

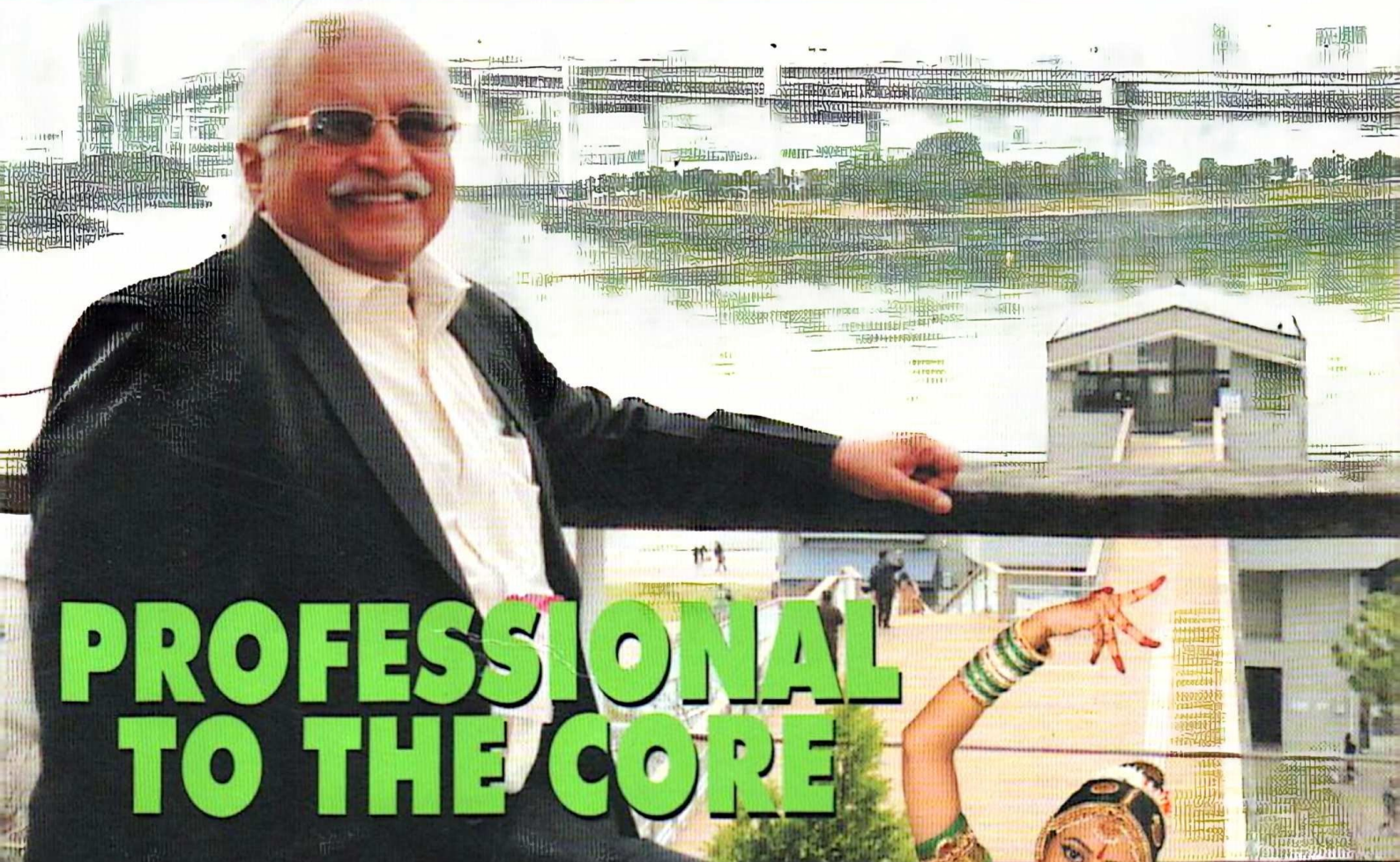
# Kerala in Mumbai

Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

Vol.3 No. 07

Price Rs. 70

October 2012



**PROFESSIONAL  
TO THE CORE**



**The Salim Kumar Family**

**Young  
Talent**



■ Kandivali ■ Onam Celebrations in Mumbai

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## EDITORIAL

# WILL KERALA SHUN HARTALS FOR ITS OWN GOOD?

**K**erala has been one of the most fertile, innovative and ingenious crucibles for political experimentation.

It is one state that has almost since its formation in 1956 experimented with even the most incongruous types of coalition government. It is the only state in the world that brought in a Communist government to power through the due process of elections in a democratic polity.

It also goes into history with an ingenious *nokku kooli* (wages for looking on). Highly unionized, the Marxist affiliates in the state enforced this levy if goods transported fell within the jurisdiction of a particular union. The union has to be paid wages appropriate for the quantity of goods transported and the number of workers employed to unload it.

When the Kerala High Court banned the meaningless and all-too-frequent *bandhs* the political parties (both of the left and the right) adopted the nostalgically emotive term *hartal* for the same thing.

When the Supreme Court decreed that parties or organisations calling a *bandh* which resulted in violence and destruction of public property, and State Governments began enforcing the order the senseless and unabashed destruction of public transport buses, taxis, vehicles, motor bikes and other public property ceased considerably.

An authoritative survey conducted by a leading think tank recently had it that in 2010 and 2011 there was a "hartal" in one part of the State or district if not in the entire State on as many as 261 days. This means the State's economy, its industrial production, its daily routine of work were disrupted for 61% of the year.

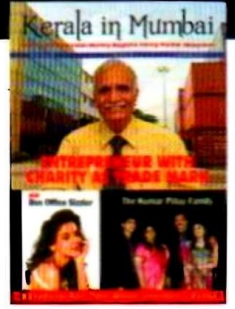
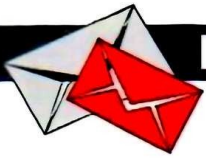
Who suffers this loss? The common people, the daily wage earner, even the salaried people, industry and the state economy as a whole.

It is indeed tragic that the political parties of Kerala which are led by some of the most enlightened persons in the whole country, worthy of Adi Shankaracharya and as some extremists would claim Chanakya himself.

Among some of the most astute, constructive, level headed politicians committed to the public cause were EMS Namboodiripad, M N Govindan Nair, C Achutha Menon, C H Mohammed Koya, R Shankar and P K Vasudevan Nair, who during their tenure introduced a number of social and economic reform movements to alleviate the problems of the poor. They endeared themselves to all sections of the population. None of them would have countenanced the kind of mindless calls for hartals that go on in Vivekananda's "madhouse" today.

Every Malayalee in Mumbai desires that all political parties stop scoring brownie points against each other and jointly work together for the common good and prosperity of the State.

The alternative would be, as the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission warned, the people themselves would begin handling the wayward parties that call for a "hartal."



## Heartfelt Thanks

I convey my most hearty thanks to you for publishing in "Kerala in Mumbai" an article about Shri S. Shankarasubba Iyer, Dewan of Travancore, and my great grandfather. As the senior most member (scion) of his family, (I am 85 years old), I deem it my paramount duty to thank you for having chosen to publish an article about him. His photograph has also come out very well. I will surely preserve this issue of "Kerala in Mumbai" as a treasure. Very fond and vivid are the memories about him, as related to me by my father, youngest and pet grandson of Shri Shankarasubba Iyer. I went through the magazine again and again. It is really exhilarating to read the articles. They are interesting and instructive.

I wish ardently greater and greater circulation of Kerala in Mumbai so that it finds a place in the house of every "Keralite".

May richer and richer matters be published to read for us all, and enjoy! I wish "Kerala in Mumbai" all the best.

*S Rama Iyer,  
Thiruvananthapuram*

## Well Researched articles.

I am a subscriber of KIM and a regular reader of the magazine. It gives a vivid account of Kerala pre and post independent. I appreciate the research done by Sri V.N. Gopalakrishnan and Sri. K.R. Narayanan. The September Issue contained an article about DEWAN SANKARASUBBAIYER by Sri. Gopalakrishnan. Being a scion of the DEWAN family I am happy to state that Sri. Gopalakrishnan has given a historically correct picture about the DEWAN. In this context I wish to mention that Dewan Sankarasubbaier was an avid reader of books and had maintained a fine library.

*Justice (Retd) S. Sankarasubban  
Thane*

## Dedicated Music Teacher

I am pleased to see the current issue of KERALA IN MUMBAI and the coverage about T.R. Balamani Teacher. I am pleased I could be of some assistance in introducing her to you. The article was excellent in detailing her career as a musician and Carnatic Music teacher.

I would like to mention here that in May 2012 TR Balamani was felicitated by the Rasika Ranjini Sabha in Ghatkopar with the Sangeetha Acharya Award. It was a grand function

attended by Carnatic music lovers and I was also present for the function.

I am further pleased to connect you to Shri Vamana, who has dedicated all his life till now for Carnatic Music and has propagated the work of his late Guru Shri Pallavur Mani Iyer. I urge that you kindly get in touch with him and find out the feasibility of covering him in one of your issues. His home number is 6835 5772, I do not think that he carries a mobile. Once again, I want to congratulate the Kerala in Mumbai team for bringing out such a quality magazine every month, the print quality is also very good.

*Dr G Ramakrishnan  
Powai*

## A Breath of Fresh Air

It was like a breath of fresh fragrant breeze, when my husband and I went through your magazine "Kerala in Mumbai". It is beautifully brought out with lots of interesting and informative reading.

Apart from the magazine being an exclusive one for the Malayalees in Mumbai, it is also packed with achievements of the people in different walks of life and interesting topics covering a wide range of subjects.

Though Cinema and Television are the biggest crowd pullers and largest mass media today, your magazine has not just focused on them alone, instead has given equal importance to other significant contributions and values in the society like art, music, dance, yoga, health, diet and so on.

Above all, we liked the way you have portrayed families who have made an impact in the society with their sincere effort and creative outputs.

Just as a classical danseuse needs to adorn herself befittingly before a performance, so does a magazine need to embellish itself with fine printing, lay out and designing. The quality and texture of the paper matters to make it attractive and readable. You have succeeded in creating an inner awareness along with an outer solidarity.

We are, indeed, thankful to Smt Lakshmi Venkatachalam for introducing us to this magazine. She has the right combination of positivism and dynamism to execute a project successfully.

Congratulations! Do keep up the good work.

*Geetha Radhakrishna  
Kandivali*

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

### Attention Subscribers

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)

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# NEWS



# COVER

Kerala in Mumbai



- |   |                        |  |                        |
|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>03 Editorial</b><br>Will Kerala shun hartals for its own good?                         |                        | <b>40 Mumbai News Digest</b>   | <i>KIM</i>             |
| <b>06 Cover Story</b> Dr Gopakumar G Nai<br><i>P K Ravindranath</i>                       |                        | <b>56 Kerala Letter</b><br>A day in hartal bound Kerala                | <i>KVS</i>             |
| <b>10 Around Mumbai</b> Kandivali<br><i>Lakshmi Venkatachalam</i>                         |                        | <b>58 Ayursaukhyam</b><br>Tackling Acidity                             | <i>Dr Reshma Kunju</i> |
| <b>17 Malayalam Litterateurs – 2</b><br>Oyyarathu Chandu Menon                            | <i>Satyanath</i>       | <b>61 Health Care</b><br>Have a healthy Heart                          | <i>KIM</i>             |
| <b>21 Family of the month</b><br>Salim Kumar  | <i>Elvee</i>           | <b>63 Young Talent</b> Aishwarya Ramesh                                | <i>KIM</i>             |
| <b>23 Pillai's Ghost</b>  | <i>Parur S Ganesan</i> | <b>64 Old is Gold</b><br>Pani theeratha veedu                          | <i>Rohini</i>          |
| <b>28 Makers of Modern Kerala</b><br>Dr Chempakaraman Pillai<br><i>V N Gopalakrishnan</i> |                        | <b>65 Malayalee Movie World</b>  | <i>KIM</i>             |
| <b>29 Artiste of the month</b><br>Geeta Radhakrishna                                      | <i>Lakshmi V</i>       | <b>68 യാത്രാവിവരണം</b><br>ഒരു വിവേകയാത്ര - രമ ആർ പിഷാരടി               |                        |
| <b>36 Sharavana Baba</b>  | <i>KIM</i>             | <b>72 Let's learn Malayalam</b><br>Diphthongs of dissimilar consonants | <i>Guruji</i>          |
| <b>37 Mumbai Malayalee Association</b><br>Chembur Malayalee Samajam                       | <i>KIM</i>             |  |                        |

Bulk drugs authority, patent and trademark attorney, IPR consultant and advisor, Dr Gopakumar G Nair is a multi-faceted personality with a social conscience. He is the President of Bharat Education Society that runs schools in Mumbai and its vicinity.

**Dr. GOPAKUMAR G NAIR**

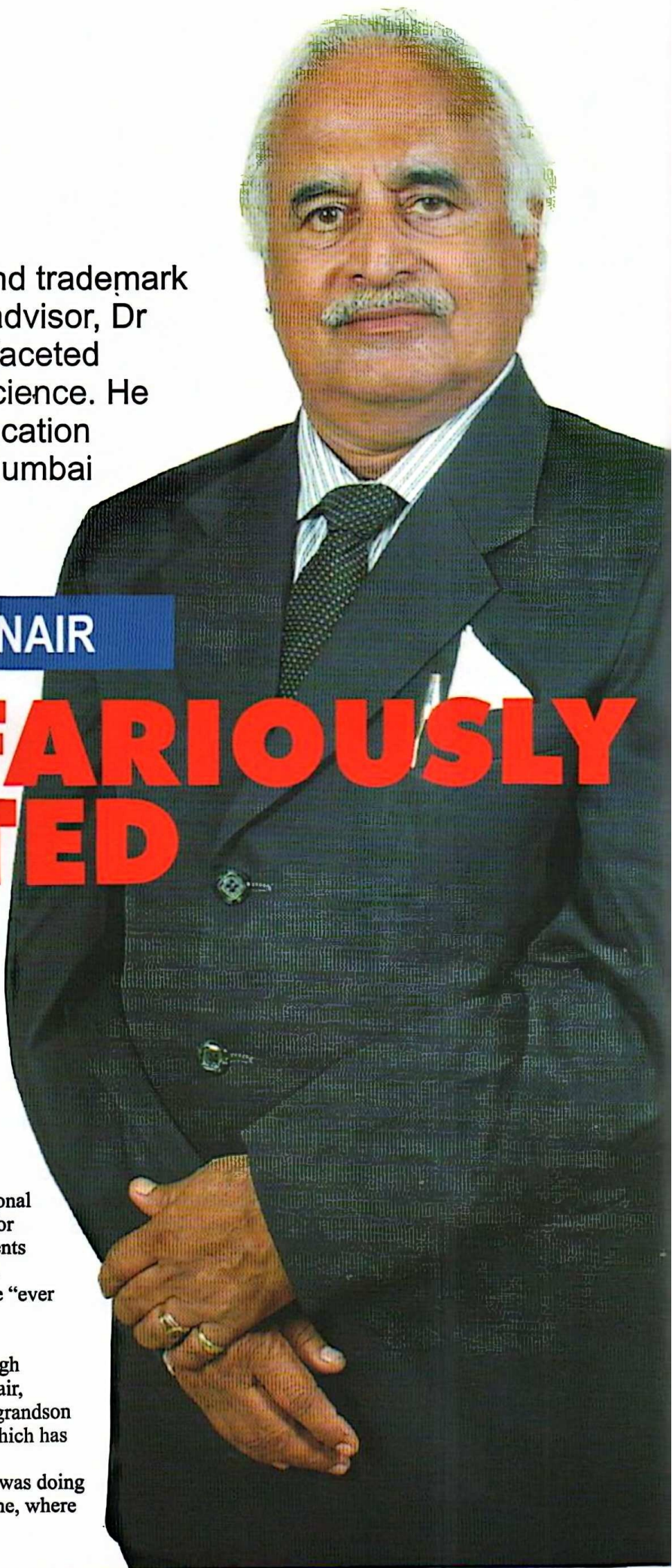
# MULTIFARIOUSLY PATENTED

P K Ravindranath

**D**r. Gopakumar G Nair is many things to many people. Beginning his life in the drug industry, he has branched out into research activities (he holds a doctorate in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance), an Intellectual Property Rights consultant (running his own IP Boutique firm Gopakumar Nair Associates), Patent Law authority, Export Promotion Consultant and founder and growth promoter of value based educational institutions. Dr. Nair founded GNA Patent Gurukul for creating proficiency in IPR, more specifically in Patents among practicing and aspiring professionals in India.

Besides all this he is charitably disposed and no one "ever in genuine need goes empty handed from me." His philosophy of life has been shaped by his "humble" beginnings in a cultured and enlightened family though impoverished, as the eldest son of Prof M Gopalan Nair, Principal of the NSS College in Changanassery and grandson of one of the founders of the Nair Service Society, which has now grown into a powerful sectarian organisation.

The turning point in his life came in 1965 when he was doing his Ph.D. at the National Chemical Laboratory at Pune, where he was specializing in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance



# INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION-STUDENTS' FORUM

PRESENTS

Role of Pharmacist in Global Health Care - Challenges and Opportunities

Organised by :-

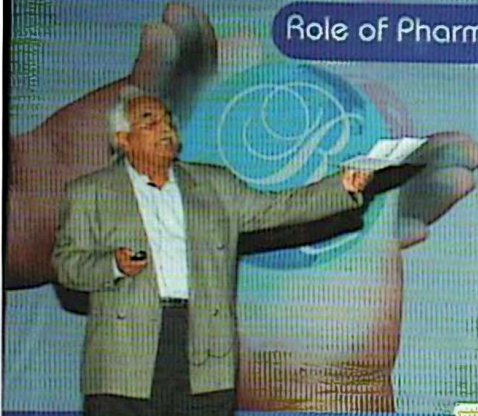


Indian Pharmaceutical Association

Venue Host :-



3<sup>rd</sup> IPA STUDENT'S CONGRESS, 2nd to 4th August 2010



L.I.T. Recruitment Ex... Talent Hunt | Poster presentation  
**Dr. Gopakumar G. Nair has hundreds of presentations and publications to his credit. Here, he is speaking on "IPR in Nutraceuticals" in one such program.**

Spectroscopy for determining electronic distribution in aromatic systems.

In 1966, Mrs. Karthika Nair and other members of the Nair family landed up at the Institute to "interview" Gopakumar Nair as a prospective bridegroom for her daughter. Karthika Nair herself had high credentials – a determined and philanthropic woman, who was director of the Bombay Drug House, wife of an eminent Congressman, G P Nair and herself running a Working Women's hostel at Matunga. Gopakumar is now the President of the Bharat Education Society which runs the Karthika High School and Junior College, named after his mother-in-law and Vivek High School. The Society is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in December with the Governor, K Sankaranarayanan as the Chief Guest.

G P and Karthika Nair's daughter Jayashree Nair was married to Dr. Gopakumar Nair in 1966. As the

Through his company, Nair Associates, Dr Gopakumar has filed thousands of patent applications in India and 44 countries abroad. He has been associated with Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council and Pharmexcil and edits IDMA publications.

technically qualified son-in-law of GP Nair he had to get involved in the running of Bombay Drug House as Nair himself rose to become the President of IDMA (Indian Drug Manufacturer's Association) and Treasurer of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee under the redoubtable S K Patil in the 1960s and 1970s. From then on with his

nose for professionalism he got increasingly involved in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.

Dr. Nair thereafter got involved with the activities of the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association and now runs and edits their publications – IDMA Bulletin (Weekly), Indian Drugs (monthly) and others. He has held various offices in IDMA – as Secretary, Vice President and President in 1999- 2000. He continues to serve the pharmaceutical industry as Chairman, IPR Sub-Committee of IDMA.

He made the Bombay Drug House into a modern high-technology pharmaceutical manufacturing formulation, manufacturing organisation and shifted its manufacturing activities from Nair Mahal at Mahim to Kandivili (East). In 1978, he branched out to found his own pharmaceutical company, Bombay Drugs and Pharmaceutical Pvt Ltd (BDPL). This became a public limited company in 1994 with factories



A young Dr. Gopakumar Nair receiving Export Award from Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Governor, RBI.



Dr. Shashi Tharoor was felicitated at a function at Hilton, Mumbai by AIAI (All India Association of Industries)

at Tarapur and Panoli in Gujarat.

Having been associated with the inception of the World Trade Organisation, Nair realised the acute lack of expertise in IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) in the industry and the government about the newly emerging international trade regime. Dr. Nair merged his BDPL with his erstwhile junior colleague and protégé Arun Kumar's Strides Arcolab Ltd, Bangalore, to enable and equip himself as an Intellectual Property Practitioner. He studied law at Mumbai University and qualified as a IP lawyer and Advocate.

He launched his own IP Boutique firm, and later on founded and helped start Gnanlex Hermeneutics Pvt Ltd, an LPO / KPO.

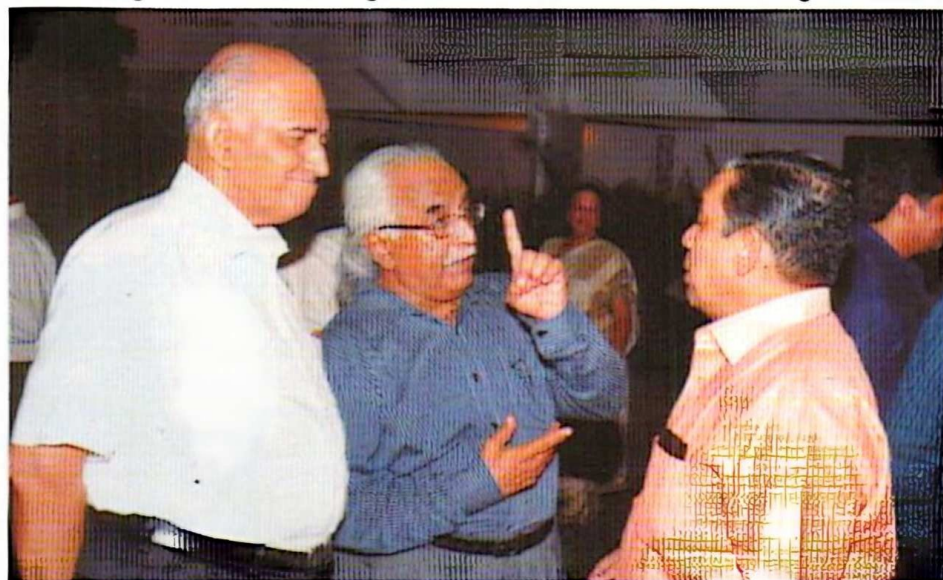
Through Gopakumar Nair Associates he has filed thousands of patent applications in India and 44 countries



Dr Gopakumar Nair receiving Lifetime Services Award to IDMA from Mr. Amitabh Bachchan.



Dr. Gopakumar Nair represented India at the 'IPR Conclave' in Hong Kong in August 2012 - seen along with South East Asian & Chinese delegates.



Dr. Gopakumar Nair in conversation with Johnny Joseph (ex-Municipal Commissioner, Mumbai) and Dr Abraham Pattani

abroad. He is a member of the International Trademark Association and the Asian Patent Attorneys Association.

For two decades he has been associated with the Export Promotion Council of Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council as Chairman, Pharma Panel. He represented the Indian Chemical Industry at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Chemical Session at the ILO in Geneva in 1991. Thereafter, when Pharmexil (Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council) was formed, Dr. Nair became Senior IPR Consultant which he continues.

Jayashree and Gopakumar have three daughters. Karthika is a social worker and has a son, Nishaant. Karthika is also an independent Director in BDH and also Vice-President of Bharat Education Society. Purnima is an M D in dental surgery and has two children, Ananya and Shaant. Lakshmi, having done MBA, at Purdue University after qualifying in Pharmacy at Boston, is working in USA. She has two children, Rohan and Aashna.

A man of simple habits and a believer in plain living, Dr. Nair holds two people in high esteem – Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam and Dr. Raghunath A Mashelkar. Their wavelengths are the same.

He spends whatever spare time he can find in reading biographies and autobiographies and books related to his work – Patents, Intellectual Property Rights, Science and Pharma. A happy contented man, he regrets he has very little time to catch up with the reading he would love to. ■

See Page - 35



# KANDIVALI

## *Ideal Township*

Kandivali has become one of Mumbai's fastest growing suburbs. What were earlier marshy lands have been transformed into residential complexes and main roads, markets, malls and commercial centres. Adequate infrastructure, a peaceful yet vibrant neighbourhood, greenery and entertainment options, good educational institutions are some of its characteristics.

We carry here the first part of our focus on Kandivali .



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

**K**andivali railway station was built more than 100 years ago in 1907, then known as Khandolee. The station derived its name from the East Indian village of Condolim. Earth and stones from Paran, a hillock east of the Kandivali Railway Station were quarried to reclaim the Bombay Backbay. On this account a railway line was opened, a workshop erected and a number of dwelling houses were constructed for officers and workmen numbering hundreds. The area around Western Express Highway between Malad and Kandivali had numerous stone quarries and was once famous for Malad Stone. Many heritage buildings in

Mumbai were constructed with Malad stone between 1860 and 1930, notable among them are the David Sasson library, Bombay House and the Western Railway building at Churchgate.

In the 50s and 60s Malayalees settled in Kandivali post-retirement. The area had a lot of greenery and probably reminded them of Kerala. The township was semi-rural with agricultural land, huts and villages. From the 80s real estate boomed and several complexes came up. Several Malayalees have made Kandivali their home both in the east and west and have formed associations and samajams.

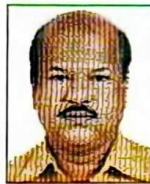
## KANDIVALI MALAYALI SAMAJAM

The Kandivali Malayali Samajam was established in 1978 by the early settlers of Kandivali. It runs a homeopathic clinic and has a good library of books. Its own office space is located in Shivaji Road in Kandivali (W). The Samajam conducts Malayalam classes and its President Rajan Kadannappally is the Malayalam co-ordinator for the Western Borivli zone. It provides financial and medical aid as well as educational assistance to the poor and the deserving. Every year Onam is celebrated with cultural programmes, felicitation of meritorious students and onasadya.

While Rajan Kadannappally is the President, P C Ramakrishnan is the Vice- President and PV Pappu is the Secretary. Mathew is the Jt Secretary and Rajkumar P is the Treasurer. There are 11 Managing Committee members and a Vanitha Wing that conducts cultural classes.



Kandivali Malayali Samajam ladies wing



Rajan Kadannappally



Ramakrishnan P C



P V Pappu



Mathew A Aikara



Rajkumar P



Mrs Vasantha Pappu  
(Secretary-Vanitha Wing)

## THAKUR COMPLEX MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

The Thakur Complex Malayalee Association (TCMA) was established in 2001. The first Managing Committee consisted of the late P S Madhavan, Chairman, Madhavankutty, Vice Chairman, T Jayaprakash, Secretary, Ramesh Nair, Jt. Secretary and Suresh Mangalath, Treasurer. The aim of the Association was to bring together all Malayalees residing in Thakur complex, provide a platform to promote and generate awareness among the younger generation about Kerala's culture and traditions, organize cultural programs and social activities and make them participate in them.

Over the years, the Association has organized a few medical camps – cancer detection, osteoporosis, general medical check-up, personality development seminars and Kerala Utsav along with Thakur group of educational institutions.

Over the last 12 years, TCMA has been instrumental in promoting Kerala Culture and arts during Onam by organizing events and traditional folk arts such as *Pookalam*, *Ottam Thullal*, *Kaikottikali*, *Mohiniattam*, *Bharata Natyam*, *Kathak*, *Oppana*, *Margam kali*, etc in addition to other music and dance items, Mahabali visit, and onasadya during Onam Celebrations .

The Association conducted a drawing competition for children of different age groups on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, on October 2, 2009 in which a large number of children participated. It also conducts Malayalam classes for children who are born and brought up in Mumbai so that they can read and write

their mother tongue, Malayalam.

The Association helps deserving students to pursue their studies, organize seminars and workshops for students and parents involving educationists and counselling experts, provides a helping hand to the aged and needy as and when required, medically



Dr CNN Nair lighting the lamp at TCMA Onam celebrations. Suresh Mangalath, Dr Gopakumar, Dr Pattani and office bearers also seen.

and otherwise, brings together eminent Malayalee personalities in Mumbai and take their guidance and support for realizing the social objectives of the Association.

It also aims to organize programmes to promote regional and religious harmony involving all communities and regions. Another of its objective is to improve the quality of life of the urban Malayalees through need-based projects to serve society.

The present Managing Committee Members of the Association are Dr. Gopakumar G. Nair (Chairman), Suresh Mangalath (Vice - Chairman/Treasurer), Manoj Nair (Jt Treasurer), Rajgopal Menon (Secretary) and Jayadas Menon (Jt. Secretary). Other members of the MC are Ramesh Nair, Pradeep Nair, Veeramani Iyer, Suresh Marar, Madhavan PP, Chandran KD, Shiv Prasad, Pradeep, Ramachandran and T Unnikrishnan.



**Sitting (front row) : Rajgopal Menon (Secretary), Ramesh Nair (Member), Dr.Gopakumar G. Nair (President), Sasidharan Nair (Member) Standing (back row) : Jayadas Menon (Jt. Secretary) Sivaprasad (Member), Suresh Marar (Member) Manoj Nair (Jt. Treasurer), Ramachandran Nair (Member)**

## Nrithyopaasana School of Dance

Right amidst the hustle and bustle of the posh suburb of Kandivali East, school and college girls, dressed in dance class uniform, can be seen heading towards their Bharatanatyam class, being run in a school building by Mrs. Manjula Manoj.

A semblance of unity in diversity through culture can be observed as the children, belonging to various states, from north to south and east to west, assemble in various batches, according to their seniority levels, and learn the nuances of this beautiful classical dance under their guru. Mrs. Manjula Manoj established Nrithyopaasana School of Dance in Chennai in October 2000 to propagate classical and folk dances among children and the youth. She shifted to Mumbai in 2005 and has been conducting Bharathanatyam classes in Mumbai also. The institution is recognized by the Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad, which is an all India organization for fine arts education and conducts proficiency examinations. Her students have fared excellently in the examinations conducted by the Samiti during the last five years.

Manjula took to dancing at the tender age of five, having been trained under Natyacharya guru (late) Shri Shankar Hombal, founder director of Kala

Padma Dance Academy at Bhopal. Guru Hombal was disciple of the late Rukmini Devi Arundale, founder of the internationally renowned Kalakshetra

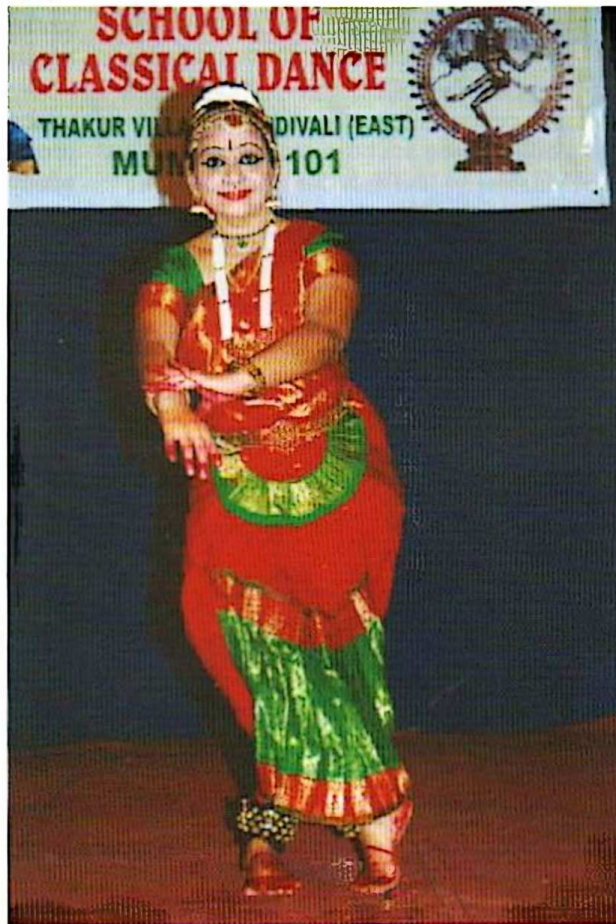
Academy of Fine Arts at Chennai and one of the leading lights to revive and popularize the traditional dance form of Bharatanatyam. Manjula has been involved in Bharatanatyam and folk dances for more than 30 years. Besides stage performances, solo and group, she has also participated in TV and other similar shows.

The students at Nrithyopaasana School of Dance are trained in the traditional manner, in accordance with the Kalakshetra style, so as to maintain the purity of this classical dance form.

Apart from young children, Mrs. Manjula has added one more batch of dance students – young mothers, who are keen to learn and experience the joy of classical dance.

Mrs. Manjula's husband, AK Manoj is a Deputy General Manager at Sun Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mumbai.

Mrs. Manjula shifted to Mumbai following Manoj's transfer from Chennai. Despite his official work and responsibilities, Manoj makes it a point to find time to support his wife's activities.



**Mrs. Manjula Manoj**

## CHARKOP MALAYALEE SAMAJAM

The Charkop Malayalee Samajam was established in 2001 when the newly settled Malayalees got together and decided to have a common meeting ground for social and cultural activities. One of its first charitable activities was arranging a blood donation camp for earthquake victims of Gujarat in 2001. Since then every year the samajam organizes blood donation drive on August 15 in which all the members



P C Ramachandran



Eliyas Mathai

participate. The Samajam has Onam celebrations with cultural programmes and Onasadya.

President P C Ramachandran hails

from Guruvayoor and came to Mumbai in 1980, joined an engineering company became its Manager and is now self employed.

Secretary Eliyas Mathai hails from Angamali and came to Mumbai in 1983. Since 1985, he is with Mahindra & Mahindra in the mechanical section.

Both Eliyas and Ramachandran take Malayalam classes at the Samajam. K V James is the Treasurer and Unnikrishnan is the Jt Treasurer.

Sukumaran is the Vice President and Lijo Joseph is the Jt Secretary of the Charkop Malayalee Samajam.

## PROMINENT MALAYALEES

### Rajan Kadannappally

Rajan Kadannappally is a well-known personality in Mumbai's business, cultural and social scene for the past 20 years. He hails from Kadannappally Taluk in Kannur district and his parents are the late KO Nambiar and Janaki



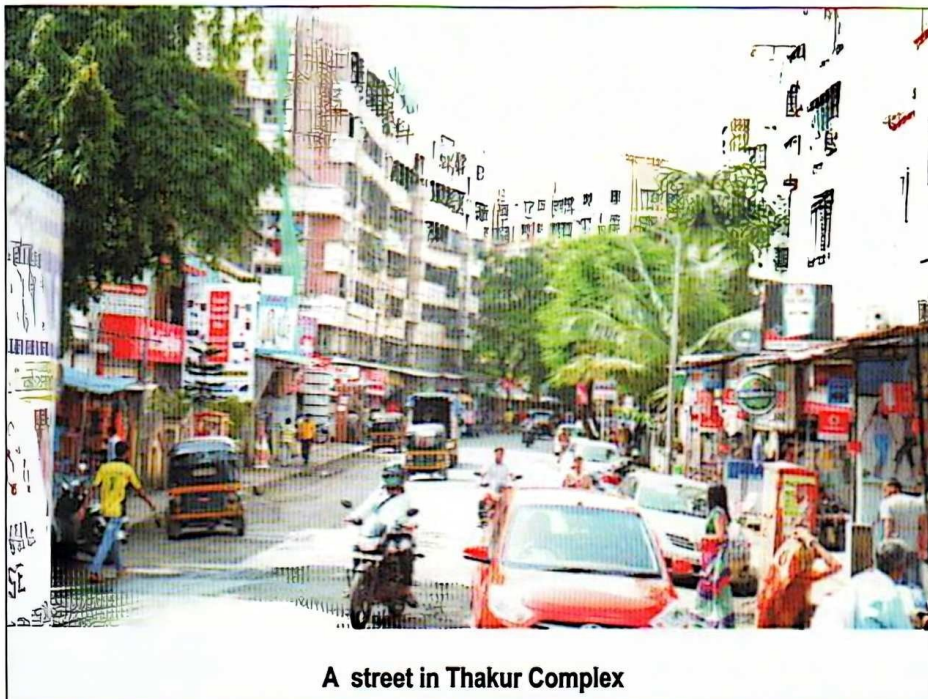
Amma. He completed his schooling at Mathamangalam High School and graduation from Payyanoor. During his college days he was an active member of the leftist SFI (Students Federation of India). Kadannappally came to Mumbai in 1976. After working for a year in a vegetable export company, he joined Dattani Group as a typist in 1977. In 1984, he rose to become the Manager and is currently General Manager of Dattani Group of Companies.

Rajan Kadannappally has acted in several dramas during his college days and won awards. His first drama in Mumbai was *Abhilasham* when he joined Kandivali Malayalee Samajam in 1981. He was Secretary of Kandivali Malayalee Samajam for more than 10 years from 1981 -2001. He is currently President of the Samajam. He directed *Aathmayuddham* written by C L Jose in 1993 and he won the Nataka Thilakam MN Kurup Memorial Award by Nritya

Sindhu, in recognition of his 25 years of invaluable service towards the Malayalam stage. In 2010 he won the Nataka Pratibha Award from *Jwala* magazine Mumbai.

Kadannappally is the President of AIMA (All India Malayalee association), President Malayalee Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mumbai Province, Keraleeya Kendra Sanghatana Programme Committee Convener, and President Kandivali Malayali Samajam. Rajan Kadannappally was Special Executive Magistrate. He is Managing Editor of *Malayalee Vision*.

He also has his own business in the construction and ayurvedic fields. Rajan Kadannappally's wife Girija hails from Kannur and works as senior officer with the State Bank of India. They have a daughter Rajna who has completed her MBA and is employed and a son Jithish who is doing his first year MBA in Mumbai.



A street in Thakur Complex

### A V MENON

Vijayaraghava Menon hails from Kuzhur Village in Thrissur District. After completing his schooling he came to Mumbai in 1950. He took up a job



and studied part time. In 1962, Menon completed his BA (Hons) in Economics from Khalsa College and later MA and LLB from Mumbai University. Menon started practising as an Advocate at the Bombay High Court. Today at 80 plus, he still goes to his office and trains students of law.

A V Menon has always helped the downtrodden in the slum areas of Malad and Kandivali and was one of the founder members of Kandivali Malayali Samajam. His parents are the late Raghava Menon and the late Pappu Amma. His wife Padmaja hailing from Palakkad, is a homemaker and they have two sons Subodh and Sudhir. Subodh is CMD of Dorf Ketal Pvt Ltd, a company that manufactures refinery chemicals for oil companies in India and abroad while Sudhir is one of its directors. Menon and his wife are also directors of Dorf Ketal that has its corporate office in Malad and factories in Silvassa, Talaja and a recent one at Mundra. Both the brothers are upcoming businessmen, are married and have children.

## PRADEEP MENON

Pradeep Rajan Menon works as a Manager for Cambata Aviation Pvt. Ltd and is a trade union leader. He holds the following honorary posts: President of All Airport Employees Union and Jai Maharashtra Karmachari Union, Vice –President of Mumbai Auto Riskshaw Union, Vice –President of Cambatta Aviation Karmachari Union, Delhi Airport, Working President Cambatta Aviation Karmachari Union, Chennai Airport, General Secretary Cambata Staff and Officer's Association, Mumbai Airport and Secretary Mumbai Labour Union. He is also life-Trustee of 'Ashray' Orphans and Destitute Central



in Mumbai and Treasurer of Kairali Co-op Credit Society. Son of Late Rajan Menon and Advocate. Smt. Rajeshwari Rajan Menon, Pradeep was born and brought up in Mumbai. His native place is Kandashangdam in Thrissur. He completed his studies in Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

## Shailaja Menon

Smt. Shailaja Menon, wife of Pradeep Menon, is the daughter of late Guru Krishna Panicker and Smt. Gowri Panicker. She is a commerce graduate



and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in dance (Bharatnatyam) from Nalanda Nrityakala Mahavidyalaya. She has inherited this talent from her renowned parents and she has also undergone training in other classical dance forms like Mohiniattam under late Kalyani Kutty Amma and Smt. Haimavathy of Kerala Kalamandalam, kuchipudi under her sister Smt. Raadha Bhaskar of Mudra Dance Institute, Ahmedabad and Kathakali under her father late Guru Krishna Panicker. She has been performing and teaching dances for Nrityaprabha at its many centers. She has appeared in many key roles in Dance Ballets presented by Nrityaprabha. As a performer she has travelled all over India. She has to her credit many students who have performed arangetram and also hundreds of students who have completed their course in Bharatanatyam under her guidance over these years.

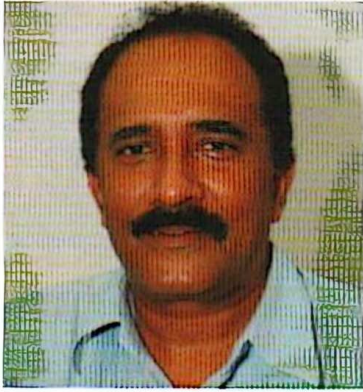
Shailaja and Pradeep have a daughter Miss Priyanka Menon, a talented performer like her mother and she has completed her Arrangetram. She is presently pursuing her MBA in Khalsa College.



**P. C. Ramachandran, President, Charkop Malayalee Samajam in his terrace garden where he grows almost all vegetables like dhoodi, green peas, lady's finger, brinjal, padval, pumpkin etc.**

**Born and brought up in a farmer's family in Kerala and having a basic knowledge and determination he has nurtured this garden.**

## JYOTI VENKATESH



Veteran film journalist Jyoti Venkatesh, whose contribution to film journalism, spans more than forty years, has been a resident of Charkop, Kandivli for several years. Jyoti's articles and reviews have appeared in leading publications like The Hindu, Bombay Times, Indian Express, Hindustan Times, Mid-day, Afternoon DC, Deccan Chronicle, Free Press Journal, Gulf news(Dubai) etc. A former member of the Censor Board, Jyoti has also been the Editor for Film Festival Bulletins, organised by the Government of India.

Winner of several awards and accolades for his writing, Jyoti says " I have reached a saturation point as far as awards are concerned. Initially I used to be excited but nevertheless I am happy my services are being recognised by the society".

Jyoti adds "Journalism is my bread but acting is my butter". Incidentally Jyoti is also a prolific actor. He recently appeared in the popular serial of Taarak Mehta as a senior journalist attending a press conference to interview Ajay Devgan and Abhishek Bachchan, Priyadarshan's Malayalam Film as the boss of Mohanlal. Jyoti had also a interesting role of a South Indian in Madhur Bandarkar "Traffic Signal"

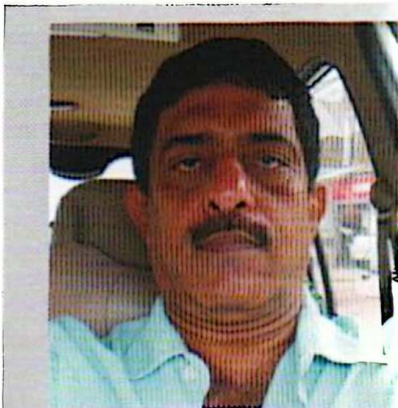
Jyoti recollects an interesting experience with Ram Gopal Varma when he was with the censor board and his film "Satya" was to have 36 cuts, Jyoti pleaded with the Board and reduced the cuts to 12 which was a great relief for the young film maker Ram Gopal Varma. Jyoti is married and has a son.

*Contributed by Vijay Shankar*

## KRISHNANKUTTY



Krishnankutty works for the Western Railways. He and his wife Sreeja hail from Kollam and have been staying in Charkop for the past 25 years. They have 2 sons - the elder one, Akshay Kumar studying third year Diploma in Engineering and the second one, Amay in Std VIII. Krishnan Kutty is an active member of Charkop Malayalee Samajam and Ayyappa Seva Sangham.



Recently Valsalan Menon (V Menon), active on the Malayalam stage and Malayalam and Hindi film industry and above all my close friend, passed away.

He was closely associated with the Mumbai Malayalee stage for a long time and everyone had a great regard for him. He began his career as an actor and later became a director. I have worked with him on the stage and would like to mention a few words about him.

Valsalan Menon (or V Menon as he was known in Mumbai) and I started working together in Prathibha Theatres with Capt Raju and others in NN Pillai's Malayalam drama *Easwaran Arastil*. We also acted together in Surasu's *Vishwaroopam* directed by Venu and EK Namboodiri.

## VALSALAN MENON *My Friend*



Balaji

He has acted in TL Jose's Bombay Keraleeya Samajam's *Kahalam* directed by Anthappan of Adam Theatres. He has directed Mohan Kumar Niranam's play *Nizhalukal* for Sunayana Arts Malad. Valsalan Menon was a gentleman and co-operative actor with a smiling face.

Later he ventured into Hindi films. He worked as Asst Director in the remake of IV Sasi's *Kanamaryath* starring

Rajesh Khanna.

As a friend I always remember those old days of Malayalam dramas with Valsalan. He was my friend. I also acted in his Marathi and Malayalam films, *Trinethra* and *Snake & Ladder* respectively.

Valsalan hailed from Vyttila in Ernakulam District and resided in Mumbai at Malad -Goregaon Link Road.



Bombay Keraleeya Samajam TL Jose's *Kahalam* (Bottom row middle) V Menon as Namboodiri, Valsala Haridas(Menon), Late KJ Kuruvilla, Music Director and (Top row): Varghese, Anthappan, LateBabu Vizhinjam, Capt.Raju, Bhaskaran, Mohan Kumar and Balan Tripunithura(Balaji).

# OYYARATHU CHANDU MENON FATHER OF MALAYALAM FICTION

Satyanath

It is said that 'Sharada' was planned to be in three parts. Sharada is not as matured a lady as Indulekha. She is a small girl. So the reader could not predict where the story was leading to. Many tried to complete the novel. The major issue in the novel is a lawsuit. It raises a big question whether the girl born of a love marriage with an affluent family and later separated out of a quarrel, has a legal right to the properties of that family. Chandu Menon wanted to discuss this matter through his character but could not as he was snatched away by death.

**T**hough O Chandu Menon is not the first novelist in Malayalam, he is considered to be the father of Malayalam fictional prose. In this respect, he is akin to Kunchan Nambiar who is considered to be the father of Thullal, though that form of art existed before him.

Malayalam language came into existence much before its alphabet and there were many poems and other records of history in Malayalam though they were written in *Arya ezhetu* or *vattezhuthu* but later written in the modern Malayalam alphabet when it evolved. However, there was no fictional work before the advent of the present alphabet.

Poetry was popular as it was easy to remember for future use with its rhyme, rhythm and its religious content and it was used by performers of various art forms. However, prose was difficult to memorise and it did not command the respect that poetry enjoyed. Hence, its popularity was restricted as no one transcribed them on *Palmyra* leaves unlike in the case of poetry and had to await the invention of the printing press for popularity.

The first printing press was started by the Jesuits in 1555 near Kodungallur, and the first book was printed there in 1577. It was not a Malayalam book but a Tamil one. The first Malayalam book (translation of the Bible) was printed in Bombay in 1811 and the first Malayalam book (*Pilgrim's Progress*) was printed in Kerala in 1847 at Talasseri. However a book titled '*Vedarthasamkshepam*' was printed in

Rome in 1872. Around 1850, a prosaic version of *Adhyatma Ramayanam* and a translation of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* with the title of *Almarattam Oru Keli Sallapm*' were also printed.

The birth of the Novel is closely connected to the establishment of

the first fictional prose in Malayalam. Since the background of the story was not very familiar to the Malayalees, it did not acquire much popularity. When Chandu Menon wrote '*Indulekha*' in 1899, the earlier short coming was removed and all Malayalees hailed his attempt and called him the Father of Malayalam Prose.



## HIS LIFE

Chandu Menon was born as the fifth child of Edappadi Chandu Nair and Chittezhuthu Parvathi Amma on Dhanu 22, 1022 (ME). His father worked as Police Amin and later as Tehsildar and called Chandu Amin Tehsildar. Their other children were Lakshmi Amma, Parvathi Amma, Sankara Menon and Govinda Menon. Chandu Nair had another wife at Talasseri and had another son, Kunhambu Nair, with her.

Early in his life, Chandu Menon along with his mother and other siblings moved to Naduvannur when Chandu Nair was transferred there.

He started his education under Koran Kurikkal, a traditional village teacher. When his father constructed a new house 'Oyyarathu', the family shifted there. He continued his education under Kunhambu Nambiar in traditional system.

Later he was given English education.

When he was only 10, Chandu Menon lost his father and after six months his eldest brother Sankara Menon also died. Sankara Menon was only 19 and he was the only earning member of the family.

During his English education at Bassel

printing presses as without them, there would not be copies to reach the reader.

Though Rao Bahadur T M Appu Nedungadi wrote the first Malayalam novel '*Kundalata*' in 1887, it did not reflect the ethos of Malayalee life. Nedungadi was inspired by the writings of Walter Scott and he came out with



The most sold Malayalam Novel Indulekha in its various editions including in English. Earlier editions had only plain covers.

Mission Parsi High School, Chandu Menon passed 'Uncovenant Civil Service' examination meritoriously but continued his preparation for Matriculation examination. A vacancy for the sixth grade clerk arose in the Small Causes Court and Chandu Menon applied for the same and he was duly appointed because of his proficiency in English. His boss Sharp immensely liked Menon. Thus he became a government employee in 1864.

Malabar Collector William Logan was then Sub-Collector of Talasseri and asked for Chandu Menon's services in his office. Thus in 1867, Menon was appointed as Third grade Clerk at the Revenue Court at Talasseri. In 1869, he became first grade clerk. When Logan became Collector of Malabar, he took Menon to Kozhikode and he was appointed as Police Munsif and soon he became Head Munsif in 1871.

Soon Sharp was promoted as District Judge at Kozhikode District Court and wanted Menon in his court. This resulted in transfer of Menon as Head Clerk in the District Court. He was then promoted as Acting Munsif at Pattambi. In 1874, he was promoted as Manjeri Munsif and after two years, he was moved to Palakkad as Palakkad Munsif. In 1882, he was transferred to Kozhikode. He was then drawing a monthly salary of Rs.400, an enormous amount at the time.

When he was Munsif of Parappanangadi, in 1889, he wrote 'Indulekha' and in 1891 he wrote the first part of 'Sarada'. The publication of the first part before completing the whole novel was due to the persuasion of his close friend E K Krishnan.

During this period, Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair introduced a 'Malabar Marriage Bill' in the Madras Legislative Assembly. The bill was referred to a committee under Sir T Muthuswamy Iyer. Menon was one of the members of this committee. He opposed the bill and argued that 'Sambandham' existing among Nairs should be given legal sanction and the divorce procedures for

the matriarchal families of Nairs could be made simpler. These views were contrary to Sankaran Nair's but Muthuswamy Iyer agreed with Menon.

In 1892 Menon was appointed as Acting Additional Sub Judge at Thirunelveli. Next year he was transferred to Mangalore and was confirmed as Sub Judge. During his stay there, he suffered a partial paralysis. On recovery under the medical advice, he was transferred to Kozhikode in 1897.

Next year, Menon was bestowed a title of 'Rao Bahadur' by the British Government. He was also made an examiner of the Law College and also made a Fellow of the Madras University.

Till he died on September 7, 1899, Menon was Sub Judge of Kozhikode.

## FAMILY

When he was 25, Chandu Menon married Kanjoli Veetil Lakshmi Amma. This couple had five sons and two daughters. The first daughter died quite early and the second one married Pattathil Narayana Menon, a well known legal practitioner.

Menon's eldest son K Chandu Menon, after obtaining a diploma in electrical engineering, joined Central Government service. Later he started his own electrical business. His second and third sons also died early. The fourth son, Madhava Menon, also joined the legal profession. The fifth son Govinda Menon remained at home on account of ill health.

## PERSONALITY

Chandu Menon was an extra ordinary personality. His sense of humour was praiseworthy. He was stout and tall (exceeding 6 feet) with a protruding belly. He was very generous in praising people when they were deserving and equally



harsh on others who displayed shades of ego and ignorance. He was a connoisseur of performing arts and there were many stories pointing out to this particular trait.

Once, a Carnatic singer from Palakkad wanted to show his talent before Menon. After listening to him for some time, Menon asked him to stop singing and asked him about the train fare to Palakkad. When he replied, saying the fare was fourteen annas, Menon asked his servant to get fourteen annas exactly and gave the amount to the singer, asking him to leave for his home immediately.

A Kathakali artiste by name Kunju Kartha was mentally unstable most of the time. Even while applying 'chutti' he used to protest and would try to wipe it off and therefore his limbs were tied up during this phase but just before he was pushed to the stage, if the details of the story and his role in it were told, he would immediately turn to that character and outperform all other artistes. Chandu Menon had high regard for him. Once he was performing in Menon's courtyard. After watching him for some time, Menon asked him to stop and asked his elder brother, "What is the current rate of gold sovereign?" "Ten and a half rupees," was the reply. He immediately asked his wife to get him that amount and presented the coins, to Kunju Kartha.

If any one had any particular dislike towards any particular matter, Menon would do something to irritate him further to make him realise his folly. When Menon was sub-judge at

Kozhikode, an Englishman Davis joined the district court as judge. He was intolerant of any noise when he was hearing any case and everyone in the premises was scared of him.

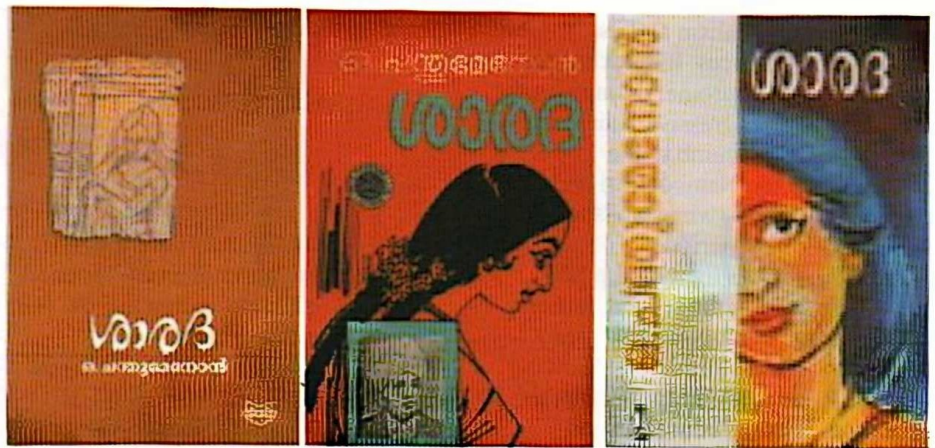
Three miles away from Kozhikode, for *utsavam* of Varakkal temple, a well known *Marar* was invited to lead the *Chenda*. He was

promised the rate of a first grade artiste, but after his job, was paid the rate of a third grade artiste. *Marar* was deeply disappointed and felt cheated. He filed a petition at the court of Menon. During the hearing, Chandu Menon felt all the witnesses were not capable of answering due to lack of expertise in the subject and Menon asked *Marar* if he could perform in the court premises. *Marar* agreed. This created havoc with Davis and he sent a peon to tell Menon to stop the event. Menon was anticipating this and he closed both his eyes and got immersed in the recital. The peon had no courage to interrupt him. When the *melam* continued, Davis sent another peon and he approached Menon's peon who was reputed to have a good influence on Menon. To show off his status before his colleagues, he went near Menon and interrupted him. Menon got annoyed and fined him three rupees for disrupting the hearing. The Judge's peons disappeared soon and the sub-judge gave his verdict in *Marar's* favour.

During the recess, Davis went to Chandu Menon and asked him why he disrupted other courts. Menon explained that he wanted to give a judgment on merit and according to his conscience. He offered his apology if he caused inconvenience to the Judge. Davis realised his folly and they remained good friends.

After a few days, Chandu Menon invited Davis and his wife for dinner and they expressed their desire to have a traditional Kerala dinner. All of them sat around a dining table with Menon in the middle. While rice and some dishes were served on plantain leaves, some items were served in small dishes. Mrs Davis did not know how to have them without spoons and forks and so she asked Menon for guidance. Menon told her that she could eat from the leaf using fingers or directly from the dish like having tea from a cup. She lifted the dish and tasted and commented 'very good.' Seeing this Davis also did the same but he did not like it; yet he too said 'very good.' Mrs Davis continued the feat but Davis could not do that. Later it turned out that the dish before Mrs Davis was '*payasam*' while that before Davis was '*kalan*.' It was no surprise that Davis could not consume *kalan*, a preparation made in curd as he was not accustomed to similar preparation.

Chandu Menon in his official life was very honest and impartial. He could not tolerate the dishonest and the corrupt.



Chandu Menon's most celebrated Novel 'Sarada' which remained incomplete.

Similarly he could not tolerate people with ego.

Some government officials, among them a few Nairs, were participating in a feast. An officer known for his corrupt practices, boasted that if good opportunities were presented, no one would become corrupt. Hearing this, Chandu Menon got up, putting the morsel down in the leaf and proclaimed, "That's not true. I, Oyyarathu Chandu, won't do it" and left the place, leaving the assembly shocked and silent. He had total contempt for such people and never spared them when opportunity arose.

He never did anything to gain popularity and totally disregarded others' opinion about him. Though he spent only a few years outside Kerala, his fame had reached far and wide. When he died, many newspapers, among them English and Tamil too, wrote lengthy editorials and continued to publish his essays and speeches for quite a long time.

Unlike other judges, Chandu Menon did not take his sense of discipline home as he left the inmates to behave in their normal manner. This attitude helped him to study human behaviour in different circumstances and aided him to paint different characters of his novel realistically. Those who read his books 'Indulekha' and 'Sarada' would vouch for this fact.

## CHANDU MENON THE LITTERATEUR

"I awoke to find myself famous," said Lord George Gordon Byron, when his '*The Corsair*' was released. "Never in my recollection has any work. ... I sold on the day of publication, a thing perfectly unprecedented – 10,000 Copies," he said. A similar thing happened to Chandu Menon also. Soon

after the publication, the whole lot was sold out. That 'Indulekha' is still in demand, is a measure of its popularity.

Till 'Indulekha' was published, no one thought of him as a literary figure. Many of his close friends did not find any inkling in him towards literature.

Besides *Indulekha* (1889) and *Sarada* (1892), Chandu Menon had written only a few introductory notes and some remarks about then existing creative works. Till then only one novel, *Kundalatha* was published in Malayalam and hardly any short stories worth the name. Poetry was the only form of literature existent then.

Considering these facts, now we can estimate his contribution to Malayalam literature. *Indulekha* hit the literary world like a storm and *Sarada* was published only in a partial form. There were many debates even about the identity of the hero of *Sarada*. It was said that there were more than two attempts by other authors to write a sequel to Menon's *Sarada*. C Anthappayi, Payampally Gopala Pillai and Kuruppam Veetil Gopala Pillai are some of them. But their versions were no comparison to the original.

## Indulekha

Indulekha, the heroine of the novel, is a graceful Nair girl of 18 with intelligence and artistic talent. She is educated, knowledgeable with education in English and Sanskrit, and is in love with Madhavan, the hero, who is presented as a young man of modern times. The story details how the matrilineal society of those times, especially the system of *Sambandham* between Namboothiris and Nair women, got degenerated. Indulekha repulses a marriage proposal from an old Namboothiri and he then runs away with her maid servant.

The old Namboothiri represents the

decadence of feudalism and its polygamous practices. Indulekha, the novel's educated heroine, dramatises the resistance of a progressive Nair woman. She refuses to succumb to the oppression of the Namboothiri and marries Madhavan, who stands up to the social evils of the period.

*Indulekha* throws light on the Nair community during the second half of the nineteenth century when it was undergoing a transformation following western influences and English education. It exalts education and satirizes the orthodox practices.

*Indulekha* was translated into English in 1891 by the-then Collector of Malabar.

## HIS STYLE

In the preface to 'Indulekha', Chandu Menon states that his work has twin objectives. One is to entertain and the other is to impart knowledge. At a time when social life was not so broad, it was new books that offered an alternative life.

He presents an advocate Karpura Iyer in his second, unfinished work 'Sarada'. When someone went to invite him to speak about a case, his reply was: "I am reading a book. Would it be OK if I come after reading three more pages. I wish to finish it".

## INDULEKHA AND SARADA

The popularity of Indulekha can be gauged from the fact that it had 68 editions till 1981. The only criticism it faced was about the eighteenth chapter wherein Madhavan discusses the policies of the Indian National Congress. Many critics including M P Paul faulted this chapter as an hurdle to easy reading.

It is said that 'Sharada' was planned to be in three parts. Sharada is not as matured a lady as Indulekha. She is a small girl. So the reader could not predict where the story was leading to. Many tried to complete the novel. The major issue in the novel is a lawsuit. It raises a big question whether the girl born of a love marriage with an affluent family and later separated out of a quarrel, has a legal right to the properties of that family. Chandu Menon wanted to discuss this matter through his character but could not as he was snatched away by death.

## It happened with

# P C KUTTIKRISHNAN

In 1950 May, All India Radio (It was not yet Akashvani) opened its Kozhikode station and PC left his position of Editor of *Mangalodayam Masika* to join AIR Kozhikode. K Padmanabhan Nair was its Program Officer and K Raghavan was another artiste working there. P Bhaskaran also joined along with PC. It was later that Thikkodiyam, Akkitham, Kakkad, K A Kodungalloor, Santha B A (later Santha P Nair) and Lakshmi Devi joined.

He worked there for 25 years, holding the positions of script writer to Producer of Spoken Word Section.

Though the employees were required to work hard, all of them were on contract;

monthly, half yearly and yearly basis. Their salary was very low but no one dared to leave as it was difficult to get another job.

During this period, the Mathrubhumi founder and Editor K P Kesava Menon was the President of Thunchan Memorial

Committee and AIR used to broadcast the Thunchan Festival live. One year AIR decided against it. When Menon came to know about it, he was shocked and became furious. He telephoned the Station Director and sought its reason. His audacious reply was that there were more important programmes to broadcast. Still angry, Menon called PC to know the exact reason. PC informed Menon that he had submitted to the Station Director about the importance of Thunchan Festival in detail, running over three pages much earlier but the latter's opinion was that AIR should not give much credence to such old fashioned

traditions. Menon immediately sent messages about this to the Broadcasting Ministry and its minister. This had the desired effect. Within a few hours the minister sought the Director's explanation. He defended himself by stating that he did not know the importance of the festival as he was not a Malayalee and the concerned person failed to convince him about it. He further stated that the concerned person was suspended with immediate effect for his failure. P C Kuttikrishnan was duly suspended.

PC was in turmoil. Three dependent children, a sick wife, zero bank balance and a house on rental. It was

a matter of survival for him.

He approached Menon and told him about his plight.

Hearing his misery, Kesava Menon who normally never interfered in personal affairs of others including his close relatives, wrote a terse message to the prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru who also happened to be



the minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting seeking justice for PC. Nehru had met PC during his visit to Delhi to receive the Sahitya Academy Award and liked this amiable man. He despatched an enquiry committee to Kozhikode to find out the truth and based on its report, ordered withdrawal of suspension and immediate reinstatement.

When PC reported to duty fearing reprisal from the director, he was relieved to hear that the director was soon transferred to Guwahati.

[Next issue: Mohammed Basheer]

## SALIM KUMAR FAMILY

# SERVICE WITH A CAUSE

With an efficient organizing capacity, Salim Kumar has managed to streamline his business activities and the charitable and social services of Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi of which he is the General Secretary.

Elvee

**M**ay be it was his organizing capacity even during his college days that makes Salim Kumar one of the most active members of the Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi of which he has been the Secretary since 1998, except for a gap of a single term. Both Salim Kumar and his wife Biji are closely involved with all its charitable activities and follow the Guru's teaching in their daily life. Salim Kumar was born in Elavumthitta, Pathanamthitta district and completed his school education there.

His father the late TK Sreedharan was a highly respected educationalist in his area. It was due to his father's initiatives and his close proximity with R Shankar, the then Chief Minister and General Secretary of SNDP, that permission for opening the SNDP High school in Muttathukonam, Elavumthitta was given. His mother is the late KK Kamalakshi. Salim Kumar is the youngest of five children, two brothers and two sisters (the eldest sister passed away recently). One of his brothers is in Saudi while the other one is working



Salim Kumar receiving award from Governor K Sankaranayanan for souvenir collection of SNMS

in Bilaspur. Salim Kumar's other sister is Headmistress of a school in Kerala.

After his graduation in 1980 from Kerala University he came to Mumbai in search of job. Salim Kumar joined Bharat Petroleum in 1981 and worked there till he took VRS to concentrate full time on his business.

In his school and college days Salim Kumar has participated in many competitions such as elocution, essay writing, acting etc. He was also a good orator and organizer during his college days.

Salim Kumar has organised events such as Film award Nites, musical evenings, *kadhaprasangas*, dance programmes, felicitation of artistes in Mumbai and its suburbs for various organizations.

Salim Kumar is married to Biji also from Elavumthitta. Her parents are the late Vasudevan and Vasanthi. Vasudevan served in the army. Biji has a younger sister whose husband is in the army. They have a son studying in Std X. According to Biji, her mother's elder sister who is unmarried, has always stayed with them and helped her mother in bringing them up. Even now the sisters are staying together in Kerala.

Biji completed her graduation in Kerala and came to Mumbai after her marriage. Apart from the social activities of her husband in which she gives a helping hand, Biji is very active in the Vashi Unit of SNMS and its Consumer Society. She also participates in the spiritual classes of SNMS at the Vashi Unit. A good cook, last year she won the second prize in the Cooking Competition conducted by Malayala Manorama.

As General Secretary of SNMS, Salim Kumar has a hectic schedule co-ordinating the various activities of the Samithi and the International Study Centre. The Samithi has 17 Guru Centres, and 25 Units in and around Mumbai. He has to oversee all activities in these Units. The Samithi has also an International Centre for Sree Narayana Studies at Nerul, called Gurudevagiri. Salim Kumar goes to various Units of the Samithi and delivers lectures on Personality development, Indian customs and traditions and teachings of Sree Narayan Guru and other great teachers. As Secretary of SNMS, Salim is in charge of educational assistance to the poor, medical aid to deserving people for serious illnesses like heart attack, kidney diseases, accidents etc. He is also editor of *Gururatnam*, the magazine published by the Samithi. In spite of his busy schedule Salim Kumar finds time to teach English to the Std X students of SNG Marathi medium school in Chembur. He regularly conducts counselling for the students and parents on values. He says, "I got many things from Mumbai. Therefore I have



Salim Kumar sharing the dais with the President N Sasidharan, Asst. Secretary O K Prasad of SNMS and TKA Nair, Advisor to PM



Salim Kumar and Biji on their wedding day

I got many things from Mumbai. Therefore I have decided to give something back to the society that has given prosperity and peace to me and my family.

decided to give something back to the society that has given prosperity and peace to me and my family. I have taken up this issue as a mission to do something for underprivileged children. Nowadays the majority of parents send their children to vernacular language schools only because they cannot afford the fees in English medium schools. SNGHS is situated in M ward East, Chembur, which is the most backward area in Mumbai, according to the latest study conducted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences. By

providing quality education to these children, in fact we are engaging in nation building." A full-fledged businessman, Salim Kumar manages three offices in Fort, Powai and Navi Mumbai : Esbee Advertising, the family business he and his wife has been running for the last 20 years that has the accreditation of Indian Newspaper Society. He and his wife are

also Directors of Esmech Chit Fund Pvt Ltd. He is also a director of Narayana Guru Co-op Bank Ltd, which is the only bank in the world in the name of Sree Narayana Guru. Salim Kumar and Biji have a daughter Shruti who has just completed her MBA in Hospital Administration. Their son Saurabh is pursuing his Std XII at Father Agnel's School in Vashi. He was Captain of the School in Std X and is now Headboy in Std XII. ■



Salim Kumar and his wife Biji

# Pillai's Ghost

....a real story!



Parur S Ganesan

10 p.m. It was all tense in Kumar Pillai's home in Chembur, in Mumbai City. Kumar Pillai, a clerk in the Accountant General's office lived in a small rented tenement in Shell Colony, which provided accommodation for low paid industrial workers. A perfectionist to the core, Pillai's day was well cut. In fact, everything about him was well defined and his day's routine from dawn to dusk was predesigned and carried out with clocklike precision.. Rain or shine, to reach office he always took the Harbour Branch train starting from Chembur at 9.20 a.m. and in the evening he was sure to take the 5.45 return Chembur local trains from V.T. Station ensuring his arrival at home on the dot of 7.p.m.

Having grown up in the rural environments of Kerala, during his impressionable days and even up to adulthood, the temple culture, so characteristic of Malayalees, had deep roots in the system. He never missed his daily temple visit every evening after a wash and before dinner accompanied by his wife Usha. But to-day it is past 10 and no news of him. The home was still and Usha was non plussed- for the first time something unusual!

Bhaskar Shinde, Pillai's neighbour was no stranger to the family. Working in a private firm he has long been an associate and confidant of Pillai. Bombay's evening classes had brought them together a few years ago, in the late fifties when both were bachelors. . They started living together, sharing a not so enviable bachelor accommodation in one corner of Chembur. For some inexplicable reasons, an invisible bond was established between the two, which over a period had made them

inseparable. Even as they got married and graduated as husbands it was this unfettered friendship which also made them neighbours.

Tenants as a class are a distrusted lot in commercial Mumbai... and it is all the more difficult for Malayalees who are viewed as cantankerous, argumentative and stubborn. Yet, soon after Pillai got married, Shinde used his good offices and persuasive skills to prevail upon the owner of an adjacent



tenement to rent it out to the newly wed Pillai on minimal rental, Shinde standing all guarantees including good conduct and peaceful vacation of short notice..

Apart from being God fearing, Pillai also believed in ghosts, occults and exorcism. He carried with him a heavy wagon load of such experiences, interactions and stories linked to ghosts and spirits. Often, Pillai used to indulge in several hours of such discourses, Shinde sitting across with his mouth wide open in awe listening with rapt attention to Pillai's narratives of ghosts

and the occult. Most of these centered around Pillai's village. There was a single breasted siren on the river side who in the twilight of evenings temptingly exposed her single but round and shapely bosom from a particular angle and enticed youngsters; the gullible who was tempted had his hours counted - his corpse was found on the river bed next morning. There was a black spirit ( called Kutty Chathan) who on a payment to a thantrik could

be commanded to any one's house to spoil peace - the invisible spirit would throw cow dung or excreta on ready to serve food, float cut nail pieces or clumps of hair on boiled milk, shower stones on roof tops and even set household articles on fire. There was Naidu, a lusty young police inspector who got drowned in the village tank leaving behind his spirit which caught pretty young women taking bath alone in the tank and they got possessed and went hysterical. He also used to tell Shinde of a special class of thantriks who practised exorcism in several Kerala temples

There were thousands of anecdotes of exorcists using their special powers to spew out the spirits and saving the lives of several of the possessed. And in many cases, strangely, even the exorcists were not spared; they were abused, humiliated and often in retaliation cursed to doom by

those spirits forcibly ejected by them out of their human habitats. Shinde who had never been an atheist or a rationalist believed every word of Pillai and became totally indoctrinated into the world of spirits, occults and the extra terrestrials.

It was just a week before, one evening that Pillai had shared with Shinde, one of his strange personal experiences in Mumbai, on condition that he would not mention it to anyone. In a trepid and hushed tone he had said:

"Bhaskar! I have something very



strange to talk to you; promise, you will not tell anyone - my wife, your family or anyone else shall know about it now. ... A few days back, there was a train dislocation at Kurla in the evening. Since our room is half way between Kurla and Chembur, and it was just the evening dusk, I decided to walk through the track to reach home. Half way through, someone called me from behind... it was a female voice...there was suddenly the fragrance of mogra and I saw a middle aged woman in white saree, smiling and following me.. She was floating as if... not touching the ground... and beckoning me towards her. It was terrible and frightening... my legs suddenly stalled, my mind became still..I became motionless... it was as if she had cast a net on me... and I was almost paralyzed and for once I fully wrote myself off. All of a sudden, there sounded a whistle and as if God sent, the beam of light of a train from the opposite side flashed... she just disappeared. It took me some moments to come back to my senses and I just fled, reciting all the slokas and prayers which flashed through my mind.. it is really frightening and looks at me! even as I narrate to you I am perspiring and having gooseflesh.. these days when I travel by train even during the day, the fear haunts me. I do not look out at all. I have consulted a local exorcist and he has promised to give me a talisman to wear during the next few days which would set things right... I am pretty worried ...Seems it is the spirit of some

young woman knocked down by a train or who has committed suicide or something like that”.

“Pillai not returned home so far... it is past ten....something unusual” .Shinde's first thought was “ could that woman in white saree have played any mischief on Pillai to-day?” Having given his word of confidentiality to Pillai, he had to keep it to himself . “Any way this is not the time to reveal.. I have still time left” So saying and with great skill he suppressed his apprehensions . Manipulating a bold face and appearing his usual positive self he was there with Usha and reassured her with all confidence:

“ Usha.! Do not worry. all will be well with Pillai .. let us wait for some more time.... he will come – may be some unexpected work or a crisis in the office or one of his friends has taken ill and he is attending on him. Ah! Yes! One idea strikes me- I know Dias Martis, who works in his office and stays in Subash Nagar... may be, he might tell us something.” Not waiting for a concurrence, or an answer from Usha, within the next two minutes, Shinde was cycling towards Subash Nagar, little realizing that he was

heading for a greater shock.

“We were ourselves wondering about Pillai, the whole day. He never takes leave and even surrenders most of his casual leave every year. On rare occasions when he needs to attend to some important matters, he always applied for leave in advance . To-day all of us were surprised that he did not come to office, or left any message.. really surprising .. We thought some unexpected death or sudden sickness in the family had kept him back. Even our Section Officer is baffled that Pillai had remained absent without notice! If he did not turn up tomorrow also, I was in fact, planning to visit his house”... Dias's observation sent a chill down Shinde's spine and sunk him with more anxiety.”What can I tell Usha now- the matter is getting complicated”. Shinde was bewildered.

Shinde quietly slipped into his own room. No one was in the house. His wife was with Usha giving her assurances and words of comfort. It was quite uncomfortable for Shinde to stay in his room leaving Usha in the lurch in her time of crisis. No!. he must be there with her until Pillai returned. He took position at the very entrance of Pillai's door expecting him any moment.

It was past midnight... time for the last harbour train to reach Chembur... the last hope for the evening.. Suddenly two havildars of the Railways accompanied by a havildar from the local Police station in uniforms appeared:

“Is this Kumar Pillai's house? “

"Yes Sir" answered a trembling Shinde.

It is not in the tradition of middle class families to be visited by the Police. The neighbours view it suspiciously and your reputation suffers. Worse still if the knock is at the unearthly midnight hours. Shinde was puzzled and perhaps irritated.

A chilling, though naive thought passed through his mind - "Pillai no doubt, is an honourable man, a Government servant, with impeccable character and disciplined life and above all God fearing- could he have committed any crime, even unwittingly, to get the police in search of him in the home at this unearthly hours? Could it be that in anticipation he has gone underground and in hiding?"

"No way..." even in his wildest dreams Shinde could not imagine such a thing from Pillai. Hastily he added in chaste Marathi: "Sir he is not here... he has not come back from office to-day..we are all waiting for him since evening... he is a nice and innocent person.. and a Central Government servant working in the A.G's office."

Even as Shinde strained himself on his defence of Pillai and advocacy of his innocence, the Chembur Police havildar signaled to his colleagues from the railways to speak, and one of them announced with no trace of emotion "His body has been found on the track near

Dadar..." before he could complete his sentence there was a loud yell from Usha and a roar of disbelief from Shinde "No way Sir! He always takes the Harbour line... it cannot be him" Not minding the interruption, the havildar, accustomed as he was with such situations almost as a daily routine, continued with his official assignment of informing the nearest kith and kin.. "We are very sorry. We have established beyond doubt his identity with the wallet and railway pass found in the dress of the corpse... the procedures are now complete; you can visit Dadar station in the morning and claim the body after 9.a.m."

A shocked family and a still more shocked and sentimental neighbour. "Why did Pillai take the main line at all to-day? was he getting late or was there any dislocation in the Harbour line.? No one has mentioned about this either in the morning or in the evening. There

was no answer. He has kept away from Usha, even Pillai's absence on the day from office reported by Dias... worst still he has not shared with any one about the woman in white saree.. could she have played mischief? Even if so, how Dadar? His experience with her was on the track between Kurla and Chembur..

The night was getting longer. Shinde was getting restless. He experienced for the first time the mental agony and guilt of concealing important information from the family at the cost of being the conscience keeper of Pillai- "Am I right? or am I wrong... Oh! God forgive me... my conscience anyway is clear." Cursing cruel fate on his predicament, Shinde almost came to a realization that some one's evil spirit-whether the woman in white saree or even from far off Kerala, (Pillai had told him that these spirits travel at lightning speed,) had played foul on dear Pillai. These and many depressing thoughts were passing



through his mind. Meanwhile, inside the room it was wailing, weeping and breast beating by Usha, who was getting uncontrollable by the minute. By now, many neighbours too had joined the bereaved family but none of them could dare approach Usha who had turned hysterical.. Overawed by his sense of guilt Shinde had no moral courage to face Usha or offer her the much needed solace. Tormented, frustrated and agonized, Shinde cursed himself and decided that. he would not budge from Pillai's door until next morning. "The family needs me most now" he averred to himself.

It was 5.00 a.m. One more hour to go for the sun rise and four hours to meet the Dadar Station master. The inner voice within him, was pricking him all the time "if only I had quietly confided to Usha, certainly she would have done something to prevent the tragedy- was I right in keeping the secret from her?"

Several anecdotes and memories of pleasant associations with the family started passing through his mind. He recollected the wedding scene of Pillai in simple Kerala style in Lord Krishna Temple of Guruvayoor for which as a true friend, Pillai had purchased for Shinde the ticket and took him to Kerala. Sitting outside the door step, Shinde was overcome with several thoughts and flash backs of his association with the family, coupled with grief on the news of Pillai's tragic death brought by the Police, and the vexed question of "what next?"

The gentle morning breeze from the Kurla creek played its silent role. The impact of the unenviable events of a restless evening, pushed Shinde into an involuntary slumber. It was hardly fifteen minutes or so... suddenly as if from nowhere, someone gently patted him on his shoulder and whispered "Bhaskar"!

Woken up and half asleep Shinde had the worst shiver of his life.

Pillai!. the ghost of

Pillai? standing before him! he for certain realized it was Pillai's spirit... come from Dadar, to say the final good bye to him. Shinde had learnt that until the post funeral rites are performed, the unsatiated spirits of the dead move around and interact with close friends and relatives. Shinde lost his balance, became speechless, motionless and swooned... all in a matter of seconds. Within the next few minutes, the person who accosted Shinde

entered the house with all familiarity picked up a pot of water from the kitchen and hastened towards Shinde, to sprinkle it on him. Usha, in tears, who had by now resigned herself for the much dreaded widowhood could hardly believe her eyes..her husband in flesh and bones with his usual smiles, rushing with water to save Bhaskar Shinde!!

It was certainly no time to rejoice - for Shinde was in a critical state of shock and needed immediate attention. A doctor was summoned and by morning Shinde was slowly and steadily getting back to his normal self; even as he was recovering from unconsciousness, he repeatedly blabbered and shrieked "Pillai's Ghost! Pillai's Ghost!! Please save me!!"

Calm having set down by sun rise, it was Pillai's turn to explain the mystery and the comedy of errors. "I never

*Continued on page 32*

# Dr. Chempakaraman Pillai

## Revolutionary who fought against British Raj from Germany

Born in Thiruvananthapuram to parents of Tamil origin, Chempakaraman Pillai was a patriot who fought for Indian independence from foreign shores. It is high time we pay homage to this proud son of Kerala.



V N Gopalakrishnan

Dr. Chempakaraman Pillai was one of the greatest revolutionaries who brought glory to India with his enduring efforts and spirits during the freedom movement.

He was one of the unsung patriots who went abroad and organized an army to declare war against the British Raj with support from the Germans. Though brought up abroad, he dedicated his entire life fighting for the freedom of India. It was he who first raised the patriotic slogan '*Jai Hind*', generally used in speeches and communications which means 'Victory to India' or 'Long live India'.

Dr Chempakaraman Pillai met Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1933 and they conceived jointly the idea of Azad Hind. Netaji had immortalised the slogan '*Jai Hind*' as the battle cry of the Indian National Army (INA). Jawaharlal Nehru used '*Jai Hind*' to conclude his speech after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Inspired by Netaji, Ramchandra M. Karkare, a freedom fighter had written a drama titled '*Jai Hind*'.

Chempakaraman Pillai was born of Tamil origin in an average middle-class family in Thiruvananthapuram on September 15, 1891 as the son of Chinnaswami Pillai and Nagammal. His father served in the Travancore Government Service as a police head constable. As a school boy he happened to meet Walter Streichland, a British biologist, who visited Thiruvananthapuram in

search of botanical specimens. Chempakaraman Pillai and his cousin Padmanabha Pillai, became his close friends. Streichland took both the boys with him on his return journey. However, Padmanabha Pillai ran away at Colombo and returned to Thiruvananthapuram whereas Chempakaraman Pillai continued the journey and landed in Europe. Streichland admitted Chempakaraman to a school in Austria from where he

completed his high school education. Chempakaraman Pillai later took a Diploma in Engineering from a Technical Institute. In September 1914, with the help of the German Embassy, he formed the International Pro-India Committee headquartered in Zurich with himself as its President on the eve of the World War I. During this time, a group of Indians formed the Indian Independence Committee in Berlin with Virendranath Chattopadhyaya, eldest brother of Sarojini Naidu, as President. The Committee consisted of Bhupendranath Dutta, brother of Swami Vivekananda, Punnackal A. Raman Pillai and others. In October 1914, Chempakaraman Pillai shifted his base to Berlin. Later the International Pro-India Committee merged with the Indian Independence Committee which came to be known as the Berlin Committee. The Berlin Committee became the guiding force for the pro-Indian revolutionary activities in Europe. Branches of the Committee sprang up in Amsterdam, Stockholm, Washington and many other parts of Europe and America. The Indian Independence Committee later on became involved in the so called Hindu-German Conspiracy along with the Ghadar Party in America. Chempakaraman's intelligence and organizational abilities were appreciated by the German Kaiser and the German Foreign Office financially assisted the Committee for its anti-British activities. The Germans permitted Chempakaraman Pillai to lead the operations of the German Navy in the Indian Ocean. He directed



Statue of Dr Chempakaraman Pillai

the German naval ship *SMS Emden* and master-minded the attack on Madras and destroyed English war vessels. Prof. A. Sreedhara Menon briefly describes this assault in his book *Keralavum Swathanthriya Samaravum*.

The British government announced a reward of one lakh pounds to anyone who successfully captured Chempakaraman Pillai and handed him to them. Meanwhile, he established the Indian National Volunteer Corps during World War I and offered military uniforms to the volunteers. In the war, Germany was defeated.

Chempakaraman Pillai stayed back in Germany and met Subhash Chandra Bose when he visited Vienna and explained his plan of action by raising revolt among Indian soldiers and attacking the British. Chempakaraman Pillai's words had an electrifying impact on Subhash Chandra Bose and he fulfilled his dream through the Indian National Army during World War II. In December 1915, Chempakaraman Pillai became the Foreign Minister of the Provisional Government of India set up in Afghanistan with Raja Mahendra Pratap as President and Maulana Barkatulla as Prime Minister. However, the hopes of the revolutionaries were shattered after the defeat of the Germans in the war.

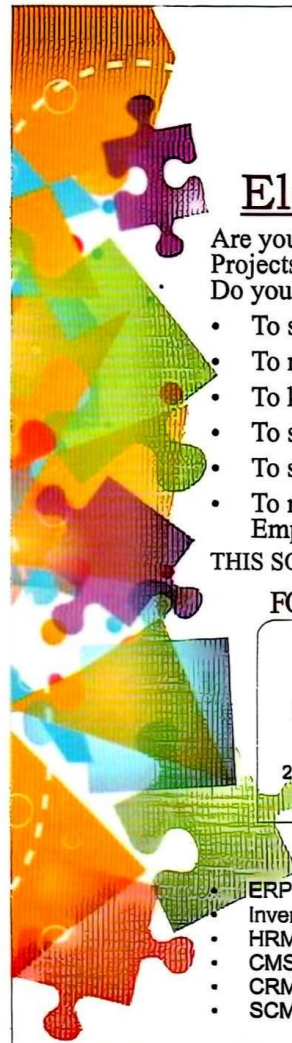
Responding to the 'Fourteen Points' of Woodrow Wilson, the then President of the United States, Chempakaraman Pillai put forward an 'Eight Point' proposal for Indian independence demanding that the French and the Portuguese also should leave the country. In 1919, Chempakaraman Pillai and Edwin Emerson, the American author established the League of the Oppressed People to fight for the right of every person. Chempakaraman Pillai launched a monthly titled *Pro-India* published in German and English from Zurich and Switzerland. He also founded the 'Orient Club' in Berlin and became an active member of the German Fatherland Party. In 1924, he organized the first exhibition of Indian Swadeshi goods at the International Fair at Leipzig.

When Adolf Hitler came to power after the World War, Dr. Chempakaraman Pillai developed a working relationship with him hoping to get military assistance to end the British rule in India. Though the Indian patriots expected help by way of funds, arms, and ammunition, the Germans wanted to exploit the revolutionaries for gathering military intelligence and

handle propaganda work. The Nazis started losing their interest in the revolutionaries after the War. In the process, the relationship between the Indian revolutionaries and the Germans also got strained. Hitler expressed the views that Indians were still incapable of ruling themselves. Though Chempakaraman Pillai had friendly relations with Hitler in the 1930s, he became upset with his attitude about Indians, his comments about colour and other principles, especially those expressed in the speeches and in his book. Chempakaraman Pillai raised his voice against this and he even forced Hitler to apologise in writing. Soon he fell a victim to the fury of the Nazis. In 1933, Chempakaraman Pillai met Lakshmbai in Berlin and they decided to get married. After a short married life, he fell ill due to an apparent food poisoning and went to Italy for treatment. They came back to Germany but he died on May 28, 1934 and Lakshmbai cremated his body. Before his death, he had asked his wife to sprinkle his ashes in "Nanjilnadu" (presently Kanyakumari district) and the Karamana River in

Thiruvananthapuram. Lakshmbai fulfilled his wish in 1967, thirty-three years after his death!. Lakshmbai underwent untold sufferings during this period from the Nazis. To fulfill her mission of preserving his ashes, his diary, and secret documents, she lived in Berlin, Italy and Spain and later reached Mumbai. On September 16, 1966 INS Delhi, the Indian Navy's warship flying high the Indian National Flag, brought Chempakaraman Pillai's ashes to Cochin.

Lakshmbai died in Mumbai in 1972. Dr.P.N.Chopra refers to Chempakaraman Pillai's contributions to the freedom movement in his book titled *India's Struggle for Freedom*. Late Salim Ali, the famous ornithologist recalled that Dr. Chempakaraman Pillai was an excellent cook. In July 2008, M. Karunanidhi, the then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu unveiled a statue of Dr. Chempakaraman Pillai on the Gandhi Mandapam in Chennai. It is high time, the government of Kerala also does something to perpetuate the memory of this great son of India who also had his birth in Kerala. ■



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## Geeta Radhakrishna

# DANCE AMBASSADOR

Geeta Radhakrishna is a versatile dancer, choreographer, author and singer. Her expertise is Mohiniattam and she is one of the artistes who have popularised Mohiniattam in India as well as across the world.

**G**eeta Radhakrishna is not just a Mohiniattam dancer and teacher. She is a choreographer having choreographed several dance ballets, an exponent of sopanam music, a yoga practitioner and a speaker. Her analytical and articulate mind has enabled her not only to evolve as a veteran dancer but she has succeeded in understanding the intricacies of this ancient dance form and choreograph several dance ballets (ekaharya or solo performances) on varied themes and write an authoritative book on Mohiniattam which has become a reference book. She has also published translation and transliteration of other spiritual texts like Geeta Govindam and Devi Mahatmyam.

Geeta has choreographed dances like Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa, Magdalana Mariam, Krishna Leela, Karuna, Nritya Swara Manjari, Sringara Mohini, Aum Namah Shivaya and Geeta Govinda.

She has a fine repertoire of Maharajah Swati Tirunal and Irayimman Thampi krithis. They have all been appreciated by her audience within India and abroad.

Geeta's dancing career spans a period of 35 years. She has performed in India and in England, Switzerland, Germany, France, Holland, Luxemburg and Holland. She was part of India's 50 years of Independence Celebration in the USA and UK. In 1998 she performed at the India Festival in USSR and in 2009 she was sponsored by ICCR Government of India for the 'Incredible India' celebration in China to perform in Beijing. Geeta's father the late Capt C S Nair was in the army and Geeta has spent her childhood in Pune, Delhi, Kochi, Chennai and Mumbai. Her mother Savitri Nair was a singer and drama artiste.

Geeta, as a seven year old, learnt Bharatanatyam under Master Venkatesh, a disciple of Thanjavur Ellappa Pillai and did her arangetram when she was 12 years old. While



in school, she started learning Mohiniattam under Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma, (wife of the late Padmasri Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair). After an intensive course in Mohiniattam, Geeta performed her arangetram at Ernakulam Fine arts. After school, she did her graduation from Mercy College in Palakkad. After graduation Geetha came to Mumbai. At the suggestion of Soli Batliwala, trustee of Bhulabhai Memorial Institute and a great connoisseur of art, who sponsored her first show in Mumbai, she continued her advanced study of Mohiniattam and research under a scholarship from the Bhulabhai Memorial Institute. She also did her LLB from Mumbai University, completed her Advanced Diploma in Yoga, (Dept of Philosophy, Mumbai



Geeta with husband Radhakrishna and daughter Radhika



Geeta and her Guru Kalyanikutty Amma

University) and another one in Naturopathy. Geeta performed *Narayaneeyam* for the first time in Guruvayoor temple in the 70s and later presented 59 *Narayaneeyam* performances all over India

**"The beauty of Mohiniattam is distinguished by its unique style - a style characterised by the undulating flow of movements, graceful gaits and tender gestures. A Mohiniattam danseuse along with her gestures and facial expressions portrays the human emotions of joy, ecstasy and pathos."**  
Geeta Radhakrishna

and abroad as a solo danseuse. From the 60th performance, her daughter and student Radhika began to perform with her. In October this year she will be giving its 105<sup>th</sup> performance once again at the Guruvayoor temple.

Geeta is an author of seven books, *Mohiniattam adavus and Mudras*, *Mohiniattam, the dance of the enchantress*, Jayadeva's *Geeta Govinda* Translation and transliteration, *prakruti nrityam* - dance of nature, a book of poems, *Meditation on ahimsa*-meditative verses, *Devi Mahatmyam*-mystic power of the Radiant Goddess, *Jai jai Natana Ganesa* - a book of Ganapati mantras.

She was awarded Fellowship by the Government of India for outstanding work and Research in Mohiniattam, Nairshree Award (Nair Samskarika Samithi Maharashtra), Sarvashree Award with gold medal (Special Executive Magistrates Society) and several other Institutions have honoured her.

Geeta runs a charitable Trust named Mohiniatta Nritya Kalakshetra for promotion and popularization of Mohiniattam and other art forms of India. She conducts festivals of Indian dance and music showcasing different styles of dancing. The organization also awards '*noopuradhvani*' title to outstanding artistes for their contribution to fine arts.

Geeta got married in 1979 to Radhakrishna Menon who is also from Palakkad. Her husband has been always an encouraging partner. He retired from Lufthansa German Airlines. They have a daughter Radhika, who is currently working with an international NGO in Delhi. Radhika did her Graduation in English Literature, Post-graduation in Media Studies and Masters in

Development Studies from University of Sussex England. She has learnt Mohiniattam from her mother and performed along with her on many stages within the country and abroad.



Geeta with her daughter and student Radhika

# CLASSICS IN A NUTSHELL

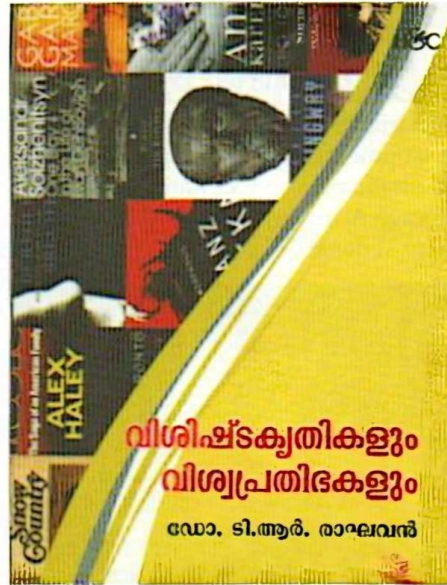
Ashwathi

**L**iterary works of all forms, may it be story, poem, criticism or play, have an uncanny knack of revisiting the reader, not soon but decades later, haunting him, sending him to unknown worlds of pleasure, happiness, thought and sometimes to pain. When people remember those works even after many years and talk about them as if they do not do it, they cannot survive, and through published articles, news reports or seminars, when it was realised that they all share similar feelings about the same books, they turn into classics.

When we go through Dr T R Raghavan's '*Vishishtakrutikalum Vishwapratibhakkalum*' (Masterpieces and World Geniuses), we are surprised not by its contents but the realization that we too share the same feelings about those works mentioned by him in this book. There are 29 essays, in this book including two from Malayalam, one by Rabindranath Tagore and the rest deal with works done outside India, in various countries but translated into English. An average reader may have read all of them or most of them. These writings are not in-depth study of the work but the impression generated within the author and appreciated by him. It covers writings of a huge genre of authors from Plato to Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai.

Majority of the authors whose works are selected for inclusion, are Nobel laureates or Jnanpith awardees.

While many of the works included are highly acclaimed, the readers may not consider them as the best of the author but had something in them to make them very popular.



Dr Raghavan's book motivates people especially the youth to go through these books to enjoy, educate and enlighten themselves. While critics shred the work into pieces during their analysis, Dr Raghavan brings out the essence therein in his own style. Many of these books may not be available now in any book stall but one may have to search to procure and preserve (it is essential) so that future generations would benefit from them.

For example, how many of us know that Plato argued for the state ownership of land, especially when we demand from the government free land. Many ancient and modern classics such as *Oedipus* of Sophocles, *Ulysses* of James Joyce, *Wuthering Heights* of Emily Bronte, *Roots* of Alex Haley (Malayattoor Ramakrishnan was accused of being inspired by this book), *Sons and Lovers* of D H Lawrence

(*Lady Chatterley's Lover* is missing), *The Old Man and the Sea* of E Hemingway (Chemmeen was said to be inspired by this, some critics allege), *Crime and Punishment* of Fyodor Dostoyevsky (the background that led to the writing of this book should have been interesting), *Anna Karenina* (Galsworthy's *Forsyth Saga* should have been mentioned) and *Resurrection* of Leo Tolstoy, *And Quiet Flows the Dawn* of Mikhail Sholokhov, *Nausea* of Jean Paul Sartre, *The Metamorphosis* of Franz Kafka, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *Faust* of Goethe, *Love in the Time of Cholera* of Garcia Gabriel Marquez, *Mourning Becomes Electra* of Eugene O'Neil, *Hamlet* and *Othello* of William Shakespeare are some of the books covered by the author. Most of us must have read these classics and Dr Raghavan helps us to cherish them and be nostalgic.

There are many books written in the past in Malayalam by well known authors about the books they read and cherished and it is to be remembered that they all invariably carried a the mask of analytical studies. Dr Raghavan has no pretension of such aura and he deserves full appreciation for this alone. May many more books of this genre come from his pen.

Dr Raghavan has taken great care to include a brief life sketch of all the authors he has chosen.

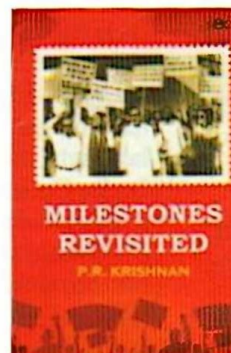
E P Rajagopalan has written an illuminative Introduction to this book, worth reading.

[*Vishishtakrutikalum Vishwapratibhakkalum* by Dr T R Raghavan, published by H & C Publishing House, Thrissur 680001. Pages 128 and price Rs 90.]

## MILESTONES REVISITED

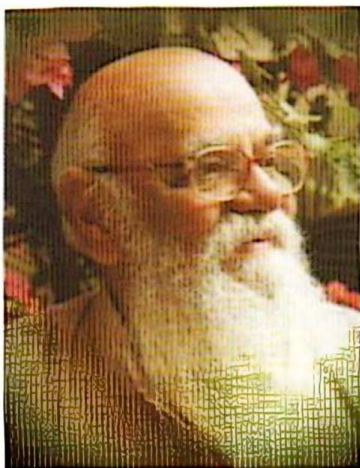
MILESTONES REVISITED by P R Krishnan is a compilation of articles he wrote for various publications in the four decades. The author, a trade union leader and State CPI(M) office bearer of Maharashtra, has extensively covered the agitations he participated and led in Mumbai and outside. He gives graphic details of all the events with elaborate data. This book would serve well

students of trade union history in India as these information would be difficult to obtain now from other sources. He has also included a few papers he presented in some seminars and workshops and they point out the inklings of the



author to such activities. A speech of Jyoti Basu, delivered in an international conference held in Mumbai and quoted in this book, provides excellent reading.

[*Milestones Revisited* by P R Krishnan; published by H&C Stores, Thrissur 680001; pages 220; price Rs.180.



# Padmabhushan Prof N S Ramaswamy dead

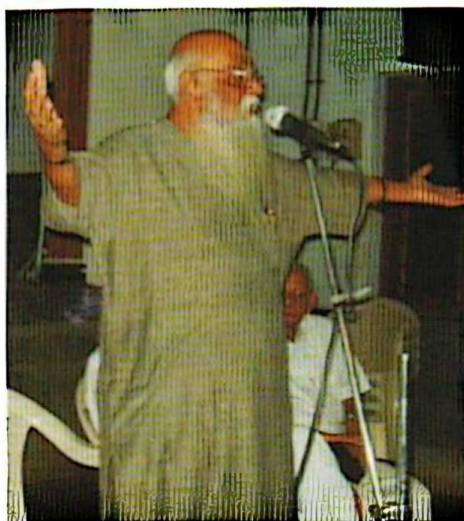
Prof N S Ramaswamy, the first Management Guru of India died on September 17 around 7.45 p m at his Koramangala residence. His wife Rajam Parvathy, son Rajan Srinivasan and daughter Rajani were with him during his last hours. He was 86.

He was born in 1926 at Thrissur and was educated at Thrissur, Ernakulam, Chennai, UK and USA.

He started his career as a Consultant to Tata, Voltas and ACC after obtaining his engineering degree from the Guindy Engineering College, Chennai. He then left for US for further studies and on return, joined Jamanlal Bajaj Institute of Management as a Professor and was later instrumental in founding the National Institute of Industrial Engineering in Mumbai. He was its Director.

Ramaswamy was Founder Director of the Indian Institute of Management,

Bangalore since 1972 till 1986. He was also holding the post of Director of NITIE till 1975 simultaneously. He founded Cartman, an NGO for the welfare of animals, environment, bullock cart and slaughter systems, vegetarianism, helping the poor, rural development, HRD training for utilities and municipal services and also Indian Heritage Academy for propagating yoga, classical dances and music, painting etc.,



Prof Ramaswamy addresses a mid-night meet prior to the shilanyas of Mahalakshmi Temple of Adi Sankara Kanakadhara Smruti Trust on Oct 27, 2008 at Pazhamthottam, near Aluva.

besides ECO Park and Veterinary Clinic in Bangalore.

He held several prestigious positions during his time. President of Indian Institute of Industrial Engineering, Advisor to Institute of Management in Government (IMG), TVM, Advisor to Anna Institute of Management, Chennai, President of Computer Society of India (CSI), Chennai, Chairman of Inter Religious Harmony, Chairman of World Productivity Council, Chairman of Animal Welfare Board of Central Government and Committee of Meat Industries, Consultant to UNESCO on Broadcasting and Unido on Computers, Dept of Non-Traditional Energy Department, Airports Authority of India etc were some of them. He was also member of Cadre Review Committee of Reserve Bank of India, Indian Statistical Institute and many similar bodies. He was also made National Professor of Management and Mentor of IIMB. Ramaswamy was born in Trichur in 1926 as son of N R Srinivasa Iyer, who later became IG of Kerala, and Lakshmi, daughter of Mahadevan Iyer, founder and Chairman of Dhanalaxmi Bank. The nation honoured him with Padmabhushan.

## Pillai's Ghost

*Continued from page 26*

changed my route. I did travel by Harbour branch "he asserted. "Before the train reached Kurla, someone picked my pocket of the wallet containing also the railway pass and got into the fast train which was just leaving the main line towards V.T. I continued the travel expecting to reach office on time. While alighting at VT, I was confronted by a ticket examiner who would not accept the story of pick pocket. As I had no money with me he recorded my name, occupation and address and detained me in the station. Past midnight, the authorities in VT received the day's rail accident list. It contained the name of a person whose body was recovered at Dadar track which carried my very name. It appears the pick pocket had hurriedly crossed the rail line at Dadar, when he was knocked down by a speeding train and smashed beyond

recognition. All that the Railway Police could get was the wallet containing the railway pass with my address and so established the identity of the deceased as Kumar Pillai

Fortunately, the Railway officers realized the mistake and let me go. I then took the first morning train and reached Chembur. And here I am in flesh and blood before you all... eh! Bhaskar get up!!".

There was great rejoicing in the family. Pillai continued his saga:" If only those in VT had not got the message last night, to-day the Dadar Coroner would have certified me as dead and at the same time the Magistrate at VT would have convicted me too. How funny?"

Provoked for the first time, Shinde

shouted at Pillai " no more of your bloody Kerala ghost stories hereafter." To Usha it was a matter of reassurance. Coyly she said.."my family astrologer

after all cannot go wrong... while matching our horoscopes for the marriage he had certainly predicted that we will have three children and that my husband will draw pension from Government for at least 30 years."

"First things first' interrupted Shinde. With a mischievous twinkle in his eyes, he proclaimed "now work on priorities. first the three children ..

and pension comes later". The whole house exploded with laughter.

[P S Ganesan specialises in study of extra-terrestrial phenomena and writes extensively about ghosts and spirits] ■



# Bharatanatyam by Six Talented Students

**A**njali Institute of Bharata Natyam presented six talented students of Guru Lata Surendra in an impressive recital at the

Mysore Association Auditorium. The performance was noteworthy for its precision, technical quality and considerable command over expressional dancing. The teenaged dancers of the evening were Leesa Menezes, Shrishti Chaubey, Khushi Patel, Stency Sunny, Sreelakshi Balachandran and the only male dancer of the group, Master Abhijith A Nair. With an impeccable awareness of each disciple's forte, Lata Surendra has woven a garland highlighting the symmetry and syntax of the rich art form .

The young performers danced with confidence, yet maintained the technical quality and the precision while executing various rhythmic patterns in items like the *Vasanta Jatiswaram*, *Revati Varnam* or the *Kamas Thillana*. The highlight was the fine co-ordination of the dancers while dancing together in harmony.

It was exciting to watch Master Abhijith A Nair dance with grace and poise, One felt at times that it was little Krishna dancing amidst the Gopis. In the *Revati Varnam*, especially choreographed for children by Guru Lata Surendra that incorporated the multi-facets of Lord Shiva pertaining to creation, preservation and destruction of the universe, episodes like the perishing of Kamadeva, as Lord Shiva is enraged due to his audacity and destroys him to ashes, Abhijith as Lord Shiva did complete justice to his enactment. Abhijith has won several competitions at taluka level and evinces a natural talent for dance.

Stency Sunny Joseph complemented Abhijith Nair's performance with her meticulous sense of rhythm. With her wide eyes mirroring fluid expressions, her impeccable sense of rhythm, easy

execution and graceful form, Stency brought to life the visual beauty of this demanding art form.

Leesa Menezes and Shrishti Chaubey



gracefully reached out along with charismatic Khushi Patel and dedicated Shreelakshmi Balachandran. There was a quiet poise and sensitivity in all their performances.

Credit goes to the teacher Lata Surendra who could succeed in bringing

out complete co-ordination in the symmetry laid out through the *marga* of items that was highlighted in the *varnam*.

In another *Padam*, the universal Mother was described as the all-embracing and all-sacrificing for the happiness, betterment and prosperity of her devotees.

The programme concluded with a *Kamas Thillana* wherein the dancers danced perfectly and with comfortable ease while performing the rhythmic patterns.

On the whole it was an impressive performance by young performing stars of tomorrow. On the orchestral team Guru Lata was assisted by Shivaprasad for vocal, Chandran for mridangam and Balasubramaniam for violin. ■

## Wedding



**Sangeetha**, daughter of KS Sivaramakrishnan (Ganesh) and Mrs S Subbalakshmi got married to **S Adithkumar**, (son of Lakshmi Subramanian and N Subramanian) in Chennai on August 29. The Wedding Reception was held on September 9 at Jawahar Nagar, Goregaon. Ganesh is a well-known vocalist and music composer residing in Mumbai, with his family.

# Gopakumar's Dedication

## Looking Back .....

**I dedicate my life** to the Lord Almighty who has always been with me, also when I needed him most, letting me know that he is always there for me.

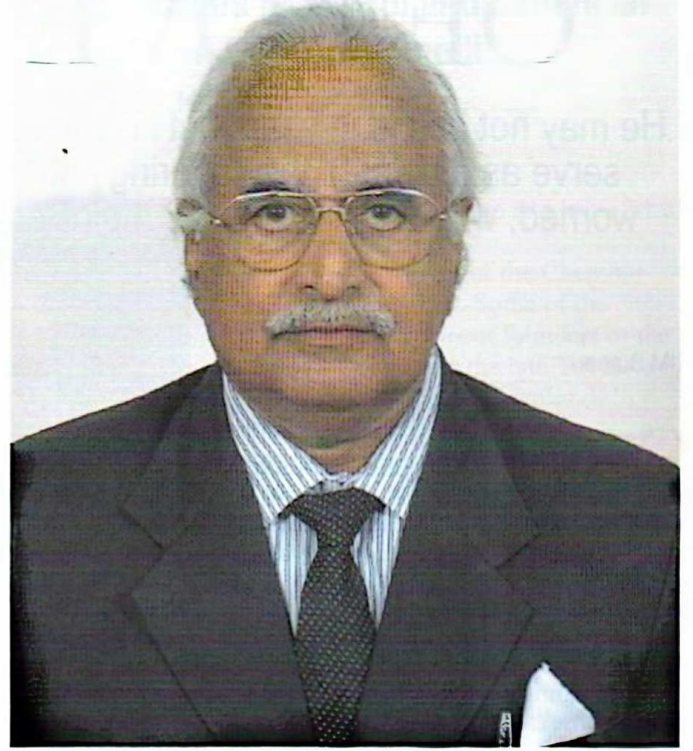
**I dedicate my life** to my respected Gurus, my father and mother, my grandparents, my teachers, peers and elders in my communities & society at large.

**I dedicate my life** to my family, my wife and children and grandchildren, my sisters and brothers, their families who have always stood with me like we have always been a joint family.

**I dedicate my life** and work to my enthusiastic team associates in GNAs (Gopakumar Nair Associates), Gnanlex, to my vibrant colleagues/team in Bharat Education Society & to my co-directors and colleagues in corporates and Industry Associations and publications.

**I dedicate my life** for friendship, my beloved friends, near and far worldwide, my social and community associate friends, my ancient and recent classmate friends, senior citizens in and around, virtual friends in forums and webs, who have always been a source of inspiration and motivation.


**I dedicate my life** to all who stood with me, worked with me, marched with me for all good and national causes and interests to make positive impacts and progress in personal and National



lives and interests, including friends and peers in governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### Lastly but importantly

**I dedicate my life** to Mr. Arun Kumar and family, colleagues and friends in Strides Arcolab, who made my new "Avatar" after retirement a "Dream come true", I am ever indebted to him.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>Karacharana Kritam Vaa<br/>Kaayajam Karmajam Vaa<br/>Shravana Nayanajam Vaa<br/>Maanasam Vaa Paraadham<br/>Vihitamavihitam Vaa<br/>Sarvame Tat Kshamasva<br/>Shiva Shiva Karunaabdhe<br/>Shri Mahaadeva Shambho</p> | <p>Sarvebhavantusukhinah<br/>Sarvesantuniraamayaah<br/>Sarvebhadaanipashyantu<br/>Maakaschitdukhkhabhaagbhavet<br/>Meaning:<br/>Auspiciousness (swasti) be unto all;<br/>peace (shanti) be unto all;<br/>fullness (poornam) be unto all;<br/>prosperity (mangalam) be unto all.<br/>May all be happy! (sukhinah)<br/>May all be free from disabilities! (niraamayaah)<br/>May all look (pashyantu) to the good of others!<br/>May none suffer from sorrow! (Duhkha)</p> | <p>Kayenavachamanasendriyenva<br/>Buddhyatmanavaprakritiswabhavat<br/>Karoomiyadhyathsakalamparamai<br/>Narayanayetisamarpayami</p> |
|---|---|---|

# Sharavana Baba MESSENGER OF LOVE

He may not be old in years but his utterances serve as a balm to the suffering and the worried, who consider him as their Babaji.

KIM Bureau

**S**atguru Sharavana Baba, proclaimed to be an incarnation of Lord Murugan, was in Mumbai from September 14 to 23 and gave spiritual discourse at several temples spreading the message of peace and harmony and enlightened living. Born in Sreekrishnapuram Village in Palakkad to Krishnankutty Guptan and Lakshmi Amma, even in his childhood, he was different from other children of his age. He began to show signs of spirituality in his teens, but his parents and friends were not ready to believe him and at times even ill-treated him. Fed up, he left his native village and went to Tamil Nadu, worked in various occupations to maintain himself. His family tried to make him give up his mission and lead a normal life but Baba refused to budge. Gradually, a group of faithful devotees began to gather around him and he began to deliver spiritual discourses on a daily basis. His

first Ashram was established in Kozhikode, Om Sharavanabhava Matham, followed by another spiritual retreat at Srikrishnapuram in Palakkad.

Baba's Sharavanabhava Matham constantly endeavours to engage itself in charitable and spiritual activities, which include feeding the poor, providing medicines to those who are not able to buy them, giving clothes

**"There is only one true religion; the religion of love. Only one language; the language of the heart. Only one law; the law of Karma."**



to the poor and distributing note books and textbooks to children from underprivileged families.

The Mission plans to build a home for the aged, an orphanage and several other service-oriented activities and institutions to make the elderly and the women self-sufficient. It is also constructing two temples, one for six-faced Murugan (Arumugham) and Shirdi Sai Baba in Srikrishnapuram. The Matham's charitable activities include blood donation drives, healthcare programmes for tribals, planting of saplings, distribution of sewing machines for women, crutches, wheelchairs, artificial limbs for the physically challenged, and spectacles and learning aids for old age homes and orphanages. About two thousand families in rural areas of Palakkad and Kozhikode benefit from Baba's distribution of foodgrains and groceries, around five times in a year. Various programmes are organised on a regular basis to provide basic necessities for the poor and the needy, especially widows and elderly citizens.

The Om Sharavanabhava Matham regularly supports education and has reached out to several schools and assisted needy and deserving students. In June 2010 the Sri Saravana Baba Jnaja Kendra was inaugurated and educational materials were distributed to the first 32 children who have registered for the LKG Class. *Annadhaanam* is conducted every day at the ashram, at the various Centres and to thousands of children in several schools for the underprivileged children.



Sharavana Baba with devotees in Mumbai

# CHEMBUR MALAYALEE SAMAJAM

**Chembur Malayalee Samajam has completed six decades of fruitful and beneficial services to the Malayalee society in particular, in the social, medical, art, cultural and educational fields.**

KIM Bureau

**W**ith the advent of Housing Colonies such as the then Township Colony (later renamed Tilak Nagar) and Station Colony (renamed Subhash Nagar) many Malayalee industrial workers of the nearly 100 textile mills and many industrial units such as Metal Box, Hind Cycles, Richardson Cruddas, GKW, Geoffery Manners, PAL, APL, BPCL, HPCL, Calico Chemicals, Union Carbide etc., had moved to Chembur along with their families who had come from Kerala and were in need of accommodation.

Chembur was a thickly populated locality of Malayalees and this prompted them to form a common meeting-ground. This was felt more when the Shell Colony was constructed by the then Burmah Shell Refineries (now known as BPCL) where Malayalees were working and were provided houses in the colony. Nearly 1,000 employees of factories, news



**R S Naman**  
President and Trustee,  
Adarsha Vidyalaya

agencies, textile mills, manufacturing companies, refineries, etc. could procure a flat in their names. Even though many of them were bachelors, they had other unmarried friends to stay with them who

also joined the Samajam and its political and social activities.

This was the origin of the Chembur Malayalee Samajam. Some of the original and prominent founders of the Samajam were / are the late T R Bolan, Trade unionist and most senior member), the late MCV Menon, (freedom fighter), K P Vasudevan (freedom fighter and trade unionist), K N Krishnan (prominent trade unionist and the first General Secretary), KV S Nambuthiri, (the oldest living member of the Samajam), H V Hariharan (one of the living members of the first Managing Committee), K Ratnakaran (a trade unionist), P Vasudevan, A K Nair, Hydrose, CC Ouseph, PR Gopinath, N P Pillai, Pankajakshan Nair, (first president of the Samajam), Iscus Thomas, Augustine (an artist and a trade union activist] Ashtan Namboodiri, P V Gopalan, G Raghavan, AL Raghavan , Madhavan Nair, Kuttappan and several other young and middle - aged persons. Most of them were members of the then undivided Communist Party and many



Senior members of Chembur Malayalee Samajam who were felicitated during Onam 2012 with current MC Members and R S Naman



**President Narayanan Nair and Secretary Madhu Nambiar felicitating KVS Nambuthiri (left) and KP Vasudevan during Onam celebrations 2012**

of them were progressive minded willing social workers. Other founder members were M A Karthikeyan, Sridharan Nair, P Krishna Pillai, Poker, Ashokan, PV Ramakrishnan, CS Menon, Sethumadhavan etc.

Having formed the Samajam and with the help and influence of several persons who were living in the Housing Colonies Tenants' Association, namely K N Krishnan, Ratnakaran, Ramu of the Times of India, Hariharan, Dhupkar, etc. the Samajam got a shop allotted near the present Shoppers' Shop facing the Chembur-Ghatkopar Road.

### **Library and Ayurvedic Dispensary**

A well-equipped Library, having nearly 5,000 Malayalam books and many Malayalam dailies was set up. The Samajam later got the sole agency

of Kottakkal medicines and there was a popular and permanent Ayurvedic Dispensary with a full time qualified doctor and compounder on all the days in a week except Mondays.

As the dispensary became very popular and the library and reading room were frequented by an increasing number of people, it was shifted to a spot near the then railway level crossing.

### **Staging of Dramas**

Chembur Malayalee Samajam has staged many Malayalam dramas of renowned troupes from Kerala like KPAC, O Madhavan's Theatre troupe, N N Pillai and K T Mohammed's dramas in Gandhi Maidan, Gymkhana ground and even in the Dadar Parsi Colony ground. Each play was well-patronised.

The Samajam has staged its own

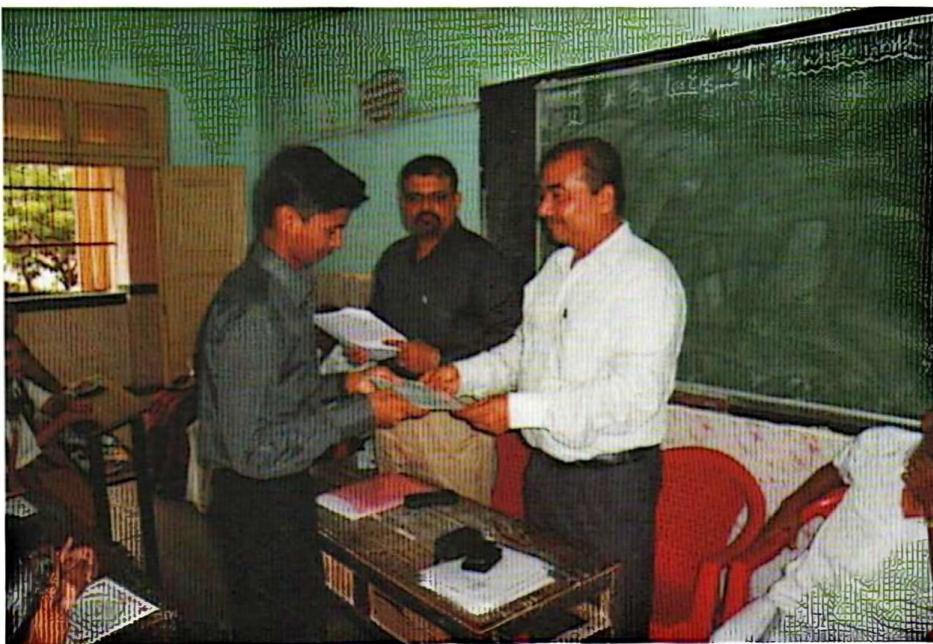
dramas as well, directed by A K Nair, Augustine, K Rajan, Sekhar, V V Achuthan, etc which were as well appreciated as the ones staged by the professional drama troupes from Kerala.

With a Musical Nite by KJ Yesudas and S Janki in Shanmukananda Hall the Samajam raised nearly Rs.25,000 with which it took a 500 sq.ft flat area near the present Syndicate bank that is near the station and between the three colonies. Today the Samajam has another office space of its own, close to the station and all colonies.

### **Champion of Social Causes**

The Samajam did not confine their activities only to art and cultural aspects. It raised substantial amounts when Patna was reeling under the furious river Ganges floods in the 60s, and sent the same to relief camps. Likewise when the Panshet Dam calamity (Pune) occurred, it not only raised money but also other essential items like food items, clothes, house making materials, utensils, etc and sent its team of people to help and assist and reduce the intensity of the affected people.

Similarly when the Koyna Earthquake struck the dam and power house, the calamities inflicted on thousands of people was so severe that government agencies were not sufficient to reduce the sufferings and Chembur Malayalee Samajam was in the forefront in helping both monetarily and physically. Some years back Kerala was reeling under the severe drought and the Samajam raised relief funds in cash and kind and handed over to the then Chief Minister who visited Mumbai seeking succour to the affected drought victims.



**President Narayanan Nair distributing Scholarships to students of Adarsha Vidyalaya**

## Office Bearers of the Samajam

The first President and Secretary of the Samajam were Pankajakshan Nair and K N Krishnan, who was also the Secretary of the Housing Board Tenants' Association.

T R Bolan, M C V Menon, Kadavil, N P Pillai, G Viswanathan, R S Naman, M P Pillai were some of the past Presidents. Likewise apart from K N Krishnan, K P Vasudevan (freedom fighter) Ratnakaran, N S Mani, M Krishnan, Varajakshan, H V Hariharan, AMN Namboodiri, Sathyasheelan and K Rajan were some of the past General Secretaries. Out of these K P Vasudevan, N S Mani and Sathyaseelan have occupied the post of Secretary for more than 10 to 20 years.

Nearly for the past two decades Narayanan P Nair has been continuously elected as the President and Madhu Nambiar, a singer of repute who has performed for the Samajam and other organizations of Mumbai, is the General Secretary.

Recently the Fine Arts Society, Chembur, had honoured him for his contribution in the field of art.

## Origin of Adarsha Vidyalaya

In the second half of 1950s some active members of CMS assembled under an asbestos cement shed at Chembur Gymkhana and after a prolonged discussion formed Adarsha Vidyalaya under the banner of 'Kerala Education Society.'

They were nearly 50 to 60 members who were all CMS members, a good number of them being members of the then undivided CPI including freedom fighters, trade unionists, journalists, advocates, executives etc and all of them in the age group of 20 and 35. The purpose was to start a school to teach Malayalam to the children of the Kerala families who were staying in Chembur. The assembled members elected a Managing Committee of KES with M N Krishnan as the first President of Adarsha Vidyalaya, R S Raman as the first Secretary and Bahuleyan as Treasurer. Only two members of the first Managing Committee, K N Krishnan and M A Karthikeyan are still alive. The Adarsha Vidyalaya school started with a few Malayalee children and single teacher and initially conducted the classes in the Tenants' Association office and thereafter for want of basic necessities, it shifted to the Open Air Theatre in Township



Adarsha Vidyalaya

Colony.

In 1961-62 the Kerala Education Society merged with the present Kerala Peoples Education Society (KPES) and has grown in status and size.

The first donation of CMS worth more than Rs one lakh was mobilised by the current President Narayanan P Nair. Many others who are also members of the Samajam have been contributing

their mite in various ways and it can genuinely claim a small portion in the growth of the school.

For the past 25 years, the Samajam has been giving financial help to nearly 50 students and this year the current President has collected and given Rs 53,000 to 53 poor students.

In the Golden Jubilee Year of the Samajam it donated RS 30,000 to KPES.

→ 28 29 > (simply).....

*Malloos are educated and this is seen in the communal harmony they maintain.*

*However a Nair will not accept a lower division Nair, a Malayalee Muslim will find a difference between an original and a converted Muslim and a Malayalee Christian will not tolerate other denominations of Christianity as hi s/her equivalent.*

*But why?*

*- Unnikrishnan*

*(If you agree with this or not, please respond. Books worth Rs. 1000 await the best response. - Managing Editor)*



KIM News Bureau

## Onam Celebrations

### Vikhroli Malayalee Samajam

Vikhroli Malayalee Samajam celebrated its 58<sup>th</sup> Onam Celebration at Vikas College Hall with floral decoration competition, variety entertainment programmes, and an Onam feast.

The Samajam felicitated the SSC, HSC, Degree and Engineering students who came out successfully in their examinations scoring 80% and above. The Samajam felicitated dignitaries Manorama Dina Patil the mother of MP, Sanjay Dina Patil, A N Shaji MD of Metmech, Dr. M K Pillai, N Raghavan and M K Sundaram MD of Shiju Garments.



Maharashtra Governor K Sankaranarayanan lighting the lamp at the Onam celebrations in Pune organised by the Pune Malayalee Samajam.



Guests of Honor From L to R: N Raghavan General Manager BPL, A N Shaji MD of Metmech Radiographic inspection Pvt. Ltd., Manorama Dina Patil, M K Sundaram MD of Shiju Garments, Dr. M K Pillai MD of Sacred Heart specialty Dental Centre and Samajam President K K Ramachandran Pillai.



Programme Participants

# Thakur Complex Malayalee Association

Thakur Complex Malayalee Association celebrated Onam at Terapanth Auditorium in Kandivali East. The chief guest was Dr Abraham Pattani, Dr CNN Nair also addressed the gathering. Apart from classical and folk dance performances, and felicitation of SSC and HSC students, Sunayana Arts' Malayalam drama *Kattukuthira* directed by PC Cherian was staged.



Maveli Varavelpu at TCMA Onam celebrations

# Kalyan Youth Eparchy

The youth wing of St Mary's Church Malad (E) parish celebrated Onam at St George's School. The programme included sports and games, lively cinematic and folk dance performances and a skit written, directed and performed by the young boys and girls, under the guidance of Fathers Benny Pengiparambil, Principal and Vicar and Father Tenny Parakkal, Vice – Principal and Asst. Vicar, of St George School and St Mary's Church respectively. Mass was conducted by Father Thomas Vazhayil.

The Chief Guest was Lakshmi Venkatachalam, *Kerala In Mumbai*. The Jesus Ever Rolling Trophy and Ever Rolling Shield were given to the winning groups of the sports and games competitions. This was followed by Onasadya. Father Benny Thanninilkumthadathil from Sacred Heart Church in Malad West and Br. Paulo from Shanti Ashram were present at the event. The event was well organized by the youth wing.



Lakshmi Venkatachalam of *Kerala In Mumbai*, lighting the lamp at the event while Fr Thomas Vazhayil, Mother Superior Sr Annie, Fr Tenny Parakkal and Kalyan Youth Eparchy look on



Kaikottikali by the lady members of Kalyan Youth Eparchy, St Mary's parish Malad (E)

# Kairali Arts, Cultural and Welfare Association

Kairali Arts, Cultural and Welfare Association of Belapur CBD has elected its new office bearers. They are respectively V N Govindan Kutty (President), E Ramadasan (Secretary), E K Haridasan (Treasurer), Sabu Daniel (Vice President), G Komalan and N Suthan (Jt Secretaries), T R Chandran (Jt Treasurer) and committees members are Unnikannan, Rajasekharan, Ashok Nair, Premarajan, Mohanan Pillai, Thampan Krishnan, Peethambaran, Sivasankar Nair, Sankaran, Vinod Nair, Henry Xavier, T D Thomas, Vinod Naniyil and Vinod Kumar.

## Kerala Christian Council

Kerala Christian Council celebrated Onam at Canossa Convent. M.P. Priya Dutt was the chief guest of the evening. Fathers from the various Kerala Christian denominations, eminent personalities from the social and business fields attended the function. EP John, President of KCC gave the welcome speech while Priya Dutt addressed the audience and urged the youth of the country to work and build a corruption – free society where all are treated equally, which is the message of Onam. V C Paul was the Programme Convenor.

The evening started with sports programmes of the youth in which *vadamvali* (tug of war) was the highlight, followed by cinematic and fusion dances by boys and girls from different parishes, couple dance, skit, *maveli varavelpu* and onasadya. Kerala Christian Council, the 54 year old organization of Kerala Christians promotes education of under privileged children through its 'Golden Child' programme and provides medical assistance to the poor.

## Chembur Malayalee Samajam

Chembur Malayalee Samajam celebrated Onam at Adarsh High School. The highlight of the celebration was felicitation of 13 senior Samajam members some of whom were founder members who have crossed 80 years of age and a few of them had come from Kerala for the occasion. They were awarded a citation and shawl. Mr Naman, founder President of Adarsha Vidyalaya School presided over the function. There was music orchestra by Madhu Nambiar and party, followed by Onasadya. The senior members felicitated were : KVS Nambuthiri, KM Achuthan, KP Vasudevan, P Vasudevan, NS Mani, Koran Master, MA Karthikeyan, HV Hariharan, K Ramakrishnan, PR Gopinath, M Balan, KN Krishnan.



Secretary of KCC, Sakaria addressing the gathering.



Tug of War competition at KCC Onam celebrations



Madhu Nambiar and his orchestra performing at the Chembur Malayalee Samajam Onam function



The audience at Chembur Malayalee Samajam Onam function

## Thane Nair Welfare Association

Thane Nair Welfare Association celebrated Onam and Vidyadhiraja Jayanti with a variety of programmes at Nair Bhavan. The Association President KR Harikumar inaugurated the programme by lighting the traditional lamp. *Atha pookalam* competition, drawing competition, prayer song competition and reciting Malayalam *kavitha* were performed. TMC Corporator Manoj Shinde was the Chief Guest. Cash Awards were given to winners of various competitions. K Venugopal, K Karunakaran Nair and S Gopalakrishna Kurup addressed the audience.



Traditional visit of Maveli at Thane Nair Welfare Association Onam celebrations



Group dance by ladies wing members and children (left), Folk dance by the children at Mulund Kerala Samajam Onam function

# SHREE KRISHNA MANDIR

Sree Krishna Mandir in Andheri West conducted Onam celebrations with Kalabhabhishekam in the morning on September 9.

In the evening after Deeparadhana there were Classical Dance items presented by young students of Smt. Prasanna Nambiar. The programme included kaikottikali by grandmothers, mothers and grandchildren together. The entire programme was conducted in the newly constructed second floor of the temple premises.



Kaikottikali Presented by Smt. Prasanna Nambiar and her students

## NON-MALAYALEES CELEBRATE ONAM

What made the Onam celebrations of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar different was the fact that 99% of the members were non-Malayalees, yet the club celebrated the festival with the same vigour, joy and enthusiasm as Malayalees did.

All the members and the Chief Guest Dir. Gen. Rtn. Ajay Gupta and Smt Ranju Gupta wore the Kerala traditional dresses. A beautiful *pookalam* was prepared by non-Malayalee ladies. There was a Gujarati Maveli, non-Malayalee lady members performed *Kaikottikali*, a Gujarati member sang

the evergreen Onam song *poovili poovili* and the non-Malayalee male club members rendered the famous song *Kuttanadan Punjayile*. This Onam Celebration programme, chaired and hosted by the Malayalee Rotarian couple Rtn. Sunil Thankappan and Rtn. Rakhee Sunil, supported by RCMD President Rtn. Sanat Shah and his team showed the unity among the members from different communities. Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan was the advisor for the Onam celebrations. The event ended with the traditional



Rakhee Sunil and Sunil Thankappan



Vanchipattu group performers

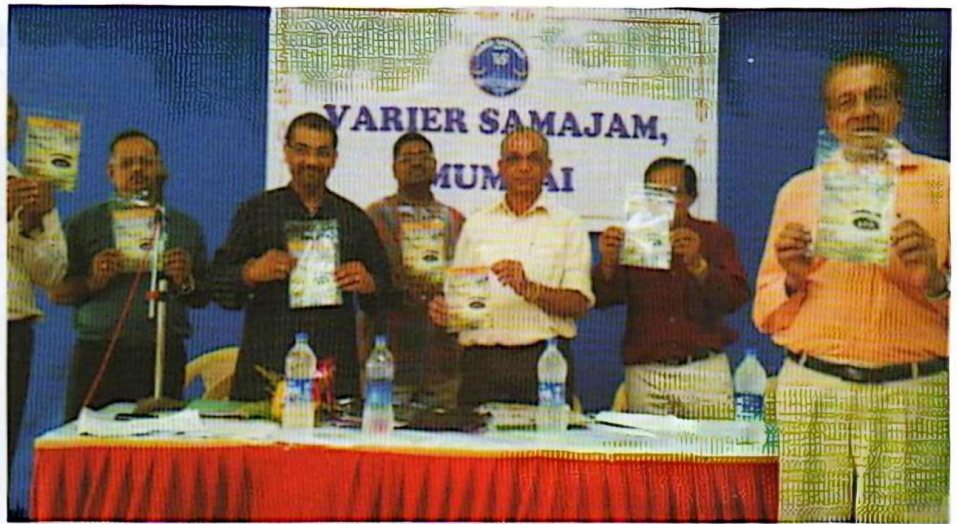
### Srikant Nair, Chief of Siva Sena South Indian Cell



Srikant Nair has been nominated Head of the Siva Sena South Indian Cell from Thane District. This is the first time that a Malayalee has been chosen to be the chief of the South Indian Division which comprises the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

# Varier Samajam Mumbai

Varier Samajam celebrated its 28th *kudumba Sangamam* and Onaghosangal on September 16 from 10 am at Sri Lakamsi Nappu Sabhagriha at Telang Road in Matunga. Dr T Sethumadhavan inaugurated the functions. Apart from the cultural programmes and felicitations of meritorious students, there was an awareness camp on eye donation.



Varier Samajam releasing the Eye donation card during the Onam function

# East Kalyan Kerala Samaj



A scene from the Malayalam Drama Alagapuri staged by students of Malayalam Mission Class during the event.

convener Jayaraj Menon and Chairman Sam Cherian. Former President KU Abraham, ladies wing President Madhavi Kutty teacher, Nair Welfare Association Youth wing members, Kannur Association members, Hindu Aikya Vedi Rajesh, SNDP Lok Kalyan Malayalee Samajam President Prasad were part of the Onam celebrations. *Alagapuri* a Malayalam Drama written and directed by KVS Nelluvai was staged during the Celebrations. Students of the Malayalam Mission class acted in this play that was well- received by the audience. The actors were children aged between 8 and 19 years and this was their first experience of acting in a play. Senior Drama actor Uma Devi was felicitated during the event.

East Kalyan Kerala Samaj celebrated Onam under President

Roy J Kottaram, Secretary VJ Raju, Onam celebrations Committee



Ladies of Kharghar Malayalee Samajam getting ready for Kaikottikali performance during the Onam celebrations

# Bombay Keraleeya Samajam

Bombay Keraleeya Samajam celebrated its Onam day with variety entertainment programme by samajam children, kaikottikali and pookalam by the ladies wing, and orchestra programme *Moods of Yesudasa* by *Saptaswara* of Mumbai. The Samajam's website was inaugurated by the Chief Guest JNPT Chairman L Radhakrishnan, IAS. Indian Express Group Chairman Vivek Goenka also attended the function. Samajam President S Venkiteswaran, Secretary Devadas G Nair spoke on the occasion and Jt Secretary Premarajan Nambiar proposed a vote of thanks.

# Digital Marriage Meet

Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi conducted its 27th Marriage Meet at its Chembur Complex for eligible boys and girls who were desirous of choosing their life-partners.

For the past few years the Samithi has switched over to digital presentation of data and photographs of men and women who participate in the Meet. The Marriage Bureau is open during weekends at the Chembur Complex, where the data of over 600 candidates (men and women) are available for scrutiny of prospective brides and grooms. The alliance meet provides an opportunity to all participants and parents to view details of men and women who participate in this meet, without having to go through the files. Chief Guest, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services MD Ramesh Iyer, inaugurated the Meet by lighting the lamp. Samithi Chairman MI Damodaran, Vice Chairman N Mohandas, VK Chundrigar, Chairman, Marriage Bureau, NS Salim Kumar General Secretary and Asst Secretary OK Prasad graced the occasion.



Lighting the lamp at the Marriage Meet by C G Ramesh Iyer along with SNMS office bearers

## Guru Jayanthi celebrations

The 158<sup>th</sup> Sree Narayana Guru Jayanti at the Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi Chembur Complex, was celebrated on September 2 from 8.30 am. The programme included Mahaguru Pooja, Samooha Prarthana, Public Meeting, Merit Award distribution, feast and Variety Entertainment.

President Emeritus Dr K K Damodaran presided over the function. Pramod Hindurao, Chairman, CIDCO was the Chief Guest and Biju Pulikkaladathu was the Chief Speaker at the public function. Around 3000 devotees participated in the function.

## Pre- Marriage Counselling

As part of its social responsibility, the SNMS is organizing its second pre-marriage counselling on 14th October from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. at Chembur Complex Seminar Hall. Well known Counselors Dr. Kamaljeet Singh, Dr. Shobha Nair and Mrs. Vandana Kulkarni will be counselling the youth.



Guru Samadhi Dinam Pooja



Chief Guest releasing Gurupatham on Guru Jayanti Day. From left: OK Prasad, Asst. Secretary, NS Salimkumar General Secretary, Chief guest Pramod Hindurao, Dr KK Damodaran, President (Emeritus), Chief Speaker Biju Pulikkaladathu, Zonal Secretary Zone No.V, Sasi Damodaran, Zonal Secretary - Zone No. III, PK Venu, Zonal Secretary Zone No. IV, AK Venugopal.

# CCCI Excellence Awards

Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry conducted their AGM and Excellence Awards 2012 Function. Ms Margaret Alva, Governor of Rajasthan was the chief guest and Father Elias Gonsalves Bishop Elect of Amaravati Diocese was the guest of honour. Prens Aprain Srampical, received the Award for Excellence as Young Entrepreneur while Oommen Chacko Founder - Director of Professional Couriers was the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Industry. The other recipients were Dr Augustine Pinto and Mrs Grace Pinto for Excellence in the field of education, Major General (Retd) Neville Rasquinha for Excellence in Civil Service, Rev Fr Cedric Prakash SJ for Excellence in Social Service, and Mrs Felicia Grace Lobo for Excellence as woman entrepreneur. The Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has crossed the 500 members milestone in Mumbai.

Prens Aprain Srampical, son of Dr PJ Aprain, after completing his Engineering Degree, did his MBA at the University of Portsmouth specialising in Strategic Marketing. Currently he has built three new ventures, Arpeo Solutions, Whitecrow Research and CV 24-7 and leads a team of 400 people across UK, India and Singapore. Oommen C Chacko along with seven friends had started Professional Couriers Pvt Ltd in 1987 of which he is the Founder Chairman and Managing Director. With the establishment of Professional International Couriers Pvt Ltd, he has extended his offices to Dubai, Kuwait, Singapore Sri Lanka and Nepal. In 2011 Chacko was awarded the Rashtriya Udyog Ratna and Quality Brands India Awards.



Prens Aprain receiving the Award from Margaret Alva, Governor of Rajasthan



Oommen Chacko receiving the Award from Governor of Rajasthan



Upendra K Menon inaugurating the South India Property Show organised by Manoj Kochery of Identity Events at Tip Top Plaza Convention Centre at Teen Haath Naka, Thane .

## New Office bearers of Kharghar NSS

The new office bearers of Kharghar Nair Service Society are Prasad V R Nair (President), Raju R Nair (Vice President), K P Surendran Nair (Secretary), V B Devan Padmanabhan (Jt Secretary), K N Kutty (Treasurer), Haridas V Nair (Jt Treasurer), Soman Nair, Gopakumar, M Haridasan, Vinod V Nair (Committee members), Sarasamma Nair and Mini Surendran (Vanita Vedi Members).

## Folk Music Competition

New Bombay Keraleeya Samajam conducted a folk music Competition in which students of the Malayalam mission classes conducted by Malayalee organizations of Navi Mumbai took part. There were 110 students divided into 13 groups. Nerul NBKS, Panvel Keraleeya Cultural Society, Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi Panvel, Khandeswar Maharashtra Malayali Association, Kharghar Kerala Samajam, Nerul Gurudevagiri, Nerul St Thomas Church, Ayyappa Seva Sangham, Sanpada, SNMS Vashi, Kairali Kala Mandal Vashi, Nerul Ayyappa Seva Sangham Malayalam students participated. NBKS Nerul won the first prize and Khandeswar Maharashtra Malayalee Association won the second prize. Nerul Gurudevagiri Malayalam class won the third prize.



The first prize winning team receiving the Award from NBKS President K Ashok Kumar

## Malayalam Foundation to felicitate Teachers

Malayalam Foundation plans to felicitate all teachers from KG, Primary, Secondary High School, College and vocational classes who are residing or working in Kalyan East for the past ten years. The felicitation will take place on Vijayadasami Day October 24. The felicitation will also be including all

Malayalam teachers under the Malayalam Mission Plan. Malayalam Foundation Vice Chairman Prof Parambil Jayakumar has requested all interested teachers to send by e mail their CV in not more than 400 words, to [malayalamfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:malayalamfoundation@gmail.com) before October 10.

## Old Students Association

Vivekodayam School (Both boys and girls) in Thrissur is forming an Old Students' Association of those who have studied in this school. It is organising a Get-together of its old students on December 23 at the school. Those interested in joining the Old Students' Association can contact through email : [vivekodayamosa@gmail.com](mailto:vivekodayamosa@gmail.com) ) or postal address : Vivekodayam Old Students Association, (Boys & Girls), c/o A Manoj Kumar, Secretary, Ad Hoc Committee, "Dwaraka", Dr A R Menon Road, Thrissur 680001. The registration fees is Rs 100.

## Tarapur Malayalee Samajam

New Managing Committee members of Tarapur Malayalee Samajam: Jayaprakash President, Mathai Simon, Secretary, Ravindran Treasurer, Subhash Madhavan PRO, Vinod Nair Jt Secretary, Gopalakrishnan TR Jt Treasurer, have been elected. SK Nair, Babu Paulose, Jayadevan Unnithan, Sudhir Menon, and K Prakash are the other Committee members.



Sayooj Rajendrakumar Pillai secured first rank in Mumbai University in Mechanical Department with 82.13 % from Pillai's Institute of Information Technology, Panvel.

## Free Heart Treatment



PD Somanathan (60), resident of Sai Kripa Complex in Mira Road (East), for the past 20 years, a heart patient will receive free treatment (which would have otherwise cost about Rs 3 lakhs) from Dr Bijoy Kutty of Platinum Hospital through the efforts of Tru Indian Information and Guidance and Matrubhumi newspaper.

## Bhajanotsavam

Namasankeerthana Dombivli East will conduct Bhajanotsavam 2012 and felicitation of Bhagavathars on November 4 at Pragati College DNC Road. The Chief Guest will be Padma Bhushan Sangeetha Kalanidhi Madurai TN Seshagopalan. The one day programme will include unchuvritthi by Srinivasan Bhagavathar (Cheenu Mama), Gurukeerthanam and Ashtapathi by Kovai S Jayaraman Bhagavathar, Krishna Leela Tharangam and Abhang by Cuddalore Gopi Bhagavathar and Namasankeerthanam by Udayalur K Kalyanaraman Bhagavathar, felicitation of bhagavathars and distribution of medical aid. In the evening Harikatha Seetha kalyanam by Padmabhushan TN Seshagopalan will be conducted. Nurani Srinivasan Bhagavathar (Palakkad) VG Parameswaran Bhagavathar (Muthumani) will be felicitated.



Dr V M Hamza, Professor Emeritus in Geophysics in Brazil, along with his wife Nair (pronounced Neyir) Miadaira visited Mumbai on September 18, they were received at the Airport by Kerala in Mumbai team P V Vijaykumar and K V Satyanath. In its December 2011 issue, KIM reported Dr Hamza's discovery of a river flowing parallel to River Amazon 4000 metres below the earth and it was named River Hamza after him. In the photo (from left) Nair Miadaira, Dr V M Hamza, K V Satyanath and P V Vijaykumar

## Malayalee Youth Camp

AIMA is organizing a one day camp for the benefit of Malayalee Youth ranging from the age group of 14 to 25 years on October 7 from 9.30 am to 6 pm at Nair Samajam Hall, Dadar Central. Dr. Alphons Kannanthanam (social activist), Sebin S. Kottaram (international motivational speaker and psychologist), Rev. Father Paul Pottakkal (marriage counsellor and sex educationalist) will address the youth.

The camp will include motivational speeches / study class by eminent speakers on Personality Development, Self improvement, Building Leadership and Positive Attitude, Human Resource Development, Career Guidance and Counselling, Psychometric Career Assessment, Sexuality Education etc. followed by Interactive Session and Motivational Movie presentation.



K Vijayakumar, Director Host International Group of Companies, Mumbai along with Amitabh Bachchan, Kalyanaraman of Kalyan Jewellers, Pattabhi Raman of Kalyan Silks and IP Paul, Mayor of Thrissur during the inauguration of Kalyan Jewellers showroom in Ahmedabad.

# Odakkuzhal Onam Meet

Odakkuzhal, Social organisation of Marol Malayalees, celebrated Onam in a grand scale. Pookkalam, community feast and cultural festivities were the main events.

Noted writer Sulochana Achan was the Chief Guest. Maharashtra Minister for Health Suresh Shetty and Municipal Councillor Pramod Sawant were also present. President John Mathew presided



Mohiniattam (above) and Folk dance (below) at full swing

over the function and he appealed to the members to meet often and plan the future activities for the

benefit of the community. Meritorious students and members who excelled in the fields of their profession were honoured. Preeti Varier (singer), P V Vijaykumar (Managing Editor of Kerala in Mumbai) and Mrs Geetha Vijayshankar (Mohiniattam Guru) were some of the personalities honoured. Children of the members presented a variety of dances while Preeti Varier and Vijaykumar enthralled the audience with their soulful songs.



Chief guest Sulochana Achan with office bearers

# Saptati of Bombay Padanna Jama-at



**Minister E Ahamed releases the Souvenir**

Bombay Padanna Jama-at has a story of years to tell. It is the story of unity among the community members. Padanna is a village in Kasargod district and there are many people from there who migrated to Bombay 70 years ago. They and their children have a story of hard work and camaraderie to convey to the younger generation. They

also contributed a great extent to the development of their village. And this fact was acknowledged by Panakkad Hyderali Shihab Thangal who inaugurated the celebrations. This unity has led them to contribute to health, educational and cultural fields of their village and it is a model for other groups coming from Kerala, Thangal

said. Central Minister E Ahamed concurred with Shihab Thangal. Jama-at President TKC Mohammed Ali presided. PM Iqbal, MC Khamaruddin, Anamangad Abdulrahiman Musliar, former minister Cherkalam Abdulla and KM Shaji MLA also spoke on the occasion.

## Kunhali Kutty turns nostalgic

Mere speeches would not lead the state to progress, said Industries Minister PK Kunhali Kutty. Investment, development plans and concerted efforts are vital for the progress of the state, he said. People who criticize our initiatives applaud the progress made by China but forget they too followed this route. When China invested and invited foreign companies to work there, China entered the path of progress, Kunhalikutty remarked. Kunhali Kutty was addressing a public conference held after the new office building of Muslim League was inaugurated by Panakkad Hyderali Shihab Thangal. He turned nostalgic and said that during his business life he used to move around the textile wholesale shops for his business. Then Bombay used to be a halting ground for people immigrating to Gulf countries. Now things have taken a turn but Muslim League is still strong. Shihab Thangal Memorial Hall was inaugurated by E Ahamed, Union Minister.



**Kunhali Kutty interacts with the visual media**

# Mumbai Pooram 2012

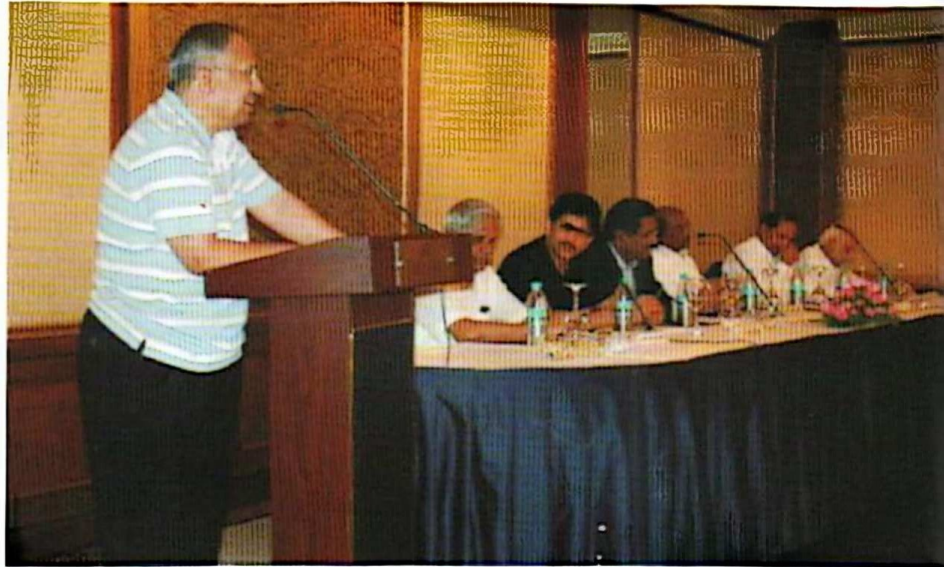
Mumbai Pooram familiarisation meeting regarding the upcoming Mumbai Pooram festival from November 9 – 11 at KDMC Stadium Ground Dombivili East, was held at the Leela on September 30. Chairman Kondath Venugopal addressed the audience giving brief about the event and seeking valuable advice and guidance from the audience. The highlight of the Pooram festival is the mega Kaikottikali where about 3000 dancers are expected to participate. Those wishing to participate must register with the Pooram Committee members before October 10. For



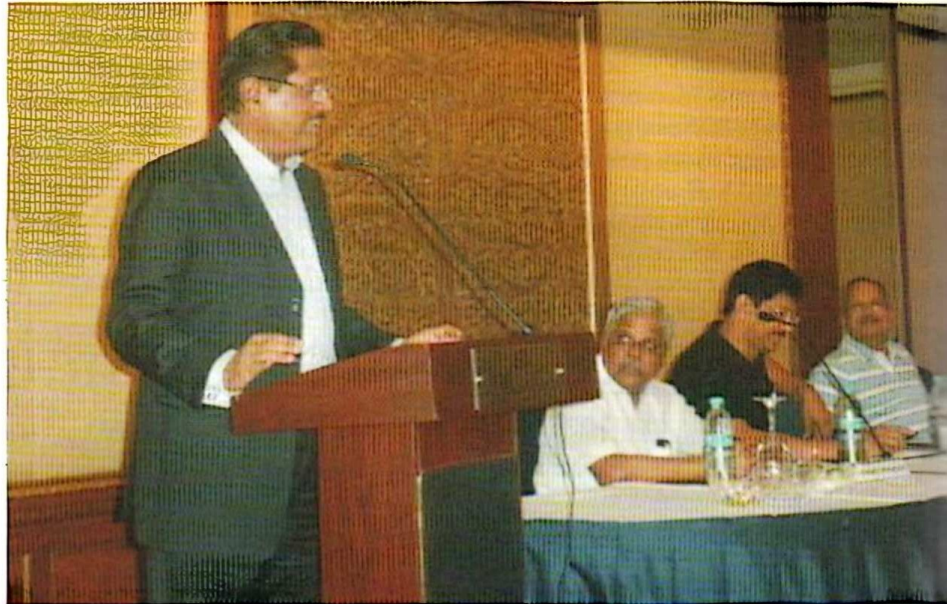
further details contact 9870125707 or visit [www.mumbaipooram.org](http://www.mumbaipooram.org).

*[In our September Issue, we mistakenly mentioned that the Kaikottikali performed during Mumbai Pooram 2011 entered the Guinness Book of World Records.*

*We wish to mention that the Kaikottikali during Mumbai Pooram 2011 entered the Limca Book of Records. We regret the error. -Editor]*



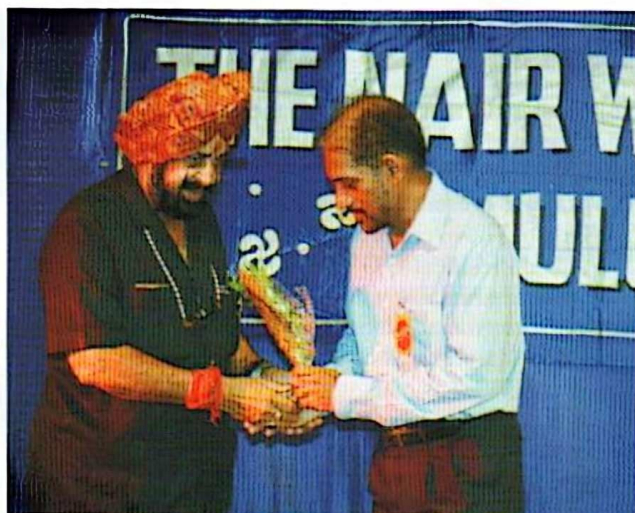
Uday Bhaskar Nair of Nair Associates from Nagpur addressing the gathering



M N Kutty Nair, CMD, MIEL-e Securities speaks on the occasion.



A view of the audience



Mulund Nair Welfare Society celebrated Onam on September 30 at Ajay Memorial Hall. left:Lighting the lamp. reght President Balachandran Menon felicitating MLA Sardar Tara Singh



View of the audience at Mulund Nair Welfare Society Onam celebrations



Chembur NSS celebrated Onam on September 30 at Cheddanager Temple Hall with variety entertainment programme

# Folk Fest 2012

Folk Fest-2012 that highlighted the importance of folk songs and folk dances, Ashtapadi accompanied by Edakka, was presented in Dombivli by Tru Indian. The event presided over by Tru Indian President C G Chandrasekharan also witnessed a *Kathaprasangam* about Sri Narayana Guru and Marathi folk dances. Folk Fest 2012 was inaugurated by B C Folklore Academy Chairman Viju Kodungalloor in the presence of Mathrubhumi's N Sreejith, Marathi dancer Sadanand Rane, K G Hari Krishnan of Gujarat Malayali Association, actor Adarsh S Nair, Kerala Charitable Foundation Chairman M V Parameswaran and Kalyan East Malayali Samajam President Roy J Kottaram.

Well known percussionist Anil Poduval, Ashtapadi dancer Lalithamani, World Malayalai Council's C P Sajeevan, Poet Nanappan Manjapra, novelist P G Johnson, MK Nawas (Kodungalloor Koottayma) and many others were felicitated.

## Malayala Thanima 2012

The Malayalee students and teachers of S.I.E.S. College Sion celebrated *Malayala Thanima 2012* on September 12 under the banner of Malayalam Association of SIES College. The event commenced with a welcome speech by Jt. Secretary of Malayalam Association Sarath Warriar and was inaugurated by SIES principal Mrs. Harsha Mehta. The Malayalam Association's Chairpersons Prof. Roy Mathew (Degree College) and Prof. Sumini Pillai (Junior college) felicitated the dignitaries. Thereafter the event reflected the nostalgia of the elder



Viju Kodungalloor, Chairman Folklore Academy lighting the lamp



Children's Folk dance at the Folk Fest

generations through Vanjipattu performed by the teaching staff and it echoed the new trends of Malayalam songs through the new generation students. Jyotsana Nair, University runner up for Mohiniattam and

secretary of Malayalam association, along with her group brought back to life the golden classics of Malayalam songs. Bharatanatyam, Malayalam skit, poetry recitation, songs, Thiruvathira, and semi-classical dances enriched the function.



Group song during the Malayala Thanima programme

# A DAY IN 'HARTAL' BOUND KERALA

KVS

**L**ast month I had an urgent need to be in Kerala for three days. I managed to get a confirmed berth in Netravati Express on 10<sup>th</sup> but failed to get a return ticket from Kerala. I got a berth in the Mangalore-Mumbai Express for 15<sup>th</sup> September. To reach Managlaore to catch that train, I should board a train from Kozhikode around 9.30 a m. And it was possible only when I planned the trip.

Events did not happen as planned. The day I reached Kerala, a bandh was declared by the LDF of Kerala for Sept 15<sup>th</sup> against diesel price hike, capping of number of subsidized gas cylinders and FDI retailing. It meant I have to change my plans. I had to leave my home town the previous afternoon for Kozhikode and stay overnight there.

I had another friend to join me on my return journey and he requested me to reserve a hotel room close to the Railway Station. I agreed and left my home at 3.30 p m as I always did whenever I visited my home. Midway many more people boarded our bus and soon it was overcrowded.

I soon realised that most of the people were heading towards Kozhikode so that they could catch the evening trains or early trains next morning. The journey was very slow as there was heavy traffic on the road and by the time our bus reached Meenchanda, two young men were complaining that they would miss their train. They were cursing the impending *bandh*.

Due to the high frequency of '*hartals*' in the state, people have now started enjoying them. Government employees and teachers who draw a fairly higher salary belong to this group. Firstly government declares a holiday for schools and colleges to ensure security

to students and transport buses do not ply because they do not want their glasses shattered and vehicles damaged or burned. Secondly, some shop keepers do good business the previous day of the *bandh*.

The angry lot comprises those who

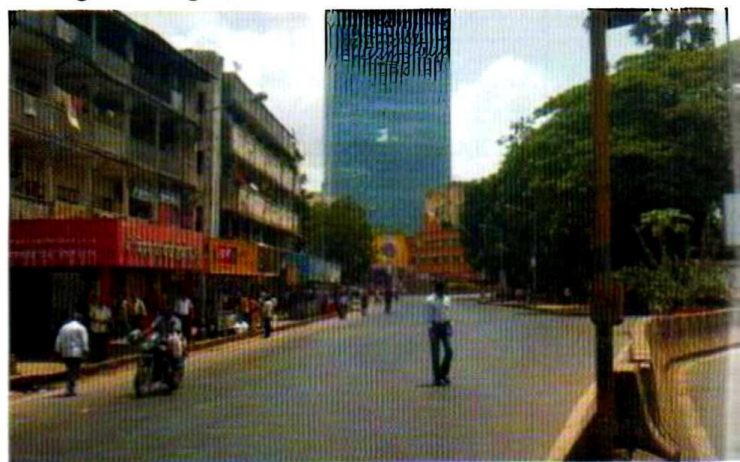


have started some work and a loss of one working day would cause them irreparable damage and those who planned family events like marriages, parties, outings etc. Though marriages, funeral processions, sale of milk and medicines are officially exempted from the *hartal*, all autos, taxis and private vehicles would not venture out. People who have relations in the hospitals also become victims and there are still

a few people who hate idling. But who cares!

I was told that once the UDF declared a bandh but withdrew it by midnight and their leaders had to bear the brunt of the people's ire as the withdrawal meant waste of chicken and liquor bought for the next day.

A co-passenger named a village near Kozhikode where no bandh was observed for more than three decades. It was stated that on the day of bandh (announced by LDF), the owner of a small tea shop opened up as usual and was doing brisk business. A group of young men sent by the organisers and led by the younger brother of the teashop owner, approached the shop with the intention of enforcing the bandh. The young leader asked his colleagues to wait on the road and approached his brother. He advised his brother to close down the teashop. The elder brother, angry, approached the younger one and slapped him forcefully shouting to him that he would 'see' him during lunch time at home. Witnessing the fierce slap, the enforcing army fled.



Shocked at the violent reaction and the consequent insult, the younger brother left the place. Other shop keepers came to know about the incident and came to the bazaar. They were sufficiently motivated to open their shops. Since then, no bandh was enforced in the village irrespective of the parties calling for it, my co-passenger told me.

The impact of the hartal was already building up. Around 7.05 p.m. our bus struggled to move forward and we were compelled to get down and catch a smaller vehicle like an auto rickshaw. Kozhikode is traditionally known for honest and sincere people but that day was an exemption. Many of the autos not willing to go in the city's direction and finally we got into a town bus that was remaining still there with its engine running. After 7.30 p.m., we reached Pushpa Junction and I decided to get down and look for a good hotel.

Alas, I was very late. All small hotels from Pushpa Junction to Palayam Junction were full and still people were knocking for rooms. Around 10.30, I managed to locate a hotel slightly inside but within walking distance of the railway station. The hotel manager was kind enough to warn us that no morning tea or breakfast would be available next day on account of *hartal* but we could walk to the railway station for our morning tea. Around 11 p.m., my friend telephoned me to tell that he has already started from Thrissur but could not identify the place he reached

as it was raining heavily. He hinted that by around 1.30 a.m., he might reach KSRTC Bus Station.

I found a book by a Mumbaipolitical leader to while away my time. It had detailed descriptions about various agitations the author had led for agricultural, industrial and political workers to get them higher remuneration, better service conditions and democratic rights. In one chapter, he criticized the Supreme Court for upholding the Kerala High Court's decision banning bandhs. The author recalled that even during the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi resorted to bandhs and as such, the appellant court's decision was fascist in nature. But he conveniently forgot to mention, that Gandhi's agitations were non-violent and not coercive. Whenever he found that his supporters resorted to violence or coercion, he withdrew his agitation, the author forgot to mention.

Exactly at 1.30 a.m. my friend called informing me that he had reached bus station. Within five minutes, he appeared before me, a testimony to the character of the auto rickshaw drivers of Kozhikode, at a cost of only Rs 30.

The stealthy walk in the morning to



the railway station for a cup of tea and later for breakfast was full of risks and until we crossed the Kerala border, we were holding our breath.

May be hartals of this kind may not be frightening to the people of Kerala but it is always scary exercise for any visitor to Kerala as it is expensive, most inconvenient and also unpredictable.

I also noticed some special features of hartals of Kerala. Often people enforcing hartals are not from the same place but sent by the organisers from elsewhere so that the local people cannot identify them later and violence is mostly pre-planned as the events are photographed by photo journalists so that next day's papers can highlight the brutal violence by the authority.

When will my beloved state wake up to a new horizon?

## Educational loans

*Kerala in Mumbai* had in its earlier issues published a few notes and even a short story on issues arising out of educational loans. The idea is indeed very good and laudable because students from poor families would benefit. Since the government does not lend the required amount but asks banks to carry out the loaning business. The banks are reluctant because loans have risky implications. Last year a bank manager confided that if loans are refused, the government would take action against the bank and if the loan is not recovered, the management takes punitive action against the Manager who lent the money. So far two suicides by students, who were refused loans on the grounds that they could not provide surety, were reported since the scheme came into force and in both cases, the managers were suspended and cases were registered against them for abetment of suicide. One manager had even had a cardiac arrest when action was

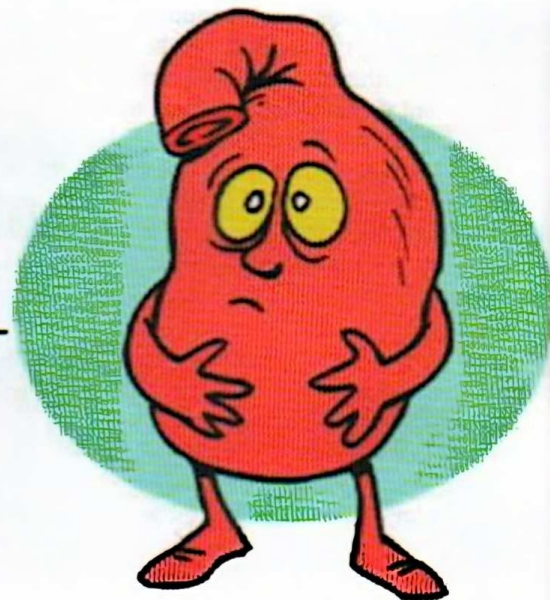
initiated against him for failure to recover the loan.

The problem is not with the loan but the insistence that even very poor students, who have no means to repay, should be advanced loans and academic merit of the student is not to be taken into account while granting it. Lower academic merit at one stage does not mean that the student cannot do better in future but it is not a rule. The crunch of the problem is that due to the populist measures taken by the political parties to win elections or to sustain administration, these loans would be waived just before the election, people believe and they desist from repaying the loan in full. The agricultural loans upto Rs.10,000 were waived twice in the past and the people took these loans returned the money, not in full but keeping Rs.10,000 with themselves, unpaid. On both the previous occasions, the state governments had to incur thousands of

crores of rupees for these waivers. When the government failed to write off these loans, there was a hue and cry and the government was severely criticized for its anti-people, anti-poor, anti-farmer attitude.

Now the figures of educational loans are out. Till June 30<sup>th</sup> this year, 36,616 students failed to repay their educational loans amounting to Rs 638.35 crore. Since the government has no stake in recovering the amount, the ministers are very cool but the banks are running for shelter. So far the banks in Kerala advanced Rs 7,268 crores including Rs 1,370 crore this year till June 30. Since the government has allowed private players to enter the field of education in a big way, students are rushing to them, not necessarily within the state but outside too and banks have no system to trace them if they choose to abscond.

# TACKLING ACIDITY



Acidity (Amlapittam) refers to a set of symptoms caused by an imbalance between the acid secreting mechanism of the stomach and proximal intestine and the protective mechanisms that ensure their safety.



Dr Reshma Kunju

■ Our stomach normally releases many different gastric secretions, which are highly acidic that is essential in the digestive process. This acid helps in breaking down the food during digestion. When there is excess production of acid by the gastric glands of the stomach, it results in the condition known as acidity.

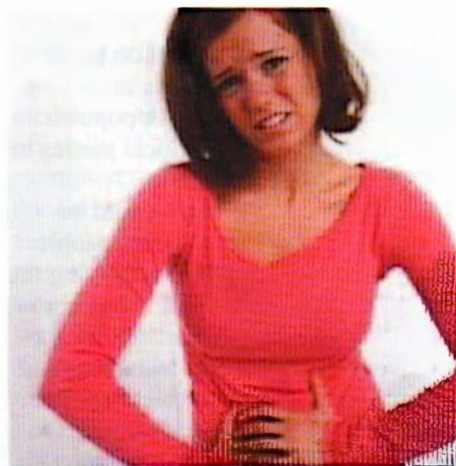
The stomach can digest things similar to its own structure and composition- like a piece of meat. But, then how come the stomach does not digest itself? What prevents the stomach from digesting itself are the cells, which form its inner lining. These cells have a special permeability barrier, which does not let anything permeate. If this is challenged with certain foods like too much tea, coffee, alcohol or certain chemical drugs, especially some pain-relieving and anti-arthritis drugs, then this will be weakened or damaged.

As a result, the highly acidic medium, which prevails in the stomach, traverses the stomach wall, causing pain and discomfort. If the same thing is repeated again and again, it may give rise to acidity and gastritis thereby inflaming the lining of the stomach. Ayurveda calls this condition as 'amla pitta'.

In Ayurveda the digestive fire is called 'Agni' and the toxins accumulated is called 'Ama'(undigested food). Agni is not a real fire, of course, but the digestive fire that breaks the chemical

bonds in our foods, making them smaller to allow vital elements and nutrients to pass through the digestive system into our cells. To understand the disease amla pitta, one has to understand the concept of 'agni'. Ayurveda has described this agni as fire of life. It has been given a pivotal place in the delicate balance between health and disease. In other words, 'agni' is the fire that cooks or digests the food.

At times, this 'agni' may be impaired due to intellectual blasphemy (prajnaaparaadha), unwholesome conjunction of sense organs with their objects (asaatmyendriyarthasamyoga) and vagaries of weather and time (kaala or parinaama). This impaired 'agni' shows effect on 'pitta', the fiery energy of the body responsible for transformation. 'Amla pitta' is the by-product of this defective process.



"It is difficult to produce fire either without fire logs or with too many fire logs occupying the whole furnace." The same is the case with digestive fire. This will be hampered either with low amounts (mandaagni) or with high amounts (teekshnaagni). Amlapitta results from teekshnaagni, says Ayurveda.

## Hetu (Causative factors of Amlapitta)

- Incompatible combination of food consumption (viruddha anna)
- Impure food (Dushta anna)
- Sour food
- Spicy food causing burning sensation like pickles, papad etc.
- Food and drinks that cause increase in pitta or acidity.
- Non-vegetarian diets
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID's)
- Excessively large amounts of acid secretion occur in certain situations, such as in a condition known as Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, in which large amounts of secretion are stimulated by tumours located in the pancreas or duodenum.
- Prostaglandins are also believed to stimulate bicarbonate and mucous production, which help protect the stomach. If any of these defence mechanisms are deficient, acid and pepsin can attack the stomach lining causing an ulcer.

## Categories in Amlapitta

In Ayurveda, Amlapitta is classified in three main categories, namely:

Urdhwaga Amlapitta (upward)

Adhoga Amlapitta (downward)

Amlapitta caused by Vata, Pitta & Kapha

### Urdhwaga (upward) Amla Pitta Symptoms

Vomiting of sour material that is similar to mutton wash, thin, sticky, followed by kapha.

Vomiting with bitter or sour taste often due to empty stomach.

Belching of similar nature.

Burning sensation in the chest, upper abdomen and throat, in the palms and soles.

Headache

Burning sensation

Loss of appetite.

Fever

Appearance of rashes.

Circular itching on the skin.

### Adhoga (downward) Amlapitta Symptoms

The symptoms are thirst, burning sensation, fainting, giddiness, diarrhea, oppression in the chest, skin Rashes.

### Amlapitta Symptoms Due to Vata, Pitta and Kapha

There are various symptoms of amlapitta or acidity, heartburn, gastritis caused by Vata, Pitta and Kapha.

Symptoms caused by vata are tremors, fainting, feeling of pins and needles, weakness, darkness before the eyes, giddiness, delusion. Amla pitta

symptoms caused by pitta are like expectoration of thick phlegm, loss of appetite, feeling of heaviness, coldness, vomiting, coating on the tongue, strength loss, skin itching, drowsiness etc.

Similarly for amla pitta caused by kapha and pitta both, the symptoms are sour and pungent tastes, burning sensation in the chest, giddiness, loss of appetite, fainting, vomiting etc.

## Investigations and Diagnosis

The clinical symptoms and history are very important aspects of diagnosis. Any present and past drug use, especially chronic use of NSAIDs, a history of family members with ulcers, alcohol consumption and smoking, stress assessment and analysis are very useful in determining the cause of the condition. A trial with acid-blocking medication is given with a four-week

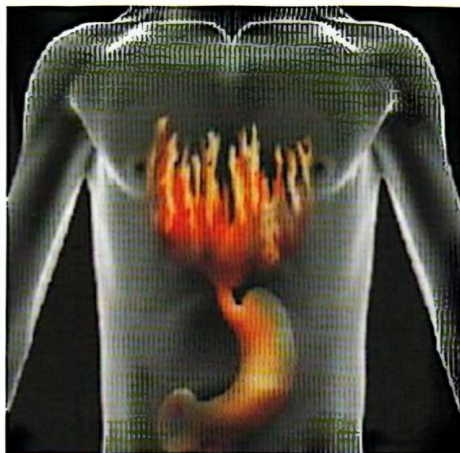
course of acid-suppressing drugs. In such cases, the symptoms may subside. If symptoms persist, then further testing is needed. Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy is done to detect the presence of ulcers. If Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome is suspected, blood levels of gastrin should be measured. Barium Meal studies are also useful as these may show inflammation, active ulcer craters, or deformities and scarring due to ulcers. If an ulcer is present, a precautionary biopsy of the ulcer is usually taken to rule out malignancy as it is not uncommon for a malignancy to manifest as an ulcer.

## Prevention

Prevention mainly consists of avoiding the known causative factors like alcohol consumption, spicy foods, drugs like NSAID's, steroids etc. Patients with highly nervous and emotional disposition and those involved in high-stress jobs must be given psychological treatment. Avoiding non-vegetarian diets is also useful in minimising symptoms of acidity.

## Treatment

Identifying and avoiding the causative factors are essential in the treatment of acidity. A suitable diet must be strictly followed avoiding spicy, salty and acidic foods. Smoking and alcohol consumption must be stopped. Those with highly nervous and emotional disposition and those involved in high-



## Symptoms and Signs of Acidity (Amlapitta)

Dyspepsia and heartburn are often the main symptoms of acidity.

Heartburn is characterised by a deeply placed, burning pain in the chest behind the sternum (breast-bone). Heartburn is not a disease, it is an eating disorder.

LES (Lower Esophageal Sphincter) is a muscle at the top of stomach. This flap type muscle opens to allow food to enter in the stomach. After food has entered in the stomach it closes to prevent acid from backing up into esophagus. When acid flares-up it forces LES to open and acid leaks into esophagus. This is when heartburn awakens.

It occurs after meals and is brought on by excess intra-abdominal pressure like lifting weights or straining. It can also occur at night on lying down and is relieved when the individual sits up. The pain is very closely related to

posture. Regurgitation of the gastric contents may also occur. The symptoms of ulcers are mainly pain that can be either localised or diffused. Sometimes it radiates to the back or to the chest. Many people around the globe suffer from heartburn at least once a week. It affects 1 in 5 adults everyday.

The most common symptom is dyspepsia, a burning or aching pain in the upper abdomen sometimes described as a "stabbing feeling penetrating through the width of the gut". Rarely, there is no pain at all, but only a feeling of indigestion or nausea. Eating a meal usually relieves the pain in duodenal ulcer, but in a gastric ulcer there may be no change, or the pain may become worse. Peptic ulcer disease can sometimes occur without symptoms.

Symptoms may also arise when there is no ulcer present, which is known as non-ulcer dyspepsia.



stress jobs must be encouraged to take lifestyle modifying measures.

### Treatment of Acidity Using Ayurveda

Ayurveda has provided herbal treatment and home remedies for various diseases, including acidity, heartburn and gastritis. There are many Ayurvedic herbal preparations to be taken under the advice of a professional Ayurveda doctor.

### Ayurvedic Medication recommended for Amlapitta

Emesis with mild emetic drugs and downward evacuation with laxatives.

After evacuation, the body of the patient should be purified and snehapana (oleation therapy) and shaman chikitsa ahara (pacificatory management) should be administered.

Anuvasana basti (or enema prepared with unctuous substances and medicament).

Samshodhan Chikitsa (evacuation) in which all the three doshas are vitiated ;for urdhvaga amlapitta (upward amlapitta):Vamana or emesis and for adhoga amlapitta (downward amlapitta): virechana (or evacuation by purgatives and laxatives).

Edibles made of yava (barley) and godhuma (wheat) should be given to patients without salt , red chilli powder or sour and pungent in taste.

Sugar and honey with Laja sattu should be regularly taken in diet.

### Home Remedies

Chewing tulsi leaves can give a big relief from acidity by calming down the burning sensation and gas.

Keep jaggery or gud in your mouth and slowly suck it till the time acidity caves in.

Eat banana, cucumber and water melon on an hourly basis.

You can also go for coriander seeds and aniseed or sauf to get instant relief from acidity.

Drink lemon juice with addition of equal amounts of salt and sugar.

Drink lemon juice with addition of equal amounts of salt and sugar.

Cocunut water is one of the natural remedies of acidity if consumed 4 to 5 times a day.

Chewing harad (terminilian chebula) after every meal is one of the popular ayurvedic remedies for acidity.

Raw garlic is the arch enemy of acidity. let it do the job for you!

Mix 1 table of chebulic myroblan with one tablespoon of amla juice and drink it daily.

Maintain an upright position for some



time after meals.

Mix 2 tablespoon of apple cider vinegar,with 2 tablespoon of honey in a glass of water and drink it before meals.

Mint juice is another contender in ayurveda treatment for acidity cures.

Reduce your diet to 3/4th of your regular diet.

Exercising is highly recommended. So after every meal, walk, twist and twirl!

Whenever you feel heartburn or acidic, eat some almonds.

Make sure that your diet is a combination of all tastes instead of focussing on just one taste.

Drink cold milk to receive instant relief from heartburn and acidity.

Food rich in fibre such as fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, pulses and seeds must be consumed. They help in digestion.

Acidic food such as pickles, vinegar, tamarinds and curds should be avoided during an acidity attack.

Fatty and oil food rich in acidic contents should be avoided while your

ayurveda for acidity schedule is in process.

Avoid drinking water immediately after eating.

Lessen the intake of tea and coffee and avoid smoking.

An elevated sleeping posture is really beneficial. By elevated we mean that your head and shoulders should be comforted on a high pillow.

At last awareness is the biggest and most effective cure for any disease or disorder. All these remedies are very effective when paired with stress-reduction, regular exercise and a bit of change in lifestyle. As mentioned above it is an eating disorder, one has to improve eating habits to cure himself. Changing a few things in lifestyle is always helpful. Take meals 2 hours before sleeping. A little change will lead to a healthy life.

### Commonly Used Ayurvedic Medicines


Choorna: Panchanimbadi, Choorna Trikautkadya Choorna, Choorna Avipattikar.

Madhu pippali yoga: Eladi Choorna, Pippali choorna with honey should be given in the morning.

Rasakalpa:Amlapittatank, Rasa Leelavilas Rasa,Sootshekhar Rasa

Ghritha:Yashtimadhu grhitha,Shatavari grhitha,Jitakadya grhitha

Avaleha:Khanda Kushmanda avaleha, Haridra khanda yoga,Pippali Khanda

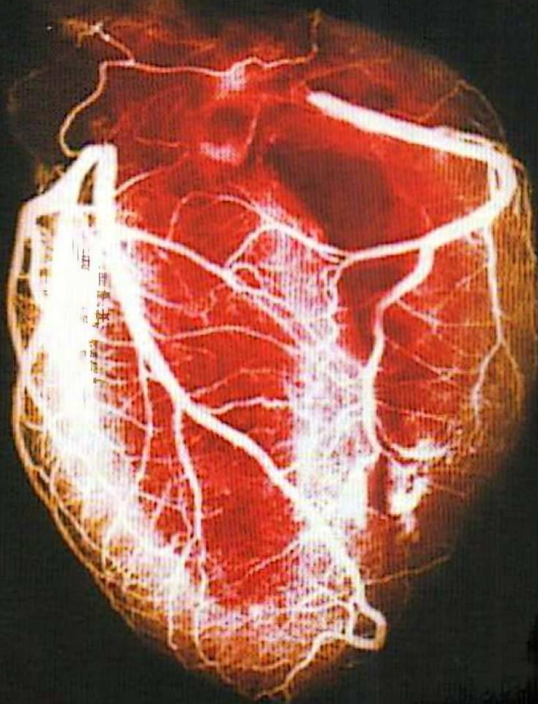


Woman Buys A New Sim Card Puts It In Her Phone And Decides To Surprise Her Husband Who Is Seated On The Couch In The Living Room. She Goes To The Kitchen, Calls Her Husband With The New Number: "Hello Darling" The Husband Responds In A Low Tone: "Let Me Call U Back Later Honey, The Dumb Lady Is In The Kitchen.. Message for mother-in-law Dear Mother-in-law, "Don't Teach me how to handle my children, I'm living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement" A man in Hell asked Devil: Can I make a call to my Wife? After making call he asked how much to pay. Devil: Nothing, Hell to hell is Free. Husband and Wife are like two tyres of a vehicle. If one punctures, the vehicle can't move further Moral: Always Keep a SPARE TYRE..

"An Intelligent Wife Is One Who Makes Sure She Spends So Much That Her Husband Can't Afford Another Women"  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Wife: yesterday-night I saw a dream that you were sending me jewellery and clothes!  
Husband: yeah, I saw your dad paying the bill!!!  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Doctor: Madam, your husband needs rest and peace, so here are some sleeping pills. Wife: Doc, when should I give them to him?  
Doctor: They are for you.!!  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Have a Healthy Heart

Dr Ajit Menon is a qualified cardiologist, specialized in Interventional cardiology, performing angiography and angioplasty in several reputed hospitals of Mumbai. He is a name to reckon with in Mumbai's cardiac health scenario.



**D**r Ajit Menon's unassuming appearance hides a person with skilled hands who has treated patients with cardiac problems and given them a fresh lease of life. His forefathers hail from Irinjalakuda, have lived for a long time in Chalakudy, but Ajit Menon was brought up and educated in Mumbai. He completed his education at Chembur Karnataka High School, Junior College in SIES College and did his MBBS and MD at Lokmanya Tilak Medical College in Sion. He was a rank holder in his exams. After his MD, Ajit Menon did his DM specializing in cardiology from JJ Hospital in 1990. In 1993 he did a two year fellowship course in cardiology at



**Dr Ajit Menon**

Royal Adelaide Hospital affiliated to University of South Australia.

On his return, Dr Ajit started working at Cumballa Hill Hospital in Kemps' Corner, Lilavati Hospital, Saifee Hospital and Seven Hills Hospital. Dr Ajit Menon's father is KR Menon who retired as a scientist from BARC and his mother is Valsala Menon. Dr Ajit Menon's wife is Jae, a Maharashtrian, and they have a daughter Kavya who is doing her Std XII at St Xavier's. Jae is an MD in Medicine, from (Sion Medical College) and she is working as CMO for Munich Re (a German based Re-Insurance Company in Mumbai). The family goes regularly to Kerala to meet their relations and keep in touch with their roots.

## Tips from Dr Ajit Menon for a healthy heart

Coronary artery disease is a major cause of death in India and is growing exponentially over the past few years. The number of younger people falling prey to this illness is also increasing. This disease is essentially preventable to a large extent if adequate care is taken, as far as our lifestyle, dietary habits and exercise levels are concerned.

### RISK FACTORS

The major risk factors for heart disease can be classified into two sub groups.

#### i) Modifiable

The various modifiable risk factors are high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity,

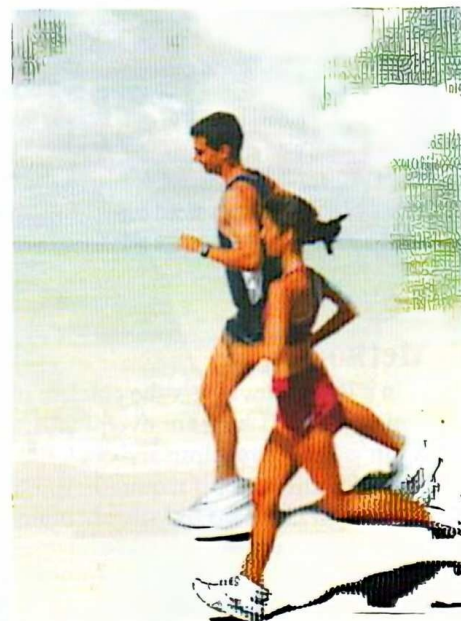
sedentary lifestyle, smoking, high cholesterol and triglycerides, etc. These are all risk factors which can be modified by us on a day to day basis.

#### ii) Non-modifiable

Amongst the non-modifiable risk factors are age, sex of the patient, wherein males are more prone to developing heart disease than the pre-menopausal female counterparts.

#### iii) Family history

Family history plays a large part in determining the preponderance to heart disease and since we cannot change our genetic tree, this is something which we have to live



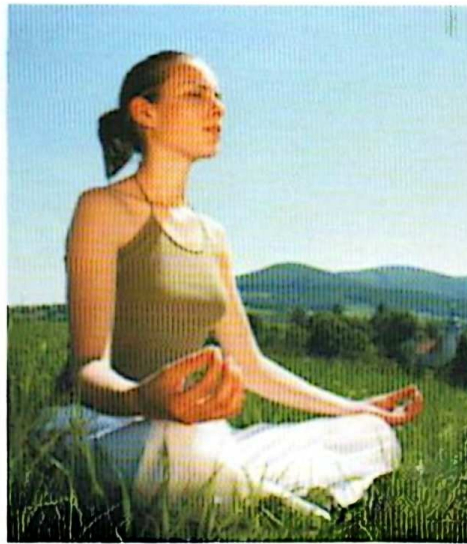
with.

Indian diets are essentially high in fats and carbohydrates and genetically we are prone to have lesser amount of good cholesterol in the blood and a high level of triglycerides which is a form of fat. This predisposes the Indian population to a higher risk of developing heart blockages or coronary artery disease.

## LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Certain modifications can help in achieving a healthy lifestyle and reducing the risk of heart disease.

1) Have a healthy diet which is low in fat especially saturated fat and moderate in carbohydrate and high in proteins. Saturated fats are those fats which solidify in cooler temperatures like coconut oil, palm oil, etc. The healthy oil is a mixture of poly unsaturated oils (sunflower oil, corn oil and rice granule oil) and mono unsaturated oils (groundnut oil). The mixture of these oils is good for regular Indian cooking.



Olive oil is an excellent source of unsaturated fats, but virgin olive oil is not good for Indian cooking since it has a very low boiling point.

2) Regular exercises on a daily basis (walking, cycling, and swimming) is

recommended.

3) If you are beyond the age of 40, you can have a regular check-up which includes your blood levels cholesterol and triglycerides and try and maintain the cholesterol within healthy limits as recommended by your doctor depending on your risk profile.

4) Quit smoking.

5) Avoid obesity and try and maintain ideal body weight.

## HANDLING STRESS

Stress is an integral part of everyone's life and is common to be a major risk factor. It is not stress which matters, but reaction to stress that decides the outcome. Try and manage stress as effectively as possible. Yoga, meditation and stress relaxation technique can help you overcome a lot of difficulties. Realize that health is an integral part of living and realize that you have only one life and live it to the maximum.

# Recipe for Kerala style chicken fry



Manoj Nair

### For marination :

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chicken Drumstick (leg piece)       | : 12 nos.                         |
| Red Chilly Powder                   | : 3 tbsp.                         |
| Coriander powder                    | : 3 tbsp.                         |
| Gram Masala                         | : 2 tbsp.                         |
| Coarsely ground Black Pepper Powder | : 2 tbsp.                         |
| Cumin powder /                      | : 1 tsp.                          |
| Garlic                              | : 8-10 pods (crushed)             |
| Ginger                              | : 2 inch piece thread like sliced |
| Lemon Juice                         | : 2 big lemons                    |
| Salt                                | : to taste                        |

### To Fry :

Onion : 1 large onion thin sliced cup  
Green Chillies : 10 to 12 centre slit  
Curry Leaves : handful  
Oil : 40 ml

### Method

- 1) In a large bowl, mix the chicken pieces with all the ingredients for marination and cover the bowl and refrigerate for a minimum of 1 hour or overnight.
2. In a saucepan, close and cook the marinated chicken pieces until tender. Sprinkle little water if required. And continue to cook on simmer.
3. Heat oil in a pan, add sliced onions, green chillies, curry leaves and now saute' the chicken pieces for about 5 minutes until crispy.
4. Serve hot as a starter or evening snack to be savored this season



YOUNG TALENT

# AISHWARYA RAMESH

## Sensitive Dancer

**A**ishwarya Ramesh, SYJC Science student studying at Thakur College of Science and Commerce is a Bharatanatyam dancer who has won several prizes at various dance competitions, the most prestigious being the Chairman's Award for Solo performance in Bharatanatyam at Cuttack Orissa's All India Drama Dance and Music Competition. She has been learning dance from the

age of four under the guidance of Ms Swapna Dongre and Mrs Radhika Parulekar and later under Smt Mayuri Kharat.

She has also learnt Carnatic Music for nine years under the able guidance of Guru Bhawani Ramachandran. Aishwarya performed her dance arangettram in November 2011. Her role model is the dancer-actor Shobhana and hopes one day 'to dance like her.'

Aishwarya excels in her studies, scored a distinction in SSC and aspires to become a research scientist. She did her schooling at Thakur Vidya Mandir High School in Kandivali. Aishwarya was born and brought up in Mumbai. Her father Ramesh Arjun

belongs to Ettumanur in Kottayam and works as Senior Executive in a chemical company while her mother Vindhya Ramesh belonging to Palakkad works as Asst Manager in NABARD. The family lives in Thakur Complex, Kandivali.



# PANI THEERATHA VEEDU (1973)

(പണി തീരാത്ത വീട്)

Lyrics: Vayalar Rama Varma Music: M S Viswanathan  
Singer: P Jayachandran

Rohini



Vayalar Rama Varma



M S Viswanathan



P Jayachandran

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ജ്യോതിർമയിയാം ഉഷസ്സിന് വെള്ളി-  
ച്ചാമരം വീശും മേഘങ്ങളേ (സുപ്രഭാതം)  
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നിന്റെ നാലുകെട്ടിന്റെ പടിപ്പുരമുറ്റത്ത് ഞാനെന്റെ  
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വനസരോവരമേ

സരോവരമേ... സരോവരമേ...  
നിന്റെ നീലവാർമുടി പുരുളിന്റെയറ്റത്ത്  
ഞാനെന്റെ പൂ കൂടി ചൂടിച്ചോട്ടെ(നീലഗിരിയുടെ)

*Pani theeratha veedu* (unfinished house) is a well known novel by Parappurathu who started his writings based on his experiences in army but later diverted to social themes. He wrote the screenplay and dialogue for this movie. It was directed by K S Sethumadhavan. Prem Nazir, Bahadur, Jose Prakash, Prem Prakash, Veeran, Nandita

Bose, Sobhana (Roja Ramani), Adoor Bhavani, Adoor Pankajam and Saraswathi were the main actors.

There were 7 songs and they were rendered by Suseela, L R Easwari, Latha Raju, P Jayachandran and M S Viswanathan. 'Kannuneer thulliye penninotupamicha' was a popular song among them and it was rendered by M S Viswanathan.



# Thilakan, repertory of histrionics, dead

**R**enowned Malayalam stage and film actor K Surendranath Thilakan died at a private hospital following a cardiac arrest during the early hours of September 24. He was 77. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.

Thilakan had been battling for life at the hospital where he was admitted on August 23 after he had suffered two heart attacks. He had been on and off ventilator since then and had an attack of pneumonia.

Thilakan, who began his acting career in his intermediate college days, was associated with several drama troupes in his early days including the pro-Left KPAC. Though he entered films in 1973 through 'Periyar', he was noticed only when K G George's 'Ulkadal' was released in 1979.

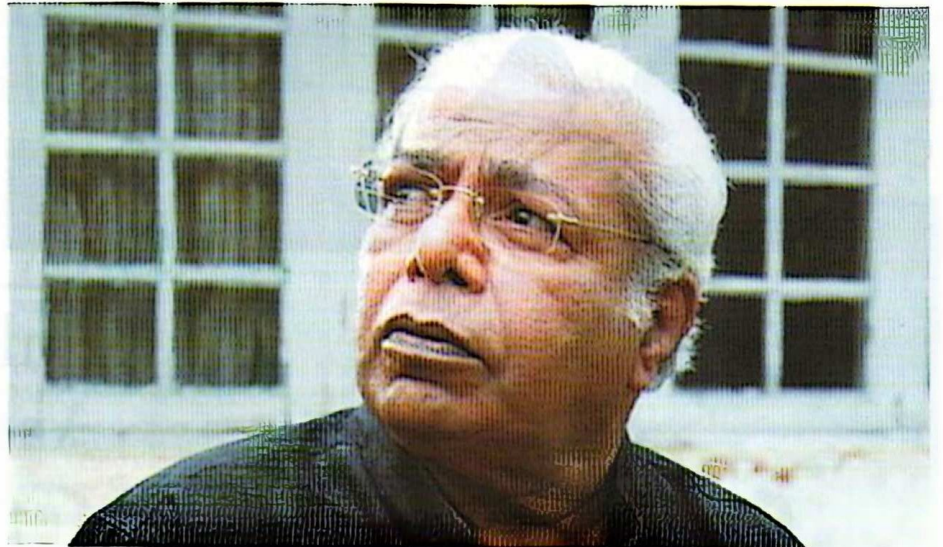
Since then, he had acted in more than 200 films and won several national and state awards. He won the National Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1988 (*Rithubhedangal*). One of his most memorable roles was in 'Perunthachan.'

He had won state awards for best actor thrice. The actor was awarded the 'Padmashree' in 2009.

Despite his long association with theatre, Thilakan became a household

name only after his foray into Malayalam cinema. His first role as a lead character was as Kallu Varkey, a drunkard in *Kolangal* (1981). Thilakan established himself as an actor after he got his first State Award in 1981 for his role in K G George's *Yavanika*. He has also acted in other South Indian

*Kireedam, Sphadikam, Narasimham, Evidam Swargamanu, Pavithram and Chenkol*. He has also played fatherly roles to other popular actors, including Mammooty in *Sangham, The Truth, No. 1 Snehatheeram Bangalore North* and *Pallavur Devanarayanan*, with Jayaram in *Veendum Chila Veettu Karyangal* and *Sandesam*, with Dileep in *Meenathil Thaalikettu*, with Kunchacko Boban in *Aniyathi Pravu* and with Prithviraj in *Sathyam*. He also played several negative roles. His roles of an underworld don in *Randam Bhavam, Karma* and *Kaalal Pada* were memorable. He has played comical roles in films like *Nadodikkattu* and *Pattanapravesham* (as a coward underworld don), *Mookkilla Rajyathu* (as a breakout from a mental hospital), *Kuttettan* (as a womanizer) and *Naaduvazhikal* (as a good-for-nothing, vain person). He has played lead roles in many movies including *Ekantham, Perumthachan, Santhanagopalam,*



language movies. Thilakan has portrayed a wide range of characters. The most popular roles have been with Mohanlal when they portrayed a father-son duo. These included

*Kaattukuthira, My Dear Muthachan, Mukhamudra* (double role), etc.

Before his death, Thilakan acted in two memorable movies *Ustad Hotel* and *Spirit*.

## Script writer TA Shahid dead

Noted Malayalam film script writer T A Shahid died on September 28 at Kozhikode.

41-year-old Shahid breathed his last at a private hospital where he was undergoing treatment for sometime for liver related diseases.

His brother T A Razak is also an established script writer.

Shahid began his career in films as an assistant director in 'Cheppidi Vidya'. 'Matsaram' was the first film for which

he had written the script. Shahid had penned scripts for hit films like Mammooty-starrer 'Rajamanikyam' and 'Bus Conductor', Mohanlal's 'Balettan', 'Nattu Rajavu', 'Mambazhakkalam' and 'Alibhai', Dileep's 'Pachakkuthira', Kalabhavan Mani's 'Ben Johnson' and Prithviraj's



'Thanthonni' etc. 'MLA Mani Patham classum gusthiyum' is his last sript.

Shahid was born in 1971 in Thurakkal, near Kondotti to Thamarasseri Ahmed Kutty and Vazhayil Khadeeja. He is survived by his wife Sheeja (Head nurse, Kottaparambu Govt Hospital) and daughters Akhila and Alida. His other siblings are Suhra, Kunhikoya and Abdul Nazar.

# Blessy shoots Shwetha's delivery

**R**enowned Malayalam director Blessy had been waiting for almost six months to have these gracious moments on camera. He had been reworking on his scripts. Sequences were added and deleted to suit the lady who daringly agreed to him to shoot her pregnancy and delivery of baby.

The award winning actress Shwetha Menon who found this a memorable feat to allow the divine process to be shot on film, was admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital one week before her delivery. This was followed by the director and his camera crew headed by Jibu Jacob flying down to Mumbai. They shot for days with Shwetha,

communicating intensively with her baby inside the womb. The crew even visited the operation theatre where the delivery was going to happen, talked with the doctors there, marked their positions of activity to suit their camera's set up, installed the necessary machinery and waited. On September 27, by 5.27, all their efforts got fulfilled as Shwetha delivered her beautiful baby girl before the camera. The crew shot for



more than twenty minutes with the help of three cameras in the operation theatre. It was a normal delivery. This was the first time in India, a known film actress agreeing to deliver her baby before a camera, though two Hindi movies showed live deliveries in early seventies.

As the baby and Shwetha were keeping good health in the company of Shwetha's husband Sreevatsan Menon, Blessy flew back to Chennai to edit the sequences which would be used in his new movie 'Kalimannu' (Clay). Produced by Thomas Thiruvalla, Kalimannu will have Biju Menon in the male lead.



## Simhasanam



**S**imhasanam of Prithviraj is directed by Shaji Kailas. Vandana and Aishwaray are the heroines of this film. This film tells the story of relationship of father and his son. After the unexpected death of his father all affairs handled by his father comes on his head and the problems regarding with them is the thread of this film. Sai Kumar, Thilakan, Siddhique, Manianpillai Raju are the other artistes. The film is produced by Chandhrashekharan under the banner of Malavika productions. The film is likely to be released on 17th October 2012.

## Pullippulikalum Aattinkuttiyum

**L**al Jose, Kunchacko Boban and Sindhu Raj team is busy making the film *Pullippulikalum Aattinkuttiyum* (Leopards and lamp) after their successful movie *Elsamma enna Aankutti*. This movie tells the story of four brothers of which the youngest is played by Kunchacko Boban. He is victim of all the pranks played by the elder brothers.

The actors playing the other brothers are yet to be finalized. The location is Kuttanad. The earlier movie *Elsamma* .... was responsible for the make over for Kunchacko as he shed the image of chocolate hero.



# Molly Aunty her best character of last decade: Reavati

**A**mong all the roles she handled during the last Ten years, Molly Aunty of *'Molly Aunty Rocks'* was the best, remarked famed actress Revati. Only one or two roles were a challenge and the remaining were routine, she said. Revati was addressing a press conference.

She knew many women who closely resemble Molly Aunty, her own mother and a friend in Kuwait closely resembled the character and they were an inspiration while enacting the role. They gave more importance to other people's concerns than of their own, she said.

During the shooting, many days she could not sleep as that character haunted her. In the past, Malayalam movies often brought female characters of 40-

45 years and most of them were having a link to either husbands, children or even men with whom they had extra marital relationships. But Molly was different from them and she was linked to problems associated with their career.

The inspiration to create Molly Aunty came from a clerk working in a Bank in Ernakulam, Director Ranjit Shankar stated. From



that character, all other characters were developed.

## Mohanlal as Nambi Narayanan

**T**he life story of Nambi Narayanan, the scientist of ISRO who was framed in a spy case while working there, is becoming a movie. It is directed by writer-director Anand Narayanan Mahadevan, who won national award for his screenplay in 2010.

This movie is a bilingual, in Malayalam and Hindi and Mohanlal enacts the role of the top scientist. Other artistes are yet to be finalized.

The screenplay is prepared after many meetings with Nambi Narayanan. His mental and physical sufferings during his imprisonment are the main theme of the film.



Mohanlal and Nambi Narayanan

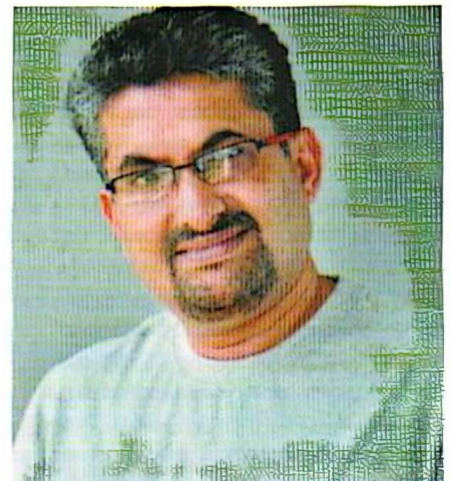
## Lal Jose and Srinivasan to team up

**A**fter *'Oru Marhavathur Kanavu'*, Lal Jose is again going to direct a film for which Srinivasan writes the story. It is titled *'Vataka kolayali'*. After *Marhavathur Kanavu*, Lal Jose is considered a hit maker of Malayalam movie land. The artistes are yet to be decided. Lal Jose is now busy with Prithviraj and Naren starrer *'Ayalum Njanum Thammil'* (between he and me) and Mammooty starrer *'Immanuel'*. After their completion, this new film will start shooting.



## 'English' by Shyamaprasad

**S**hyamaprasad will shoot his next Malayalam film entirely in England. Titled *'English'*, this movie tells the story of a few Malayalees permanently settled there. Ajay Venugopal writes the screenplay. The main actors are Jayasurya, Navin Pauli, Mukesh, Nadia Moidu and Ramya Nambissan. The film is expected to highlight the problems of migrants and their phases through love, separation and motherhood.



# ഒരു വിവേകയാത്ര

ശ്രീ ഉദ്ദവ ഉവാച  
നമോസ്തു തേ മഹായോഗിൻ പ്രപന്നമനുശായി മാം  
യഥാ ത്വചരണാംഭോജേ രതിഃ സ്യാദനപായിനീ.

ശ്രീ ഗോവാനുവാച  
ഗച്ഛോദ്ധവ! മായാഭിഷ്ടോ ബഭ്രുവാഖ്യം മമാശ്രമം  
തത്ര മൽപാദതീർത്ഥമാദേ സ്നാനോപസ്ഥർശനൈഃ ശുചിഃ  
ഈക്ഷയാളകനന്ദായാ വീധൃതാശേഷ കല്മഷഃ  
വസാനോ വൽക്കലാനുഗ! വന്യഭൃക്സുഖനിസ്പൃഹഃ

## തുടക്കം

ബാല്യകാലം മുതലേ ശ്രീബദരിനാമനെക്കുറിച്ചു കേട്ടിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും ഭാഗവതത്തിലെ ഏകാദശത്തിൽ ശ്രീ ഗോവാൻ ഉദ്ധവനെ തന്റെ പാദുകങ്ങളും കൊടുത്ത് എന്റെ വിശാലമായ ലോകത്തിലേക്ക് പൊയ്ക്കൊള്ളൂ എന്ന് അനുഗ്രഹിച്ച് യാത്ര അയക്കുന്ന, വിശാലമായ ആ ലോകം സങ്കല്പങ്ങളിൽമാത്രം നിറഞ്ഞുനിൽക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. ശ്രീ വിശാൽനാമന്റെ പുണ്യസങ്കേതമായ ഈ ദേവഭൂമി ഒരിക്കലേ കിലും സന്ദർശിക്കണമെന്ന ഉൽക്കടമായ ആഗ്രഹത്തിന് പ്രചോദനമായത് ശ്രീ തപോവനസ്വാമികളുടെ ഹിമഗിരി വിഹാരം എന്ന പുസ്തകമായിരുന്നു. ശ്രീ പി ആർ നാമന്റെ കന്യാകുമാരിമുതൽ ഹിമാലയംവരെ എന്ന പുസ്തകവും ശ്രീ എം കെ രാമചന്ദ്രന്റെ തപോഭൂമി ഉത്തരഖണ്ഡം ആവർത്തിച്ചു വായിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഈ മോഹം ആഗ്രഹമായിത്തീർന്നു. ഈ സമയത്താണ് ശ്രീ വിവേകാനന്ദ ദ്രാവൽസിന്റെ പരസ്യം പത്രങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുന്നത്. അവസരങ്ങൾ വാതിലിൽ മുട്ടുമ്പോൾ പുറം തിരിഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കരുത് എന്ന മഹദ്വചനം പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കാനായിരുന്നു പിന്നീടുള്ള ശ്രമം. ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ ഘടനയിൽനിന്ന് പതിനഞ്ചുഭവസങ്ങളോളം വിട്ടു നിൽക്കുക എന്നത് അല്പം മനഃക്ലേശം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതായിരുന്നു. മാത്രമല്ല, പ്രിയപ്പെട്ടവരെല്ലാം ഒത്തുകൂടുന്ന ഓണക്കാലത്ത് കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും മാറി നിൽക്കുക എന്നതും അല്പം മനഃപ്രയാസം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഒരവസ്ഥയായിരുന്നു. ഈ ചിന്ത ഒരു ചോദ്യപിന്നായി രൂപം

പ്രാപിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പെ, യാത്രക്കുവേണ്ട പ്രോത്സാഹനമായി കൂടും ബാംഗളൂർ മുന്നോട്ടു വന്നപ്പോൾ അതും ഒരു ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹമായിത്തോന്നി. ശുഭസ്യ ശീലം എന്ന രീതിയിലായി തുടർന്നുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം.

ബന്ധുക്കളോടും മറ്റു സുഹൃത്തുക്കളോടും ഹിമാലയയാത്രയെക്കുറിച്ചു സംസാരിച്ചപ്പോൾ അവരിൽ പ്രകടമായ ആശ്ചര്യവും ആശങ്കയുമെല്ലാം ക്രമേണ ഒരനുഗ്രഹമായി പരിണമിക്കുകയാണുണ്ടായത്.

ശ്രീ പൂർണ്ണത്രയീശന്റെയും എറണാകുളത്തപ്പന്റെയും ചോറ്റാനിക്കരയമ്മയുടെയും അനുഗ്രഹാശിസ്സുകളോടെ സെപ്തമ്പർ 4-ാം തിയ്യതി എറണാകുളം സെന്റ് സ്കോളാസ്നിൽനിന്നും ആരംഭിച്ച മംഗളയാത്ര പേരിനെ അന്വർത്ഥമാക്കി വിധം മംഗളകരവും ആനന്ദപ്രദവുമായിരുന്നു. യാത്രാതീരുമാനിച്ചപ്പോൾ മനസ്സിൽ അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട പരിഭ്രമം കലർന്ന ഒരുതരം ഏകാന്തത ക്രമേണ മഞ്ഞുരുകുന്നതുപോലെ നിശ്ശേഷം ഇല്ലാതായിത്തീർന്നു. തികച്ചും ഭാഗ്യമെന്തെന്ന് പറയാവുന്ന ഇത്തരം അനുഭവങ്ങളുടെ ഘോഷയാത്ര വിസ്തൃതമായി അവശേഷിക്കുന്നു.

യാത്രാസംവിധാനങ്ങളിൽ പഴുതുകളൊന്നുമില്ലാത്തവർ ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്ത് പരിചയവും പ്രാഗത്ഭ്യവും നേടിയ വിവേകാനന്ദയുടെ നേതൃത്വം യാത്രക്കടിസ്ഥാനമായി ശുഭാപിത്വിശ്വാസവും ആത്മവിശ്വാസവും നൽകിപ്പോന്ന പല സ്നേഹനുകളിൽനിന്നു പുറപ്പെട്ട - പല കൈവഴികളിലൂടെ ചെറുപുഴകൾ ഒരു വലിയ നദിയാകുന്നതുപോലെ യാത്രികരും കേരളാതിർത്തി വിട്ടുനടന്നതിനുമുമ്പെ സൗഹൃദത്തിന്റെ ശീതളിമയാർന്ന ഒരു വിശേഷപ്രവഞ്ചത്തു



രമ ആർ. പിഷാരടി

എത്തിയിരുന്നു.

ഹരിതഭംഗികളുടെ മായികാനുഭൂതികൾ പകർന്നുതന്ന കൊങ്കൺ റയിൽവെയിലൂടെയുള്ള യാത്ര അത്യപൂർവമായ ഒരനുഭവമായിരുന്നു.

സൗഹൃദങ്ങൾ വിടർന്ന പ്രഭാതങ്ങളിലൂടെ, ക്ഷേമാന്വേഷണങ്ങളിലൂടെ കടന്നുപോയ മദ്ധ്യാഹ്നങ്ങളിലൂടെ, ആത്മീയ സംസ്കാരം ഉണർത്തിയ സായാഹ്നങ്ങളിലൂടെ, സെപ്തമ്പർ 6-ാ തിയ്യതി നിസാമുദ്ദീൻ സ്റ്റേഷനില്പിറങ്ങുമ്പോൾ അനന്ത ബത മേ വിത്തം എന്ന ഉപനിഷത്പചനം ഓർമ്മയിലെത്തി. അതെ, ഞാൻ സമ്പന്നയാണ്. അനന്തമായ സമ്പത്തിന്റെ ഉടമ. മനസ്സുതുറന്ന സൗഹൃദവും ഒരു അപൂർവഭാഗ്യമാണ്. വഴിയാത്രയിലെ ഇത്തരം സൗഹൃദം ക്ഷണികമാകാം, അത്യുമല്ലെങ്കിൽ താൽക്കാലികമാകാം, ഒരൂപക്ഷേ നിതാന്തസൗഹൃദത്തിനുള്ള നാദിയുമാകാം.



**Akshardham in Delhi**

ഡൽഹിയിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സംഘം ആദ്യം സന്ദർശിച്ചത് ഭഗവാൻ സ്വാമിനാരായണന്റെ അക്ഷർധാം ക്ഷേത്ര സമുച്ചയമായിരുന്നു. മനോജ്ഞമായ യമുനാതീരത്ത് 30 ഏക്കർ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത്തിൽ ഒരു നിത്യവിസ്മയമെന്നോണം സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്ന അക്ഷർധാം ക്ഷേത്രമൊരുക്കുന്നത് അവിസ്മരണീയമായ ഒരു ഭൃശ്യവിരുന്നാണെന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത പ്രതിപാദിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ല. അക്ഷർധാമിലെ മായിക ശബ്ദപ്രകാശനിയന്ത്രണസംവിധാനങ്ങളുടെ വിശേഷാനുഭവങ്ങൾ നുകരാൻ കഴിയാത്തതിൽ അല്പം നിരാശയുണ്ടായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും മനസ്സുകളെ പ്രാണായാമം ശീലിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ആ ഭൃശ്യാനുഭവം മായാത്ത ചിത്രങ്ങൾ വരച്ചിട്ടിരുന്നു. മാറ്റുരക്കാനാവാത്ത അനുഭൂതികൾ സമ്മാനിച്ച അക്ഷർധാം ക്ഷേത്രസന്ദർശനത്തിനുശേഷം ഞങ്ങൾ താമസസ്ഥലത്തെത്തി. കൂളിയും അത്താഴവും കഴിഞ്ഞ് ഡൽഹിയുടെ സിരാകേന്ദ്രമായ കരോൾബാഗിലെ കാഴ്ചകൾ കണ്ടുനടന്നു. ഇതിനിടെ ചിലർ അത്യാവശ്യം ഷോപ്പിങ്ങും നടത്തി. ട്രെയിനിലെ വിരസമായ ക്ഷേണത്തിൽനിന്നും മോചനം കിട്ടിയ അന്ന് വിവേകാനന്ദ തികച്ചും സ്വാഭാവിഷ്ടവും വിവേസമൃദ്ധവുമായ ക്ഷേണം നൽകാൻ പ്രത്യേകം

ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതും തനിമയാർന്ന കേരളീയ ശൈലിയിൽ. ക്രമേണ ക്രമേണ ഡൽഹിയുടെ അന്തരീക്ഷത്തിലേക്ക് അലിഞ്ഞലിഞ്ഞില്ലാതായി. യാത്രാക്ഷീണത്തിൽ നിദ്രാഭേദിയുടെ കരങ്ങളിൽ വീണുറങ്ങി.

ഉന്മേഷസുഖമോയ 7-ാം തിയ്യതി ഞായറാഴ്ച പ്രഭാതം ക്ഷീണമകറ്റിയ ഉറക്കം ഉത്സാഹനിമിഷങ്ങളുമായെത്തി. പ്രാതലിനുശേഷം രാവിലെ 8.15-നു തന്നെ ഡൽഹി കാഴ്ചകൾ കാണാൻ പുറപ്പെട്ടു.

## ഡൽഹി കാഴ്ചകൾ

പുവപ്പുകോട്ട (റെഡ് ഫോർട്ട്), കോട്ടയ്ക്കകത്തെ സവിശേഷതയാർന്ന സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യദിന പരേഡ് നടക്കുന്ന മൈതാനം, ദിവാനി ആം (പബ്ലിക് കോർട്ട് യാർഡ്), ദിവാന്ഘോസ് (പ്രൈവറ്റ് കോർട്ട് യാർഡ്), നൃത്തമണ്ഡപം (രംഗമഹൽ) തുടങ്ങിയവയെല്ലാം ഒരു മുഗൾ സുവർണ്ണകാല സ്മൃതിയൊരുക്കുന്നു. മുഗൾ സ്മൃതികളുടെ ചിറകടികളുണർത്തുന്ന പ്രാവുകളും, മുഗൾതോട്ടങ്ങളുടെ ബാക്കിപത്രമായി

അവശേഷിക്കുന്ന പുന്തോട്ടങ്ങളും മനസ്സിൽ തങ്ങി നിൽക്കുന്ന ഭൃശ്യങ്ങളാണ്. പിന്നീട് ഞങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിച്ചത് ബഹായ് മതക്കാരുടെ ആരാധനാലയമായ താമരക്ഷേത്രം (ലോട്ടസ് ടെമ്പിൾ) ആണ്. ശീലുസൗകുമാര്യത്തിന്റെ അനന്യതകൾ പ്രതിഫലിപ്പിക്കുന്ന താമരയുടെ രൂപത്തിലുള്ള ക്ഷേത്രത്തിലിരുന്ന് പത്തുനിമിഷങ്ങളോളം ധ്യാനിക്കാനും ശ്രമിച്ചു. അടുത്തതായി ഞങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിച്ചത് ദുഃഖസ്മൃതികളുണർത്തുന്ന ഇന്ദിരാഗാന്ധി മ്യൂസിയമാണ്. ഇന്ത്യയുടെ വനിതാപ്രധാന മന്ത്രിയുടെ വസതിയിൽ അവരുടെ ബാല്യകൗമാര യൗവ്വനസ്മരണ കളിലേക്കും കുടുംബജീവിതത്തിലേക്കും രാഷ്ട്രീയജീവിതത്തിലേക്കും വെളിച്ചം വീശുന്ന നിരവധി ഫോട്ടോകളും പത്രനിപ്പോർട്ടുകളും കാർട്ടൂണുകളും അണിനിരക്കുന്നു. ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ഉരുക്കുവനിതയുടെ,



**Rampart of Red Fort**

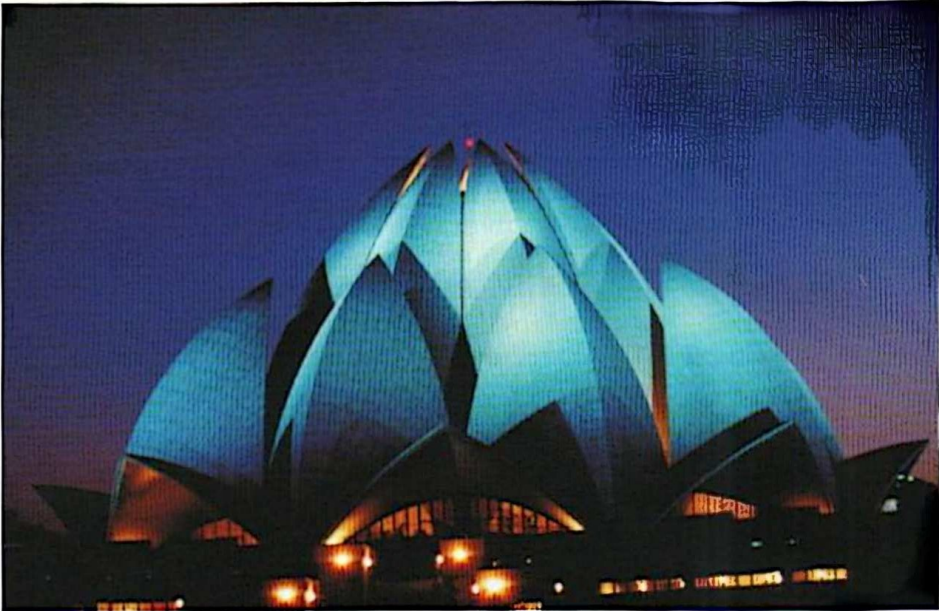


**Indira Gandhi Museum**

രാഷ്ട്രീയചരിത്രത്തിലെ നിർണ്ണായകമുഹൂർത്തങ്ങൾ, സംഭവബഹുലമായ ഭൂശൃംഗങ്ങൾ, ഇന്ത്യൻ ഭരണഘടനയുടെ പതിപ്പ് തുടങ്ങി ഒരു ചരിത്രകൃത്യകിടയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടതെല്ലാം ഒരുക്കി വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം അന്ത്യശ്വാസം വലിച്ച കിടപ്പുമുറിയുടെ കവാടത്തിന്റേക്കു പ്രാർത്ഥനാനിരതമായ മനസ്സോടെ ഒരു നിമിഷം നിന്നു. ഓം ശാന്തി! ശാന്തി! ശാന്തി!

ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ഉച്ചക്ഷേണം ഒരുക്കിയിരുന്നത് തീൻമൂർത്തിഭവനിലെ കാന്തീനിലായിരുന്നു. ഇതിനിടെ കാര്യങ്ങളെ ഗൗരവമായിമാത്രം കാണുന്ന ശ്രീ രാമദാസ് പറഞ്ഞ നർമ്മോക്തി യാത്രാസംഘത്തിനു മുഴുവൻ ചിരിക്കു വക നൽകി. “നെഹ്രു നമ്മെ ഇന്ന് ഉച്ചക്ഷേണത്തിനു ക്ഷണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു” എന്നതുതന്നെ. ആ നർമ്മോക്തിയിൽ കഴമ്പുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നിക്കും വിധമായിരുന്നു ഉച്ചക്ഷേണം. പ്രഭുത്വത്തിന്റെയും രാജകീയതയുടെയും കരസ്ഥം ആ ക്ഷേണത്തിനു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെന്നു തോന്നി. ക്ഷേണത്തെ കുറിച്ചുള്ള എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം കേട്ടപ്പോൾ സഹയാത്രികരിലൊരാൾ പറഞ്ഞു, “ഒരുപക്ഷേ വിശപ്പ് ക്ഷേണത്തെ രാജകീയമാക്കിയതാവാം.”

മാതൃത്വം സ്വന്തിക്കുന്ന ചില ഫോട്ടോകൾ കണ്ണുകളെ ഈറനണിയിക്കും. സ്വന്തം സുരക്ഷാഭേദനാരുടെ വെടിയേറ്റു വീണ, അവസാനഭൂമിസ്വർഗം ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങിയ സ്ഥലം പൂക്കളാൽ അലങ്കരിച്ചു വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. വിങ്ങുന്ന ഹൃദയത്തോടെ ഇന്ദിരാഭവനോട് വിട പറഞ്ഞ് പിതാവ് ജവഹർലാൽ നെഹ്രു പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ താമസിച്ചിരുന്ന തീൻമൂർത്തിഭവനിലേക്കു പോയി. ആ നവഭാരതശില്പിക്ക് എന്നെന്നും പ്രിയങ്കരങ്ങളായിരുന്ന പനിനീർപൂഷ്പങ്ങളാണ് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വരവേൽപ്പ് നൽകിയത്. വിശാലമായ തീൻമൂർത്തി ഭവനിലെ വളപ്പിൽ, പുഞ്ചിരി പൊഴിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു നിൽക്കുന്ന വിവിധ വർണ്ണങ്ങളിലുള്ള റോസാപ്പൂക്കൾ ഒരു നയനാനന്ദകരമായ അനുഭവം തന്നെ. കൊട്ടാരസഭ്യശമായ ആ കെട്ടിടത്തിന്റെ സുഖശീതളിമയാർന്ന അകത്തളങ്ങളിൽ ഇന്ത്യയുടെ പ്രഥമ പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയുടെ ബാല്യം, കൗമാരം, യൗവനം, ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ



**Lotus Temple**



**Nehru Museum at Teenmoorti Bhavan**

ക്ഷേണത്തിനും വിശ്രമത്തിനും ശേഷം താൽക്കാലികമായി തലസ്ഥാനനഗരിയോട് യാത്ര പറഞ്ഞ് ദേവകവാടമായ ഹരിദാരി ലേക്ക് പുറപ്പെട്ടു. യാത്രാമധ്യേ, സന്ധ്യയോടടുത്തപ്പോൾ ശ്രീ പ്രവീൺ കുമാർ, അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പത്നി ശ്രീമതി രത്നകല, അവരുടെ സഹോദരി ഡോ. രമണി, ശ്രീമതി ഉഷാവർമ്മ തുടങ്ങിയവരുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ നടന്ന നാരായണീയ പാരായണത്തിലും ഭജനകളിലും എനിക്കും സജീവമായി പങ്കുകൊള്ളാൻ ഭാഗ്യമുണ്ടായി.

(തുടരും)

# Diphthongs of dissimilar consonants

-Guruji

Having the largest number of characters in the alphabet of any Indian language, writing the diphthongs of dissimilar characters may appear tough but once accustomed, one may find it very useful. Generally, any two consonants can be conjoined by using the symbol ' ' between them but for easier use while writing by hand, they are joined into a diphthong.

In this chapter, we are dealing with such characters. In many cases, the second characters ക + ത = ക്ക (വ്യക്തി, person); ച + ഛ = ച്ച (ഇച്ഛ, wish); ഡ + ള = ള്ല (വിഡ്ഢി, fool); പ + ത = പ്ത (വ്യാപ്തം, expanse); ബ + ള = ബ്ല (ശബ്ദം; sound); ബ + ധ = ബ്ധ (പ്രാധാന്യം; hardship); ല + വ = ല്വ (അല്പം; a little); ഷ + ട = ഷ്ട (ഇഷ്ടം, liking); ഷ + റ = ഷ്ര (പ്രതിഷ്ഠ; consecrated idol); ഷ + ണ = ഷ്ണ (ഉഷ്ണം; heat); സ + ക = സ്ക (സ്കന്ദം; chapter); സ + ഫ = സ്ഫ (സ്ഫടികം; glass); ക്ഷ + മ = ക്ഷ്മ (സൂക്ഷ്മം, minute); യ + ക = യ്ക (വയ്ക; weakness); യ + ത = യ്ത (കൊയ്തശേഷം, after harvesting) etc.

When many consonants precede 'ല', the succeeding consonant is written under the previous one as 'ല' as in ക്ക, ള്ല, ഒ്ല, ഒ്ല, ഒ്ല, ഒ്ല, ഒ്ല etc. Similarly, when the consonant 'വ', 'യ' or 'ര' is to follow other consonants, signs such as 1, 2, 3 respectively are to be used. For example, വിശ്വം, സൂര്യൻ, മിത്രം etc. But in other cases, the succeeding character is attached laterally to the preceding one as given below:

ഘ + ന = ഘ്ന (അഗ്നി, Fire); ഗ + മ = ഗ്മ (വാഗ്മി, eloquent speaker); ങ + ക = ങ്ക (വക്തൃ, stupid); ജ + ണ = ജ്ഞ (ജ്ഞാനം, knowledge); ണ + ജ = ണ്ജ (അജ്ഞാനം, antimony), ണ + ച = ണ്ച (വഞ്ചന, treachery); ണ + ഡ = ണ്ഡ (അണ്ഡം, egg); ണ + ട = ണ്ട (മന്ദൻ, idiot); ണ + മ = ണ്മ (വെണ്മ, whiteness); ത + മ = ത്മ (അർത്ഥം, meaning); ത + മ = ത്മ (ആത്മാവ്, soul); ത + സ = ത്സ (മത്സരം, contest); ത + ഭ = ത്ഭ (ഉത്ഭവം, origin); ഭ + ധ = ഭ്ധ (ശ്രദ്ധ, concentration); ന + ത = ന്ത (തന്ത, father, old man); ന + മ = ന്മ (ഗ്രന്ഥം, book); ന + ള = ന്ല (ചന്ദനം, sandal); ന + ധ = ന്ധ (അന്ധൻ, blindman); ന + പ = ന്പ (വന്പ്, boasting); ന + മ = ന്മ (നന്മ, goodness); സ + മ = സ്മ (സ്ഥാനം, place); ഹ + ന = ഹ്ന (ചിഹ്നം, sign). These diphthongs help writing by hand much faster as the writer needs not raise hand from the paper very frequently. This system is not available in other Dravidian languages or in Devanagari.

## Answer to Quiz No. 4

The question was: രാജീവ് ഗാന്ധി ജന്മദിനം ആഘോഷിച്ചില്ല.

Right answer: രാജീവ് ഗാന്ധിയുടെ ജന്മദിനവാർഷികം ആഘോഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടില്ല.

Rajiv Gandhi not being alive cannot celebrate any birth day. It was his followers who celebrated. Since their names are not mentioned, it has to be passive voice. It was not his birthday but the anniversary of birthday.

The right answer was sent only by Shri K S Nair of 3, Priya, 14/B, Netaji Palkar Road, Ghatkopar West, Mumbai 400 084. Congratulations!

## Quiz No. 5

The following is a part of a sentence in Malayala Manorama dated June 18.

അറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്ത കമലം, പ്രിൻസ്, ....

The persons named are culprits. Comment.



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