരു അത്ഭുതത്തോടെ നാം നന്ദകിഷോറിന്റെ പ്രഭാഷണങ്ങൾ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കും. അതിൽനിന്നും അടർന്നുപിഴുന്ന നർമ്മങ്ങൾ ആസ്വദിക്കും. വർഷങ്ങളിലൂടെ നേടിയെടുത്ത ഈ ഹാസ്യപ്രഭാഷണങ്ങളിലൂടെ മലയാളഭാവുകത്തിന് ഒരു പുതിയ കലാരൂപം തന്നെ സമ്മാനിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ് നന്ദകിഷോർ. അനർഗളമായ ഈ ഫലിതസംഭാഷണത്തിലൂടെ ഇതൾ വിരിയുന്ന ഓരോ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും അകമ്പടിയായി അഭിനയവും ചിന്തയും ചിരിയും ഒരു തികഞ്ഞ പ്രതിഭയുടെ വാക്ചാതുര്യം നാം തിരിച്ചറിയുന്നു. സമൂഹത്തിലെ മുല്യപ്ര്യതി പരിഹരിച്ചു ധർമ്മികജീവിതം നയിക്കാൻ മനുഷ്യനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പ്രസന്ന സരസ പ്രൗഢമായതാണ് ഫലിതപ്രഭാഷണങ്ങൾ. നമ്മുടെ സംസ്കാര നിരാസത്തിലൂടെ പുത്തൻ ഉപഭോഗസംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ നീരാളി പിടൂത്തത്തിൽപെട്ട മലയാളി സമൂഹത്തിന് ഒരു ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തലായും മലയാളികളുടെ പൊങ്ങച്ച സംസ്കാരത്തിനുള്ള ചുട്ട മറുപടിയായും

മാറുന്നു ഈ നന്ദഹാസ്യം. ഉത്തരാധുനിക കാലഘട്ടത്തിലെ വേഷഭൂഷമിഴാവുകുളില്ലാത്ത ചാക്യാരായി നന്ദകിഷോർ സമൂഹത്തിനു നേരെ പരിഹാസത്തിന്റെ കുരമ്പുകൾ ഓരോന്നായി എയ്യുന്നു. കഥകളും ഉപകഥകളുമായി സംസ്കൃതശ്ലോകങ്ങളുടേയും മലയാള സാഹിത്യപ്രഭാവലിയുടേയും പിൻബലത്തോടെ നന്ദഹാസകൊടുമുടിയിലൂടെ ആരോഹണാവരോഹണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്ന നന്ദകിഷോർ കാണിക്കളെ കുടുകുടാ ചിരിപ്പിച്ച് അരങ്ങ് തകർക്കുകയാണ്.



നന്ദകിഷോർ

ഫലിതങ്ങളുടെ കലാശപടക്കത്തിന് തിരികൊള്ളത്തുമ്പോൾ എന്തൊക്കെയോ ഇനിയും കേൾക്കാൻ ബാക്കിയായ ഒരു പ്രതീതി സൃഷ്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അസാധാരണമായ വഴക്കത്തോടെ അദ്ദേഹം പരിപാടി അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. മുംബെയുടെ പ്രാന്തപ്രദേശമായ കല്യാണിലെ ലോക് കല്യാൺ മലയാളി അസോസിയേഷന് (LKMA) എന്ന സംഘടനയുടെ വാർഷികഘോഷങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായി ഈയിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച ഫലിതപ്രഭാഷണത്തിനുശേഷം നന്ദകിഷോറുമായി നടന്ന കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയിൽ നിന്ന്:

**താങ്കളുടെ ഈ ഹാസ്യപ്രഭാഷണകലയെ കുറിച്ച് വിവരിക്കുമോ?**  
സത്യത്തിൽ ഇത് ചാക്യാർകൃത്തിന്റെ സമകാലിക പതിപ്പാണ്. അനുഷ്ഠാനപരമായ എല്ലാവിധ വേഷവിധാനങ്ങളും ഒഴിവാക്കി ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു

കലാരൂപം. ആ പഴയ കലയുടെ സാമൂഹ്യ വിമർശനപരമായ ഒരു ഭാഷാതീതി മാത്രം ആധാരമാക്കി ഉത്തരാധുനിക സമൂഹത്തിലെ മനുഷ്യന് നേരിടുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ പറയാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. ചാക്യാർകൃത്ത് കൃത്തന്വ ലത്തിനു പുറത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുവന്ന കാര്യം നല്ലതുതന്നെ. പക്ഷെ എന്റെ ഹാസ്യപ്രഭാഷണം ഒരു വന്യൻസദസ്സിന്റെ മുമ്പിൽ ചെയ്യേണ്ട ഒന്നല്ല. അത് കല്യാണത്തിന് ഒരുപാട് കുറികൾ വിളമ്പുന്നതുപോലെയാണ്. കുറികളുടെ എണ്ണമല്ല മഹത്വം, ഉള്ളതു നന്നാവുക എന്നതാണ്. മൈതാനത്തിൽ വളരെ ദൂരെ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾക്ക് ആംഗ്യം കാണാൻ കഴിയില്ല. ശബ്ദം മാത്രം കേൾക്കാം.

**എന്തെല്ലാം പേരിലാണ് ഈ പ്രഭാഷണം താങ്കൾ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്?**  
വികടവാണി, വികടാന്വേഷണം, വിദ്വമ്യത്, നന്ദഹാസം എന്നീ പേരുകളിൽ. ഫലിത പ്രഭാഷണം എന്റെ ഗുരുനാഥൻ കൊടുത്ത പേരാണ്.

**താങ്കളുടെ ഗുരു?**  
മഹാകവി പി കൃഷ്ണകുമാറാണ് ഫലിതപ്രഭാഷണം പരിശീലിച്ച ഗുരു. അദ്ദേഹം ശ്രീ വ്യാസകോളേജിലെ പ്രൊഫസർ ആയിരുന്നു. 2004-ൽ അന്തരിച്ചു.

**താങ്കളുടെ സ്വദേശം?**  
തൃശൂർ വല്ലച്ചിറ സ്വദേശിയാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ അരിമ്പുരിൽ താമസം.

നമ്പൂതിരി ഫലിതങ്ങളിലൂടെയാണല്ലോ തുടക്കം. ഏതു കൊല്ലത്തിലാണ് ഈ കല താങ്കൾ ആദ്യമായി അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്? ആദ്യം നമ്പൂതിരി ഫലിതങ്ങളാണ് ചെയ്തു തുടങ്ങിയത്. 1992-ൽ ജൂൺ 1-ാം തിയ്യതിയാണ് നമ്പൂതിരി ഫലിതം ആദ്യം ചെയ്യുന്നത്. മുംബെയിൽ മൂന്നു തവണ എന്റെ പ്രഭാഷണം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. 1995-ൽ ഒ എൻ വികു പത്മഭൂഷൺ കിട്ടിയപ്പോൾ വിലെ പാർലമെന്റിൽ നടന്ന സ്വീകരണത്തിലും മുളുണ്ടിലെ കാളിദാസ നാട്യമന്ദിരിലും നമ്പൂതിരി ഫലിതങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. എന്നെ കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷം മലയാളം ഫൗണ്ടേഷൻ നടത്തിയ അവാർഡ് ഓനമുട്ടപ്പട്ടത്തിൽ മലയാളത്തിന് എന്ന പേരിൽ പ്രഭാഷണം അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ അവസരം കിട്ടി.

ഇതുവരെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ഫലിതപ്രദമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയിട്ടില്ലാത്ത നമ്പൂതിരി വംശീയ ഏകദേശം 5000-ത്തിലധികം വെള്ളിപ്പാലം ഫലിത പ്രദാനം നാനൂറോളം വേദികളിലും അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു.

കാര്യം പ്രാവശ്യവും താങ്കൾ എങ്ങനെയാണ് നവീകരണം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്നത്? അത് അവബോധപരമായി സംഭവിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ബോധപൂർവ്വമായ ഹാസ്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടാണ്. എല്ലാം ഗുരുക്കുപ. വായന, സമകാലിക നിരീക്ഷണം എന്നിവയെല്ലാം ഇതിന് ഉപോൽബലകരമായ കാര്യങ്ങളാണ്. വായനയിലൂടെ പകർന്നുകിട്ടിയ അറിവും പരസ്യവും ചാക്യാർകൃതിയിലെ ശിക്ഷണരീതിയും മറ്റും എന്റെ ഹാസ്യ പ്രദാനങ്ങളെ പുതുക്കി പണിതു.

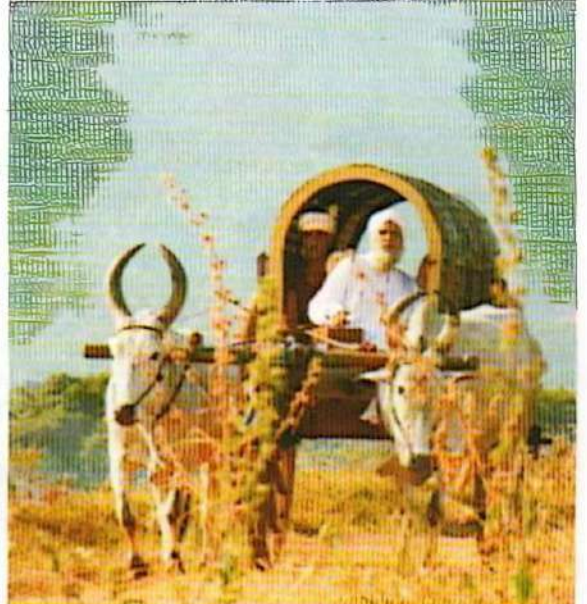
ശ്രീ രേഖ് മുരളി സംഗീത നാടക അക്കാദമി ചെയർമാൻ ആയിരിക്കേ തൃശ്ശൂരിൽ നടത്തിയ പ്രഥമ അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര നാടകോത്സവത്തിൽ മലയാളത്തിൽനിന്നും മുദ്രരാക്ഷസം മാത്രം കളിച്ചു. അതേ വർഷംതന്നെ കലാമണ്ഡലം ഗോപിയാശാൻ പത്മശ്രീ ലഭിച്ചപ്പോൾ കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിലും കളിച്ചു.

സാഹിത്യ രചനകൾ? നാലു പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ എഴുതി. വികടവാണി, നന്ദഹാസം, വിശ്വമംഗള പ്രാർത്ഥന, മന്ത്രാലയ കുബേരൻ (രാഘവേന്ദ്രസ്വാമികളുടെ ജീവചരിത്രം) എന്നിവ.

പുരസ്കാരങ്ങൾ? 2006-ൽ പ്രഥമകൃതി വികടവാണി ഹാസ്യ സാഹിത്യത്തിനുള്ള കേരള സാഹിത്യ

എന്താണ് താങ്കൾ കൂടുതൽ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നത്? എല്ലാവിധ സർഗ്ഗാത്മക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും ഇഷ്ടംതന്നെ. പക്ഷെ ഫലിതപ്രദാണത്തിനു കൂടുതൽ ഊന്നൽ കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ എനിക്ക് പറയാനുള്ളത് സമൂഹത്തിനോട് വിളിച്ചു പറയാനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമുണ്ട്. ഓരോ ഹാസ്യപ്രദാണം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുമ്പോഴും കാണികളുടെ പ്രതികരണം അനുബന്ധമായി വരുന്നു. ആ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായ പ്രതികരണങ്ങൾ ഈ കല മുന്നോട്ട് കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ കരുത്ത് പകരുന്നു.

മുംബൈ മലയാളികളെ കുറിച്ച് എന്തു പറയുന്നു? മലയാള തനിമ എന്താണ് എന്നറിയാൻ മറുനാട്ടിൽതന്നെ തരണം. മലയാള തനിമ



കലാശിക്ഷണം? കിടങ്ങൂർ രാമചാക്യാർത്തിനിന് ചാക്യാർകൃത്ത് പറന്നു.

താങ്കളുടെ നാടകവേഷം? സ്കൂൾ ഓഫ് ഡ്രാമയിൽ ചേർന്ന് പഠിച്ചു. മുഴുവനാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. M Com കഴിഞ്ഞു. വായനയാണ് ഭാഷാപരമായി മികവിനു നിദാനം. 1986-ൽ പ്രശസ്ത നാടകക്കാരനായ ജോസ് ചിറമ്മൽ സംവിധാനം ചെയ്ത മുദ്ര രാക്ഷസം നാടകത്തിലെ സൂത്രധാരൻ എന്ന കഥാപാത്രമാണ് എന്നിലെ നടനെ പാകപ്പെടുത്തിയത്. മുദ്ര രാക്ഷസം ഏകദേശം ഇരുപത്തിയഞ്ചോളം വേദികളിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. മറിമാൻകണ്ണി (ഉണ്ണായി വാണിയർ ചരിത്രം) കൂടുക, രാവുണ്ണി എന്നിവയാണ് മറ്റു നാടകങ്ങൾ. 2008-ൽ നടന്ന

അക്കാദമി അവാർഡ് നേടി. താങ്കളുടെ സിനിമ ജീവിതത്തെ കുറിച്ച് പറയാമോ? ആദ്യസിനിമ വിനയപുരവും വിദ്യാധരൻ. ശാന്തം, കസ്തുരിമാൻ, എബ്രഹാം ലിങ്കൺ, അന്തിപൊൻവെട്ടം, സൂഫി പറഞ്ഞ കഥ, ലൗഡ് സ്പീക്കർ, വെള്ളരിപ്രാവിന്റെ ചങ്ങാതി, ലാസ്റ്റ് ബെഞ്ച്, ആട്ടക്കഥ, കണ്ണീരിനു മധുരം, സാധാരണക്കാരൻ, ലക്കിസ്റ്റാർ, സിഗ്നൽ എന്നിവയും.

സീരിയൽ? ജാനശീലൻ സംവിധാനം ചെയ്ത മായാമായവം എന്ന സീരിയലിൽ രമേശൻ എന്ന നെഗറ്റീവ് കഥാപാത്രത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു.

നാടകം, സിനിമ, സീരിയൽ. ഇവയിൽ

കാത്ത് സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നവരാണ് മുംബൈ മലയാളികൾ. ഇവിടെ മലയാളികൾ കലയോടും സാഹിത്യ സാംസ്കാരിക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളോടും കാണിക്കുന്ന ആത്മാർത്ഥത എന്നെ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കുടുംബം? ഭാര്യ ലത കുടുംബകാര്യങ്ങൾ നോക്കുന്നു. മക്കൾ രണ്ടു പേർ, പ്രഹ്ലാദൻ, കാളിദാസൻ.

അഭിമുഖം കഴിഞ്ഞ് മടങ്ങുമ്പോൾ മലയാളഭാഷയുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിനും ക്ലാസിക്ക് പദവികൾക്കും ശക്തമായ മുന്നേറ്റങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഒരു തികഞ്ഞ ഭാഷാസന്ദേഹിയായ കലാകാരനെ കണ്ട സന്തോഷമായിരുന്നു. ■



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