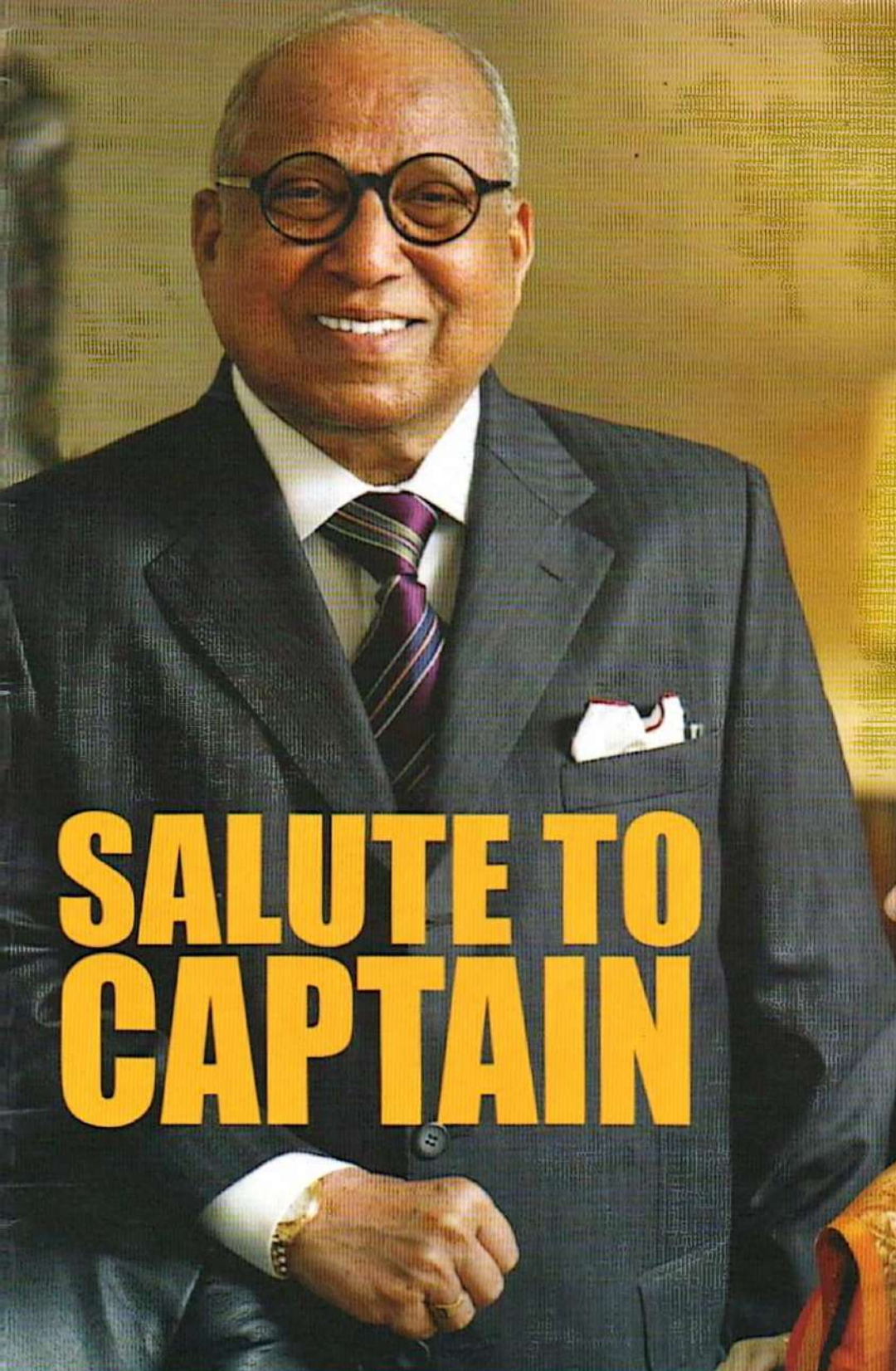


# Kerala in Mumbai

Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

■ Vol.5 No. 03 ■ Price Rs. 70 ■ June 2014



**Theatrical  
Persona**

■  
**2014 Parliament  
Elections**

■  
**Party Drugs in India**

**SALUTE TO  
CAPTAIN**



**Guardian of Art Gallery**

**Publisher, Printer, Managing Editor**  
P V Vijay Kumar

**Executive Editor**  
K V Satyanath

**Feature Editor**  
Lakshmi Venkatachalam

**Feature Writers**  
K R Narayanan  
V N Gopalakrishnan  
Sriprakash Menon  
Gerard Joseph  
Dr. Sujatha Nair

**Bureau Chief -Thane Region**  
Rajan V Nair  
Mob: 9004972655

**Consulting Creative Director**  
Shankar S Bhogwekar

**Designer**  
Sudhakaran K M

**Photographer**  
Mangesh U Borade  
Mob: 08691902124

**Marketing Consultants**  
Ms Asha Soman  
Mob: 08108771247  
Ms Rakhee Sunil  
Mob: 09820370060

**Advertisement & Marketing**  
Reshma Nair (Mumbai)  
Mob: 09930514940  
Nandana Subhiraj  
Mob: 09594668818  
T R Raghunandan  
(Kochi - 09847169725)

**Production & Logistics**  
K V Prabhakaran

**Owner**  
Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt. Ltd

**Place of Publication**  
B-105, Twin Arcade, Military Road  
Marol, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400 059.  
Tel: 022-29209959

**Printing Press**  
Sharprints, 13/679, Sardar Nagar 1,  
Sion-Koliwada, Mumbai-400 022.

**Email:** keralainmumbai@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.keralainmumbai.com

Views and opinions expressed in Kerala in Mumbai are not necessarily those of Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt. Ltd. VPPPL does not take the responsibility for returning unsolicited material sent without due postal stamps for return postage. No part of Kerala in Mumbai can be reproduced without prior permission of the publisher. VPPPL reserves the right to use the information published here in any manner whatsoever.

**Vibrant**  
Printing & Publishing Pvt Ltd

105 B, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol,  
Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059  
Tel: +22 29209959 Telefax: 29202094

# The Captain is gone

**M**umbai especially the Malayalai community has taken a severe blow when Capt C P Krishnan Nair suddenly died on May 17. Though he left the defence service decades ago, he continued to be a captain to all. During conversations, hardly anyone referred him as Krishnan Nair but as 'Captain' lovingly. He earned that title even in public life by his thought, conduct and disposition.

Capt Krishnan Nair set an example to all, especially to Malayalees how to conduct oneself in public and in private. In the end, he was Chairman Emeritus of the Leela Group. Nothing special about it! Every businessman assumes that position in an organisation that he steered well. But the fact remains: when everyone starts thinking of retiring from the busy schedule and assumes that position, the Captain started his Leela group and assiduously built it and spread his business empire to all corners of the country.

At 93, he was alert, jovial and accessible to all who wished to meet him. It is unbelievable that he was 93, as there was hardly any wrinkle on his face to indicate his age. His enthusiasm was always visible and transmitting. He was quite positive about everything, a diehard optimist and young at heart.

Many considered him a communist but he always insisted that he was a socialist. But he always liked those who are on the move, determined, hard working and detested those who only talked but did nothing. Very few knew that he was a tool in converting one Mr Balakrishna Menon, a flamboyant youngman into a spiritual leader Swami Chinmayandaji. He told the story to anyone who would listen.

He was in close contact with the mighty and the weak, litterateurs, political leaders of all hues and colours, cultural and social leaders. He was in the hospitality business and extended hospitality to all, irrespective of their standing in the society. When he hosted a party in honour of Shri M T Vasudevan Nair on receiving Inanpith, he invited a few hundred individuals to the party. He even threw a party to publicise a movie that he thought spread patriotism. Many stalwarts of different fields were his personal guests at his establishments. But he never flaunted his admiration for them before others.

Capt Krishnan Nair was a true lover of nature. All his hotels and resorts across the country bear witness to this aspect. The beautification of the entire road leading to the international airport was his handiwork.

He was a sports enthusiast and indulged in physical exercises everyday. He always found time to indulge in activities that he loved and promoted. 'Give the work to the busiest person so you could get it done' was his motto.

He never allowed obstacles to come on his way preventing his work at hand. He always found ways to mitigate them. He once explained with a glee in his eyes how he managed to get serious problem of getting rejected a lot of textile product from the US, terming it as a fashion material by calling them 'bleeding Madras.'

People like Capt C P Krishnan Nair are born once in a 100 years and it is our fortune that we also lived when he was alive and kicking. He would inspire a whole lot young people to work hard, dedicated to the ideals and loyal to the environments.

## General election 2014

Have read your editorial (May 2014) and would like to offer my comments on the same.

● If you were referring to parliamentary democracy in India, it was dominated by one single party for over 60 years and the voters in India had no doubts whatsoever about who would be the Prime Minister. This was the case during the times of Nehru, Indira Gandhi or even Rajiv Gandhi. The whole country voted on the basis of their faith in those leaders or the dynasty.

● If the country as a whole is welcoming the idea of a Prime ministerial candidate as you have seen during election time, what's the big issue? What is the harm if the leader gets endorsement of the public at large and then goes into the parliament with a clear mandate to avoid rat race for that premier position. How does it deviate from parliamentary democracy? Only a candidate is chosen by the public, and the parliament chooses its leader as per the constitution. Warranting and respecting the mandate of the public who has the highest stake holder in democracy is not a sin.

● You seem to have ridiculed showing of left index finger with ink mark to the camera. If it helps motivating the public who choose to remain at home watching televisions and not to go for voting, what's the problem? Encouraging people to vote is also not a sin I suppose. We accept advertisements of all kinds for consumer products. Why not accept this as a novel idea?

● If an election ID card issued to the public does not provide them the right to vote, then what is that card issued for? Inclusion of names in the voters list is the responsibility of the commission. Only very few people (considering the large population) knew about the need for checking their names in the list prior voting day. It's absurd to blame the voters rather than taking on those officers of the commission.

Venu

## Banks disregard RBI's directive

More often than not, fake notes come to the hands of the general public without their knowledge. Banks have always been refusing to accept or exchange them. Some banks impound them, but do not harass the tenderers by registering FIRs. Some others file FIRs against the tenderers. So, it may be wiser to surreptitiously pass on the fake notes to someone else. The result is that fake notes continue to remain in circulation. Perhaps as a solution to this problem, the RBI very belatedly issued its master circular dated July 1, 2013, directing banks to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Detection of counterfeit notes should be at the back office / currency chest only. When fake notes are tendered over the counter, they may be checked for arithmetical accuracy and other deficiencies like whether there are mutilated notes, and appropriate credit to the account, or value in exchange, should be given.

This instruction mandates that

genuineness of the notes should be checked at the back office or currency chest, and not at the counter, and that the tenderer should be given the exchange, or credit given to his account, without asking any question, and without checking as to whether the note/s is / are genuine or fake. This facility is available for both customers of banks and members of the public.

2. No acknowledgement is required to be issued to the tenderer of fake notes. Notice to this effect is required to be displayed prominently at the offices and branches for the information of the public.

I have not yet seen a single branch or office of a bank where such a notice is displayed. On the contrary, banks still continue to either reject fake notes tendered at the counters, or impound them, without giving the exchange. This is a blatant refusal to follow the instruction of the RBI.

3. In the case of up to four pieces of fake notes detected in a single transaction, a consolidated report in Annexure II, together with the notes, should be sent at the end of the month to the police authorities. If it is five or more pieces, they should be forwarded to the police by filing FIR in Annexure III.

In both the cases, the annexures are in the prescribed formats, and they do not have a column to disclose the identity of the tenderer/s. It is explicit that the RBI does not want the banks to involve the tenderer/s in a police case, unless

*Continued on page 34*

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

### Attention Subscribers

Please intimate us in case you do not receive your subscribed copy by 15th of each month, in order to help us to take necessary action. Tel: 2920 9959 / 2094. E-mail: [keralainmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:keralainmumbai@gmail.com)

Printed & Published by P V Vijaykumar on behalf of Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt. Ltd. & printed at Sharprints, 13/679, Sardar Nagar-1, Sion-Koliwada, Mumbai-400022 & published at B-105, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol, Mumbai-400059. Editor: P V Vijaykumar



- 05** EDITORIAL  
The Captain is gone
- 08** Capt Krishnan Nair is no more  
*KIM News Bureau*
- 22** Personality of the month  
Karthayani G Menon  
*Revathy*
- 28** Malayalam Litterateur-12  
M R Nair  
*Satyanath*
- 32** Keram.. Keralam  
K R Narayanan
- 35** Makers of Modern Kerala  
K Madhavan Nair  
V N Gopalakridhnan
- 36** Artiste of the month  
Rajendran Padiyoor
- 44** Mumbai News Digest  
*KIM News Bureau*
- 53** Kerala News Letter  
Vechur Cow  
*Rohini*
- 70** Let's learn Malayalam  
Erroneous Pronunciation  
*Guruji*



# Capt. Krishnan Nair is no more



**Capt C P Krishnan Nair breathed his last on May 17, 2014 around 3.30 a.m. at Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai following age related illness. He was 93. He is survived by his wife Leela, sons Vivek Nair and Dinesh Nair and their families.**

**H**earing the demise of Capt Krishnan Nair, several celebrities flew to Mumbai to pay respects to the departed soul. Governor K Sankaranarayanan, Pinarayi Vijayan, Kodayeri Balakrishnan, Mamooty and Suresh Gopi were among them. Many others sent condolence messages.

His body was kept at his home close to Hotel Leela for public view and body was cremated on May 18 at the Juhu Crematorium.

In 2010, the nation honoured him with Padmabhushan. He also won several prestigious international awards dedicated to the

hospitality industry and environmental protection. They include Golden Globe Award of Central Textiles Ministry, Forbes Award, C N N Award; National Tourism Award of the Union Government (twice) etc.

For the last two years he was Chairman Emeritus of the Leela Group and his sons were appointed as Managing Directors.

Capt Nair is known to most of the Mumbaikars, especially to all Malayalees of Mumbai, Kerala and

world over. He lived a life inspiring most of us. Born on February 9, 1922 to Kunnavil Appa Nair and Madhavi Amma, Chittarath Poovakkat Krishnan Nair had a humble beginning. He was their fifth son. His father was a last grade employee of the Village office and mother was a home maker. He had his early education in Chirakkal Raja's High School. Quite early he was interested in participating in the freedom struggle. Fighting against all odds,



Last journey of Capt Krishnan Nair



Actor Mammooty, Veerappa Moily, A P Abdullakutty were among the people personally present to offer condolences.

Krishnan Nair passed Intermedia and reached Bangalore to try his luck in Indian Army. He married Leela, daughter of A K Nair, a businessman and owner of Rajarajeswari Mill of Kannur.

He entered the textile industry in 1952, relinquishing his army service to look after his father-in-law's business interests. In 1957, he started Leela Scottish Lace in Mumbai and to deal in handloom and textiles. Leela Lace gave succour to many in South India and especially in Kerala as his company took a leading interest in exporting the products created by the poor weavers and tailors there. The story of 'Bleeding Madras' is too well known to repeat here.

When a new airport was planned to exclusively serve the international passengers, Nair realised the importance of the hospitality industry close to the airport. He met Vasantrao Patil, the then CM of Maharashtra and managed to get his assistance to get additional land for opening a hotel at Sahar, till then a suburban undeveloped area. His move annoyed several people in the field and obstacles appeared on his road to progress. He met Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister and the obstacles were removed. In 1987, his first hotel The Leela Pent opened to the dismay of many.

Capt Nair was in his sixties, of course not the age to enter into new ventures for many but age never was an obstacle on his way. It was his experience in various international hotels while travelling abroad, that attracted Shri Nair to the hospitality industry. After Mumbai, Nair spread his wings to Goa, Bangalore, Kovalam, Udaypur, Chennai, New Delhi, Agra, Hyderabad, Pune etc, building hotels and resorts and earned quite a reputation as a hotelier. He once said that the ultimate in hospitality was Leela Palace Hotel of Bangalore.

Many persons claiming to know him better, held the opinion that he was a communist because of his earlier proximity to A K Gopalan and Comrade K Krishna Pillai but he later deviated to Socialists. A few say that Capt Nair never liked the violence exhibited by the Indian communists though he kept his friendly relationship with their leaders. He was a strong supporter

of Pinarayi Vijayan.

He was attracted to the five star culture, they remarked. None of the statements was fully true or false. He liked everything that gave happiness to all around him. He believed in hard work with a purpose and felt that the fruits of hard work should reach everyone without any distinction.

In a friendly conversation, he stated in detail about the great camaraderie that existed between him and Balakrishna Menon, a journalist, many years ago, working for National Herald of Allahabad. He was greatly drawn to Shivananda Swami of Rishikesh. He paid a visit to Rishikesh and found Swami living without a shelter. Borrowing some agricultural impediments from the nearby houses, Krishnan Nair built a hut and invited Shivananda to move into it. He spent many days with the Swami and sought 'deeksha' from him and was flatly refused.

He returned to Allahabad and told Balakrishna Menon about his experience and urged him to go and meet Shivananda Swami but Menon, then an atheist, refused. When the time came to go different ways, Nair again urged him to go to Rishikesh.

It was after Hotel Leela was opened, he realised that Balakrishna Menon became the revered Swami Chinmayananda. When an occasion arose, Chinmayananda chose Hotel Leela as the venue for a yagna that he wanted to conduct. Nair was proud to decorate the entire hotel with jasmine flowers, specially brought by air from Mangalore and surprised his old friend by his meticulous arrangement made in the hotel for the yagna.

After Chinmayananda's demise, Krishnan Nair became an admirer of Mata Amrutanandamayi.

Capt Krishnan Nair always supported all good moves initiated by others but never publicised his support before others. Anybody who is somebody in any field was always his guest and he never charged them for their stay in his hotels. Literary figures, political figures, performing artistes, cultural honchos were all happy to be his guest.

His pleasant disposition always attracted people to flock to him. ■



Dr M G Pillai



Niranjan Hiranandani



Yesudas sent his wreath



World Malayalee Council Mumbai Province Committee Members

# Unfading memories

**Capt. Krishnan Nair is one of the finest, down to earth and evergreen gentlemen I have ever seen in my life, says PRINCE VAIDYAN**

**W**orld must have known him as Chairman of The Leela Group, an intelligent businessman, but to me he was a father figure whose golden hand I could feel on my entire character. We have known to each other for more than 20 years now and he treated me like his son.

Many years ago I was keen to have a good relation with Capt. Nair but unfortunately, I did not have much contact with him. In the year 1995, after the Shivsena Government came to power in Maharashtra, I had the opportunity to come close with Capt Nair. Hon'ble Late Shri Balasaheb Thackeray shared a good relation with him.

Capt Nair's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was attended by Union Minister Farooq Abdulla, Balasaheb Thackeray and many other dignitaries.

In the year 1997, I received a call from Capt Nair through his Security Officer Mr Singh, inviting me to meet him. He had a personal issue which I was able to resolve with the help of my dear friend Mr Ramarao Gadge IPS Police Commissioner (North East). Capt Nair remembered me instead of directly contacting higher authorities. American President Bill Clinton's team planned to stay in Leela and had reserved 100 rooms. American Security forces informed their embassy about the existence of some hutments opposite The Leela's main gate, posing security risk. BMC as well as Police were not co-operating to remove them. Without any delay I called on the

Commissioner's office at Chembur and requested for his intervention. Mr. Gadge immediately instructed Sahar Police Station as well as BMC to give required support to clear the hutments. Finally BMC could clear the hutments in front of Leela. This was my first acquaintance with Capt Nair.

My second visit to him was when he called me to accompany him to New Delhi and we stayed in Hotel Meridian. It was during Vajpayee's regime. We met a few people in Delhi in connection with Hotel subject and fortunately, this visit

and shower his love and affection on me and my family. He was inquisitive to know how I fared in business and was willing to lend assistance but I never took any favour from Capt Krishnan Nair. When he met people he used to tell them that Prince Vaidyan always supported him without any expectations. In all his hotels, I have special privileges. Often he called me to have lunch with him. They were long sessions. We used to converse in our mother tongue Malayalam. When I was discussing to start Kashmir to Kerala Social Foundation, he extended his



**Prince Vaidyan, Dr Farooque Abdulla and Rajesh Pilot**

was also a success and we moved closer to each other.

As time passed we grew closer and whenever any prominent personality came from Kerala I used to introduce him to Capt Nair. His favourites were Pinarai Vijayan, Ramesh Chennithala, Kodiyeri Balakrishnan and a few others. His old friends were A K Gopalan, K Karunakaran, E K Nayanaar, A Charles (Ex MP)... all are only memories now.

Since the last seven years, I have come closer to Capt Nair and his family. He always treated me like his third son. He used to advise me

full support to me. He had instructed his sons Vivek and Dinesh to support K&K foundation.

I have had great opportunity to travel with Capt. Krishnan Nair to places like Delhi, Jaipur, Udaipur, Bangalore, Chennai etc. Our last journey was to receive his doctorate from Jodhpur University. He had insisted on my travelling with him. We stayed in Jodhpur

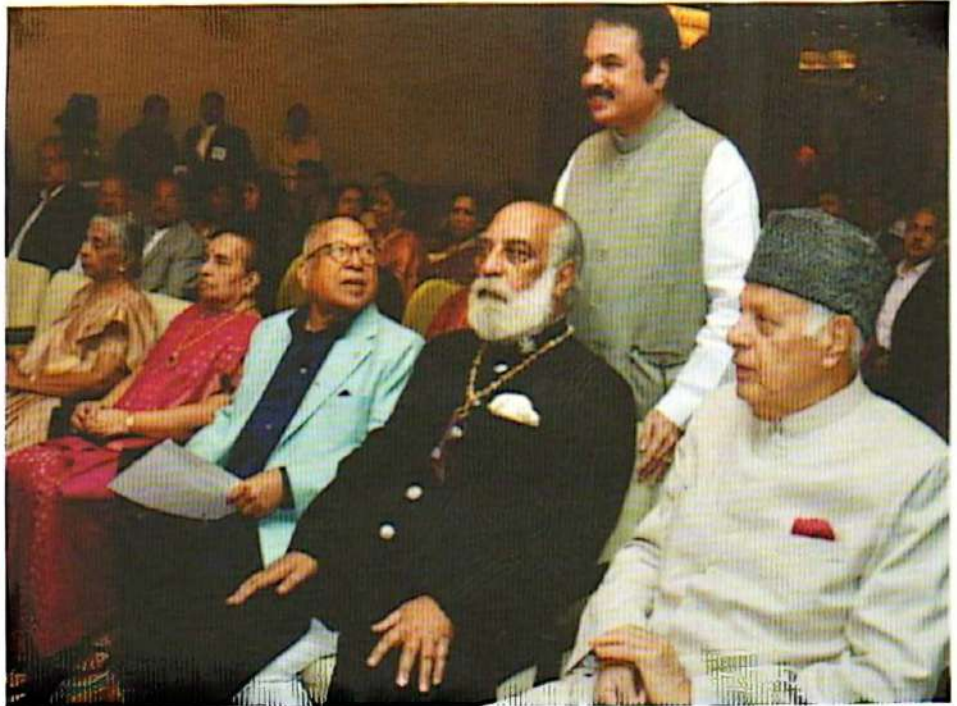
Maharaja's palace and I had the opportunity to meet Jodhpur Maharaja, Amitabh Bachhan, Mukesh Ambani and his wife Neeta. In the evening Capt Nair, myself and few people were inside the dining hall of the palace when Mukesh Ambani stepped in and touched Capt Nair's feet in reverence.

Three months ago, K&K Social Foundation programme was conducted in Mumbai. Before the programme, Capt Nair was admitted to hospital for medical checkup. He called me and I met him at Hinduja Hospital. He regretted about his inability to attend the function but

he assured me that his son Vivek would attend. He was keen to attend but his doctors and family asked him to desist as it was in an open ground. One day before programme, all my invitees reached Leela hotel. A few of my VIP guests visited the hospital and Capt. Nair thanked them for attending the programme.

Unfortunately, his health slowly deteriorated and on alternate day I used to visit him. Whenever we met he felt very happy. I informed Dr Farooq Abdulla, Pinarai Vijayan, Ramesh Chennithala and Maharaja of Udaipur about his deteriorating health. Pinarai and I met him in hospital. He was a bit emotional. Capt Nair asked Pinarai Vijayan to take care of his third son whenever he would become CM of Kerala. I was so emotional and touched by his words. Likewise during the visit of Udaipur Maharaja to the hospital he repeated the same words.

A few days before his leaving for the heavenly abode, I was with him in hospital. His wife Smt Leela was also present. His wife told me to talk to Nair as he was not speaking. I informed him about Narendra Modi winning the election and becoming PM. He was trying to talk to me but somehow he could not. I was so exasperated with his inability to talk and I left.



Captain and family with Udaipur Maharaja, Dr Farooque Abdulla and Prince Vaidyan

On 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 around 9 a m, when the election results were coming out, I went to hospital and joined his younger son Dinesh and daughter in law Madhu in the ICU. Nobody had the permission to go in but his son asked me to be with him. At 9.30 Dinesh left but I continued standing in front of ICU. Around 9.30 pm I left and around 2.30 a m he bid adieu to this world. With his passage I lost my father,

adviser, mentor and patron.

His loveable sons Vivek and Dinesh promised me to continue to keep our mutual relationship and legacy left by their father. Maharaja Arvind Singh Mewar and Dr. Farooq Abdulla also repeated the same words to me. Now the humble Prince Vaidyan would be a soldier of Leela group till his last breath.

Capt. Krishnan Nair is no more but he lives in my heart. ■

## A Karma Yogi Par excellence



Lion Kumaran Nair

■ Captain Krishnan Nair is no more with us. Being a Social activist in Mumbai for the last several years, I have had

innumerable occasions to interact with Late Krishnan Nair, particularly with those relating to socio-cultural activities in and around Mumbai. Though he had opted to build up his business in Mumbai, his vision and commitment for the well being of Keralites, his commitment to the development of Kerala in

tourism and hospitality business made him a popular figure even in Kerala. His efforts to induct the now famous "Kerala Hospitality Culture" in his Hotels all over India and abroad made him a "Cultural



ambassador" of Kerala to the rest of India and Mumbai in particular. Another facet of Late Shri Krishnan Nair was his ability to deal with men and matters from Kashmir to Kanyakumari with humility and conviction. Perhaps this quality of Late Shri Nair made him a true "Karma Yogi", even though he ventured to do business after 60 years of age, a record difficult to match by any one.

I am sure that Captain's family would be able to come out of the irreparable loss and also that his sons Dinesh and Vivek would take the legacy of Late Captain Nair to further glory and heights of Leela Groups.

# Entrepreneur and Environmentalist



V. Balachandran

■ 'Never Say Die' was the motto of Captain C P Krishnan Nair, founder of the 'Leela' chain of hotels, who passed away in Mumbai on May 17, 2014. He

was an incurable optimist who faced every obstacle that came his way as an entrepreneur in the industrial field of textiles and hospitality. He was the recipient of the Padma Bhushan Award from the Government of India and was acknowledged as the Hotelier of the Century. The boy from Kunnali in the Kannur district of Kerala (Born 1922), the fifth in a family of nine children, had to cut short his education early and join the Indian Army. Later, after serving in the Indian National Army under Subhash Chandra Bose, he plunged into business, first as an exporter of garments and then as the founder of a chain of hotels. One of the items of his early export was the 'Bleeding Madras' (a multi coloured hand woven cloth) that fetched dollars in plenty in the 50s or 60s of the last century.

It was in October, 1991, when I was Deputy Municipal Commissioner at Bandra, Zone III, that I first met Capt. Krishnan Nair at the Leela Hotel at his request. Capt. Nair received me at the entrance and took me to the coffee shop. I recall him saying, "I am happy that a Malayalee has become the Deputy Civic Chief for the first time from the cadre and that too in a Shiv Sena ruled Bombay."

## A Role Model

In 1992, he surmounted what appeared to be a great trouble. There were complaints against him

of illegal occupation of land belonging to the Sahar Airport Authority and also of illegal construction of the Leela Hotel itself. This led to a CBI enquiry. A senior CBI officer also met me in this regard. Capt. Nair faced the enquiry with his characteristic calm and cool temper. He produced the required records and documents in such a way that the case was closed in a short period of time. He would be the last man to get upset over such situations that naturally arise in



commercial transactions. Intelligent handling of such situations made Capt. Nair the businessman he was. In fact, as one who initiated new ventures when he was 60 plus, he needs to be looked upon as a role model by young entrepreneurs. Undoubtedly he had high level contacts all over the world.

After my retirement, I used to meet Capt. Nair often at various functions organized by Malayalees. The Late P K Ravindranath often brought us together at programmes held in the ballroom of the Leela Hotel. On such occasions, Capt. Nair and I talked about Kerala and Malayalees working in Mumbai. He was proud of being a Keralite and was keen on helping organizations of Malayalees in Mumbai and other places. He had an intelligent PA, Asha, who arranged all meetings of

Capt. Nair with outsiders. She had way of knowing the moods of her master.

## Beautifying Mumbai

'Leela Kempenski' was the first business organization to help the Bombay Municipal Corporation in efforts to improve the environment and make Bombay beautiful. The entire road leading to the Sahar Airport and the traffic islands were taken up by the Leela Group as a part of 'Bombay Beautification Project' got more than 2000 trees planted (including coconut trees) in and around the airport area. Needless to say, he won the gratitude of thousands of people of Mumbai. He had an eye for the beautiful.

## Autobiography

Capt. Nair's autobiography "Krishna Leela" in Malayalam came out in 2011 and shown great interest. In response

to the good demand a second edition came in the same year. He was good enough to give me a copy well presented 232 Pages Book in pure Malayalam Language. I was thrilled to go through it. He was certainly an achiever. He believed in hard work. Once he had set a goal himself, he was after it like a hawk after its prey. He knew no rest till goal was achieved.

## Man Of Reputation

No doubt, Capt. Nair was a successful businessman, but he was a greater man with abundant love for his parents, family and his fellow Malayalees. He had a generous heart and guided all those who approached him in the right direction. He encouraged all organizations that sought to promote



during festivals. He was an enthusiastic environmentalist and his contribution towards the beautification of Mumbai is quite substantial. We are all very proud of him and his name will be written in golden letters in the history

**"LUCK ALONE WILL NOT ACHIEVE THE GOAL, BUT FORESIGHT, DETERMINATION, HARD WORK AND BLESSINGS ARE REQUIRED."**

**...Capt. Nair**

of the contribution of Malayalees to the development of Mumbai. Capt. Nair is no more; his soul may rest in peace.

Kerala culture and welfare of the people. He himself was a lover of

Elephants and took keen interest in 'Theyyam', a type of folk dance

## Captain Nair a close confidante



**Ramachandran**  
CMD Jyothy Laboratories

■ Captain Krishnan Nair was a very close to me though we met not frequently, rather met at various public functions. We both had our own business related pre-occupations. Mrs Leela Nair, I understand, had seen our advertisements in Malayalam news papers as well as in television channels and once showed a keen

interest in them by asking us about our products. I sent her a basketful of all our products for which

Captain Nair wrote to me thanking us. He stated in the letter that the day he received our basket was a special day in their life as on the same day, they received a box full of Taste Buds from Mohanlal also. It was quite kind of him to find time to write a letter to us instead of making a courtesy phone call.

Those days, we were looking for a suitable place to house our corporate office and the Leela Business Centre near their hotel was coming up. I thought that it would be better if we could get a floor for ourselves on ownership. I approached Captain Nair but he was reluctant to accept my offer. They had plans to offer the premises on rental basis but never thought of selling a part of the building to

another party. He said he would consult his sons about my proposal and get back to me. After some time I was informed about their inability to sell a floor to us, while reiterating their willingness to rent it to us. Then we located our present office building and bought it. People of our generation have a reluctance to sell the assets that they strenuously built over long years. If anyone wished to buy a part of my asset, I also would have refused.

About five years later, Captain Nair had an opportunity to pass along the road in front of our office, though our

offices are very close to each other he had not seen it earlier, he saw our building and appreciated it. He then wrote a letter to me expressing his regrets that he could not accept our offer because of personal reasons. Even today that building is given to others on rental basis only.

We had several occasions to meet each other outside our own premises, on business and cultural meets. We do not have much business deals but he always showed a keen interest in me, probably



**Capt. Nair and Leela Krishnan Nair with Mata Amrutanandamayil**

both of us are from Kerala, settled in Mumbai, rose from humble beginning to our present status. I understand that he had similar approach towards to all Malayali businessmen settled in Mumbai. He always had a soft corner for people like me. In his demise, I lost a dear benefactor.

# Inspiring story of a world class Kannoorian personality



P.R. Krishnan

■ If Padma-bhushan Capt. C P Krishnan Nair was alive, he would have been one of the top ranking personalities amongst the distinguished

invitees in the oath taking ceremony of the New Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

The normal custom followed and practice adopted by industrialists is to confine to their own fields of activities and to keep away from public appearances and public

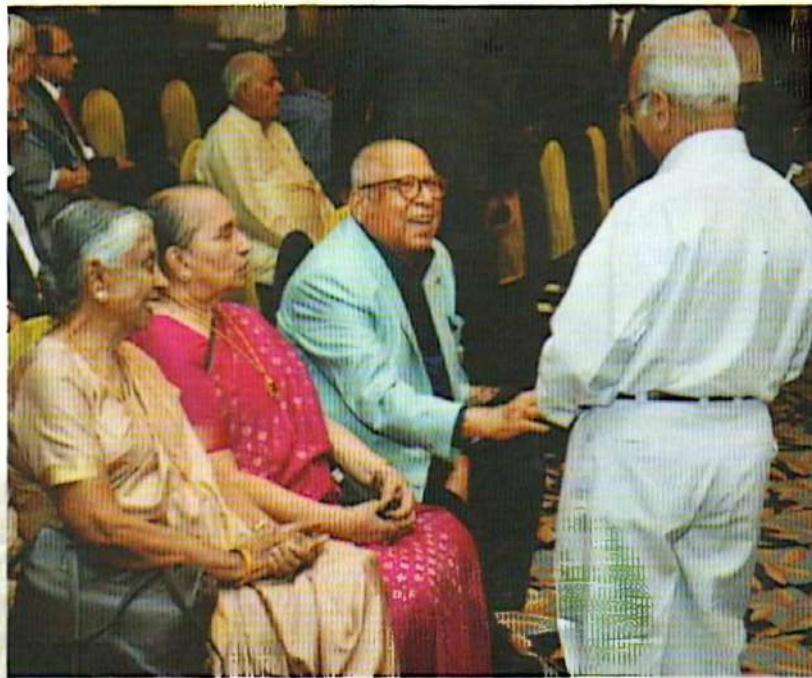
programmes. But Captain Krishnan Nair was different. Though he topped the list of giants in hotel and tourism industry in India and became a prominent figure in the World business map, the greatness in the Kannoorian Krishnan Nair was that he became more humble. This was so because he never forgot his past. He was never arrogant. The hospitality in Krishnan Nair was supreme and his Kannoorian courtesy was incomparable. This was true to the spirit of Hospitality Empire that he built up. The humility in the multifarious personality of Krishnan Nair stemmed from the fact that his adolescent life was hard and full of riggers. Though my association with Capt Krishnan Nair started about 60 years ago, my personal visits to him were few and far. During this long period we have met on more occasions outside than in Leela Lace, The Leela or his close by house. My first visit to him was 6 decades ago along with Com A K Gopalan, the leader of opposition in

the lower house of Parliament. He wrote in his autobiography "Krishna Leela" before handing over a copy to me: "My dear old friend P.R. Krishnan whose friendship started with AKG's visit to our house and it continues till this day and for that friendship this book is sent". Capt.C.P. Krishnan Nair 26-Aug. 2012."

During this long period of 60 years, I have never called him Krishnan Nair but 'Captain' only. Though Krishnan Nair got the rank CAPTAIN from Indian National Army under the command of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and later on

colonial period when freedom struggle was taking place in and around North Malabar in Madras Presidency and in other parts of Kerala that comprised of prince states. He was attracted towards students movement under the leadership of progressive leader within the Indian National Congress Party led by socialists and communists of that period. Through this he came in contact with P Krishna Pillai, A K Gopalan, E M Namboodiripad, N C Shekhar, K Gopalan, and other leftists with Indian National Congress. They subsequently became Congress

Socialist Party spokesmen and thereafter leaders Communist Party of India. It is on record that Krishnan Nair to proudly say that he had attended study classes of P Krishna Pillai and A K Gopalan the founder leader Communist Party of India in Kerala. However Krishnan used to say that though he had political contact from Communist leaders, he was not a socialist. That made him to have close contact with K Kelappan, Jayaprakash Narayan, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, Acharya Patwardhan, Ashok



P R Krishnan with Capt Krishnan Nair and wife

worked in that capacity in the Maratha Regiment of Indian Army, the word "captain" well suited him more for his commanding height in the hospitality industry that he built up after his resignation from the defence service.

An admirable development in the life of Krishnan Nair was that he could widen his contact and establish memorable relationships in socio-cultural and educational fields as well as in political fronts. This became possible because Krishnan Nair grew up during

Mehta and other stalwarts of Indian Socialist Party (ISP).

His relationship with V P Menon the first Home secretary of independent India had helped him to widen his contact with all shades of political currents not only of that period in India but outside the country as well. To name a few amongst them were Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain, Lord Mountbatten the last British governor general of India, Mahatma Gandhi, the north eastern frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan,

Jawaharlal Nehru, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sheikh Mohamed Abdulla, Aruna Asaf Ali and several other national leaders. The very fact that Capt Nair could serve in the Indian National Army (INA) under Netajee Subhas Chandra Bose and Captain Laxmi Sehgal was itself a proud achievement.

I have had several occasions to share dais with him. Most of such occasions happened to be in public events. They could be in the conference hall of Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Ballard Peer and Indian Merchants Chamber hall at Churchgate when Captain Nair happened to be a distinguished speaker. Shanmukhananda Hall in King Circle, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Hall near Chowpati, Taj Mahal Hotel, Oberoi Hotel, and Jahangir Art Gallery were such places where I happened to share dais with him. Some of them happened to be the Hotel Leela itself. Among these many occasions I would like to mention one programme specifically. That was an exhibition of paintings of a prominent Malayalee artist of Mumbai, Pavithran Kannapuram. That exhibition was in the Leela. Capt Krishnan Nair was the chief guest. The famous writer Manasi and journalist P K Ravindranath were the speakers and I chaired the programme. Krishnan Nair sponsored the venue. He used to give generous help and promote socio-cultural organizations and educational institutions irrespective of political affiliations, linguistic differences and cast and religious barriers.

Capt Nair reacted spontaneously when his friends underwent adverse or pleasant phases. When I undertook a 18 days long hunger strike in support of the demands of workmen of Bieri Pvt. Ltd. at Sion, news papers gave wide coverage. This was in 1967. Vasant Rao Naik was the Chief Minister and N M Tidke was the then labour minister of Maharashtra. Capt Krishnan Nair came to



P R Krishnan and Bhupesh Babu

the satyagraha site to enquire about my health along with Mayor M Madhavan, Dr N S Doraiswami and well-known stage activist T P K Nedungadi. On his return he telephoned to Chief Minister Vasant Rao Naik and requested him to intervene and settle grievances of workmen and save my life.

On another occasion there was a murderous attack by the management hired goondas on me. It occurred in the Industrial Court in Tardeo on 14-02-1986. The lawyers in all the labour courts and industrial courts in Maharashtra had boycotted the courts as a protest against this attack. Capt Nair telephoned me to make enquiries about the incident.

When I was elected vice president of the Bombay Labour Law Practitioners Associations in 1986, Nair telephoned me to

congratulate the "labour leader becoming vice president of Advocates Association".

Krishnan Nair was an enthusiastic defender of the nonalignment policy of Congress Government under Prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. He was a strong supporter of the World Peace Movement led by the CPI during fifties and sixties. He was against imperialist military blocks and pacts and cold war policy of the imperialist camp. He had extended wholehearted support to national liberation struggles of Afro-Asian countries in fifties and sixties as well as for the struggle against racial discrimination. He was an admirer of Nelson Mandela, Dr Allende, Patrice Lumumba, President Abdul Gamal Nazar, President Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam, Yazar Arafat, Robert Mugabe, Marshal Tito, President Sukarno, Chow En Lai and other leaders. He had high regards for Cuban Revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. He told me that the writings of Che Guevara indeed inspired him. He extended full support to V K Krishna Menon's election campaign in Mumbai when he contested twice for parliament. R K Karanjia, editor of Blitz was the chairman and the well-known physician Dr A V Baliga was the convener of the election campaign committee on both the occasions. I was an active functionary of that committee. Capt Krishnan Nair came and took us for lunch or dinner during the campaign period.

I remember an occasion when Krishnan Nair had invited C D Oommachan, Smt Kamala Raman and me for talks on some problems. Oommachan and Kamala Raman were Congress Party MLAs then. I was

present on many occasions when Capt Krishnan Nair had talks with E K Nayanar, Kerala's Chief Minister, Justice V R Krishna Iyer, the Union Minister K P Unnikrishnan, the famous writer Berlin Kunhanandan Nair, Kerala industries minister Suseela Gopalan, Kerala minister for cooperation M V Raghavan, CPI(M) Kerala state secretary





Parvathi Omanakuttan with her father and Ramakrishnan Komath

Pinarayi Vijayan and several other leaders. On one such occasion he took us to his garden and explained from where he brought flower seeds for the garden. The seeds of the big green trees we find around his hotel at Andheri and Marol area now were brought from different parts of the globe. When C Subrahmaniam was the Governor of Maharashtra, the west Bengal Chief minister Jyoti Basu happened to stay for two days in Raj Bhavan. I was with Jyoti Basu on both these days. This was when Jyoti Basu came to inaugurate the 2<sup>nd</sup> All India Conference of Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) in 1982. Having come to know of this, Capt Nair came and had long talks with Jyoti Basu and C Subrahmaniam.

To my mind there is no other Malayali businessman in the country who could establish such world wide contact as Capt. Krishnan Nair could. In India right from the first President, Rajendra Prasad to the present President Pranab Mukherjee and the first Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the present Prime minister Narendra Modi, Capt. Krishnan Nair had cordial relations with all the statesmen. This is apart from his close connections with almost all chief ministers and leaders of all political parties across the country. He was a lover of art, music and paintings. He had special regards toward film stars, sportsmen, writers,

artists, stage troupes and cultural teams. It must also be said that there is no other Malayali businessman in India who could provide jobs to such a large number of people as Capt Krishnan Nair did. My estimate is more than 2.5 lakh people have got direct employment in his industries including hotels in India including Kerala. The staff and many of the executives are people from all castes, languages, provinces and include foreign nationals. This was true to his socialist ideology and multifarious outlook.

Once when I went in a delegation to meet Chief Minister Vasant Dada Patil in his Bungalow near Sachivalaya, Capt Krishnan Nair was in his chamber with socialist leader Mrinaltai Gore then leader of opposition in Maharashtra. Here I introduced leaders of my delegation to Nair. They were P K Kurane, Godavari Parulekar and Ahilya Ranganekar the communist leaders. Capt Nair felt very happy and he stood up and shook hands with every one of them with smiles.

Santacruz Airport VIP lounge was a meeting place for us on many occasions. Till the middle of eighties, air travellers from different parts of the country had to land at Santacruz to change flights. The VIP passengers were therefore required to wait in this special lounge. Many a time I accompanied my party leaders to see them off or to receive

them and used to assemble in the VIP lounge. Once I was with Com Nayanar when Capt Nair was having talks with Dr Manmohan Singh who was then finance minister in Narasimha Rao govt. Nayanar knew Manmohan Singh very closely and began talking and laughing with Singh and Krishnan Nair. When Nayanar introduced me to Manmohan Singh, Krishnan Nair intervened to tell Singh that Mr Krishnan was a trade union leader. On another occasion I was with F Madhu Dandavate, and George Fernandez, ministers during Jana Party Regime. Krishnan Nair was with them. I was surprised to see Captain Nair had all the technical knowledge and economic statistics explaining to the ministers about Konkan Railway and requested them to expedite the project.

There was an occasion when I expressed his wish that I should bring Com Suseela Gopalan to his house while she was the industry minister in Kerala. When I informed him that she agreed to come Nair was very happy. She was welcomed in the hotel by a group of girls with Thalappoli in their hands and with bouquet by Krishnan Nair. We had lunch in his house. Mrs Leela and Krishnan Nair was overjoyed.

The last occasion I visited him was for the Onam celebration programme organized in Thiruvananthapuram by Kashmir to Kerala Foundation this year. The Kerala state CPI(M) Secretary Pinarayi Vijayan, the leader N K Bhupesh Babu, Kalam Kaumudi correspondent Murali Peralassery, FAIMA representative M.K. Nawas and Kairali channel correspondent Premlal and the programme coordinator Prince Vaidyan were with me when we exchanged pleasantries. Pinarayi Vijayan and Rajya Sabha Dy Chairman Prof P J Kurian were the main speakers on that function.

Capt. Krishnan Nair wanted Kerala to develop fast. He desired that Kannur should have an Airport and it should be named after A Gopalan. This is revealed in his autobiography "Krishnan Leela" book gives vivid revelations of development from his childhood to the present stage. The revelations in the book are quite heartening and will be inspiring to people in all professions. ■

# Capt Nair: A Jewel Among Mumbai Malayalees



Sriprakash Menon

India has several illustrious business and corporate leaders but Captain Krishnan Nair's name will stand out for his never dying spirit to pursue a dream and turn it in

to a reality. At the age of 64, when people step out for char dham yatra and pilgrimages, he at the behest of his beloved wife Leela laid foundation for India's finest hospitality chain the Leela group of hotels which included palaces and resorts.

Malayalees rarely had a personality like Chittarath Poovakkatt Krishnan Nair. Coming

That was the 'captain in the making'.

Captain's destiny changed in 1950 after marriage to Leela - daughter of a prosperous handloom businessman. Though without any prior knowledge of textiles, he turned around his father in law's business and shifted his base to Mumbai. Besides developing an export market for handloom, he pioneered in the 'Bleeding Madras' fabric with orders from multinational clients across the globe.

He also became instrumental in the formation of All India Handloom Board. Late V P Menon - one of the architects of unification of Indian states encouraged him to be an entrepreneur. Captain also met late Pandit Nehru to espouse the cause

being near to the airport. The Taj, Oberoi, Centaur (Vile Parle & Juhu), President, Sun-n-Sand and Holiday Inn were the big hotels hence Nair was confident about his forays into hotel business.

What, I was fascinated about Nair was his business accumen, he had no previous experience in the hospitality business yet he roped initially the Penta (known for airport hotels) and later German hotel chain Kempinski. He told me in my first meeting itself call me uncle. His ever smiling face, gleaming eyes and warm words instantly made me closer to him.

As a businessman and especially as a Malayali, it was not easy for Captain to open the Leela in 1986.

There were lot of opposition to the hotel construction especially by the rival business lobbies sighting closeness to the airport besides allegations of encroaching upon the airport land. Captain cleared all hurdles and navigated through turbulent times. Today several hotels have sprouted without any impediment but Captain had to weather the agony of 'permit raj' system then.

Not that Malayalis were very kind to him

either. Captain with 'shades of leftism' within him, he was able to nip the trade union problems in time. A politically sensitive Captain had connections in the right places. His association with Shiv Sena was good, so was his closeness to both Congress and communists. Senior journalist late P K Ravindranath was a big moral support to Captain Nair during his trying times.

Another unique quality of Captain which admirable is that, he attributed his success to his wife Leela. He not only named his previous textile business as Leela



from a very humble Kannur background, he had his education in Chennai as well. He joined the freedom movement inspired by Subhash Chandra Bose. He later enrolled in the Maratha Light Infantry and rose to the rank of Captain in the Indian army.

Captain like many other youngsters of those times was fascinated by comrade late A K Gopalan. At the sametime, he was quick enough to charm the raja of Chirakkal by writing a poem. King was so impressed that he granted life long scholarship for his studies.

of handloom. His contribution to handloom textiles in India was immense and he was later awarded for promoting this industry.

I came in touch with Captain in the early eighties, when he was already a millionaire after selling his textile business at Sahar. I was working with the Free Press Journal then, Captain was a well travelled businessman and had seen great hotels abroad. He felt that India too needs world class property. As the international airport was coming up at Sahar, he planned a grand hotel gauging the immense potential



J P Thakazhi, Adv Padma Divakar, P V Vijaykumar and Rakhee Sunil

Lace, he named all his hotels in her name. Leela with the proximity to the airport and tie-up with Penta-owned by European Airlines boosted hotels occupancy rate when it began. Leela was in the big league with Taj, Oberoi & ITC. Captain was a visionary, he always wanted to achieve the impossible. Soon, he brought huge chunks of land in Udaipur and Delhi where he was not allowed to build the hotel which eventually blocked his finances for quite sometime. Only Captain could have moved ahead with such grit and determination he fought against the government authorities on one side and bad times on the other end.

He had to face several challenges in 1988 when his collaboration with Four Seasons did not work out well, despite he spending crores of rupees to refurbish the Leela Goa, to match the standards set by Four Seasons. The owner of Four Seasons refused to share branding as Leela Four Seasons. Leela also had stiff competition with Maratha, Hyatt, Intercontinental and other hotels coming up in the vicinity. Captain against all odds bounced back with new projects. I was excited after visiting the Leela for the first time though I have earlier been to Taj, Oberoi and Sun-n-Sand several times as a correspondent with the Indian Express, Indian Post and the Independent (Times of India). I found Leela to be extravagantly splendid. Captain was very particular about not just the garden, entrance, restaurants but

each and every corner of his property.

Once he told me his luxury suites matched with the best available anywhere in the world. I told him, "I was equally proud of him that he could build such prestigious monuments of hospitality in Goa, Bangalore, Kovalam as well". I told him "my mother's name is also Leela", he smiled and said this is your hotel too. And when my parents visited me in Mumbai, I took them to the Leela. My father late Neithaleth Sethumadhavan Menon was fascinated by the hotel and its cultural shades within the property. Later when I met Captain, I told him how I got my parents and family secretly to the Leela for a dinner. He did not like the fact that I did not let him know. He knew personally I don't like to have 'free lunches' and felt that I was behaving like a feudal Palakkadan Menon.

Though Captain liked Malayalis and Kerala's richness, he was not popularly associated with the average activities of the Malayalis. He liked achievers, people with fame and success were dear to him. Yet his love for the Kerala roots were very strong. Singers, actors, performing artistes, film makers and politicians from Kerala were welcome, some were given free stay while some were given highly discounted rates. To encourage Kathakali, he had organised Kalamandalam's major fund raising shows along with K K Unni former vice chairman of Hoechst and

Kalamandalam's then chairman V Kurup.

His fondness for people with fame and success was too well known. No wonder he loved to be seen along with head of states, filmstars, corporate honchos be Maharaja, Thampuran and Prince. Average Malayalis expected him to play a community leaders' role in setting up school, college, employment opportunities and encouraging their various group level activities. Though he was religion oriented, he was associated with Swami Chinmayananda and after his demise Captain moved closer to Mata Amritanandamayi. He was also associated with Swami Nityananda's ashram at Vajreshwari Ganeshpuri. Captain moved beyond the realm of Malayali Samajam, NSS, Ayyappa Seva Sangham and into the global orbit winning accolades for excellence in hospitality and his deep ecological and environmental concerns.

Today if Sahar is so green, credit goes to one person that is Captain Nair. The entire brown belt near the airport was converted into green belt by his tireless efforts. Even the falling profits and rising debts of his hotel group did not seize his warm smile on his ro face with that loving gaze through Netaji styled specs.

A joy of contentment not only will have in Captain's position suited and booted personality such that many will envy. He was sometimes temperamental yet kept hotel folks happy till he needed them. He was perfectionist, strict, active and energetic. His watches and cars which he loved were style statements. Splendour and elegance are two attributes with you can associate with Padmabhushan Capt. Krishnan and his hotels.

His indomitable spirit and grit will surely guide his sons D Nair (CMD of the group) and D Nair (joint chairman), grandchildren Amrudha, Aishwarya and Samudra will carry forward Captain's dream building an international airport in Kannur and the new hotel projects in Jaipur, Noida, Agra and Ashtamudi. Finally, I would miss Captain's 'never say die' attitude and perpetual smile. A role model inspires and lives on. ■

# kalpavriksh - Healing Beyond Technology & Antibiotics



Gerard Joseph

India is moving ahead with industrialisation, and over a period of time, millions have got out of their poverty, thanks to technology and industry. The nation will have many challenges to face, and the most important one will be to create an effective national health care system. Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes have spread like epidemics in our country. Findings show that over 40% of the population is anaemic, primarily due to improper diet that lacks nutrition and errant lifestyle.

Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, says, "For where there is love of man, there is also love of the art of healing. For some patients, though conscious that their position is perilous, recover their health simply through their contentment with the physician".

Effective health care can be achieved when technology is used judiciously in conjunction with the ancient principles of healing. Dr Bernard Lown, eminent cardiologist, says that what health care demands is medicine with a human face. Our missionary hospitals are doing an exemplary job, thanks to the nuns and priests, and a few good doctors who have dedicated their lives for a noble cause. The nurses, mostly from Kerala, deserve a worthy mention, too. Selflessness and empathy can never be 'manufactured' or corporatised.

kalpavriksh, the Ayurvedic centre for ethical healing and optimum wellness, has strived all along to avoid becoming a business. Healing and patient wellness are our priorities. Our family of doctors and therapists experience the joy of healing in the day-to-day challenges in attending to various ailments. This in itself is a learning and fulfilling experience. Absolutely no

compromise is made in the quality of the therapies.



kalpavriksh wants to contribute its mite to the health care system by providing yearly Ayurveda programmes for rejuvenation and well being. These will be held in our clinics and hospitals where families and individuals can spend quality time with emphasis on regaining total health in mind and body in a natural, non-invasive manner. Special care and attention will be given to the seniors. Healthy vegetarian food will be served. A plant-based diet will not cause heart problems, uric acid and cholesterol build-up or many of the cancers which are common now. It's about time we took notice of these facts. This is how we take care of our health in the real sense.

All said and done, many things are left to be undone, as this glorious month of April passes us by. Let us not take our bodies for granted. Vibrant, good health for us and our loved ones is a primary objective. At kalpavriksh, we are committed to helping you achieve optimum health and wellness in mind and body by identifying the underlying causes of ailments using the time-tested principles of Ayurveda, diet and nutrition.

No part of our body is 'dispensable', be it the appendix, the thyroid gland, the gall bladder or the gangrenous toe — even though we may have an insurance cover on the medical bills.

(The author is the founder of kalpavriksh. He is an Ayurveda and Panchkarma consultant, and a freelance writer on health, nutrition and Ayurveda. He can be contacted on 9920178202/9322942311 or on [absoluteayurveda@gmail.com](mailto:absoluteayurveda@gmail.com))



## TRADITIONAL HEALING REMEDIES FOR

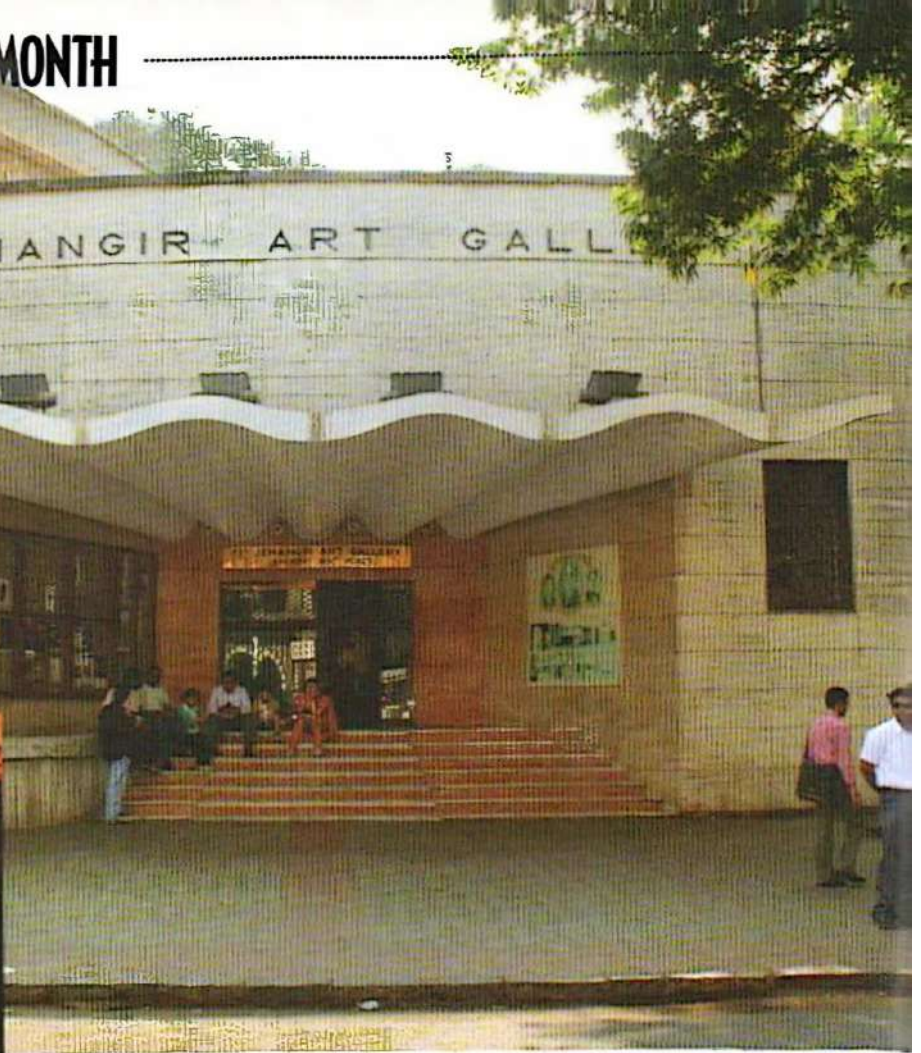
- ALL EYE DISORDERS • THYROID / HORMONAL PROBLEMS • HEMIPLEGIA, PARAPLEGIA, FACIAL Palsy • PROSTATE PROBLEMS • HAIR LOSS • ADD / ADHD, DELAYED MILESTONE • MIGRAINE / INSOMNIA • BACK PAIN / SCIATICA / ARTHRITIS
- HEART DISORDERS • GYNECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS • SUPPORTIVE THERAPY FOR CANCER & DIABETES

# kalpavriksh

The Ayurvedic Centre for Ethical Healing, Optimum Wellness & Natural Beauty

Star Co-op Hsg. Soc., Opp. Prashant Appt., IIT Main Gate, POWAI. M: 9920178202  
12, Garodia Shopping Centre, Garodia Nagar, GHATKOPAR (E). M: 9322942311

JEHANGIR ART GALLERY



## Karthyayani G Menon

# DEDICATION PERSONIFIED

Appearance may sometimes be deceiving. Karthyayani G. Menon is a fine example.

**W**hile walking into the cabin of the Secretary of the well known Jehangir Art Gallery, I was in my mind picturing the image of the topmost officer of the highly reputed institution of this cosmopolitan grand city: well built, sophisticated hair-do, silk attire, gold framed spectacles, sharp eyes emanating power and authority and a serious hoarse voice. After knocking the door and entering, I was pleasantly surprised to see a lady, with a typical Malayali attire and motherly look, worldly experienced. Had she been sitting on any other chair, one would have certainly mistaken her for an

ordinary office assistant.

Mrs Karthyayani G Menon is a pleasant person down to earth, loyal to the organisation whose interests are always uppermost in her mind, totally dedicated to her job and with a no nonsense outlook. After exchanging a few pleasantries, she expressed her disappointment at my late arrival and expressed her concern of keeping a few of her visitors waiting citing prior appointments. After my profuse apology, we went directly into business.



With P M Smt Indira Gandhi. V P Sathe seen behind



With P M Shri V P Singh

## Jehangir Art Gallery

It is the prime art gallery of the city of Mumbai, well known all over the country and in a few foreign lands also. It is situated in the heart of the South Mumbai where all other premier institutions such as Prince of Wales Museum (now Chhatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangruh), Elphinstone College, Regal Theatre, Gateway of India, Flora Fountain et al are situated. Colaba, housing Hotel Taj, Naval base, BEST Head Quarters, Churchgate Station, Naval dockyard, Victoria (now Chhatrapati Shivaji) Terminus, Mantralaya, Legislative Assembly Complex, Cuffe Parade are all in the neighbourhood. This special geographical position calls for continuous visits by the high and the mighty, celebrities of political, literary, art fields with or without prior intimations and makes any responsible person on his or her toes and Karthyayani Menon is no exception.

She very nicely explained the history of the museum.

It was the brain wave of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, the Second Baronet, to have an Art Gallery of international standard in Mumbai and he set aside a fund of Rs.2,50,000 in 1956 and approached the authorities especially the then governor Sir John Coville and later

Karthyayani Menon attributes her position to the blessings of renowned artistes like M F Hussein, Hebber, N S Bendre, Gaithonde et al.

Raja Sir Maharaj Singh and B G Kher the Chief Minister. It was decided to build the Gallery in the plot of Prince of Wales Museum and a tripartite agreement was signed among trustees of the museum, government of Maharashtra and Sir Cowasji Jehangir on July 25, 1951. The state government agreed to give a suitable amount every year as grant for the maintenance of the building. Sir Cowasji took personal interest in minute detail and he had spent

Rs.7,04,112 towards construction. It was shown as a personal donation to the Museum and hence the ownership of the gallery building is still vested with the museum. The gallery is named after the late son of Cowasji, Jehangir Cowasji Jehangir and was inaugurated by CM of the state B J Kher on January 21, 1952. The gallery was again renovated in 1990 to bring it to international standard.

## Life sketch

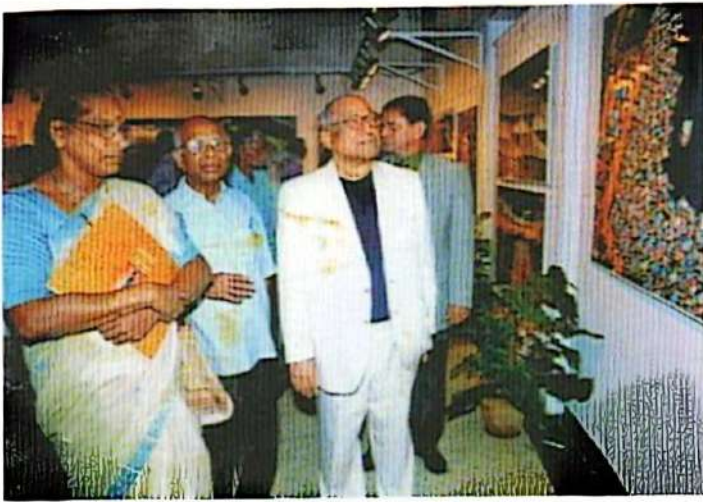
Karthyayani Menon was born on March 5, 1949 as the sixth child of Kaniyamkandi Lakshmi Amma and Mathathil Krishnan Nair in Pinarayi, Thalasseri. She has now six sisters and one brother, younger to her, Balakrishnan, a businessman in Mumbai. Her father was working in Singapore and later returned to Kerala to look after the family properties. After completing her education in Peralasseri and



With Governor K Sankaranarayanan



With C M Prithviraj Chavan



With Capt Krishnan Nair



With Governor C Subrahmaniam

Thalasseri, she came to Mumbai in 1968 to join her elder sister who was settled here after marriage.

Soon she landed in a job with Jehangir Art Gallery as a clerk. During her school days, she was very keen to learn Hindi and had passed Hindi Praveen examination. This trait stood her in good stead to gain this job. Afterwards there was no looking back in her career.

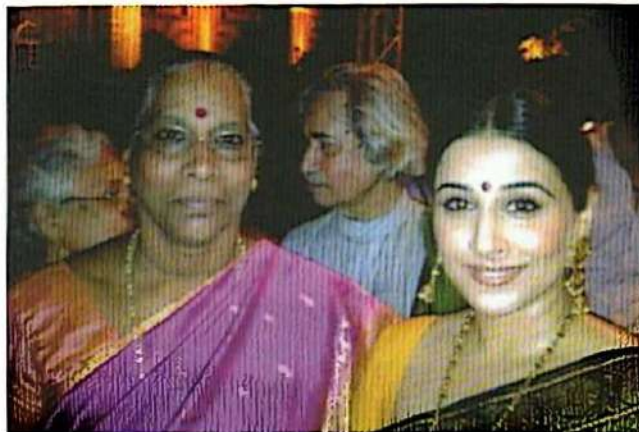
Six years later Karthyayani Menon found herself promoted to the rank of Office Superintendent and she attributed it to nothing but her hardwork and dedicated approach to the duties given to her. S S Batliwala was then Secretary of the Gallery and all the work assigned to her was done without any complaints arising out of it. Her efficiency in carrying out the task before the allotted time would have influenced him in promoting her to this challenging position.

Prime ministers, governors, chief ministers, painters and performing artistes, actors, litterateurs and celebrities et al always found time to visit Jehangir Art Gallery and their inquisitiveness kept Karthyayani Menon busy throughout her day and beyond. She took them around and explained in great depth to them so that they remained informed and interested in the artefacts they saw and appreciated.

Meanwhile in 1971, she married Mangat Gangadhar Menon of Ottapalam. He was a sports enthusiast and was Captain of his school team. He was a student of the School of Ottapalam. In Mumbai he was working for the RPG Group. He retired from service about 15 years ago. She balanced well the administration of her office as well as her home. The couple is having an ideal family life with two children, Sunil and Sushama.

Sunil has a degree in Hotel Management and he joined Lufthansa Airways. He married Sujata, a Maharashtrian girl, and now a proud father of Saumya who is a student of Std VIII.

Sushama is a commerce graduate and is now employed in Jehangir Art Gallery's accounts department. She is married to Ajitkumar, a Thiruvananthapuram native but having well established business interests in Mumbai. The couple have two daughters, Shreela doing



With Actress Vidya Balan

first year Engineering degree course and Anushree is a student of Std VIII.

Karthyayani Menon attributes her position to the blessings of renowned artistes like M F Hussein, Hebber, N S Bendre, Gaithonde et al. They were a very much pleased with her work at the gallery and



With M F Hussein, Laxman Shrestha, Kekoo Gandhi and Kishori Amondkar



With Uddav and Aditya Thackarey



With columnist Shobha De

showered their blessings on her. These blessings, she feels, remain good for her and allow her to reach new heights.

Karthyayani Menon reached her superannuation in 2009 but the Gallery authorities refused her retirement. In jest, Ms Menon says that she might be allowed to go when she gives a chance to her bosses to question her on some of her short comings. The problem is that she never gives them an opportunity to do so.

Since its inception, the building that houses the gallery had some space they could not utilise. In order to raise money for the

maintenance of the building and other sponsorships etc, that extra space was given on lease to five different

entities. Later, when the Gallery wanted more space, they refused to vacate the premises and the Trust managing the Gallery had to approach judicial courts. Ms Karthyayani Menon singlehandedly managed to attend to the legal matters as well as attending various courts from the lowest to the appellate courts spanning a period of forty five years. Her efforts are now fruitful and all licensees are evicted.

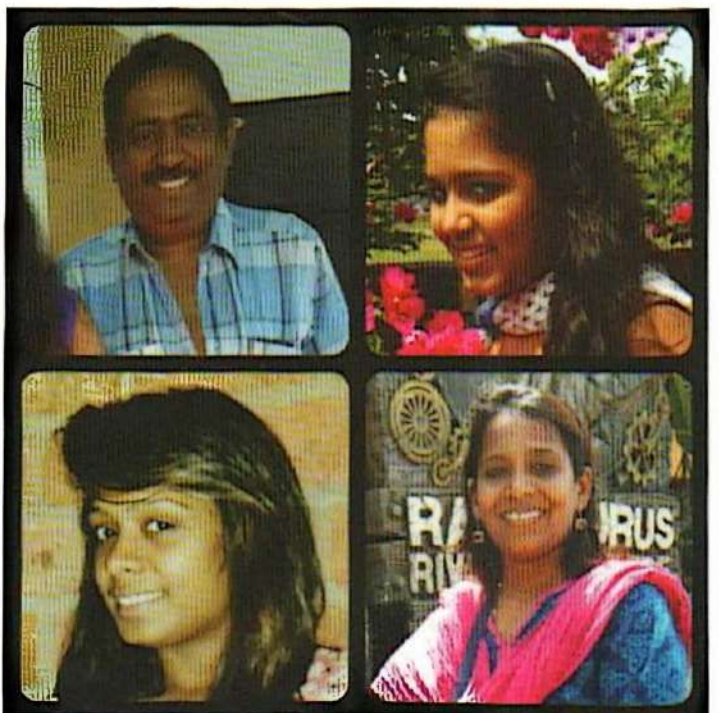
The official and personal duties took Ms Karthyayani Menon across all over India,



With husband Gangadhara Menon



Son Sunil, his daughter Saumya and wife Sujata



Daughter Sujatha, Son-in-law Ajitkumar their daughters Shreela and Anushree



With Governor Dr P C Alexander



Receiving Life Time Achievement Award from Adi H Je



## S. Ramakrishna's

### HI-SPEED LACQUERERS

You must have tried different types of Polish for your Lamps, Samais, Silver Items, God Idols, Door Handles, chandeliers & other precious items etc.

**THE SHINING WOULD HAVE LASTED FEW DAYS.  
NOW THERE IS AN ULTIMATE PERMANENT SOLUTION FOR YOUR PROBLEMS.**

TRY ONLY ONCE MY LACQUER POLISH  
**(LIFE TIME GUARANTEED)**  
BRASS, COPPER, SILVER & GOLD LACQUERING.

**PICK UP & DELIVERY FREE.**  
**INSPECTION AT YOUR PLACE FREE OF COST.**

---

**SAMPLES WILL BE SHOWN AT YOUR PREMISES.**  
**LACQUERED ITEMS ARE WASHABLE & LAMP CAN BE LIT AFTER LACQUER POLISHING.**  
**SPECIALISTS IN KERALA LAMPS POLISH.**

God Polish can be done in Brass, Silver & Gold. Gift items are available at the below address.

**THERE IS NO LOSS OF MATERIAL WHILE POLISHING**  
**COMPLETED 46 TEMPLES POLISHING ALL OVER INDIA**

Please call/visit/contact me at :  
**S. RAMAKRISHNA (8 a.m. TO 8 p.m.)**

No. 2, Kiran Bldg., Ground Floor, Near Murugan Temple, Chheda Nagar, Chembur (W), Mumbai-89.  
**S. Ramakrishna : Call on 9821418929 / 9167314911 / 25253106 • Ph.: 25255630**

barring north east states and G  
Further, she travelled to Gulf c  
and Singapore etc.

When one does the job exceedingly well, one is likely to be appreciated for the excellent work. Ms Karthyayani Menon is no exception. She was felicitated by eminent personalities and organisations and awarded titles and trophies on several occasions. Ratna from India International Samskara Deepti from Jwala International and Life Time Achievement Award given by the Gallery itself on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee 2013 are some among them.

If you can set your hands to the albums kept on her table, you will spend more than a day, peering through the pages looking at the photographs in which Ms Menon is mingling with the mighty and powerful. Presidents, Prime Ministers Smt Indira Gandhi, Gandhi, Viswanath Pratap Singh, Governors C Subramahnia, C Alexander, K Sankaranarayanan, Babasaheb Thackeray, Uday Kumar Aditya, singers Kishori Ambonkar, actors Amitabh Bacchan, Yashwantrao Balan, Madhu, Kaviyoor Parameswari Ponnamma, big names of Mumbai's celebrities such as Shobha De, Kekkoo Gharwal, are only some of them. Many Indian painters including foreigners who visited the country during their days, are also depicted. With the patronage of such eminent personalities, it is no wonder she remained on the high pedestal. ■

# A meteor in the early literary sky M R Nair

-Sat

Malayalam has never seen such a genius as Manikoth Ramunni Nair aka M R Nair the discerning, Sanjayan for those who love humour and satire, Sahityadasan for those who love poetry from Sanskrit, English and Malayalam, either earlier or later. Several of the critics of that era dared to criticise his views considering his all round knowledge of the subject and were scared of becoming the butt of his sharp counter response

M R Nair was a highly talented poet, an exemplary satirist, a bright philosopher, a keen observer of people, a fearless critic, impartial analyst, a lucid essayist, a translator of classics, a humorist, teacher and many more. Poet Ulloor Parameswara Iyer expressed his dismay in a letter, at the prolific way M R Nair wrote his poems, to C H Kunhappa when he published them and wished his prosaic writings also would be published soon. He expressed that Nair's stature as a poet was only second to Kunchan Nambiar.

## A life of misery

Ramunni Nair was born on June 13, 1903 to Matavil Cheriya Kunhiraman Vaidyar (Vaidyar was an honorary title bestowed by Katathanad Raja on one of his predecessors for services rendered) and Manikoth Paru Amma of Othayoth Tharhavad of Thiruvangad Village close to Thalasseri. His father was a Malayalam teacher in BEMP (Basel Evangelous Mission-Parsi) School of Thiruvangad. The couple had two more children, elder brother Karunakaran Nair and younger sister Parvathi. When Kunhiraman Vaidyar died at 47, Ramunni was only seven years old. Mother Paru Amma married again and had three more sons Kunhisankaran Nair, Balakrishnan Nair and Sreedharan Nair. The step father Dr Sankaran Nair was a widower and had no children from his first marriage. He loved and



looked after all six children without any partisanship.

Ramunni Nair had his education from various educational institutions such as Government Brennen Branch School, Government Brennen College, Palakkad Government Victoria College, Madras Christian College and Trivandrum Law College. He was mischievous and used to torment the servants. During his Victoria College days, he was staying in the College hostel. This provided him opportunity to spend more time in reading. Tagore, Varahamihira, Einstein, Dickens etc were his

favourite authors. Mesmerism and hypnotism also attracted him. He also contributed to VICOHOM (Victoria College Hostel Magazine).

He was a very brilliant and studious boy who had an affinity for poetry. When romanticism was finding its feet in India, he favoured the neo-classic style. When he was 14, his first poem was published in Kairali magazine. It was written in response to another poem by Raja and Ulloor reproduced in Kerala Sahitya Charitram.

രാജൻ! മഹേശാജനയഭിജ്ഞ  
മുനീന്ദ്രൻ നമ്മോടരുൾ

ചെയ്തിരിപ്പൂർ  
അതീശവരൻ പ്രവൃദ്ധകേന്ദ്രി  
കർത്തവ്യകർമ്മങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന

After passing Intermediate examination, he joined Madras Christian College for English. He wanted to join B A Honours (equivalent to M A) but had to appear for an examination to get into it. The result of this examination was published, his name was missing from the list of successful candidates and he approached the Principal Meston. When he told the Principal that he wanted to know the result he obtained, the former called Mercatini, incharge of that examination, to get the marks. When the name was told, professor Mercatini embraced him and showed him the paper. There were no marks but only a remark: Remarkable.

Ramunni Nair successfully passed B A (Hons.) in 1927. During his Madras stay, he also mastered French, German and Sanskrit on his own effort. Soon he got a job

clerk in Collector's office and also got married to Karthyayani Amma, his cousin from both sides of his parents. Very soon he left his job, fed up of corruption and red-tapism existing there. After two years of marriage, he became father to Babu and soon his wife died of tuberculosis in 1930.

After leaving his government job, M R Nair left for Trivandrum to join the Law College there. He then had a pleasant disposition as he could leave a job he hated, could marry the same girl whom he loved, was secured financially etc. His satirical writings were developed during this period. During this time he was an ardent follower of poet Vallathol and had no hesitation to say so. Slowly he realised the folly of imitating others and tried hard to break the shackles. When someone with a pen-name Kavirakshasan criticised Vallathol's *Kochuseetha*, M R Nair came out with scathing counterattack. He concluded his attack by declaring the critic a man with the eyes of a leech.

During this period he wrote a short play *Unmathakinkaram* and published it in *Vidooshakan*. In the preface of the written work, M R Nair declared that all the rights to criticise his work had been assigned to *Kavirakshasan* and after his death, to that person whom the doctors would certify the severest lunatic of the world.

When Karthyayani Amma expired, M R Nair was compelled to return home without completing his study of law. Before going to Trivandrum, Nair worked in Malabar Christian College as a lecturer of English. After spending some time doing nothing, he went back to Trivandrum only to realise that he too had been afflicted with tuberculosis.

M R Nair spent one year in a sanatorium near Katpadi. Though he was not cured, the illness was somewhat brought under control. This span of time he used to study *Bhagawat Gita*. He also mastered astrology and ayurveda. Thus M R Nair could handle these subjects

independently when he entered the world of journalism. His stay in sanatorium was memorable. One of his lungs was removed by surgery to prevent spreading of the bacteria to the other. His presence was also a blessing for the staff as he assisted them in handling the patients. On return, he joined the editorial board of *Keralapatrika* on August 19, 1934.

Till he joined *Keralapatrika*, his poems, essays and plays were published in *Kairali*, *Kavanakaumudi*, *Ianaranjini*, *Bhashaposhini*, *Malayala Manorama*, *Mathrubhumi*, *Swabhimani*, *Gajakesari*, *Vidooshakan*, *Samudaya Deepika* etc. His first article in this magazine was titled *Story of Sanjayan*. He ascribed his birth to *Thonnyasapuranam*, the nineteenth purana. According to him, it was Narada who explained the origin of Sanjayan of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to Karkotakan when he queried.

ശ്രീമൻ കാർക്കോടകസ്വാമിൻ,  
തിരക്കുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ശരി  
സഞ്ജയന്റെ പുരാവൃത്തം  
കേൾക്കാനിച്ഛയുണ്ടുമേ!  
Narada explained saying that

www.manjilas.com

**Double Horse**

മനസ്സു നിറയെ കഴിക്കൂ!

**മനസ്സിനോളം  
പുരുഷന്മാരുടെ പൂട്ട്**

ഡബിൾ ഹോഴ്സ് പുട്ടുപൊടികൾ  
ജർമ്മൻ സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യയുടെ  
മികവോടെ പൊടിക്കുന്ന പുട്ടുപൊടി.  
ഏറെ മുറുപ്പും, ഏറെ സാർ.  
ആസ്വദിക്കൂ ആവി പറക്കുന്ന പൂട്ട്  
തനതായ രുചിയോടെ.

വെള്ള പുട്ടുപൊടി  
സ്വച്ഛി ഖോരത്ത് പുട്ടുപൊടി  
റാഗി പുട്ടുപൊടി  
ചോളം പുട്ടുപൊടി  
ചെമ്പ പുട്ടുപൊടി

MANJILAS GROUP OF COMPANIES  
Reg. Office: TC-16-1382, Sasthri Road, Nellikunnu, Thrissur - 680 005,  
Kerala. Phone: +91 487 2428125, 2420895, Fax: 2440113, E-mail: info@manjilas.com

https://www.facebook.com/DoubleHorse.Manjilas



C H Kunhappa

പണ്ടു ചിത്രമന്തന്റെ  
മകനായ് തോന്നുവാസിയായ്  
ഗന്ധർവനഗരം തന്നിൽ  
പിറന്നു സഞ്ജയൻ, മുനേ.

But when he saw that the saint Durvasah fell into the gutter of the city of Kozhikode while moving through the city with his thousand disciples, he laughed aloud uncontrollably while everyone else ran away fearing the saint's wrath. Durvasah cursed Sanjay to be born in the dustiest, unclean and the most hated municipality of Kerala and would be disliked by all. He further stated that the purana was recovered from Thunchathu Ezhuthacchan's grave and hence it was not translated by that great poet, Kunnathu Janarddana Menon did not prepare a prosaic translation, S T Reddiar & Sons did not publish it, nor any details of who told whom what, when, why and how available. None should try to read it as it is written in very tough Sanskrit. Still if anyone wanted to read, turn to the pages of Chapter 543. Thus Sanjayan, his pseudonym, was born. The magazine came much later.

Babu was brought up by Paru Amma and Parvathi Amma. Wife's death was a terrible shock for Ramunni Nair as they were very close to each other since childhood and it took a severe toll on him. On his love for wife, he wrote a poem Chinthatharangini. To contain the sorrow, Ramunni Nair turned to writing. Babu was always found thoughtful, unenergetic and lying down. Soon he was also diagnosed with tuberculosis. Saddened, he asked his sister

കുരൾ ഞെക്കിയെടുത്തു വേണമോ  
യമപാദത്തിനുപാദമേകുവാൻ?

In his poem *Thilodakam*, the following lines show us his thinking.  
അതിനിർഭയനല്ല ദൈവമെ-



Moorkoth Kunhappa

ഒന്നാകുവാകുംവരെയോർത്തു  
വിറുപ്പി ഞാൻ!  
മനുജന്റെ സുഖസുഖങ്ങളോ-  
പ്പുരമാത്താവറിയുന്നതെങ്ങനെ?  
പരപുരുഷമർത്യജന്മാർ-  
ന്നവതാരം ഭൂവിചെയ്തവൻ ഭോൻ  
പ്രിയ, പൂവിതളൊത്തു, മണ്ണിലായ്  
മറയും കാഴ്ച സഹിച്ചുതല്ലി നീ?

Don't we see a trace of  
Kumaranasan in the above lines?  
Babu also left him when he was 9.

### Keralapatrika

*Keralapatrika*, the monthly magazine, owned by K V Achuthan Nair and edited by Chenkulath Kunhirama Menon, was about to be closed when M R Nair joined its Editorial Board. Since the column under the byline Sanjayan started appearing in it on a regular basis, its life was re-energised and it was converted to a weekly from March 1938. The editorial board was reconstituted with (1) M Ramunni Nair M A, (2) C K Raja, (3) Madhavaji and (4) Sanjayan. The last name was added to get additional space for M R Nair to indulge with freedom.

M R Nair used to spend two days a week for his magazines. All its 1500 copies were sold out within a few days. Both the magazine and Sanjayan became hot favourites of the readers. However, Nair's opposition to communism and respect for Gandhiji caused disturbances among the workers of the press. Gradually these opposition and financial losses made Nair think of starting another magazine.

### Sanjayan

The above thinking led Nair to start Sanjayan. This most sought after humour/satire magazine of that era was printed by K V Achuthan Nair from Norman Press. While



Kuttikrishna Marar



S K Pottekkat

*Keralapatrika* had its eighth part reserved for Sanjayan, this new magazine had all its 24 pages himself. It was fashioned after Punch. It came out as a month after one year, it was converted fortnightly. But to complete the issues of the second volume. 23 months as ill-health and misruled surrounded M R Nair one after other. Only 7 issues came out of the third volume.

Many well known writers participated in *Sanjayan*. Madhavan Seetharaman (P Sreedharan), Chirakkal T Balakrishnan, Nair, H Kunhappa, Moorkoth Kunhappa, K Pottekkat, Kuttikrishna Marar were some of them. All of them wrote under pseudonym. The entire Malayali community welcomed the magazine, priced at one and a half rupees, a big amount those days.

The magazine brought out the maladministration of Kozhikode Municipality, the misrule of C K Raja the Prime Minister of Madhya Pradesh, misdirected action of Minister K V Reddy, District President R M Palat etc before the public. He also criticised the modern poets, communists, etc. Owing to his ill-health, *Sanjayan* folded out in 1939.

### Viswaroopam

When Mathrubhumi could not know about the decision to cease the publication of *Sanjayan*, it wanted to take it over but technical problems prevented the idea. So Mathrubhumi got *Viswaroopam* registered and appointed M R Nair its editor. He was working for *Viswaroopam*, helped Mathrubhumi by translating the English speeches of Benito Mussolini into Malayalam. *Viswaroopam* started

many writers contributed articles. This helped M R Nair to spend less time for the magazine.

His health started fading then but he continued writing. The condition soon changed. During all these years, he was also working as a lecturer in Malabar Christian College, Kozhikode. Finally he decided to bid adieu to Viswaroopam, Christian College, Mathrubhumi and Kozhikode and to return to Thiruvangad.

After the 12 issues of first volume came out, a breach occurred for three months. Afterwards, only two more issues came out in November and December 1941.

### Christian College

While he was busy with the magazines, he also had his second stint at Christian College as a lecturer in English. He was an excellent lecturer. While some students skipped their other classes to be in M R Nair's class, some of his colleagues also remained outside to listen to his lectures. Very soon Christian College came to be known as M R Nair Sir's College.

Those days lecturers needed to wear western style clothes to the class and M R Nair was no exception. But as soon as he entered the classroom, he would remove his coat and put it around the chair, revealing dishevelled hair and

crumpled clothes and the indifferent personal look causing doubts of a morning bath in the minds of people. It was surprising that neither his students nor the colleagues knew this badly dressed person was indeed the rabble rising Sanjayan.

His Shakespeare classes were legendary. He would not carry a text book to the classroom and only wanted to know where he stopped last time. Once that was known, his performance would commence enacting each and every character. Inside the campus, he would talk only in impeccable English and insisted his students also to do so.

One of his close friends of those days, narrated a story showing his patriotism at its best. During the beginning of the Second World War, all teachers and students were required to pin a 'V' sign on their shirts to show their loyalty to Britain but M R Nair refused to toe the line and was called by the Principal. When the latter insisted that he should wear it or leave the college, Nair agreed to wear it. He went to a cobbler and got the 'V' done in leather. Next day, when his colleagues taunted him for falling in line, he asked them why they did not notice that it was made of leather while everyone was wearing 'V' of metal, purchased from the shop. The Malayalam word for leather is 'Thol' and hence it should be called

'Tholvi'(defeat) instead of victory.

During his tenure as a teacher, he wrote a few plays, for both boys and girls and they were well received. He needed no preparations and used to dictate notes without prepared notes or texts.

After some time, his illness started troubling him, and the continuous cough prevented him from lecturing. Then he decided to call it a day.

M R Nair seemed to have anticipated his death. A few days prior to his death, he burned all the letters he received from others and requested others who had his letters with them to do the same. He forbade all his friends from issuing statements eulogising him after his death. He said that he was scared of death not because of it per se but for the praises heaped by others after his death.

He breathed his last on September 13, 1943.

Respecting his wishes Mathrubhumi reported his death in two paragraphs. Changampuzha Krishna Pillai whom M R Nair criticised to the hilt, in a poem *Ashrupooja*, paid homage thus:

മലയാളത്തിന്റെ ഫലിതം പാർത്തും  
മണിമാലകൾക്കു നടുവിൽ  
മരതകപ്പച്ചപ്പതകം തൂക്കി  
മഹനീയ 'സഞ്ജയ'നാമം!  
വിമലദ്യുതിവീശി മേന്മേലതു  
വിലസിട്ടുകല്പകാലം! ■

## Literary Contest

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

declaration that the entry is an original and that not published earlier in print or social/electronic media.

The envelope containing the entries should be superscribed "Literary Contest." The entries placed First and Second after scrutiny by our judges, will be presented with a trophy and cash award.

The last date for accepting the entries would be July 31, 2014. The entries should be sent to:

Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt Ltd, 105-B, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 059.



# Keram Keralam

Many believe that the present land of Kerala got its name from the “Kera” (Coconut) or the “Kera Vriskshas” (Coconut trees), which were seen in abundance in this part of the world.



K. R. NARAYANAN

Coconuts used to be featured in the ancient scriptures like the Vedas, epics, Puranas and the like. Early Sanskrit writings from the 4th century BC, as well as the early Tamil

literature, from the 1st century onwards, mention much about the coconut palms and their utility. It is said that the southern Indian coasts became familiar with the coconut trees and their fruits, leaves, trunks and the like, much before the country's northern region and - looking to their innumerable uses to mankind were adapted later to the Indian life and religious rituals.

These nuts so closely resemble the human head (with eyes, mouth and fibers for hair) that it was known as the Sripthalam or the auspicious fruit of prosperity and welfare or the fruit of the Gods. Even today, the coconut palm and its fruit remain respected, revered and worshipped. Known as Thenga or Naleekeram in Malayalam, the coconuts were well known to the Dravidian world and it seems to have been adopted

subsequently into Aryan culture and way of life as well.

It is believed that the coconuts came from the western Pacific, spread by nature as well as humans all over the tropics. Over time, this plant is said to have proliferated, spread wider and wider and eventually became domesticated in different parts of eastern Asia. It's now an essential source of food, shelter, tools and fuel in most of the tropical coasts. Coconut is now an integral part of daily life for the people living in southern India, southern Asia and some areas of the Pacific Islands.

It was in the 6th century AD that the coconut became known to the West. Throughout his travels in India, Marco Polo referred to the coconut as the Pharaoh's Nut. But very few realized that, in the real sense, coconut is not a nut, but a fruit. One of the earliest references to the coconut in the non-Indian stories dates back to the “One Thousand and One Nights” or the Arabian Nights stories. Sinbad, the Sailor, is known to have bought and sold coconuts, during his fifth voyage. The Malayalam/Tamil name Thenga (Then Kai: The Honey

Fruit) was used in the detailed description of the coconuts found in Itinerario by Ludovico-di- Varthema (1510), and also later in the Hortus Indicus Malabaricus. Earlier to this, it was called Nux Indica, a name used by Marco Polo in 1280 while in Sumatra, taken from the Arabs, to whom it was Jawaz Hind. Both names mean the “Indian nut”. In the earliest description of the coconut palm, given by Cosmos of Alexandria in his Topographia Christiana (about 545 AD), there is a reference to the Argell Tree and its drupe, which is presumed to be the Coconut. In Sanskrit, it is the Kalpa vriksha (“the tree which provides all the necessities of life”). In the Malay, it is pokok seribuguna (“the tree of a thousand uses”). In the Philippines, the coconut is commonly called the “tree of life”.

Historical evidence favours the European origin of the name “Coconut”, for there is no similarity to its name in any of the languages in India. The Portuguese found the fruit for the first time in India. Barbosa, Barros, and Garcia, mention the Malayalam name Tenga, and Canarese Narle, and expressly say, “We call these fruits quoquos”, “our



The coconut bunches

people have given it the name of "coco", and "that which we call coco, and the Malabar's temga". Portuguese and Spanish authors of the 16th century agree in identifying the word with Portuguese and Spanish coco as "grinning face, grin, grimace", or "bugbear, scarecrow", cognate with coca ("to grin, make a grimace"), as the name being said to refer to the face-like appearance of the base of the shell, with its three holes.

According to Losada, the name came from Portuguese explorers (the sailors of Vasco-da-Gama in India), who first brought them to Europe. The coconut shell reminded them of a ghost or witch in Portuguese folklore called coco (also côca). The first known recorded usage of the term was in 1555.

The genetic composition of the coconuts varies greatly, depending on whether they come from the coasts of the Pacific Ocean or the shores of the Indian Ocean. This is a remarkable discovery because the coconut is now known to be highly differentiated, and has two distinct origins of cultivation. The first origin of cultivation is the Pacific region and includes countries like Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The second origin of cultivation, on the other hand, is Southern India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and the Laccadives. Coconuts from the western Indian Ocean (in places like Madagascar and the Comoros Islands) are a genetic mixture of those from the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

### The Kalpa Vriksham

As said earlier, any part of the coconut tree is useful to the

mankind, in the form of food, wood, firewood, roofs for hutments etc and hence their name Kalpa Vriksham. These utilities are summarized hereunder.

### The Nuts

The coconut is actually a one-seeded drupe. The fruit has a smooth outer skin (exocarp) and its color varies from dark green to even red, depending upon the variety of the species and the climatic conditions of their environment. Beneath the exocarp, is a fibrous mass (Mesocarp: Chakiri). The nut, with a hard shell (Endocarp: Chiratta) comes next, enclosing the white flesh or the kernel (Endosperm: Kazhumbu). Between the shell and the kernel is a thin brown seed-coat (Testa). The cavity within the kernel contains the coconut water. Initially, the water is sweet and the flesh thin and jelly like. As the seed matures, the water gradually turns into endosperm rich in oil. At this stage the nut is harvested, dried, and pressed to obtain the coconut oil.

The coconut is very rich in calories and essential vitamins. A special feature of the endosperm is



The nut

that the liquid portion contains large quantities of plant hormone, called Cytokinin. This hormone is the crucial ingredient essential for development of single cells into embryos.

### The Roots

The roots of the coconut trees are continuously produced from the base of its trunk and the main roots grow out horizontally within the top-soil, while others grow deeper. As the roots have a brush-like appearance, old timers used them as brushes for white-washing and painting. Tooth brushes made from these (Konjaatta), were in use in the good old days.

### The Trunk

Normally, the single stem of the tree attains full growth within five years. The vertical and radial growth is slowed down thereafter. The trunks of the unproductive trees used to be cut and used as frames/skeletal works of the houses of yore.

### The Leaf

Each of the first leaves is fused together and subsequently split to leaflets. A normal adult tree has about 30 to 40 leaves and produces about 14 to 15 new leaves, each bearing a corresponding cluster of flowers or inflorescence. A mature leaf is about 10 to 12 ft. long and bears about 200 leaflets (Olakal).

### The leaves

These leaflets live for about two years and thereafter become dry and are shed. Normally, as they fall, these leaflets leave a mark on the trunks and these marks are said to be indicative of the age of the tree.

### The Inflorescence

The Inflorescence (Cluster of flowers) is enclosed in a double sheath, called Spadix. The clusters carry both male and female flowers. It is said that about 50 - 70% of these flowers fall off and are aborted, without getting a chance to pollinate. Only the remaining flowers pollinate, fertilize and grow into fruits. Normally, such flowers take about 12 months to grow and mature.

### Food and Medicinal Value

The coconuts have innumerable uses as a common food, medicines and the like, as summarized below.

Coconut Water: The coconut water

contains abundant natural products, useful for human health, including the anti-aging compounds like Cytokinins. Coconut water is used in the tropical world to dissolve kidney stones, kill intestinal worms, removal of blood toxins, and even to boost libido. It is now considered as a very effective anti-oxidant and used in cholesterol control and ophthalmic relief. As it contains Lauric acid, coconut water is considered an ideal supplement for mother's milk for infants who are deprived of maternal feed.

Coconut water has the mineral content and profile of human blood and is absolutely pure and sterile, when it is in the unbroken nuts. Because of this, it was used during the Second World War for transfusions to the blood, in case adequate blood was not available in the war front. It is a perfect electrolyte match for the human blood.

Coconut Oil: Raw coconut oil is extracted from the dry coconuts (Kopra), through traditional crushers (Chakku) or the centrifuges and no external heat or chemicals are needed for this extraction. The oil



The inflorescence

has an exceptionally mild taste and hence can be used directly as food. This extracted oil is said to be free of cholesterol where as the oil extracted by high speed extracting devices are not so. The reason is the heat generated during high speed revolution.

The traditional medicinal system of South East Asia and the Pacific region have been using the coconut oil since time immemorial and hence very often, the coconut tree is

described by them as a Tree of Life. The modern system of medicines has realized the therapeutic value of the coconut and its oil and has started utilizing them for large-scale production of medicinal products.

The Meat: Dried, desiccated and shredded kernel (meat) of the coconut is used in curries, sweets and cakes. When dried, the meat becomes the Kopra, which is processed for oil, glycerine, and used for soaps, tooth-pastes, shampoos, hydraulic fluids and the like.

Toddy: The bud of the inflorescence, when tapped gives a juice called toddy, which is a very common intoxicant in Kerala. It is processed further to produce alcoholic beverages, vinegar and yeast.

Social and Industrial uses: The coconut husk is used to produce coir which is woven into ropes, mats, carpets, door-mats, and other furnishing material.

Handicrafts and Curios: The coconut shells have a very wide use for the manufacture of handicrafts and household products and accessories. (To be continued)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 06

the patterns / trends of tendering fake notes are suspicious.

4. Banks are entitled to compensation of 25% of the value of fake notes impounded and reported.

In the third week of August 2013, a few pre-1995 500 rupee notes came into my possession. Since they did not display the year of printing, I was unsure if the notes were genuine. I approached the Chembur branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., to get them examined. The branch manager told me that if the notes were found to be fake, they would be impounded, without giving the exchange. This prompted me to mail six banks namely, United Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, The Federal Bank Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., and The Saraswat Co-op. Bank Ltd. All the six were mailed between Feb.12 and Feb.18, 2014. I am informed that Kotak has referred the matter back

to the RBI, and is awaiting its reply. Kotak impounds the notes, does not exchange them, but registers FIR, after issuing an acknowledgement to the tenderer. Kotak is not only refusing to follow the RBI's instruction, but is also acting contradictory to it. Saraswat Bank has also "written to RBI", and is awaiting its reply.. United Bank of India replied that it would respond shortly. That has not yet happened. Canara Bank, PNB and Federal Bank have not yet bothered to acknowledge receipt of my mail. When I enquired at their cash counters, the other five (excluding Kotak) informed that they do not accept the notes, implying that the fake notes are returned to the tenderers. This, again, is against the instruction of the RBI. In short, these six banks are blatantly refusing to follow the RBI's instruction. Frankly, they seem to have a genuine excuse. RBI would only reimburse 25% of the value of the impounded forged currency notes. The remaining 75% is required to be borne by the banks. And that is a losing proposition,

which defies logic, and does not seem to have legal validity. This is a deterrent to the implementation of the circular. RBI needs to address this. But this should not be an excuse for banks not to exchange fake notes and deny the facility to millions of people who deal with banks. Banks could / must have certainly taken up this matter in August 2013 with the RBI directly, or through the Indian Banks Association.

Union Bank of India informed me that following the directions as per the circular of the RBI, in genuine cases, it exchanges the fake notes, without harassing the tenderers. My enquiry with friends, relatives and acquaintances reveal that their banks have also refused to give effect to the circular. One very rarely comes across such a customer-friendly circular. It is in the larger interest of the bank customers, and the public as a whole to ensure that the banks' cartel is not allowed to refuse implementation of the circular.

V. V. Vijay  
Mumbai - 400.

**K. Madhavan Nair****Freedom fighter known for simplicity and integrity**

V.N. Gopalakrishnan

■ K. Madhavan Nair was a prominent freedom fighter of Kerala. He was also a journalist and a writer. As a freedom fighter, he had accomplished laudable service and was an associate

of Gandhiji. Gandhiji had often praised his earnestness, frankness, simplicity, public spirit and integrity. Madhavan Nair organised relief work in Calicut for the refugees after the Moplah Rebellion in 1921. History still reminds us of the effort from Madhavan Nair who tried to avoid bloodshed during Malabar riots. The younger generation comes to know about the Malabar riots through his writings.

Madhavan Nair was born on December 2, 1882 in an ordinary family in Manjeri, Malappuram district. He graduated from Madras University and taught for some time at M.G.M. High School, Thiruvalla. In 1909, he took law degree from Trivandrum Law College and started practice at Manjeri. Later, he shifted his residence and practice to Calicut in 1915. Closely associated with the Home Rule League, Madhavan Nair became an active Congress worker in 1915. He was one of the four persons in Malabar to court arrest and imprisonment during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

After the Nagpur session of the Congress in 1920, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee was formed in 1925. Madhavan Nair was elected as the first Secretary of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee and later its first President. As decided at the Nagpur session, Non-Cooperation Movement was started throughout the country. In Kerala, too, there was widespread boycott of foreign goods, courts and educational institutions. Madhavan Nair participated in all agitations including the Civil Disobedience Movement,



prohibition, boycott of foreign clothes and the Simon Commission.

The Malabar Rebellion of 1921 and the student agitation of 1922 in Travancore were events of great political significance. Madhavan Nair took active interest in the Vaikom and Guruvayur Satyagrahas and served as Director of the Guruvayur Temple Entry Referendum besides serving for a term as member of the Madras Assembly.

It was on August 18, 1920 that Gandhiji first visited Kerala and that itself in Calicut. He had his first speech in Calicut seeking support for the Khilafat Movement. He also addressed another massive meeting organized by the Congress supporters on the beach which was translated by Madhavan Nair.

The Salt Satyagraha under the leadership of Gandhiji had its own repercussions in Kerala. Payyannur was the main venue of the Satyagraha in Kerala. Many batches of Satyagrahis from different parts of Kerala marched to Payyannur to take part in the Satyagraha. Leaders like K. Madhavan Nair, K. Kelappan and Muhammad

Abdur Rahiman were arrested for breaking the Salt Law and were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.

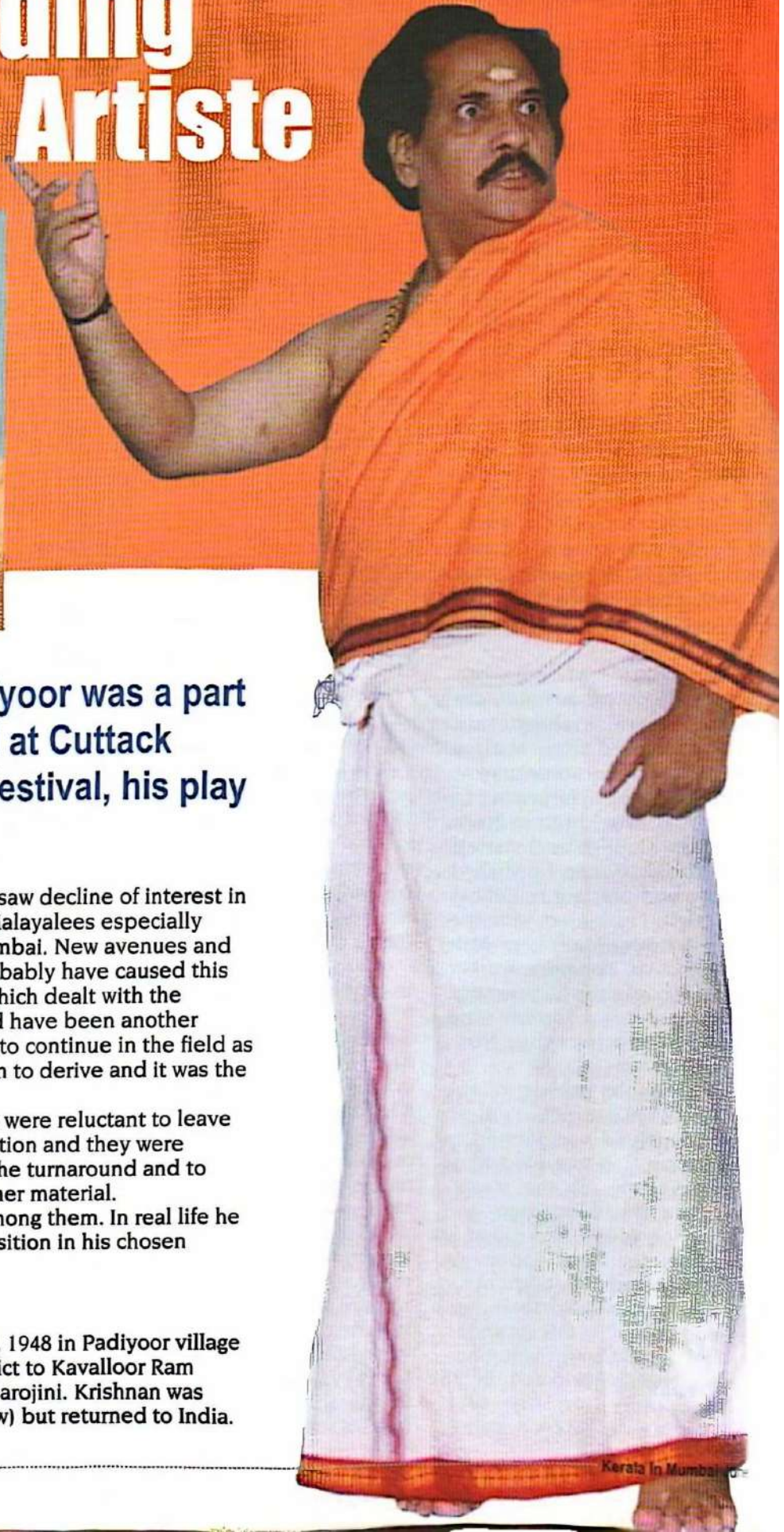
In 1921, while trying to address a banned public meeting in Madras, K. Madhavan Nair, U. Gopala Menon, Ponmadath Moideen Koya, Kurur Neelakantan Namboothiripad and Moothedath Narayanan Menon were arrested and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. In the same year in April, people all over Malabar, Cochin and Travancore assembled on a common platform and held the first All Kerala Political Conference at Ottapalam under the presidency of Andhra Kesari T. Prakasam.

K.P. Kesava Menon, the prominent freedom fighter along with his confidant Madhavan Nair and close associates like Kuroor Neelakandan Nampoothirippad, K. Kesavan Nair and P. Achuthan, founded the 'Mathrubhumi' newspaper. It was on February 15, 1922 that The Mathrubhumi Printing and Publishing Company Limited was registered and the first copy was published on March 18, 1923.

The history of Mathrubhumi is synonymous with the history of the state's freedom movement and that of the Indian National Congress. A newspaper born out of relentless passion of freedom fighters, Mathrubhumi went on to become an inalienable part of Kerala's social fabric. Madhavan Nair became its first Managing Director but, months later he resigned from the position due to personal reasons. Conceived as the mouthpiece of India's freedom movement, Mathrubhumi is one of the front-runners among the Malayalam newspapers. In the beginning, the paper was published a week and had just one edition from Kozhikode. Now with fourteen editions, including the ones at New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai, it has an impressive circulation of over one million copies. Madhavan Nair passed away on September 28, 1933.

Rajendran Padiyoor

# Outstanding Theatre Artiste



When Rajendran Padiyoor was a part of a Hindi play staged at Cuttack International Drama Festival, his play won four awards.

The end of twentieth century saw decline of interest in the stage plays among the Malayalees especially among those residing in Mumbai. New avenues and modes of entertainment might probably have caused this shift. Short supply of good plays which dealt with the problems of human race also could have been another reason. Playwrights were reluctant to continue in the field as there were hardly any financial gain to derive and it was the same with the stage artistes.

A few of the stage personalities were reluctant to leave the field despite the adverse situation and they were persistent to continue waiting for the turnaround and to prove that they were made of sterner material.

Rajendran Padiyoor was one among them. In real life he had seen much worse and the transition in his chosen passion was nothing new.

## Growth and career

Rajendran is born on March 29, 1948 in Padiyoor village near Irinjalakuda in Thirissoor district to Kavalloor Ram Parambil Krishnan and Vathiyath Sarojini. Krishnan was employed in Ceylon (Sri Lanka now) but returned to India.

Rajendran was studying in Don Bosco School in Padiyoor when his father got a job in Bombay, with ESIC, Colaba. That was the end of Rajendran's sojourn with Kerala.

In Bombay, Krishnan family stayed in Colaba and Rajendran was enrolled in St Joseph Night School as he got a job as a peon in Macmillan & Co, a British Publishing Company owned by the family of Harold Macmillan, former Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Rajendran worked there for 23 years in various positions such as office assistant and Sales Executive and then resigned. Meanwhile he mastered Interior Decoration and was undertaking work on the sides. Now he became his own boss and named his business firm Ceto Craft. By the time it prospered, Rajendran was already into his side business, catering and stationery supply to educational institutions. All the three ventures are in full swing, even now.

## Family

Krishnan and family were now staying close to St George Hospital. When a member of his family was admitted in this hospital for some days, Rajendran was a regular visitor. There he met



Scenes from various stage plays of Padiyoor

his girl for the rest of his life. Saleena, a Christian girl from Kerala was undergoing training as a nurse and he fell for her. When Krishnan approached her father with a proposal, the latter had no hesitation to agree.

Rajendran-Saleena couple has two children, Rajani and Radhakrishnan. Rajani is now married to Sanilkumar, a Sales Manager in Saudi Arabia, and she is a teacher now. Their daughter is now aged 14 years. Radhakrishnan is married to Sunita and they have two children, Rishit and Raaisha.

Since Radhakrishnan joined Rajendran in his business pursuits, the latter received some reprieve from the hard work and could devote some time to his mistress, the Malayalam stage.

## On the Malayalam stage

Rajendran Padiyoor's first encounter with stage took place when he was of 13 years. However it did not materialise fully as he fell ill. After 20 years, he was again called to the stage. It was *Gandeevam* jointly directed by Madhavan Nair and Unni Variath, for Kurar Village.

Now when he looks back, he cannot believe himself in the fortune he enjoys. He applied grease paint to his face more than 300 times for



Padiyoor with his friends and family



Padiyoor with his family



Padiyoor receives awards



Padiyoor with other award recipients and Kakkannadan

more than 87 plays. Among them are Malayalam, Tulu, Marathi, Hindi and Tamil plays. He obliges his entry to Tamil to K D Chandran and his daughter Sudha Chandran who introduced him to the well known Tamil director Balu.

Most of the well known stage directors lorded over him so far. Among them are Madhavan Nair, Unni Variath, Pereira, Munder Rajan, P N Nanappan, Anthappan, Achuthan, P C Cherian, Sundar Nadavarambu, TKC Jose, Madhu Valappil, Mukundan Menon, Rajan (Studio Rajan), Soman Kodakara, Kaimal et al. He tells us that it is difficult to remember all the name at a stretch. However he

remembers Unni Variath as the director who influenced him most, though the contribution of others is no less. He himself directed several plays.

When he was a part of a Hindi play staged at the Cur International Drama Festival in Odisha, his play won four awards, he proudly remembered.


Presently he is acting in a Malayalam play 'Kurooran produced by Sarathi Theatres, Kalyan and directed by' director Devarajan. It will be staged in a couple of months in Mumbai.

Rajendran Padiyoor had some interaction with movies as well. He acted in Malayalam, Kannada, Tulu, Tamil films at least once and also did 2 Hindi films. Three Malayalam television serials also had Rajendran Padiyoor in them.

He was felicitated by several organisations many a time for his contributions to the society especially on the stage. He also received many awards for best actor, director from organisations and notable public.

He is very optimistic about a bright future for Malayalam theatre as more sponsors are coming forward again. The state governments are also doing the bit for the much needed revival.

Rajendran Padiyoor has penned 60 poems and published in various magazines of Mumbai, other cities of India and Kerala. He is a life member of many Malayali associations and Chinmaya Mission (Mumbai). He held the position of President of Lions Club International, Thakur Complex. ■



**Pushpa Varier**  
*Make Up Artist*

**We specialize in**  
**Bridal Make Up & Hair Styling**

**Hair Straightening,  
Hair Coloring  
and all types of  
Beauty Treatment**

**Conduct Classes in  
Bridal Make Up and  
Beauty Treatment  
including 45 types of  
Sari Draping.**

**11/601, Muni Darshan, Jagdusha Nagar, Ghatkopar (W),  
Mumbai - 400086. Tel: 25149023, Mob: 9969595456**

# Azhikode re-emerges

-Revathy

It must be a wonderful world. Thousands of benevolent saints invest their lives meditating on unknown ideas close to their hearts and put their deduced theories into scriptures. Later a smart guy goes through the scriptures and comprehends all those wonderful ideas and writes a condensed compilation. If that work is slightly bulky in contents, another person reads that work and makes another sub-condensed book for the benefit of ordinary mortals. The last work is like a drop of water representing the great ocean.

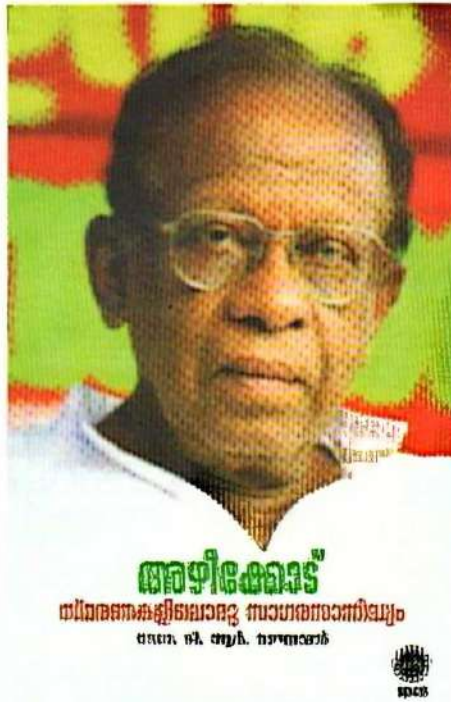
My thoughts went this way when I read Azhikode-Smaranakaliloru Sagarsanniddhyam (Azhikode- An oceanic presence in the memories), recently published by Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham (SPCS), the giant among the Publishers of Kerala. Dr T R Raghavan is a veteran who authored more than a dozen books in various formats in English and Malayalam.

The book before us contains ten essays touching various aspects Dr Sukumar Azhikode's life and work.

Dr Sukumar Azhikode was a self made man. He hailed from a not-so-rich family and a sense of inferiority persisted in his early days. He was however a very determined person and conquered all that he wanted (not needed) but deprived by his humble parentage. This characteristic lasted till his very end. He owed nothing to anyone and whatever he had earned diligently, working hard, stealing only a few winks now and then.

His education was not contiguous. There were pauses hither and thither. When there were neither freeships nor fee concession for the poor, it was indeed tough to move forward in adversities. His unbending pride was another impediment. He detested seeking help from others. Though his education got prolonged, the delay did not discourage him.

After securing every success, he had a pause in education and worked in various capacities as teacher and journalist etc to earn money for higher studies. When he was struggling to



pay fees during his B T degree days in Kozhikode, some of his classmates discreetly paid the fee without his knowledge. Though he got angry then for this uncalled help, he always remembered them with gratitude. He often used to talk about those days in private conversations.

Dr Raghavan has done a meticulous work to study the various books and life of Prof Sukumar Azhikode. The essays in this book are based on his extensive research. Dr Raghavan mentions the loving touch of Azhikode towards young literary enthusiasts, his association with Visalakeralam when Dr Raghavan was in its editorial board, his passion for reading, the deciphering of Sita of poet Kumaran Asan, his close bondage with Basheer and Kuttikrishna Marar, his humility and courtesy, oratory notes etc.

Special mention is to be made about the essay Azhikodinte Prakrushta Krutikal (Best Works of Azhikode). In this essay, Dr Raghavan went into a detailed analysis of five books by Azhikode, viz. Ramanum Malayala Kavithayum (Ramanan and Malayalam poems), Sankara Kurup Vimarsikkapetunnu (Sankara Kurup being criticised), Malayala Sahitya Vimarsanam (Literary criticism in

Malayalam), Tatvamasi and Guruvinte Duhkham (The grief of guru).

Dr Raghavan deserves all compliments for his choice of these books. One realizes the great amount of efforts that goes into the study of these five works of Azhikode. For an ordinary reader, any one of these books itself would have posed a challenge, let alone the five books. Special mention is to be made about his criticism about *Sāgara Sangeetham* of G Sankara Kurup. This writer vividly remembers the turmoil it created when Azhikode's criticism appeared in Mathrubhumi Daily's Sunday supplement. The very next week G Sankara Kurup's rebuttal appeared and then the next Sunday, again that of Azhikode. This time, G did not respond, as later he claimed that he was advised by the senior critics like Mundasserri not to go for a newspaper war. Certainly, this war of words gave notice that a new critic has risen in the Malayalam literary horizon. Till this time, Azhikode was not much recognised as a literary critic.

G Sankara Kurup and Azhikode had a lot in common and a lot in contrast. Both of them were fine orators. Dr Raghavan points out that Azhikode was very shy. G was also very shy to come out and face a crowd when he was a school teacher. He even shifted his residence as he found out that a lot of girls (including his students) used to pass along the road in front of his road to a nearby river for bath. G's speech was like pleasant breeze and one could sit through for hours whereas Azhikode roared like thunder often shocking and awaking his audience.

Azhikode found his strength from his vast reading and ability to quote from them instantly and memory never failed him. He had no segregation of books based on content but read all and could easily forget what he thought was crap. Dr Raghavan points out that he was fond of detective novels and mentions the names of his favourite authors like Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Wallace etc. He must have similarly read the

Continued on page 51

# MOLAGOOTAL

Molagootal is a most common Palakkad Iyer's household lunch favorite. It is a mild curry, non-spicy gravy, suitable for any age. It can be prepared with varieties of mixed vegetables.

## INGREDIENTS:

1. Ash gourd (Elavan/Kumbalanga) 250 gms.
2. Pumpkin (Mathan) 250 gms.
3. Tuar Dal (Red gram lentil) 2 small cups
4. Urad Dal 2 spoon
5. Coconut Grated 1 small cup
6. Cumin Seeds (Jeerakam) - 1 spoon
7. Turmeric Powder (Manjal podi) 1 small spoon
8. Red Chillies 3 nos.
9. Coconut oil - 1 spoon
10. Salt to taste as required
11. Mustard Seeds 1 spoon
12. Curry leaves few
13. Green Peas - 100 gms.

## PREPARATION:

Remove the skin of Ash gourd and Pumpkin with a knife or a vegetable peeler, wash and cut the vegetable into square pieces. Cook the Tuar Dal (Red gram lentil) in a pressure cooker by adding little turmeric powder and smash to a smooth consistency. Keep it aside.

Grind grated coconut along with cumin seeds (Jeerakam) and Red chillies to fine paste.

Cook the diced vegetables and green peas adding turmeric powder in conventional manner or with pressure cooker. Drain excess water if any found. Add cooked and smashed Tuar Dal into the vegetable. Stir and mix thoroughly well. Add the grinded coconut paste stirring well, until well blended. Add salt to taste and allow it to boil for 5 to 10 minutes.

Heat coconut oil in a frying pan, add mustard seeds; when it breaks add white gram dal (urad Dal), curry leaves and fry till golden brown colour. Add this to the mixture and mix well.



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



# ATMA

## Soul of Thane Malayalee



Uppendra Menon, Sashikumar Nair and others

**M**umbai and its suburban and satellite towns have seen tens and hundreds of associations, propelled to attend the problems of Keralites residing in this part of the world. Nevertheless, like the forest is missing in the thick of woods, the Malayalee community has no common meeting place to voice their grievances, share their joy and sorrow, unlike other south Indian communities who have their own meeting places.

To find a solution to this urgent need, thirteen Malayalee associations in Thane and its surrounding met together and gave shape to ATMA (All Thane Malayalee Association) in 2003. It is ready to undertake any project that would affect the society in general and Malayalees in particular.

ATMA started its activities by extending financial assistance and a job to the survivors of the tragedy following the multiple murders, the

after-effect of an inter-caste marriage. Using the good office of NORKA, it helped a Malayali family in Brindavan, Thane, to recover encroached property in Kerala.

ATMA team attended the five-day seminar Samanwayam 2003 held in Thiruvananthapuram by NORKA (Non Resident Kerala Association) and charted out the issues affecting them and their possible solutions. It actively participated in the opening ceremony of Kerala House in Mumbai. Further, it always supported the Railway Action Committee (RAC) in all its pursuits to solve the problems of Keralites related to railway.

ATMA organised a stage play Uttarayanam of Pratibha Theatre to promote Malayalam theatre. It organised a platform of eminent Malayali personalities to share their experience so that it would be in favour of the young generation. D Shivanandhan, the then Thane Police Commissioner.

In the educational field, ATMA provides cash awards to the students of SSC, CBSC and ASCE ever open to all communities. They distribute uniform, note books and text books to 100 students of the weaker section of the community. Students belonging to the 13 Malayalee associations formed



Veerendrakumar, Rajan V Nair, Srikant Nair and Sashikumar Nair



Sashikumar Nair with O Rajagopal

ATMA and securing 85% or more are given cash awards as a token of appreciation.

The dream project of ATMA is to build a cultural centre for Malayalees in and around Mumbai, in the footsteps of Andhra, Tamil and Kannada communities. Funds are the main obstacles and ATMA expects its brethren to come forward and share the joy of giving.

The following Malayali associations are members of ATMA: Kairali Samajam, Kalwa; Keraleeya Samiti, Vartak Nagar; Malanad Education and Welfare Association (MEWA); Rabodi Malayalee Samajam; Kairali Cultural Association, Brindavan; Kalher Malayali Samajam; Lake City Malayali Welfare Association; Kairali Samajam, Manpada; The Azad Nagar Malayalee Samajam; Wagle Estate Malayalee Samajam; Progressive Malayalee Samajam, Majiwada; and Navjeevan Malayali Samajam, Dhokali.

The office bearers are G S Pillai (President), Sashikumar Nair (Secretary), Mathew Thomas (Treasurer) and Managing Committee members are Suma Mukundan, A M Balan, P R Rajkumar, P K Raveendran, Benny Philip, Shrikant Nair, K Balakrishnan, Bharathan Menon, Surendran Nambiar, Ravindran Nair, George Pappen, M Kuchelan, K Venugopalan, K V Kunhiraman, Varghese Kavunkal, Sunilkumar Panicker, satheeshkumar Nair, A Mohandas, Rajagopalan Nair, Govindan Nambiar, Sanal Kumar, Rajan Thekummala, Viswanathan and Pradeep Nambiar. ■



ATMA delegation with M M Hassan



Dr Sivanandhan inaugurates a ATMA event.



# Mumbai Nattarangu celebrates first anniversary in style



Ravi Thodupuzha addresses the gathering.

■ Mumbai Nattarangu Kala Vikas Mandal is a body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of performing arts. Operating from the precincts of Navi Mumbai, it celebrated its first anniversary with so much enthusiasm that new parents show while celebrating their first child's first birthday. Last month, on May 25, they celebrated the event at Shri Siddhi Hall of Utkarsha building, Odisha Bhavan, in Sector 12, Kharghar. The guests started arriving in small crowds much earlier. Political leaders, cultural heads, social workers, office bearers and members of various Malayali associations of Mumbai were found mingling with each other. Ramesh Thakur (Ex MP), Prashant



V V Achuthan felicitates Sreeman ( K S Menon)



V V Achuthan and wife being felicitated



Felicitations to Nanappan Manjappa



**Felicitation to Madhusoodanan Achari, Rajendran Padiyoor and P V Vijaykumar**

Thakur & Vivek Patil (MLAs), Balaram Patil (Former President of Raigad Jilla Parishad), K S Menon (Head of KKS), Gurunath Gaikar, Jojo Thomas et al were seen there, exchanging pleasantries. During the meeting, P V Vijaykumar (Managing Editor of KiM), V V Achuthan (dramatist), Nanappan Manjapra (Poet), Rajendran Padiyoor (dramatist) and Madhusoodanan Achari were felicitated.

In his message Chairman reiterated the role of Mumbai Nattarangu, despite the existence of hundreds of Malayali associations, in spreading the love for one's mother tongue among the fourth generation of Malayalees in the metropolitan city. One might learn the mother tongue in various ways but what was learned through the folklore, rural but ancient performing arts would only remain with the learner for a

long period, he stressed. This is the role Nattarangu carries forward. Malayalam is taught through other languages that they already know and this is found very effective. A Malayalam play 'Pravukalute

Prarthanageetham' (The hymn of the doves) written and directed by Ravi Thodupuzha was later enacted. The senior most leader of Mumbai Malayalees K S Menon was felicitated during the event.



A scene from the drama



Dance drama in progress

# Vikhroli Malayali Samajam touches Sixty

■ It is one of the oldest Malayali organisations of Mumbai, providing excellent services to the Malayali community in and around Vikhroli. Started in 1954, it is now at the threshold of Diamond Jubilee and finalised a detailed programme to celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner.

The celebrations commenced with a cultural programme a music night on May 26, at Kalidasa Natya Mandir at Mulund, with singers drawn from Ideal Star Singer contest. Other schedules are for a Mahila Sammelan, children's drawing competition, Food festival with Kerala delicacies and the Onam festival. They have plans to felicitate leading personalities from Mumbai in various fields such as cultural, social and political, culminating in a grand gala evening of folk arts of Kerala during October 2014.

The children's programme of drawing, essay and fancy dress will be in June, Women's programme of cultural competitions and seminar in July, Literary and elocution contest for children in August, Food festival and Onam celebrations in September and finale in October.

Vikhroli Malayalai Samajam is now ably led by K K R Pillai (Chairman), K M Kurup (General Secretary) and E V Shaji (Programme Convenor) ably supported by a dynamic managing committee.



Inauguration of the event



Felicitation to the popular cartoonist TOMS



Audience

# Sri Vidyadhiraja Educational & Charitable Trust

■ Sri Vidyadhiraja Educational & Charitable Trust celebrates its eighth annual day celebrations on Sunday 24th August 2014 at Navinbhai Thakkar Auditorium, Vile Parle (E). The Trust intends to raise funds for its charitable activities by holding an orchestra programme by Raagalaya' The admission is streamlined by issuing Entry passes and people desiring to attend may contact on 9987783071, 9821018277, 9869009794, 9769855711, 9821018277 & 9833223157.

Shree Vidyadhiraja Educational & Charitable Trust was established in the year 2005, has been in the forefront in charitable activities, particularly in the field of Education, Medical aid and uplifting of the tribals and down trodden in the City of Mumbai and its neighbourhood. Though establishment of Technical and Medical Institutions, Hospitals for the poor, Old Age Home and Orphanage, have all been the main objectives of SVECT.

SVECT has been distributing

study materials & uniforms to hundreds of needy students in and around Mumbai, providing financial assistance to the poor and needy students.

They are regularly organising Medical Seminars, extending medical aid/financial assistance to poor and needy patients and spreading awareness for a hygienic environment.

SVECT has established its Sasne Complex at Murbad, Thane District, 97 kilometres from its headquarters at Andheri. At present the following form the core of its activities:

1. FREE MEDICAL CENTRE - A Free Medical Centre is functioning exclusively for the benefits of the natives of Sasne and its surroundings villages.

2. FREE COMPUTER CENTRE - They have opened a Computer Centre for imparting computer training to the students of the villages where two batches consisting of 25 students in each

batch get trained.

3. FREE TAILORING CLASS- Recently they have introduced tailoring classes for the benefit of the women folk in Sasne Village.

4. ANNADANAM Regularly they provide cooked food to mainly for the poor children of the villages. Hundred to hundred and fifty children are fed on any given day.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD MATERIALS & CLOTHES: SVECT, on regular basis, distributes kits containing food grains, pulses, sugar, Sari, etc. to ease the poverty condition of the villagers there. On every such occasion more than 600 poor families are benefited from this.

6. PROPOSED PROJECT; SVECT proposes to start, in the near future, a project for the manufacture of quality paper bags, candles, agarbathi etc. which could be additional income generating occupation for the villagers.

## Swetha Warriar scores at India's First Dance Week

■ At India's First Dance Week, held at Phoenix Market City with prominent choreographer Sandeep Soparrkar as its brand ambassador, Swetha Warriar was awarded the Best Performer of the Week.

The Dance Week was inaugurated by Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan at Phoenix Market City, Kurla. More than 500 dancers participated in different dance forms like folk, classical, duet, contemporary, Hip Hop and Bollywood. The Best Performers in each category and overall were awarded free shopping vouchers and exciting gift hampers on the closing ceremony, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, the International Dance Day. Yesteryear Bollywood actress, Vidya Sinha was the chief guest.

In the week-long event, Swetha performed folk, classical, contemporary and Bollywood styles. Her Kerala style folk dance was critically acclaimed by Saroj Khan herself for its traditional originality.

Swetha had earlier won many national level prizes and awards some of which were recognised by UNESCO.



Reshma (Kerala in Mumbai), D/o Smt. Shyamala Rajasekharan Nair married Kannan (S/o Smt. Snehalatha and Kuttappan of Alappuzha) on May 25, 2014 at Ambalapuzha Sree Krishna Temple.

# Goodnight Mohan chosen President of BK

■ The Governing body of The Bombay Keraleeya Samaj elected R Kalyanaraman popularly Known as Goodnight Mohan as its President. The vacancy arose due to the demise of senior advocate Venkiteshwaran in December 2013, The BKS is one of the leading and foremost Malayali organisations in Mumbai.

Mohan is the name behind many successful consumer product brands like " Goodknight mosquito repellents" , " HIT Insect killer aerosol spray" , " Snuggly baby diapers" . He has won many awards, including the prestigious Udyog Patra and Bharatiya Udyog Vibhushan from the President of India, for his contribution to Indian industry .

He has been on the Board of Directors of The Dhanalakshmi Bank for more than 10 years.



R Kalyanaraman (Mohan)

He realised the influence and media power of the entertainment industry quite early. He has been in Movie Production and Distribution since the year 1987. More than 25

years in the film industry, he has made more than 40 films, in many languages. Malayalam, Tamil and Hindi. He also distributed many Malayalam films in Kerala. He has also distributed many international films all India. Some of his Malayalam movies still hold the records for being the most successful movies ever.

He has also been credited for introducing many successful technicians in Malayalam and Hindi film industry.

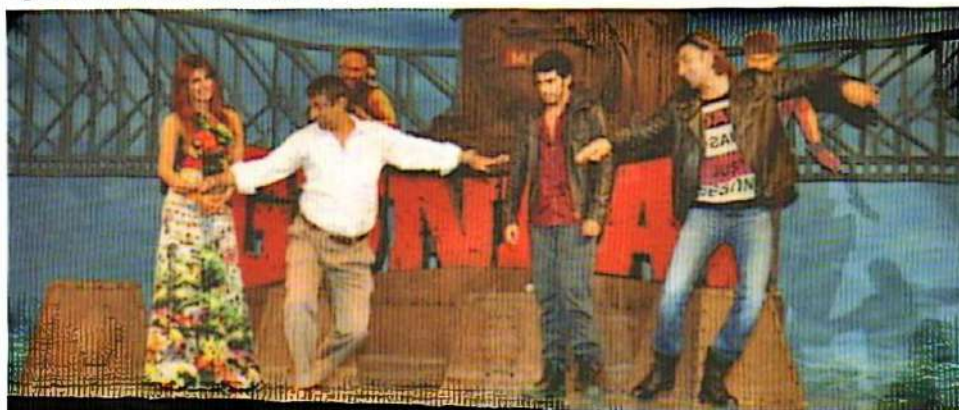
Some of his films in Malayalam are Iyer the Great (1990), Kilukkam (1991), Maya Mayuram (1993), Minnaram (1994), Spadikam (1995), Kala Pani (1996), Krishnagudiyl (1997), Pranayakalathu (1997), Vellithira (2003), Kochi Rajavu (2005) and in Hindi are Gardish (1993) and Chandni Bar (2001).

## Vijayshanker dances to the tune of stars

■ It was a pleasant surprise for our music critic Vijay Shanker, on the occasion of the music release of Gunday film at Yashraj Studios, when Vijay was asked to dance by actor Ranveer Singh. Vijay responded immediately as Ranveer Singh walked down the dais to welcome Vijay, the music started and Ranveer Singh started dancing along with Vijay Shanker, as the complete media folks were surprised and delighted too and called for "Once More". The dance lasted hardly for a minute but within that minute Vijay danced some Bollywood steps, Balroom dance with Priyanka and his style of specialisation- Kuchipudi, the

classical dance of Andhra Pradesh.

Last year Vijay danced for the promotion of the film "Lootera" featuring Ranveer Singh and Sonakshi Sinha to the rhythm of the popular number "Sawaar Lu" which won the singer award too. Ranveer was happy to see Vijay and recognised him instantly. Incidentally Vijay Shanker is a professional Kuchipudi and Kathakali exponent and has recitals and several lecture-demonstrations to his credit. He is also an actor and regularly contributes for our magazine. Keep up the spirit Vijay and you will be a star one day.



Vijayshanker dances with Priyanka Chopra and Ranveer Singh

## Akbar Academy scores over others

■ International Air Transport Association (IATA) has chosen Akbar Academy of Airlines Studies as one of the best ten training institutes in India. The selection is done from ten institutes recognised by it. Among the ten, four are from India and the remaining are from Japan, UAE, Qatar and Kenya.

There are 450 training centres working and have recognition from IATA. Strength of students, quality of training and percentage of success are the criteria for evaluation. These institutes train people for the various disciplines of the airline industry.



At the book release function

# Book release

■ **Azhikode Smaranakaliloru Sagarasannidhyam** (Azhikode: the oceanic presence in memories), a book authored by Dr T R Raghavan who edited 'Visalakeralam' of Bombay Keraleeya Samajam for over three decades, was released in a colourful event held at Kerala Bhavanam, Matunga on May 31. A meeting was held there, presided over by Samajam President R Kalyanaraman and he presented a copy of the book to Prof A K V Namboodiri.

Pavithran Kannapuram, G Vijayakumar, C P Krishnakumar, P C Varghese, Viswanathan Palloor, Dr C M Sankarankutty, Rajani Narayanan, Dr T R Raghavan and Premarajan Nambiar spoke on the book.



Kalyanaraman presents a copy of the book to Prof AKV Namboodiri



Audience

# Felicitation to Election Commissioner

■ The south Indian Education Society (SIES) and Sri Shanmukhananda Fine Arts and Sangeetha Sabha jointly organised a 'Vote of Thanks' to the former Chief Election Commissioners of India and present Election Commissioners for successfully conducting the general elections since independence to the Parliament and state assemblies on Saturday May 31, 2014 at Shanmukhananda Hall, Matunga. Governor K Sankaranarayanan was the Chief Guest.



Governor inaugurates the event



Governor with former election commissioners



Younger danseuse Swetha Warriar presented a fusion dance at Anaswara Hall, Kottackal, Malapuram under the auspices of Warriar Samajam when it celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## Ashtabandha Kalasam

■ Shree Ayyappa Vishnu Temple, Hari Om Nagar, Powai organized Ashtabandha Kalasam at the temple from May 31 and would continue till June 5. The elaborate rituals for Lord Vishnu and Shree Ayyappa were performed during morning and evening. Devotees participated in the rituals by way of offerings in their names or in their birth stars.

# Arangetram

■ Arya, Greeshma, Nisha, Sanjana and Uttara, disciples of Guru Sushama Gopinath of Navarasa Dance Academy, Navi Mumbai, held their Bharathanatyam Arangetram on May 27, 2014 in Navi Mumbai. Shri Jayaraman Iyer was the Chief Guest. The debutants presented Malaprapti & Ganapati Stuti, Ganesh Vandana, Jatiswaram, Shiv Stuti, Shabdham, Ramapadam, Varnam, Devi Stuti, Krishnapadam, Mahishasura Mardini and Tilana. Shri Shiva Prasad provided the vocal support while Shankaranarayanan, Parameshwaran, Nandakumar and Gopal were at Mridangam, violin, flute and moorsing respectively.



# Mumbai Kathavedi

■ Mumbai Kathavedi held a meeting in Lenin Library Hall, Ulhas Nagar, on April 21. The highlight of the meeting was the release of 'Out of Fashion', a compilation of poems written by Swapna Nair. Poet P B Hrishikeshan released the book by presenting a copy to K V S Nelluvayi.

The meeting was presided by G Viswanathan. Suresh Kottarakkara welcomed the audience. Pavithran Kannapuram, Satheesan Edakkudi, P K Lali and Santhosh Pallassana were among those present and wished the poet. Sibichan Nedumudi and K V S Nelluvayi recited the poems. Swapna Nair thanked them.

In the story session, Mekhanadan, C P Krishnakumar and Giriya Vallabhan presented their stories and K Rajan presided. G Viswanathan, Pavithran



P B Hrishikeshan presents a copy of the Book 'Out of Fashion'.

Kannapuram, Devan Tharappil, Murugan Kaimal, Asokan Nattika, M C Velayudhan, K K Shaji, P D Babu

and Kochukunhu Pillai spoke about the stories. The session was well attended.

## BOOK REVIEW

*Continued from page 39*

hundreds of detective novels published during the fifties in Malayalam and written by M R Narayana Pillai, Neelakandhan Paramara and Malayattoor Ramakrishnan.

Dr Raghavan has done a yeoman service to the Malayali readers by bringing the essence of Dr Sukumar Azhikode's life and works. However there is no mention about the newspaper Dinaprabha that he

edited from Kozhikode for about two years. It was published when Mathrubhumi was found deviating from its declared policy of supporting the Congress Party except during elections. However this paper had a silent death within a period of three years.

Prof K P Sankaran has written a powerful introduction that covers the contents of this book in detail and hence a comment is unwarranted.

When the book publishers in Kerala bemoan that controversies are most welcome when a book is

released to boost its sale and that in its absence the books remain in the shelf and godowns of the publisher, Azhikode-Smaranakaliloru Sagarsaanniddhyam is a welcome deviation. Certainly Dr Sukumar Azhikode re-emerges through the pages of this book thanks to Dr Raghavan.

[Azhikode-Smaranakaliloru Sagarsaanniddhyam published by SPCS and sold by National Book Stall, pages 86 and priced at Rs.60/-]



# മധുരസ്മരണ

പൂത്തുലഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുന്നു കണിക്കൊന്ന-  
വീട്ടുമുറ്റത്തൊരുസവച്ചിന്തുമായ്  
മേടമാസപ്പുലരിക്കു സ്വാഗത-  
മോതുവാൻ വന്ന പൊന്നണിപ്പുവുകൾ!

പണ്ടു മുത്തശ്ശി നട്ടുവളർത്തിയ  
പുമരത്തിന്റെ ശീതളമായയിൽ,  
കണ്ണുപൊത്തിക്കളിച്ചും കരം കോർത്തു-  
പാടിയും, വള്ളിയുഞ്ഞാലിലാടിയും  
കഥ പറഞ്ഞും, കളിവീടുവെച്ചുമ-  
ന്നേറെ വൈകുന്ന സായന്തനങ്ങളിൽ,  
'സന്ധ്യയായി കരോക മക്കളേ'-  
യെന്നു മുത്തശ്ശി നീട്ടി വിളിക്കവെ,  
ഓടിയെത്തിയോരാണു നാം, ഉമ്മറ-  
ത്തന്നു സന്ധ്യാവീളക്കു കൊളുത്തുവാൻ!

പിന്നെ മുത്തശ്ശി ചൊല്ലുന്നതൊക്കെയും  
ഏറ്റുചൊല്ലി പഠിച്ചു വളർന്നവർ!  
വേർപിരിഞ്ഞുപോയ് വേറെ വഴികളിൽ  
ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ പച്ചപ്പുതേടുവാൻ!

എങ്കിലുമിന്നുമോർമ്മകൾക്കുള്ളിലെ  
പുമരച്ചോട്ടിലൊത്തുചേരുന്നു നാം.  
പണ്ടു മുത്തശ്ശി തന്ന കടങ്കഥ-  
ച്ചെപ്പുമായ്, കളിവീടുകൾ വെക്കുവാൻ  
എന്തു മോഹമാണെന്നോ മനസ്സിലെ-  
വള്ളിയുഞ്ഞാലിലാടുവാനിപ്പോഴും!



പവിത്രൻ കണ്ണുപുരം

# വിചാരധാര

വെദ്യോതദേവൻ കിരണാങ്കുരങ്ങൾ  
വെദ്യോതജാലത്തെയകറ്റിടുന്നു  
വഗങ്ങൾ നന്മംഗളഗീതമോതി  
ഖത്തികലങ്ങളും വിഹരിച്ചിടുന്നു.

സുഷുപ്തിതൻ ലാളനമേറ്റിരുന്നാ-  
ലുഷയ്കതൊട്ടും പ്രിയമാകയില്ല.  
ഉഷസ്സിനാമോമേണച്ചിടട്ടെ,  
സുഷുപ്തി! നീ ചെറ്റു സമാശ്വസിക്കൂ!

കളിച്ചിടുന്നു ചെറുകുന്നുകുട്ടികൾ  
കളങ്കമറ്റുള്ളൊരിളംകുരുന്നുകൾ  
ഇളംമനസ്സേ! രുജയെന്തു? കാരണം  
കളിച്ചിടാതാർന്നിടുവാൻ? കഥിക്ക.

നിനച്ചിടുന്നോ നിജഭൃതമംഗളം?  
സഹിക്കവയ്യേ തവ ഭാരജീവിതം  
അതോ ഗൃഹത്തിൻ നിനവാർന്നിടുന്നുവോ?  
കളിച്ചിടാത്തൊന്നു സഖാക്കളൊത്തു നീ?

സഹിച്ചിടാം ജീവിതമത്സരത്തി-  
ലഹിക്കുതുല്യം വരുമാർത്തിഭീതികൾ  
വഹിച്ചിടാം സാമ്രാജ്യത്തെയെന്നുമീ  
ഭഹിച്ചിടും കായ,മതീവ ദുഃഖഭം.

മനസ്സിലെന്തൊക്കെ നിനച്ചിടുന്നു  
കനത്ത നൽകോട്ടകളത്ര കെട്ടി!  
നിനച്ചതെല്ലാം ശരിയായ് ഭവിച്ചാൽ  
മനുഷ്യനെന്തിന്നു കരഞ്ഞിടുന്നു?

വിദ്യാലയത്തിന്റെ വിശാലഹൃത്തിൽ  
വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയായ് ഞാനതിമോമോർന്നു  
ഉദ്യാനമധ്യത്തിലിരുന്ന ഞാനി-  
ന്നുദ്യോഗമാകും നരകത്തിൽ വീണു!

താരങ്ങളും ചന്ദ്രനുമെന്നെ നോക്കി-  
പ്പാരം പഴിക്കുന്നു വിധത്തിൽനിന്നും  
താരുണ്യകാലത്തനുയോജ്യമായി-  
പ്പരന്റെ കീഴിൽപ്പണി-യസ്വതന്ത്രത?

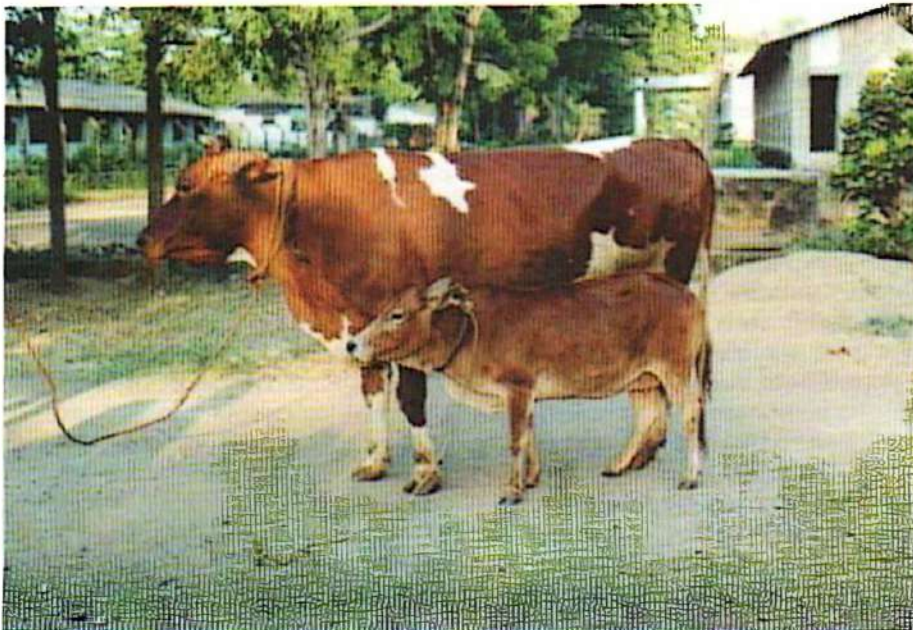
സ്വതന്ത്രപൂർവ്വം മമ ജീവിതത്തെ  
നയിക്കുവാൻ, വിശ്വവിഭാകരാ! ഞാൻ  
കഴൽക്കു വീണെപ്പൊഴുമാത്ത ഭക്ത്യം  
കുന്വിട്ടിടാം, നൽക വരങ്ങൾ ദേവാ!

കെ എസ് നായർ

# Vechur cow enters Guinness Books

- Rohini

The popularity of the Vechur cows lay in the fact that the milk production was relatively higher compared to that of other local cows, considering their body weight and input demands.



A cow from a village of Kerala, nay from Kottayam district broke the barriers of the compounds of Guinness Books of Records. The cow was known after her village Vechur and her credentials are based on her size, yields and personal characteristics.

Since the advent of the fifties of the last century, Indians, especially Malayalees, had a craze for things coming from countries in spite of Mahatma Gandhi's plea to abandon all that was foreign. We thought the English eggs, English chicks, Dutch cows etc were better in looks as well as in yields and were ever willing to pay much more than what own things fetched. Similar to the belief that the fair skin is more beautiful than the brown skin.

The Vechur cow is a rare breed of *Bos indicus* cattle named after the village Vechoor. With an average length of 124 cm and height of 87 cm, it is the smallest cattle breed in the world according to the Guinness Book of Records, and is valued for

the larger amount of milk it produces relative to the amount of food it requires.

The Vechur cow was popular in Kerala until the 1960s, but became rare when native cattle were crossbred with exotic varieties. In 2000, the Vechur cow was listed on the FAO's World Watch List of Domestic Animal Diversity, in its 'Critical-Maintained Breeds List', pointing to imminent extinction as breeds are included in the list when the number of breeding females and males fall to very low levels. About 200 cows are supposed to exist today, nearly 100 of them with the Veterinary College, Thrissur.

## Characteristics

Vechur cattle are the smallest among the 30 Indian cattle breeds. They are mostly light red, brown or black in colour with a long and narrow face. The legs are short. The tail is long and tapering, almost touching the ground. The bulls reach a height of 85-95 cm and females, 80-

90 cm. The animals have a small hump on their back, which is more prominent in males. The bulls, though small in size, are strong and used for ploughing fields.

Physically Vechur Cow weighs about 130 kgs and yields about 3-3.5 litres of milk per day for eight months. Though the yield is low in comparison to hybrid varieties, its maintenance cost is also very low. While the hybrid varieties need higher care and much more feed, the Vechur Cow hardly demands anything. They are highly adaptive to the weather conditions of Kerala.

The milk is believed to have medicinal qualities and is of easy digestibility due to smaller fat globule size. A recent report claims that the milk of the Vechur cow has more of the beta casein variety A2, rather the variety A1 which is implicated in conditions like diabetes, ischaemic heart disease and autism.

The Vechur cow has now attracted international recognition and attention. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has listed the Vechur cattle among the Indian breeds in their Domestic Animal Diversity Information System. The World Watch List of Domestic Animal Diversity, also published by the FAO, has listed the Vechur cattle under the category of Critical Breeds, meaning nearly extinct.

Infant mortality is practically absent in this breed and new born calves are generally robust and strong.

The cattle are also resistant to mastitis (blockage of teats in the udder), and foot and mouth diseases and respiratory infections.

## Why Vechur Cow?

The animals are docile, disease resistant and require less feed. Infant mortality is practically absent



and the new born calves are generally robust. Compared to other cross-bred species, these animals are easy to maintain. Being small their food requirement is also low.

Till the early 60's this variety was very popular in Kottayam, Ernakulam and Alappuzha districts. Extensive crossbreeding of native cows with exotic bulls for higher milk production slowly saw this breed disappearing.

Vechur cattle are originated in the area around Vechur. The tiny gentle cows were so greatly valued that at one time well-wishers presented them as wedding gifts.

The village folk apparently preserved the purity of the breed by selective breeding. The extremely small size, low feed requirements, high disease resistant and lovable nature of the cute animals made the Vechur cattle the darling of many a household for the last several centuries. The dwarf cattle were well adapted for the hot, humid tropical climate of Kerala. Further Vechur bulls, though small in size are very strong and hence could be utilized in agricultural activities like ploughing.

The detailed studies of the characteristics of Vechur cattle taken up by the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) at Thrissur revealed that the acrocentric nature of the Y-chromosome the Vechur cattle has belonged to the species of the Zebu cattle (*Bos indicus*) while the European cattle (*Bos taurus*) has metacentric Y-chromosome.

Infant mortality has been

found to be almost nil in Vechur cattle under farm conditions. It has also been observed by the scientists of the KAU that these dwarf animals are quite resistant to foot and mouth disease and mastitis, two diseases which play havoc with hybrid cows in Kerala. Compared to crossbred cows, significantly lower incidences of respiratory infections have been reported from Vechur cattle. The gene(s) responsible for these qualities is our insurance for the future. The animal breeders of tomorrow may require this gene to save our cattle wealth from a total liquidation by pests and germs.

### Threat of extinction

Till 1960, Vechur cattle were very popular and abundant in Kottayam, Ernakulam and Alappuzha districts. Then a Government programme of crossbreeding of native cows with exotic bulls for higher milk yield was launched and implemented vigorously since 1960. Maintaining productive, indigenous bulls was prohibited by the newly enacted Kerala Livestock Act, 1961. Local bulls were not permitted to be

retained as per this Act. The Act states that "No person should breed a bull for breeding if attains a particular age except with license and other terms and conditions unless certified to be castrated." The Act covered the entire male cattle that have reached the breeding age whether they are retained for breeding purpose or not. However even now the number of breeding bulls belonging to the indigenous variety outnumbers the crossbred breeding bulls in the State as per census figures. But bulls dedicated to the temples were exempted from provisions of the Act. (The Siva Temple of Vaikom had its role in averting the extinction of the breed). As a result, the number of indigenous cattle gradually dwindled and by the 1980's the Vechur cattle became almost extinct.

The credit of saving the Vechur cattle from the brink of extinction goes to a conservation program undertaken by the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU). Had the programme been delayed for a few years, the Vechur cattle would have now been listed among the extinct.



Dr Sosamma Ipe and her cow shed



animals.

Subsequent to the studies conducted by the KAU, the Vechur cattle are now recognised as the smallest cattle in the world. Before Vechur caught the attention of the scientific community, a Mexican cow measuring one metre in height was considered to be the smallest. The maximum height of a Vechur cow is 91 cms. Proportionate to its body weight, the Vechur cow yields maximum milk in the world.

#### Conservation Movement

The services rendered by Dr Sosamma Ipe of KAU towards the identification of the crisis and initiative taken to preserve and maintain the Vechur Cow cannot go unmentioned. Prof. Sosamma Ipe, a teacher of Animal Genetics in Veterinary College, became concerned about the loss of germ plasm of the Vechur cattle. She had vivid childhood memories of the

animals. She motivated a group of environmentally-conscious university students to conduct an extensive search for Vechur cows. With generous support from local Animal Husbandry Department personnel, libraries, schools, voluntary organisations, panchayats and concerned individuals, it acquired the dimensions of a "Save Vechur Campaign".

The Vechur Conservation Project was launched in the Veterinary College in July 1989 with a small herd of 8 animals including one bull. Subsequently, two dozen animals were added to the original stock. In the beginning the project was funded entirely by the KAU, but soon the ICAR came to its support with a 'Scheme on Conservation of Germplasm of Vechur Cattle'. The ICAR allotted Rs.47 lakh during 1993-98 for the scheme.

A vigorous breeding programme was undertaken to produce as many

pure Vechur cattle as possible. Embryo-transfer technology was employed to produce more progenies of females with good breed characteristics within a short span of time. Now a nucleus stock of about 135 Vechur cows and bulls is maintained in two farms of the KAU. About 30 field units have also been established with animals supplied from this stock in various parts of the State.

Milk analyses done in the KAU now support the empirical findings of the unknown ayurvedic physicians. The percentage of fat and total solids in the milk of Vechur cows is higher compared to crossbred cows. But a more significant aspect is the size of the fat globules. The mean size of fat globule in the milk of the Vechur cow (3.21 microns) is higher than that of the goat (2.60 microns), but considerably smaller than that of the crossbred cows (4.87 microns) and of Murrah buffalo (5.85 microns). The small size of fat globules means high phospholipid content because of greater surface area. Phospholipids are important in the development of brain and nerve tissues and also play a vital role in the absorption and digestion of fat.

Since the Vechur cow milk has got higher proportion of smaller fat globules and saturated fatty acids, it would be therapeutically useful in malabsorption syndrome. Thus the Vechur cow milk and its products are suitable for infants and the sick. In general, the Vechur cattle are the ideal choice of a farmer who cannot afford the sophisticated dairy management practices but wants milk just enough for home consumption. ■



# Visit to Temple

As a young kid, visiting the Temple  
 Always added to my cup of joy;  
 Everyone prayed with hands folded and then  
 Everyone stopped with love to pinch my cheeks!  
 Holding grandma's fingers with one hand  
 Holding Prasad in another, rushing back home.  
 As a youth, I visited the Temple  
 As a habit, my ritual also to meet friends.  
 My eyes closed in front of the deity with  
 My hands folded and lips muttering hymns.  
 Few minutes I devoted in prayers, sincere  
 For welfare of all near and dear ones!  
 It never struck to ask God anything for me  
 It was serenity of sanctum sanctorum beckoning me.

As I grew older I visited the Temple  
 Asking God umpteen things disturbing my mind  
 Never it struck all along, if God responded  
 None or some of my thoughts, prayers!  
 When I hear, see all happenings about Temples  
 While people talk ill and do acts unworthy of devotees  
 When courts decide about 'Temple' Property and customs  
 Which place do I go for my spiritual peace and progress?  
 Are not followers of other faiths going to 'Places' ?  
 Ardently to pray for peace and what not?  
 Are they not Temples to them with customs?  
 Are not such Temples having property of their own?  
 If TEMPLE implies only abodes of Gods in Hindu faith  
 If only such treasures need handling by agents  
 Shame to the devotion and faith by all who keep silence;  
 Shake up to protect offerings to Temples as one's own

'Temple'- a place of devotion to all communities, religions  
 Termed as Gurudwara, Church, Mosque, or be it  
 Temples of Fire, Budha, Mahavir or any other  
 A common Rule to all devotional places, need of time  
 A common code devoid of discrepancies to all, a must  
 A land of visionaries of Hindu spiritualism, dharma  
 A land giving asylum to others, allowing other faiths flourish!  
 Now followers of such faiths threaten the lives of protectors,  
 Never before such scare to treasures of Hindu Temples by courts.  
 Where have the conscience and fear in minds gone  
 What happened to devotees protecting Lord's treasure?  
 Which court to ask income and treasures of 'Temples' -  
 Which sectarians of other faiths own in this country?  
 Why governments, courts dare not question such wealth  
 Which churches, mosques, others own in this land?

Secularism, sects, sectarian, community, religion and all  
 Subjects of taboo to talk around, follow or practice.  
 Its time to awake, arise and question such differences/ rules  
 Its 'Right' to stand up, ask for common Code and Rules.  
 When all faiths lead to One Almighty, one Power, one Truth  
 Why not treat all abodes of divinity in this land, with equality?  
 With no malice to any faith or religion, is just a question  
 Within my mind, as I visit the temple "Why Lord ....."?

Ellen  
 Mumbai



## കുമ്പസാരം കൂർമ്മം

മുണ്ടായെന്റെ ഗുരുവായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ,  
 വെളിച്ചമെന്നെ,  
 അന്ധനും ബധിരനും മുകുന്നമാക്കി.  
 ഇരുട്ടെന്നെ,  
 ഉൾക്കമ്പനവും ഉണർന്നവനുമായി.  
 കുമ്പസാരം കൂർമ്മൻ ഗുരുവായപ്പോൾ  
 കട്ട പിടിച്ച കാരത്തിന്റെ ഇരുട്ടു മാറി  
 അറിവിന്റെ തെളിച്ചം വെളിച്ചമായ് തീർന്നു.  
 കാഴ്ചയെ, കേൾവിയെ, സ്വാദിനെ,  
 ഗന്ധത്തെ, സ്പർശത്തെ എല്ലാം  
 പുറംതോടിനുള്ളിലേക്കൊതുക്കി.  
 പതുക്കെ, സ്ഥിരതയോടെ  
 അശ്രദ്ധയുടെ വേഗത്തെ തോൽപ്പിക്കാമെന്നും,

കരയിലും കടലിലും, ചെങ്കുത്താന്റെ ഇടയിലും  
 അനായാസമായി നീന്താമെന്നും പഠിച്ചു.  
 സ്വാഭാവികമായി പഠിച്ച അറിവിൽനിന്ന്  
 അറിഞ്ഞ അറിവിനായി  
 ഇനി, ഒരുൾവലിയൽ  
 ഭ്രമങ്ങളുടെ ഭ്രാന്തിൽനിന്നും  
 സംയമനത്തിന്റെ പ്രശാന്തതയിലേക്ക്...

ജയൻ തനിമ



# PARTY DRUGS IN INDIA- PART II

....in continuance to the last article....



Dr Sujatha Nair

## Available in pill tablet or capsule

The effect of MDMA sets in within 30 to 60 minutes. In 3.5 to 4 hours it peaks followed by a plateau and then a depressive phase to stave off which the pill is popped again.

**Effects.** The person under influence becomes physically very active alert and hence it is used in rave parties where people dance non stop for the entire night and day . The music has a synergistic effect in enhancing the psychedelic effects. The mind becomes hyperactive. Thoughts run at a high speed.

At times to enhance the psychedelic effects it is combined with LSD, Psilocybin mushrooms or Ketamine called as "flipping"

After effects- dry mouth, lack of appetite, bruxism[lockjaw] , fatigue, anxiety paranoia, empathetic feelings , insomnia, lack of focus .

Chronic use results in depression anxiety and paranoia.

**COCAINE** - Coke, namak (salt in Hindi), coca, flake, snow, heaven dust, crack

Cocaine is a highly addictive stimulant derived from the leaves of the coca plant. It is the most popular party drug in India today. Usually a white crystalline powder. Crack, a cheaper form of cocaine. Cocaine abusers typically develop a tolerance to the drug, and take in higher doses to maintain the same high.

Cocaine is either snorted or dissolved in a liquid and then

injected. Some also mix cocaine with cannabis and tobacco and smoke it.

**Effects-** Cocaine increases alertness, feelings of well-being and euphoria, energy and motor activity, feelings of competence and sexuality.

After effects Anxiety, paranoia and restlessness can also occur, especially during the comedown. With excessive dosage, tremors, convulsions and increased body temperature are observed. Severe cardiac adverse events, particularly sudden cardiac death, become a serious risk at high doses due to cocaine's blocking effect on cardiac sodium channels.

Addiction can result in severe paranoia The recovery of the brain from damage caused by cocaine can take over a minimum of two years.

Combining cocaine with alcohol can be fatal as was seen in the famous case of the death of the secretary of Rahul Mahajan as respiratory shut down can happen. I had a client who would run on a treadmill on a speed of 20 after being high on cocaine- a potential cardiac arrest in waiting.

**HEROIN-** Smack, horse, junk, H, Skag

Derivative of morphine, an extract from the poppy plant. In its purest form, it is a white powder but can also be brown in colour because of the presence of impurities often mixed with talcum powder, starch, sugar, powdered milk, or quinine. As the drug is adulterated, it is difficult to determine the actual dose of heroin, which can be fatal.

After just few hours or days of the last administration, withdrawal symptoms such as intense craving; the drug, restlessness, pain, sleeplessness, vomiting, and kicking can be seen in the average heroin abuser.

A tin foil containing heroin powder is heated underneath. This results in the solid powder turning into a liquid. Users either inhale the fumes or inject the liquid. Heroin is also smoked.

## Visible Signs

The heroin addict typically rushes to the bathroom in the morning for his morning dose. Heroin abuse also often causes constipation, leading to prolonged use of the bathroom. Other visible signs of heroin abuse:runny nose, coughing, sneezing, fever, chills,Mental confusion,Staggered gait,Lack of hygiene,Poor appetite,Vomiting,Scratch marks,Pupil dilation,Calmness (when high) and restlessness (when not high)

**HEALTH RISKS** Coma, Death, HIV Hepatitis B, C and other diseases resulting from infected needles, Collapsed veins, Infections

We at Anatta provide the right loving ambience confidentiality and professional help required to go beyond addiction.



Anatta Humaniversity Pvt. Ltd.  
Contact Person  
Ms. Vandana Hiranani  
+91 9967334111  
Website- www.anatta

# Sakuntala (ശകുന്തള) (1965)



**Lyrics:** Vayalar Rama Varma **Music:** G Devarajan  
**Singer:** K J Yesudas **Ragam:** Desh

Rohini



Vayalar Rama Varma

ശംഖുപുഷ്പം കണ്ണെഴുതുമ്പോൾ,  
 ശകുന്തളേ, നിന്നെയോർമ്മവരും  
 ശാരദസന്ധ്യകൾ മരവുരി ഞൊറിയുമ്പോൾ  
 ശകുന്തളേ, നിന്നെയോർമ്മ വരും!  
 ശകുന്തളേ, ശകുന്തളേ! (ശംഖുപുഷ്പം..)

മാനത്തെ വനജ്യോത്സ്ന നനയ്ക്കുവാൻ പൗർണ്ണമി  
 മൺകൂടം കൊണ്ടു നടക്കുമ്പോൾ  
 നീലക്കാർമുകിൽ വരിവണ്ടു മുരളുമ്പോൾ  
 നിന്നെക്കുറിച്ചെനിക്കോർമ്മ വരും! (2)  
 ശകുന്തളേ, ശകുന്തളേ! (ശംഖുപുഷ്പം..)

താമരയിലകളിൽ അരയന്നപ്പെൺകൊടി  
 കാമലേഖനമെഴുതുമ്പോൾ  
 നീലക്കാടുകൾ മലർമെത്തവിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ  
 നിന്നെക്കുറിച്ചെനിക്കോർമ്മ വരും!  
 ശകുന്തളേ, ശകുന്തളേ! (ശംഖുപുഷ്പം..)



G Devarajan

**Transliteration:**

ā = ഓ; c = ച; ē = ഏ; ī = ീ; l̄ = ല; ṅ = ണ; ṇ = ണ; ṅ̄ = ണ; ō = ഓ; ṛ = റ;  
 rh = റ; ś = ശ; ś̄ = ഷ; ṭ, ṭ̄ = ത; ū = ു; ũ = ൃ

*Śankhupuṣpam kaṅṅezhuṭumpōl*  
*Śakunṭalē, ninneyōrmma varum*  
*Śāradasandhyakā maravuri ṅorhiyumpōl*  
*Śakunṭalē, ninneyōrmma varum*  
*Śakunṭalē, Śakunṭalē! (Śankhupuṣpam..)*

*Mānaṭṭe vanajyoṭsna nanaikkuvān pourṇṇami*  
*Maṅkutam koṅtu natakkumpōl*  
*Nilakkārmukil varivaṅtu muraḷumpōl*  
*Ninnekkurhiccenikkōrmma varum!*  
*Śakunṭalē, Śakunṭalē! (Śankhupuṣpam..)*



K J Yesudas

*Ṭāmarayilakalil arayannappenṅoti*  
*Kāmalēkhanamezhuṭumpōl*  
*Nilakkatukā malar meṭṭa virikkumpōl*  
*Ninnekkurhiccenikkōrmma varum!*  
*Śakunṭalē, Śakunṭalē! (Śankhupuṣpam..)*

In this Kunchacko directed Malayalam movie based on the well known Kalidasa play, Prem Nazir, K R Vijaya, Sathyan, Kaviyoor Ponnamma and Adoor Bhasi were the main artistes. Its screenplay was mostly following that of VShantaram's Stree. It was a huge hit. The 9 songs in this film written by Vayalar and composed by Devarajan, were also hits. *Manorathamennoru, Swarnathamara, Malini nadiyil, Sarikappaitthale, Priyathama, Vanadevatham* etc are some of them.

**Corrigendum**

In the last issue of KiM, it was erroneously printed *Manavatti* (1970) the film name whereas it should have been *Vivahitha* (1970). The error is regretted.

# Vikramadityan

**B**ased on a screenplay written by Iqbal Kuttipuram, Lal Jose directs Vikramadityan and its shooting has already been commenced. What is unique about this film is that its six songs are written by six well known lyricists i.e., Vayalar Saratchandra Varma, Anil Pachooran, Rafiq Ahmed, Engadiyoor Chandrasekharan, Santhosh Varma and Dr Manu Manjit.

The main actors are Unni Mukundan, Dulhar Salman, Anoop Menon, Namitha Pramod, Sadiq, Lena, Joy Mathew and Siddharth Siva.



# Perucchazhi

**W**ith Ragini Nadwani of Bollywood as heroine and Mohanlal as hero, Perucchazhi (Rat) is getting readied in Kochi. It is produced by Vijay Babu and Sandra Thomas and Arun Vaidyanathan directs it. Other artistes are Mukesh, Baburaj, Aju Varghese, Shweta Menon, Ramesh Pisharody and Master Sanoop Santhosh and a few foreign actors. Arun Vaidyanathan wrote the screenplay and Rajeev Nair and Venugopal wrote the lyrics. Arora sets the tunes to them.



# Avatharam

**J**oshi directs Avatharam (Reincarnation) for For B Productions with Dileep and Lakshmi Menon in the lead. It has in its cast Kalabhavan Shojohn, Joy Mathew, Mithun Ramesh, Sadiq, Chali Pala, Beena Antony and Ponnamma Babu. Vyasam Edavanakkad writes the screenplay. Deepak Dev composes tunes for Kaithapram's lyrics.

## Manglish

**M**ammootty's new heroine is from Holland. She is Karolin Bech. They appear in Manglish directed by Salam Bappu and produced by Hanif Ahmed for Red Rose Creations. Tini Tom, Vinay Fort, Jojo, Mukundan, Sudheer Karamana, Ramu, Sathar, Raveendran, Sunil Sukhada, Kalinga Sasi, Asokan etc are also putting greese paint on their faces for this movie. Mammootty is a typical Kochi fellow Malikbhai working in harbour and Karolin is a tourist named Michael. Malikbhai knows only Malayalam and Michael can speak only English. Manglish tells the interesting consequences of the conversations between them. Riyaz writes the screenplay and dialogue while Rafiq Ahmed and Santhosh Varma write the lyrics to be tuned by Gopi Sundar.



## Bhaiyyah Bhayyah!

**A** Malayalam film highlighting the plight of Bengali labourers is coming soon. Its story, screenplay and dialogue are written by Benny Nayarambalam and it is directed by Johny. This comedy film gives the message that the love has no boundaries such as region and language. Kunchacko Boban and Biju Menon are in the lead enacting the roles of Malayali and Bengali youth. Besides them, Salimkumar, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Vinuta Lal, Innocent and Nisha Agarwal are also in this film. Other actors are Vijayaraghavan, Shammi Thilakan, Sudhir, Tesni Khan etc. It is produced by Laissamma Pottoor. There are five songs in this film and they are set to tune by Vidyasagar.



## My Dear Mummy

**U**rvasi and Kadhal Sandhya are appearing as mother and daughter studying in college together in My Dear Mummy. Salimkumar, Lulu Alex, Vinu Mohan, Manian Pillai Raju, KPAC Lalitha etc are appearing in important roles. While Viju Vattappara prepares the screenplay, G Mahadevan directs it. Kaithapram, Panthalam Sudhakaran and Rafi Mathira wrote the lyrics to be tuned by Mohan Sithara. One of the singers is P J Joseph, a minister in Government of Kerala.

# Erroneous pronunciation leads to wrong writing

-Gui

In the last issue we dealt with erroneous pronunciation that leads the proper nouns being written wrongly in English and repeating the mistake again while writing in Hindi. The error becomes quite clear as both Malayalam and Devanagari characters belong to Indian languages and hence comparable. Here the major reason for development is the non-insistence of good pronunciation at the lower classes. Many western countries ensure that best teachers are appointed in the lower classes so that the fundamentals are taught properly. Unfortunately, in India do not insist on such issues.

The present generation may not believe if we tell them that a century ago, Kerala did not have many schools as they that the manual labourers and farmers needed any education. Only the ruling class needed education and among Brahmin community, only the eldest son needed to know reading and writing. In his autobiography Kanne Kināvum, V T Bhattathiripad, a temple priest at 18 years, narrates his plight to reveal his illiteracy to his girl when parting with her. Later, when it was allowed to the children of other socially forward castes, the teacher's qualification was fixed at a pass in Std IV. A few years later, it was upgraded to Std VIII and in the fifties of last century, it was raised to Std X. Now it is fixed at Std XII. The ultimate result of this negligence could be the real reason of wrong pronunciation of Malayalees. When the teacher himself does not know, how the pupil would know? There is an old joke about the inability of the teacher to pronounce a word and he attempt to corrects all students by saying that "Moyammed, Chali and Velutha said are all wrong but what Raman said is the right answer."

During the sixties, the Union Government created certain institutes to train our English teachers of Colleges, in English pronunciation. One such institute was the Central Institute of English, Secunderabad. When this writer visited that institute in 1969, it was a revelation that the minimum qualification to get admission there was five year's teaching experience in teaching post graduate students of English. Now that institute is renamed as Central Institute of Foreign Languages.

It is therefore necessary to have highly qualified teachers appointed at the lowest classes so that the student starts with the right pronunciation and other intricacies of the language.

Now let us see how some names of railway stations are written in Railway time tables..

Malayalam	English	Devanagari
വടകര	Vadakara	वडाकरा
കോഴിക്കോട്	Kozhikode	कोज़िकोड्
വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി	Wadakkanchery	वडाक्काञ्चेरि
പുതുക്കാട്	Puthukkad	पालाक्काड्
ചാലക്കുടി	Chalakkudi	चालक्कुडि
ഇടപ്പള്ളി	Edappalli	इडप्पल्लि

In all these examples, Malayalam character 's' is written as 'd' in English instead of 't' according to common Malayalam pronunciation. When it is transliterated into Hindi, it becomes 'ड' and the complication starts. Keralites should learn how to pronounce 's' so that future generation wouldn't make this error



# Kerala in Mumbai

**LINKING MUMBAI MALAYALEES**

Email: [keralainmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:keralainmumbai@gmail.com)

Website: [keralaimumbai.com](http://keralaimumbai.com)

— 98201 10509 —