

Kerala in Mumbai

Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

Vol.3 No. 12

Price Rs. 70

March 2013



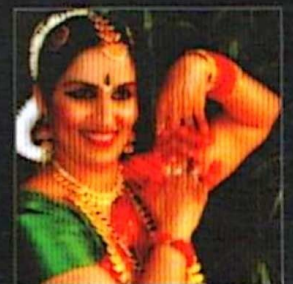
P K RAVINDRANATH

IRREPLACEABLE ENTITY



Birth
Centenary

Artiste of
the Month

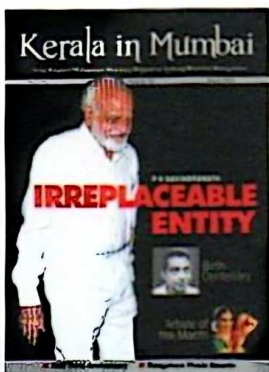


■ **KIM Third Anniversary**

■ **Raagalaya Music Awards**



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Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt. Ltd

Place of Publication

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

Printing Press

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

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Website: www.keralainmumbai.com

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EDITORIAL

Light is gone but the path is left bright

It was a jolt that hit all of us on the twilight of February 18 and it was beyond words how deeply we were hurt by the sudden demise of that doyen of Indian journalism, P K Ravindranath who set his own standards in his chosen field. He bowed his head, not before the satraps of print media of Malayalam or English but before the common people with utmost humility and this trait made him the darling of many a journalist especially of the Malayalee community. A stalwart of Malayalam literature, M T Vasudevan Nair fondly and endearingly called him 'Raviattan' and that nickname echoed among all Malayalees of Mumbai and elsewhere.

To '*Kerala in Mumbai*', Raviattan was not merely a Consulting Editor. He was adviser, policy setter and above all, its guiding light. He evolved a policy that would mould '*Kerala in Mumbai*' in a manner that would stand the test of time, scrapped all qualified adjectives that is of little value except in flattery, chided contributors to stick to the theme alone and to avoid unnecessary and unwanted details. He was against 'paid news' and detested it with utter contempt while supportive of growing young writers.

His experience with leading papers of national eminence, over decades and positions held elsewhere made him much sought after by organizations and compelled them to involve him in their activities so that his expertise could be put into their advantages. He was patron to many an organization, associations, communities and social groups and he served them with gusto and without selfish motives.

He was an amazing personality. He thrived on challenging positions, converted challenges to opportunities, and spread his knowledge, wisdom and stature to the benefit of the community he lived in. Science, literature, performing arts, political science, economics, current affairs, astute memory of the events of the past with their hidden reasons and causes besides a foresight into the future, made him a compelling candidate for any position of eminence but he declined them with humility and politeness.

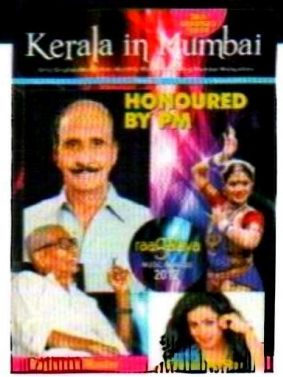
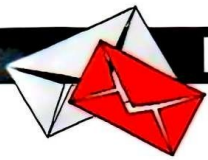
His vast collection of books and periodicals were made available to all who sought them, with one condition that as soon as its reference value was over, it should be returned so that others too could make use of them. His experience with plays and critical analyses of them made him much sought after by Malayalam theatre activists. He famously gave life to a senior pensioner's twilight days in a recent Malayalam film that is solely remembered for his attention grabbing performance despite the presence of a superstar.

There was hardly anyone worth mentioning who did not enjoy his proximity but he never exhibited his connections to grab attention. Some of the leading lights of the Indian cultural field, especially of Kerala, got their national eminence because of his intervention. He translated MT's *Rantamoozham* (Second Turn), *Asuravithu* (Dragon Seed) and Kesavdev's *Ayalkar* (The neighbours) and ensured readers of other Indian languages and foreign countries read them. His translations are an eye opener to the Malayalam writers as he showed them how important it was to persist with minimum words and yet be effective.

Whenever organizations and associations offered him awards, he politely refused. It was our fortune to be instrumental in bestowing a Lifetime Achievement award in association with Shailaja Pratap Nair Foundation, with a purse of a substantial amount. We bow in humility before his memories and we would always cherish them.

Raviattan, we have only love and admiration for you. Your memories would lead us to light in the hours of darkness. We salute you, Sir!

And this issue is specially dedicated you!



Tributes to P K Ravindranath May His Soul Rest in Peace

Indeed a noble soul and an excellent human being with impeccable character and unsoiled track record. Let us pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Ganesans
Chembur

It was indeed shocking to see yesterday's Mathrubhumi TV announcing the death of P K Ravindranath. Only the other day, K D Chandran rang me up (I am in Kerala now) to inform about the KIM anniversary programme, your felicitation of Sudha Chandran and Lifetime Achievement Award to PKR. It was heartening to hear that despite his ailing condition, he did come to receive the KIM Award. I took it as a sign of his improving health. But destiny has willed it the other way. Though small in physical stature, his was a towering presence in Mumbai's socio-cultural scene. The loss is irreparable. The void caused by his demise is difficult to fill - more so for the Malayali community. The KIM family must be feeling as bereaved as his own family. I offer my condolences to both. May his soul rest in peace!

K Rajan
Thane

Mulund Kerala Samajam expresses its deep regret on the passing away of our beloved Shri P.K.Ravindranath. Most of our members were lucky to see him at our Annual Function on 2nd February behind the Kalidas Auditorium and take his blessings along with Madam. His contribution as a journalist to the society and a teacher on Journalism will be long cherished by all concerned. His wish that after death his body should be of use to the medical fraternity has no parallel in the world of magnanimity. I pray to the Almighty to grant the departed soul eternal peace and to grant Mrs. Tara Ravindranath and the family members strength to bear this irreparable loss. In grief,

C. K. Lakshmyarayanan
Mulund

Hearing the news about Shri P.K. Ravindranath's sad demise, Nambisan, Director of Lalitha Kalalayam kept a condolence meeting at Nritya Ranjini class hall at Dombivili on 19th with committee members. Nambisan told that Ravindranath was the Chief Director of the Award Selection Committee for late Shri Shiromani Nelluvai K N Nambisan Smarak Award and also

that he had awarded a certificate of merit from Nehru Centre to Nambisan for music jugal bandhi creations - Saptaraga Tala Vadya Taramgam in 1990. His separation from the field of art and social contribution will be a great loss to Mumbai pravasi Malayalees.

Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan
Dombivili

It is difficult to disassociate the better half Tara Ravindranath 'a Maharashtrian with the heart of a Malayalee', when I think of Shri P K Ravindranath. The Mahila Samajam at Cadel Road, Shivaji Park that embraced 'women power' and defined women as those who were more than just pale shadows of their 'purusha' gathered their strength from journalists like him who highlighted their activities. Approachable and yet detached, casual and yet imposing, knowledgeable and yet not pedantic his equanimity rubbed off into you making you feel ever so good to be an artist and ever so alive and at home in this beautiful world. His executed will with eyes donated to the eye bank, skin to a skin bank and body to JJ Hospital sums up his persona... 'Don't cry because it's over but smile because it happened!'

Lata Surendra
Vasai

I came to know through the pages of The Times of India today, about the sad demise of Shri P K Ravindranath. He was a great personality in the journalistic arena, with special mention to Kerala link. I can understand PKR's demise is a great loss to you as a friend and guide, as well as to Kerala in Mumbai. Anyway, he lived his life full and left at a ripe age, leaving everlasting memories to Keralites on the communication field. My sympathies to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace

Sekharankutty
Navi Mumbai

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

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

PKR: Pleasant, Intelligent and Lively

-K Sankaranarayanan
Governor of Maharashtra



Within days of my coming to Maharashtra as Governor, Shri P K Ravindranath and Sri P V Vijaykumar, Managing Editor of 'Kerala in Mumbai'

came to see me in Raj Bhavan.

They briefed me about the launching of the new magazine 'Kerala in Mumbai' and asked me to do the honour of releasing its first issue. That was the beginning of my long and rewarding association with Shri P K Ravindranth.

I released the magazine 'Kerala in Mumbai' at Nehru Centre on 6th of February 2010. Thereafter I met Shri Ravindranath at various programmes and at most of the programmes organised by the numerous Malayali organisations in Mumbai. Occasionally he used to come to see me in Raj Bhavan with various delegations.

Meeting with him was always a pleasant experience. His mere presence was elevating. Silent to the extent of looking shy, he was a gem of a person with good sense of humour.

Shri Ravindranath was intelligent and gifted with phenomenal memory. He had firsthand knowledge of the polity in Maharashtra and he could narrate political events of the past with such accuracy as though they had taken place only recently.

I came to know that he had close association with political stalwarts like late Shri Balasaheb Thackeray, Shri



Ravindranath and Vijaykumar with Governor at Raj Bhavan

Sharad Pawar and many others. But he never boasted of his acquaintances with the high and the mighty.

I was amazed when I learnt that he was teaching journalism in six of the best colleges in Mumbai. Few people at that age have as much commitment and enthusiasm as he had. He could gel with the young and the old alike.

Ravindranath-ji carried a formidable reputation, having served as journalist with the Times of India, Free Press Journal, Mathrubhumi and later as a freelance journalist and editor of many journals. He had also authored a few books. He had also served as Press Advisor to Shri Sharad Pawar and as Director of Nehru Centre in Mumbai. He

was the best editor and one could see his silent work through the pages of 'Kerala in Mumbai', the latest publication edited by him.

Ravindranath was a humble and self-effacing person. He detested the idea of projecting or promoting himself. Even though he was easily one of the most respected Malayalees living in Mumbai and eminently qualified to appear on the cover page of 'Kerala in Mumbai', he never allowed KIM to write about him or his achievements.

During the last few days, his speech was affected and he had become weak. But illness couldn't stop him from reading newspapers and keeping himself update with social and political developments. He was a man of action and remained active till the end.

The news of his demise deeply saddened me. I felt as if I had lost an elder brother.

He was a source of inspiration to those who came in contact with him. His wife Smt Tara was a source of strength for him and perfectly complimented him. His demise will be felt particularly by her, by their family and by the people of Kerala living in Mumbai for whom he was a fatherly figure. Most of all, he will be missed by his students and well wishers.

Ravindranath-ji taught us how to live meaningfully and indeed how to face death bravely. He may no longer be with us, but he will continue to live in our hearts for many many years. ■



Governor calls on Ravindranath when he was hospitalised

Ravindranath

A PEEP INTO HIS PERSONA

- Sasidharan Nair



Professor P.K. Ravindranath was an epitome of simplicity, dignity, genuineness, beauty, experience, knowledge, authenticity and truth. You cannot see any similar person in

Indian media of his stature with immense experience of life. His persona is unique and he is a role model of ethics and purity.

"To be a true Indian you must develop the culture of the Indian Army," avers Ravindranath. "That alone will instill in you patriotism, selflessness, discipline and to think and act as a member of the great human race."

He himself had never been an army man, but the first decade of his formative years were spent in an army hill-station, Mynmar in Central Burma, where he went first to a convent school, then to an Arya Samaj school. He imbibed the best of both the Catholic faith and the reformist Hindu system of life. Being in an army cantonment, he would roam freely on a bicycle all around the town, which kept him healthy and fit.

He went to primary school in a government-run high school, whose headmaster was a former adjutant in the British Army.

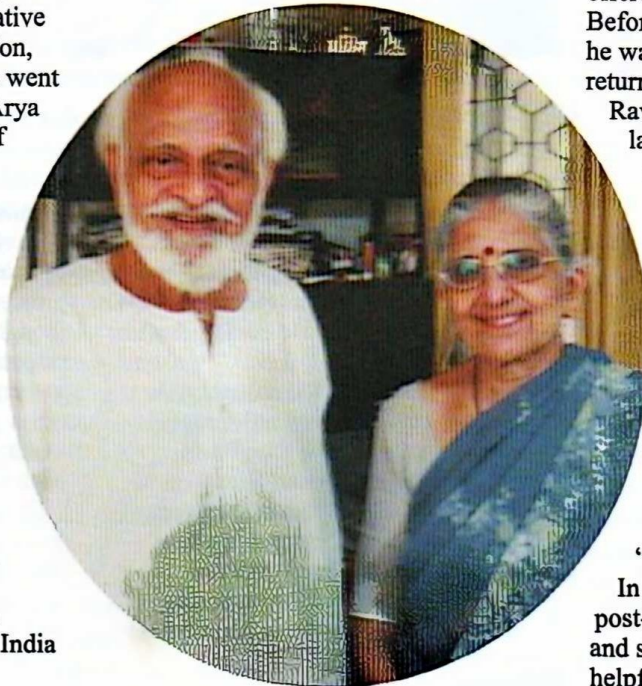
Then World War II broke out. Ravindranath and his family consisting of his parents and five siblings caught the last steamer from Rangoon back to Madras in 1940. Indians after him had to trek through unfriendly terrain and seek refuge in India through Assam.

His earliest recollection is sitting on the lap of Mahakavi Vallathol, who had come to his house during a tour of Burma with his Kathakali troupe, and reciting a poem. Another memory is of a Velichapad (oracle) biting off the head of a live cock during a homam (religious sacrifice) at his uncle's house in Calicut, which had a Kuttichathan kavu attached to it. It revolted the six-year old.

Back in Calicut in 1940 "as a refugee" the next seven years were indeed gruelling poverty stricken, inability to adjust to life in a joint family, difficulty at school with Malayalam language, which ultimately forced him to seek exemption from that

subject for his SSLC examination. By the time he joined Zamorin's College, he had come to grips with Malayalam. Due to financial inability to pursue his studies after Senior Intermediate (the present plus-two stage) he landed in Mumbai.

His high school and college days coincided with the last phase of the freedom struggle, the Quit India movement. He became an active member of the Student's Congress, which brought him in touch with a whole generation of selfless national leaders, including the redoubtable Krishna Pillai and A.K. Gopalan and a whole array of Congress leaders who sacrificed much for the nation.



PKR with wife Tara

In Mumbai, he landed in a job with the Kuwait Oil Company and was sent to Kuwait on a job he badly needed to help the family. It lasted for only ten months, for he along with a group of 19 and 20-year old employees of the company could not stand the haughty attitude of the British and American bosses of the KOC. They called for a strike, and the entire operations of the mighty company came to a standstill for five days.

Ultimately, the Sheikh himself intervened and promised to get the

grievance of the "Indian brothers" redressed. Within a week Ravindranath, along with a dozen other "rig leaders" of the strike were rounded up by the Kuwait police and packed off to Bombay on a waiting ship.

Then followed a series of jobs "some like hawking a special brand of phenyl and another procuring printing order for a commercial printing press in the Fort".

Then, he sent an application the only one he sent in his entire life to S. Sadanand, the editor of The Free Press Journal. He was called for an interview and within fifteen minutes was appointed a sub-editor. He worked for five years in the FPJ till 1955. That year he was called and offered a job in "The Times of India". Before he joined, the TOI discovered that he was not a graduate and asked for the return of the appointment letter. By then

Ravindranath had become aware of the laws of the employment and terms and conditions pertaining to a job. "Give me the contracted salary for the next thirty years and I will return the letter," he told the Management. He knew by then that the Editor of the TOI, the Chief Reporter, The Chief of Bureau and several other heads of departments were not graduates. Then why single him out?

The management compromised. He was allowed to work, on condition that he would get a degree "soon". In two years time, he got one.

In another three years he had procured a post-graduate degree in political science and sociology, "which I found were very helpful for my profession".

Then he registered for a doctorate, when the general manager, J.C. Jain asked him: "What next?" By then, he had become totally immersed in the journalists' struggle for higher wages, security of service and better working conditions." He had become Chairman of the Bombay Union of Journalists and was elected the Treasurer of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists.

He had occasions to go round the country on behalf of these organisations settling disputes with managements and ensuring that harmonious conditions prevailed in the newspaper industry.

As a newspaperman, he found that this

early influences in life gave him a healthy outlook in dealing with communal riots, attitudes towards the minority communities and the pernicious caste system in the country. A series of articles in the Times of India, The Illustrated Weekly of India, The Economic Times, The Filmfare and the Femina followed. In ten years time, it was his boast that he could walk into any English language newspaper in the country and say: "I am P.K. Ravindranath. I want a job, and I would get it on the spot."

All this brought him to the notice of political leaders, social activists and makers of public opinion in the country. His interest in Malayalam drama, films and all other social activities endeared him to film makers, the theatre fraternity in Bombay and elsewhere. He came close to a number of leading journalists in the country, several top Congress and other political leaders.

Then came emergency and the strict imposition of censorship on the press. He was shocked at the way some journalists who had been critical of emergency rule were hounded out and imprisoned without trial. The then editor of the TOI, he found, did not back him on a crucial issue concerning a news item, which "pertained to prominent friend of the Establishment." He resigned his job in August 1976. "I should have left the TOI ten years earlier," he lamented. "I had everything by then, a known byline, ample experience and contacts."

He joined the National Herald but within a year, thanks to the changing political fortunes, the Herald was under a lockout. "I was left with a staff of six whom I had recruited and had to ensure that their monthly wages were paid with no money coming in from Lucknow, the headquarters of the Herald group.

He managed, with help from friends in the advertising agencies till 1980. Then, A R Antulay became the Chief Minister. By then Ravindranath had also become the Bureau Chief of the Mathrubhumi in Mumbai. He had been close to the Mathrubhumi since 1957, when he covered important news from the city and Maharashtra under the name of his wife Tara Menon. So when he was sacked by the National Herald at the instance of Antulay, who felt "he belonged to the enemy camp," he had no problem.

He was sacked by the Mathrubhumi management in 1986, when he publicly

corrected an agency head who said "The Mathrubhumi" is the only genuine people's paper in the country."

Ravindranath countered: "No longer. It is now run by Plantation Owners and Lorry Operators." Prompt came his marching orders.

Two years of freelancing were "profitable years, since I earned more than I ever did in another job. Writing editorials, edit page articles, reviews, interviews and the like." But then working hours were flexible- early morning to midnight and later to meet deadlines. There were no computers and telephone facilities," he recalled.

Then came a call to join the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Sharad Pawar was the newly elected Chief Minister whom Ravindranath had known intimately since 1977, when he too was a non-conformist with the Emergency. On persuasion he joined him as his Press Adviser. "It was a great experience. I came to know how the



At the launch of Kerala in Mumbai

government works from within." In those years he wrote "Sharad Pawar: the Making of a Modern Maratha," published in 1992. By then Pawar had gone to Delhi as Union Defence Minister. In 1992, Ravindranath became Director (Publications) of Nehru Centre, of which he had been a founder member. He was removed from this honorary job too by Antulay when he took over as ipso facto President of Nehru Centre, when he became the Chief Minister. Years later, when Ravindranath led the delegation of Mumbai Malayalees to meet Antulay, the MP from Ratnagiri, to ask for special train services from Mumbai to Thiruvananthapuram, Antulay told him "You know things happened. They should not have, it is all God's mercy." Ravindranath agreed, in full satisfaction that he had contributed immeasurably to oust Antulay from the Chief Ministership

following the Cement Scandal. "I wasted 25 years of my political life," he lamented then.

In 1984 he had written "Chandrashekar: A Political Biography". He also wrote 'Sardar Patel in a New Perspective', 'A Slice of Life' and a coffee table book 'Iyer Weddings'.

Since 2000 when the Mumbai University introduced the BMM (Bachelor of Mass Media course) he had been called to conduct classes in various colleges. In the last decade he had trained over 200 journalists, who now adorn good positions in the print and electronic media. "All committed to the righteous journalism".

From 1978 to 1986 Ravindranath ran a very popular column in Mathrubhumi- "Maharashtra Kathu" (Maharashtra newsletter, which caught the attention of the entire political leadership of Kerala).

Married to Tara Dharadhar, Ravindranath has three children-Jayesh, Anuja and Naresh, all well settled in life and who

look back to Kerala as their second home. Tara has been a social activist and is an active member of the Kerala Mahila Samaj, of which she has been the General Secretary and President one time. She is also an active member of the Mumbai Grahak Panchayat, a consumer organisation, which provides for members all household commodities at fair prices and exact weight.

Ravindranath translated Keshavadev's "Ayalkar" as "Neighbours" (Sahitya Academy), N P Muhammed and M T Vasudevan Nair's "Arab Gold" (Arabi Ponnurupa) and M T Vasudevan Nair's "Randamoozham"

("Second Turn"-Macmillan). He published six books on journalism for students of the BMM course for which there was an acute dearth of textbooks. They are: "The Art of Editing," Lectures on Broadcast Journalism, Indian Regional Journalism, Press Laws and Ethics, News Media Management and Contemporary Issues. They have proved to be a boon for a whole generation of students of journalism, for whom there were no books in the Indian context on these subjects.

P.K. Ravindranath contributed much to Malayalam journalism and literature also. His trademark white shirt-white trousers attire resembled the purity of his inner personality, his calm and quiet face with a serene a smile that said 'I know it' reflected his limpidness. His attire and body language conveyed his attitude, simplicity and inner beauty. ■

Ravindranath

A Man Of Gigantic Capabilities

- K V Satyanath



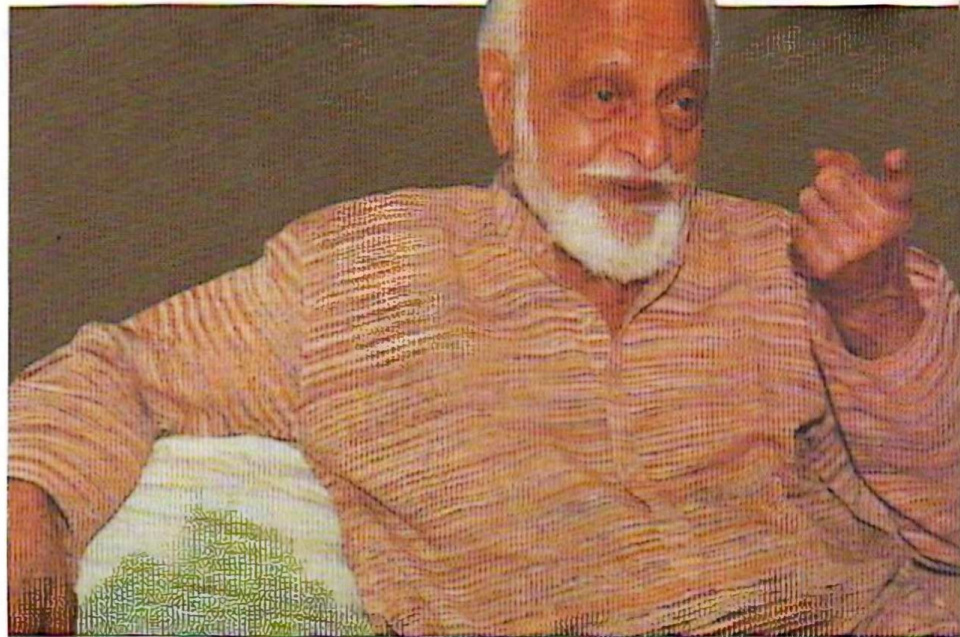
It was by sheer chance that I got introduced to P K Ravindranath who was known to me as a correspondent of Mathrubhumi daily. It was M T Vasudevan Nair, the most

respected litterateur of Malayalam today, who became instrumental for this chance introduction. When the news about M T winning Jnanapith Award in 1995, President of Odakkuzhal, the Malayali Association of Marol, Dr C Rajagopalan, an old friend of MT and me thought of inviting MT to Bombay and organize a felicitation for him. Soon we dialed Mathrubhumi and got MT on the line. When I explained the purpose of our call, MT said, "I am coming to Bombay next week and going to stay with Raviettan. You talk to him," he disconnected the line. Who is Raviettan and where does he stay? We had no answer. All our efforts to contact MT again failed as his line was always engaged.

Both of us knew, MT had no close relative in Bombay. We thought of his Mathrubhumi connection and soon we remembered of one P K Ravindranath who wrote a column 'Maharashtra Kathu' on every Thursday. If you know the name of the person, it was easy those days to locate him as there was only one Telephone Company operating in the city. So we took a copy of Bombay Telephone Directory. There were two Ravindranaths. I dialed the first and soon was informed that he was an officer with Central Labour Institute but he had the number of the journalist Ravindranath because he received more calls meant for the journalist than for himself.

An amiable voice on the other side of the line identified himself as the man we were looking for. "Vasu is being felicitated at Hotel Leela by Capt. Krishnan Nair and you can meet him there," that voice said.

We indeed met MT and Ravindranath at the Hotel Leela with Capt Krishnan Nair as the Captain sent us four



invitations for the function. Next day we again met at Ravindranath's residence at Patrakar Colony and spent a couple of hours with them, sipping tea prepared by Mrs Ravindranath.

Soon I had many opportunities to meet Raviettan (by then Ravindranath became Raviettan to me also) and our general topic of conversation was MT and his writings. Through these meetings, I came to know the role played by him in getting the Jnanpith for MT. Since anyone could nominate any author for this award, Raviettan did it, recommending MT. He was soon asked by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, the trust that

manages the award, to provide an English or Hindi copy of MT's work. Raviettan was then translating 'Randamoozham' for MacMillan and he rushed through the work and submitted the copy on the last day of submission. The rest is history.

I often thought of Raviettan as a Sanyasi who never hesitated to say 'NO' whenever anyone brought the topic of any award for himself. He had tremendous influence with the powers that be, including the politicians and bureaucrats and could have arranged a few awards for himself but he never did it. Another instance came to my memory. A couple of years ago, Prof Dr M Leelavathy was chosen for a Padma Award. She was surprised at the choice and wanted to know who recommended her for it. When I met her at her residence soon after but before the award presentation, she asked me about the nominator. She said, "I'm sure no one from Kerala would recommend my name for it and it could be done only from outside." I pleaded innocence but assured her co-operation. A few days later, I called on Raviettan at his residence and brought the topic. He had his characteristic smile and after a pause he told me the story.

Raviettan was with Governor S M



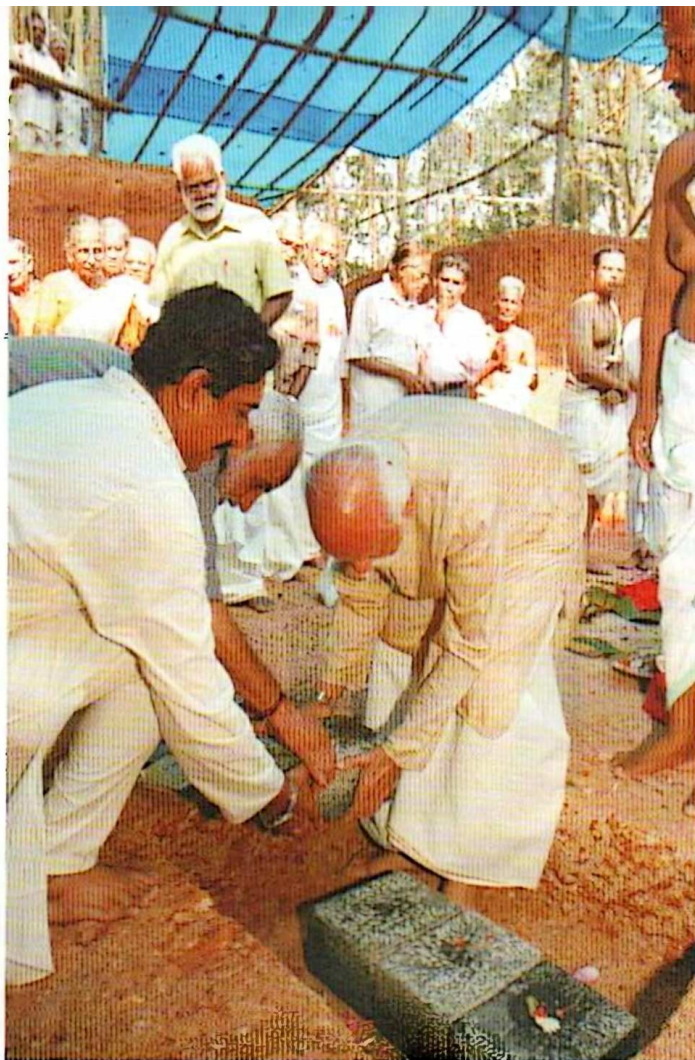
M T Vasudevan Nair

Krishna and a letter was lying on his table. During their talk, Krishna asked him if he knew anyone who deserved a Padma award but did not get it. Though Raviattan did not personally know Dr Leelavathy, he had an admiration for her writings. When many writers from Kerala, much younger to her had already received this award, why not her, he thought. He told the Governor about her and the latter nodded in agreement. Her name was included in S M Krishna's list, recommending her name for Padma Bhushan but the three Keralites sitting in PM's office, including J N Dixit, wetted it to a Padmashri. After several months, I introduced the nominator and the nominee to each other and felt happy doing so.

His wealth of information

During August 2008, I sought an appointment with Shri Uthradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma and it was granted. I was ushered into his room but when I saw none inside, I went through the room looking at the various painting hung there. When I was looking at a copy of Raja Ravi Varma's painting of Mahalakshmi, I heard a voice, "Interested in painting?"

I turned and saw Shri Marthanda



Laying foundation of Mahalakshmi temple near Aluva

Varma standing behind me. When I said in affirmation, he started talking about paintings and casually asked me where he could see the original of the said painting. I pleaded ignorance but assured him soon I would find out for him. Again it was Raviattan who surprised me. May be a fortnight later, when we met, I brought this topic



In conversation with O Rajagopal

before him and he immediately blurted, "It is hanging on the walls of Baroda Maharaja's museum." I asked him if he was sure. He said he had seen it there himself.

Coming out I immediately called Somasekharan Nair, PA to Shri Marthanda Varma and asked him to convey the news to His Highness which he promptly did. Very often, I was surprised at his sharp memory and quote the date, scene and the sequences that he had seen or witnessed or read decades ago.

Respect for opposite views

Raviattan always had very strong views on many issues but it never prevented him from respecting those of others. He was generally considered as an atheist but to me, he looked like a man of spirituality. By sheer coincidence, I was persuaded to become the Secretary of Sri Adi Sankara Kanakadhara Smruti Trust, a trust founded by a few Mumbai Malayalees

who wanted to establish a monument for Kanakadharastavam, at its original place, along with so many new concepts, unheard of in Kerala. There would be a temple dedicated to Mahalakshmi, who appeared in Kanakadharastavam, an astrological park, Children's home, Senior citizens' Home, a small medical centre, training centres for Yoga and meditation, research centre for Sri Sankara's philosophy and so on. It was estimated to cost around Rs.40 crore.

I was of the opinion that such an expansive project cannot come up without the intellectual output from learned persons. The trustees authorized me to get people of stature. I had some apprehension when I approached Raviattan as he was known to decline such positions. When I explained the matter, first he tried to dissuade me but after seeing my commitment to the project, he said he would consider it. Then I told him, that during the Devaprasnam, it was said that two people associated with the project would not live to see the completion of it. He immediately accepted my invitation to join us and also agreed to be its Chairman of Board of Advisors. I

mentally saluted him for his positive approach.

I then sought his help to induct more renowned persons to the Advisory Board and he asked me to contact Prof N S Ramaswamy, former director of NITIE. He also said that Padmabhushan N S Ramaswamy was then director of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. When I asked him to talk to Prof Ramaswamy, he gave me his telephone number and asked me to do it. Later when I contacted Prof Ramaswamy, he was also reluctant to accept the position for want of time. But when I told him that it was Ravindranath who suggested his name, he immediately said, "Oh, if it's Ravi's wish, I am in it."

Both of them attended the Shilanyas of the temple and Raviattan presided over the meeting of the Board of Advisors on the eve of the day and he and Prof Ramaswamy gave invaluable guidance. Further, Raviattan even agreed to lay one of the five stones. It shows that even if he did not believe in these rituals, he was ever ready to keep aside his belief to make others happy.

I would say I regret now for what I did then as Prof Ramaswamy died in September 2012 and Raviattan now before the completion of the first phase of the project. In fact when I was supervising the erection of the mural of Mahalakshmi at the site in Pazhamthottam on February 18th at 5 p m, Raviattan breathed his last. The first phase of the project is now 99%



With Padmabhushan Prof. N S Ramaswamy

complete.

Before concluding I should mention one more incident that he mentioned to me a few years ago. He narrated an incident of a visit to Kozhikode with his wife Tara Ravindranath. They were to reach Ernakulam next day to meet some relatives there and board a flight to Bombay. Then his wife expressed a wish to go to Guruvayur Temple on the way and he readily agreed as a loving husband would do. When they were

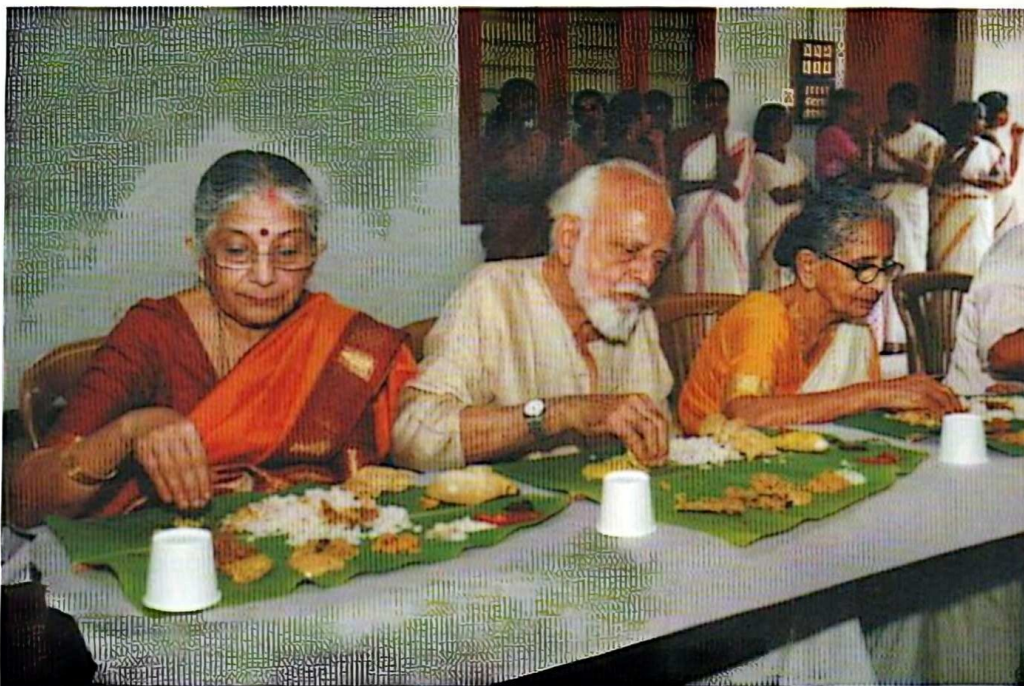
waiting for a bus going to Guruvayur at Panniyankara bus stop, it started raining heavily and no bus was coming their way. Suddenly a car passed them, stopped a few metres away, reversed to approach them. The man inside the car peeped outside and asked him why he was waiting there. When he answered that they wanted to reach Guruvayur by early morning, the man said that he too was going to Guruvayur and asked them to get in.

When they reached Guruvayur early morning, there was a long queue for the darshan, Raviattan thought it would be difficult to meet the time schedule. Then a man approached them and asked them why they were waiting. He introduced himself as P T Mohanakrishnan, chairman of Dewaswom Board. All problems were instantly solved and Raviattan and Tara Chechi had a nice peaceful darshan of Guruvayurappan.

Raviattan also told me that Mohanachandran also arranged for a car to take them to Ernakulam.

Raviattan then smilingly added that sometimes unexpectedly things fall into place when we felt insurmountable.

Raviattan, I learned so much from you especially the positive approach to life and a dedication to the cause. Good Bye Sir, we shall meet again! ■



Tara and PKR with Padmashri Dr M Leelavathy

P K Ravindranath My Reminiscences

- Dr. C. N. N. Nair



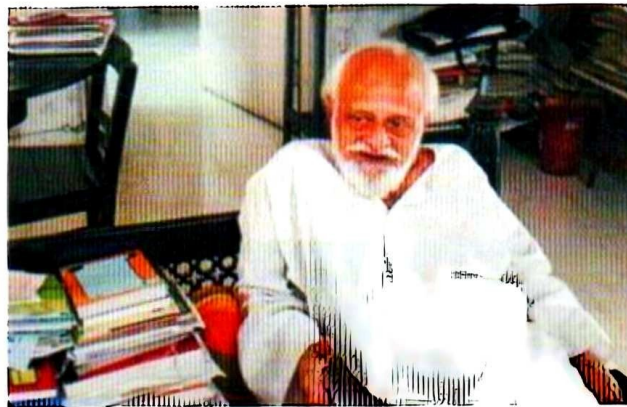
It was the middle of the sixties almost half a century ago. As bachelors, we were staying in different lodges. From the 'Prosser Boarding House', very near to

Hotel Taj, I moved over to 'Abbas Building', at the behest of an old school mate (back in Kerala) and my friend, PNV Nair, who recently joined as Sub-Editor of the famous *Free Press Journal* of Late S Sadanand. A great many Titans of later years including the redoubtable Bal Thackerey, Novelist Malayattoor Ramakrishnan IAS, P K Ravindranath, doyen of Journalism to name a few, had FPJ as their springboard to launch their illustrious careers. PNV's then roommate got married and he was looking for a substitute. I was then working as a Tech. Asst., in the international telecom organisation known as 'OCS', at Flora Fountain (today's Hutatma Chowk). A couple of years later, PNV shifted to *Indian Express*. It was then that I began seeing the name of P K Ravindranath in print in articles in the *Indian Express*. I was, of course, very proud of the fact that a Keralite rose to such eminence and had a latent desire to meet him once!

Years rolled by. PNV moved on to join Russi Karanjia to start '*Mid-Day*' and later began '*The Independent*' in Mumbai and then left for Hyderabad to join the '*Deccan Chronicle*'. I learnt that PKR too moved up in the ladder, adorning major publications like the Times, National Herald etc. and later became the press advisor to Sharad Pawar, CM, Maharashtra. Subsequently, he became the Director of Publications in the Nehru Centre, Mumbai.

In October 1997, I got a letter from the convener of *Sahityavedi* in Mumbai, Cheppad Somanathan, to attend its annual function in *Kerala Bhavanam* where I came across the well-known critic, V T Gopalakrishnan. That was the beginning of my association with the *Sahityavedi*, Mumbai. They were felicitating some authors and other celebrities. I was invited because my book on the history of International telecommunications

commemorative of 125 years of completion in 1995, titled "Back to the Dots..." was recently released by the then Union minister of Communications, Beni Prasad Verma in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. This annual meet was presided over by P K Ravindranath. That was the first of our personal meetings. I recall that in his opening remarks, PKR mentioning about his being in Delhi during the book release function and witnessing the same. Since then, we had developed close association and used to meet often in various literary and other functions like the Malayalam-Marathi literary meet in Dombivli, or the *Sahitya Vedi* which discussed the role of independence of the Fourth Estate, aptly, again, presided over by PKR. On another occasion, when the biographical work of V V Achuthan, a celebrated actor of



yesteryears of Mumbai, was presented to the audience by me in the same venue, I was astonished to find the depth of PKR's involvement in areas like drama, films etc, in his own words in its preface. Of course, for journalists, as for lawyers, all that they survey are their domain.

When the first meet of the CMS College (Kottayam, Kerala) Alumni, Mumbai chapter was opened on 21-11-2009, again we had the benevolent presence of PKR as a special guest of honour to grace the occasion. He had a unique and suave way of supplementing the facts inadvertently missed by some previous speakers without any trace of malice or offence. When the *Sastrakalavedi*, Mumbai gave me a platform to present my graphic work of '*Malayala Bhaashaa Tharangangal*', in *Kerala Bhavanam* on 24-02-2009, PKR sat through the entire three-hour period

with great patience and later offered his encouraging and critical advices and suggestions on my work. During this session, I was instrumental in bringing together the two old journalistic friends, PK Ravindranath and PNV Nair, together. They spent the whole evening exchanging nostalgia.

I further recall that we had attended together, the condolence meet held in Kerala House, Navi Mumbai on 31 May 2009, upon the sad demise of the celebrated poet and novelist, Kamala Das Suraiya. This was organised by Shri Bhupesh Babu. Once again, quite aptly, PKR presided over this function and shared with the audience his long and personal experience with the genius that passed away. It was our privilege to escort the couple Smt. Tara and PKR from Navi Mumbai and on way back, he

further enlightened us on the many aspects of the celebrity personality of *Madhavikutty*. They had invited us to share their hospitality at Kalanagar residence, but because it was late, we politely 'postponed' it. 'Do feel free to visit us whenever you have leisure', he told us. However, fate didn't allow us that honour and privilege!

The last we met was during the second anniversary of *Kerala-in-Mumbai* in Shanmukhananda Hall in 2012. We exchanged usual pleasantries and extended invitations to visit our respective homes.

Some of us cannot help thinking that the nation did not recognise his genius or his life-long contributions adequately, by including his name in the list of Padma Awardees. But then, PKR was never after name or fame.

Whenever we heard about his accident or subsequent hospitalisation, we had joined emotionally all his well-wishers for his fast recovery. But, destiny had the last word. Although he left us physically, P K Ravindranath with his flowing white hair, beard and moustache and white attire, still keep smiling at us in our mental screen with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes, almost with a 'Rishi-like' detachment, reminding us the famous lines of poet G: "*Innu njaan; Naale Nee*" (It's my turn today and tomorrow yours). ■

SOME THOUGHTS ON A TEACHER CALLED RAVI ETTAN

- K R NARAYANAN



I have never been able to understand the myth of the so called self-made men!!

At least, in my case, I would never dare to make such claims in life. There are many to

whom I owe many things - my existence, talents, expertise, - why, even the inner me!! And there is not a single moment in my life, when I have not felt grateful to them, for whatever they have given me or taught me. Besides my parents, there was a learned catholic missionary who taught me the intricacies of a great science, there was an internationally reputed professional expert who made me a good professional, and there was a giant among literary personalities who introduced me to writing. As I approached the dusk of my life, I was thinking that my learning process would come to an end. But, I was wrong!! As I retired from an active life, about six years ago, I bumped into a thin saint-like person in his eighties, who said, 'Follow me, you have still miles to go'. I blindly followed him into a new world of writing. And I owe to him the revival of my spent mental energy and rose again to follow the long path he was treading in the world of letters. This elderly saintly writer-journalist was none but the late Shri P K Ravindranath, whom we all know as Ravi Ettan.

Though I had never met him till I settled down in this metropolis in 2007, we seemed to have known each other from the mid-sixties and have had many common friends in the prestigious Mathrubhoomi of Kozhikode. Innumerable interactions between us followed and we started meeting frequently to talk about the bygone days of Calicut, the erstwhile Malabar, the origin, ethnic groups, geographical peculiarities, and the history of the present day Kerala. He liked my long studies and research on Kerala history

and entrusted me with preparing features on all these aspects of Kerala for his Kerala-in-Mumbai. I have since been with them, sharing whatever little I knew. He sometimes used to say with a laugh: "You have married from our Kozhikode and so, to me, you are half Kozhikodan".

Ravi Ettan's finer sentiments worked at their best, when he heard words of affection or love. When he graced my 70th birthday celebrations, with his wife, he was moved to hear the simple but emotional speech of my grandson about

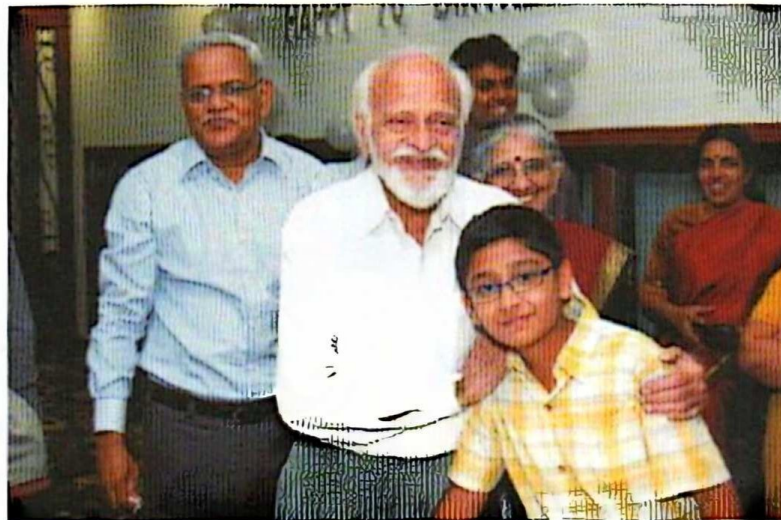
Mumbai.

While preparing the third anniversary special issue of Kerala-in-Mumbai, the editors suggested that there should be an article on Ravi Ettan in that issue. As everyone knows, he did not like any publicity and might not have relished such an article. My friends on the Editorial Board, therefore, put the responsibility on me. But I had never expected that my write-up would be the last one on the living Ravi Ettan. He read it just a day before he bade farewell to us all. Is this what we call Nimitham

in Malayalam? I would never know.

Losing an affectionate friendly elder a Karanavar - and a learned guide is really an irreparable loss. His demise has created a vacuum that cannot be filled in so easily. But, we are not the masters of our destiny and what 'He' wills shall be done. Like his family members, his colleagues and friends, I too console myself that I could share some best hours of my life with him and learn some very good things during the

short span of my association with him. May the Lord grant his soul eternal peace. ■

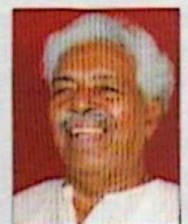


At the 70th birthday celebration of KR Narayanan (standing behind PKR)

his grandfather. He hugged the child and congratulated him for his kind words. He made it a point to publish the speech and photograph of the child with his very warm remarks in Kerala-in-

Tributes to our Ravindranath

Our beloved Ravindranath
(‘May his tribe increase’)
Did not die; He never dieth
But lives along ‘n’ among friends
He left cherished memories ‘n’ deeds
In hundreds ‘o’ thousands for
All his friends who remain undead



- P V Chacko

Remembering Ravi Sir

- Lakshmi Venkatachalam

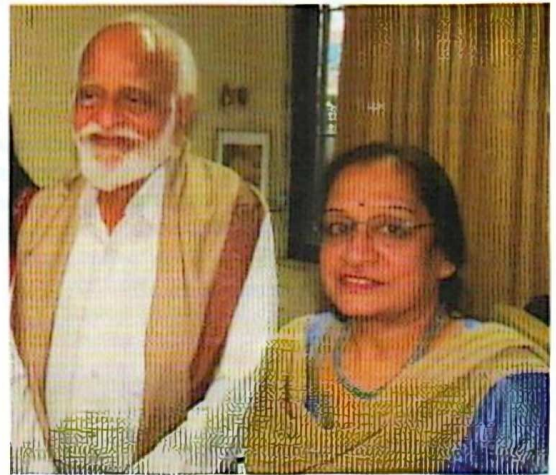


Ravi sir or Raviattan as he was affectionately called is an institution by himself. He lived his life as he believed and when he passed away he has done the ultimate in sacrifice

donating his whole self to the medical field for the benefit of people for whom he worked tirelessly with his pen while he lived. No blind rituals and customs for him but contribution to the society - is there a better way to serve humanity? As the feature editor of Kerala in Mumbai I had many opportunities to interact with him since he was our Consulting Editor. And every time I was overwhelmed by his passion for journalism and writing a passion that I shared with him. He was always willing to hear my views on various subjects and with his smile he made me at ease to open up to him. In matters of editing copies, those small mistakes that escaped our eyes, caught his attention. He trained us to be brief, concise and terse. He insisted on following the ethics of true journalism. No undue flattery, absolute impartiality in filing

news, true to details and checking before reporting facts. He was against abbreviations and short forms. Names were to be doubly checked before going to print, cutting down on praise and flattery, and no emotional outbursts. Short but eye catching headings, brief introductions and significant highlights- I have learnt all this from Ravi Sir.

I remember my first meeting with Ravi Sir. I had taken along two pieces one on a general topic and the other on the beauty of Kerala. Ravi Sir went through the articles and remarked, "This goes out"(the article on the general topic) and "This goes in our magazine" (the one on Kerala). Ravi Sir was very clear: anything connected with Mumbai Malayalees and Kerala news and culture always had a place in KERALA IN MUMBAI. A standard we always follow. I was assigned to cover the suburbs, and artistes and families of Mumbai and he was never stingy in appreciating if my work was good. I was fortunate in getting praised by Ravi Sir for some



Lakshmi with PKR

features on the suburbs that I covered and value them close to my heart. In fact his words of praise goaded me to write more and more.

As days pass by, I am sure that his tips on perfect editing will guide me to improve my writing. That is my way of remembering and paying tribute to my mentor and guide - My dear Ravi Sir.

He may be here no more, but his spirit will always bless our fledgling magazine to spread far and wide. ■

0% Ego 100% Self respect.

- Pratap Nair



PKR Sir, is how I addressed him. He was a fatherly figure to me and he treated me like one of his sons. I adored him for his many qualities; one being his closeness to

Goddess Saraswathi.

His knowledge on various matters often baffled me. Science, yoga, mathematics, films, novels, poetry, you name it. Our bonding and closeness grew during the days when the book "She - the incredible" happened. We sat together several hours making it and the longest was when we did the proof reading together - seven hours at a stretch. He was associated with us, as the Jury Head of ICE Awards 2011. In 2012 he was the Head of the Governing council, for Ice Awards. His passion, enthusiasm and energy is

seen to be believed. He did correct me on everything I said, wrote and wanted to do. And every time he did it, my adoration for him(only) increased. He was loved for his simplicity, frankness and fearless views on several controversial issues. His romantic self was hidden to many. Whenever Tara aunty narrated to me their love story, sir would be sitting next, blushing. He loved and respected his wife and believed in his children. Anuja was her dad's favourite and she lived up to his love for her. Show me a man who has 0% EGO and 100% SELF RESPECT and the first or the ONLY name that comes into my mind is - PROF P. K. Ravindranath. People who knows him will vouch for this.

When FEI Cargo Ltd instituted Shailaja Nair Purashkar to honour a Keralite of a different kind, he was undoubtedly our first choice. Kerala in Mumbai was kind

enough to join us in this noble cause and allowed us to do the presentation during their third anniversary celebrations. We were fortunate to honour him personally by presenting a cheque of Rs 1lakh and a citation expressing his enigma. [thanks to the skill of Shri Satyanath ably supported by Mr Vijaykumar, the wordings on this citation became apt and to his liking]. I often asked him, as a son, to transfer Goddess Saraswathi into my tongue from his tongue. He left everything for the mankind. He left a legacy of knowledge and wisdom for the world through his many written books and thousands of his students. He succeeded in living a blessed and envious life. Love you and respect you, Sir, for what you were to me and my family. Will always treasure the memories of our association with lots of pride. ■

BRIEF NOTE ON INTERACTIONS WITH LATE SHRI P.K. RAVINDRANATH

- Dr. Gopakumar Nair



It was a great shock to hear from Mr. Vijaykumar of KIM, about the sad news of the demise of Raviyettan, on February 18, evening.

The loss continued to be felt till I attended the farewell on 19th noon at Patrakar Colony with all others and thereafter. Being there, amidst a sea of admirers of Raviyettan, it dawned on me that here is an achiever, who has done so much in a life time, not only for his noble family, Taraji and children, but more importantly, for the community at large and the Keralites in particular. His noble soul will rest in peace with the Lord Almighty, rest assured.

My early memories of him are when dignitaries like Shri Panampalli Govinda Menon and the like used to visit Mumbai & hold press meet, where I used to accompany Late Shri G.P. Nair in the seventies. On behalf of IDMA, when we had a meeting arranged by Shri Sharad

Pawar, with Shri Manmohan Singh (who arrived by a Helicopter) in the early nineties at the Mumbai Raj Bhawan to brief them on the implications of impending Intellectual Property regime, Shri Ravindranath was also present. Later I had met Raviyettan many times in Nehru Centre, where he was a Director. I was deeply impressed by his sharp memory, literary and intellectual proficiency and

"writing". He used to write and give me to read. In turn, I used to reply him in writing. Later I realised that I could speak to him. When I started speaking, he had a good smile on his face. I was extremely fortunate (like Mr. Vijaykumar) that I could participate in felicitating him at the hands of His Excellency the Governor of Maharashtra on 11th December 2012, at Shanmukhananda Hall, during the



Dr Gopakumar Nair presents an award to PKR on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of Bharat Education Society

sincerity for every cause he took up and on every subject. Even though, I met him in 2012 after a gap of many years, he promptly remembered his earlier meetings with me. The last few conversations, I had with him were in

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Bharat Education Society, as well as during the Annual Day celebrations of Raagalaya and KIM on 10th February 2013 at Kalidasa Sabhagriha in Mulund, where thanks to my longtime friend Mr. Pratap of FEI Cargo, a citation with Rs.1 Lakh was bestowed on Shri P.K. Ravindranath, in the presence of Mrs. Taraji on both occasions. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have come in contact with such an illustrious personality in my lifetime. I am indeed grateful to KIM and Mr. Vijaykumar for reviving my contacts with Raviyettan before his sad demise. ■

The departure is so sudden that it is difficult to believe that Raviyettan has left us forever. He always treated me as his younger brother and provided me necessary advice in my chosen field of activity. Our frequent contact over telephone and direct meet at various venues gave an inspiring impetus to my zeal of social work. Like others close to him, I will also miss him and the void may not be filled in. He will remain in our memory for ever.

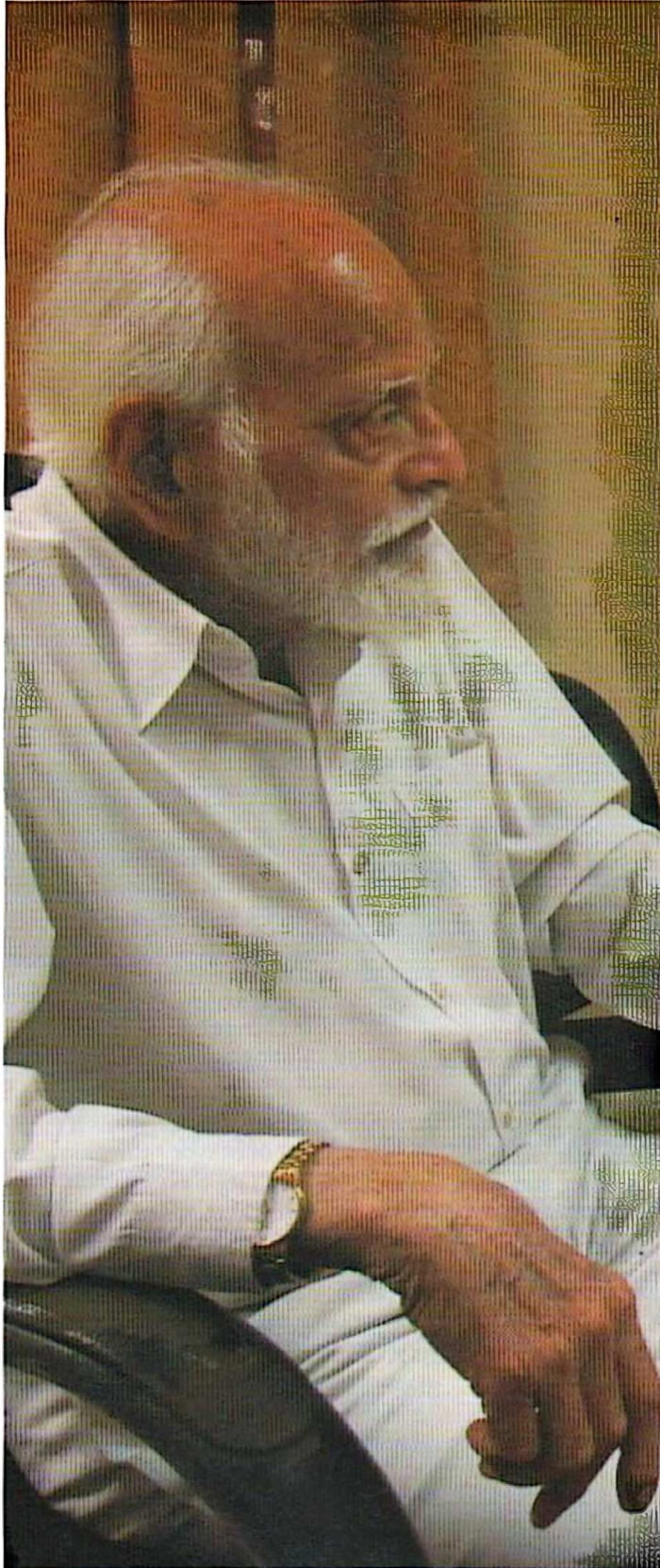
-Rajan V Nair



A tribute to P K Ravindranath



- Geeta Radhakrishna



A distinguished man in white,
Snow white hair,
Spotless white attire and
Swanky white beard!
White is the sublime colour
That suited him so well and
Set him apart as a class by himself
A sublime aura enveloping
The gentleman with a pure heart!

Though born in Burma,
He belonged to Zamorin's beautiful land of Kozhikode,
Where the exotic palm trees swayed and danced in scented breeze.
He left the native breeze behind
In search of pastures anew!
His new home was Mumbai where he began his fruitful journey.
To settle down and accept Mumba Devi's state of prosperity
As his own,
Was a decision that he never ever regretted.

A man of letters, a voracious reader,
In Malayalam and in English,
He made the right choice in
Entering the field of Journalism!
His journey began from Free Press Journal to Times,
A skip and a hop to National Herald and to Mathrubhumi
As editor, to many more magazines and publications!
The highlight of his career was his position
As the Press Advisor to the Government of Maharashtra!

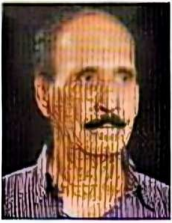
His strength and power came from his admirable wife
Tara- a lady of dignity and poise,
Who stood with him thick and thin throughout his life
A pillar of strength, resilience and calm composure!
Together, they made an excellent couple
As a warm cushion to the literary circles,
To dancers and artistes,
Their presence at every performance
Was welcomed, as a blessing and joy!

Gentle and soft spoken,
Most affectionately addressed as
'Ravi Ettan' by one and all,
He lived a worthy life
Ever ready to help,
To support a cause,
For the growth and progress of Malayalee culture!
As the consulting editor of 'Kerala in Mumbai'
His contribution was rich and invaluable.

As Ravindranath makes his transition
From this materialistic world,
And merges with nature and silence of this Cosmos;
Leaving behind his family, friends and admirers,
There is a strange serenity
Of a life fully lived, of contentment and peace.
The open sky gazes at the noble 'atma'
While the clouds welcome the spirit
Through the glittering pathway of a heavenly corridor!

Raviettan My Godfather

- V Balachandran



It was Monday, February 18, 2013 and a cool breezing was caressing all. I thought of calling on Raviettan in a casual way and proceeded to his residence at Patrakar

Colony, with prasadam from Goregaon Ayyappa Temple. When I reached around 11.30 a m, the side entrance door was partially open. I was shocked to see him lying on a cot in the front room, severely ill. His wife Tara Madam told me that he had a fall from the bed on the previous night and the family physician had attended to him since Raviettan abhorred stay in hospitals. After a few minutes of silence, I left consoling her that I would pray for his fast recovery to Lord Ayyappa and that he would be fine soon.

The response I got from his residence when I telephoned at 2.30 p m was not very encouraging. I was told some breathing problem had occurred. Soon I contacted P V

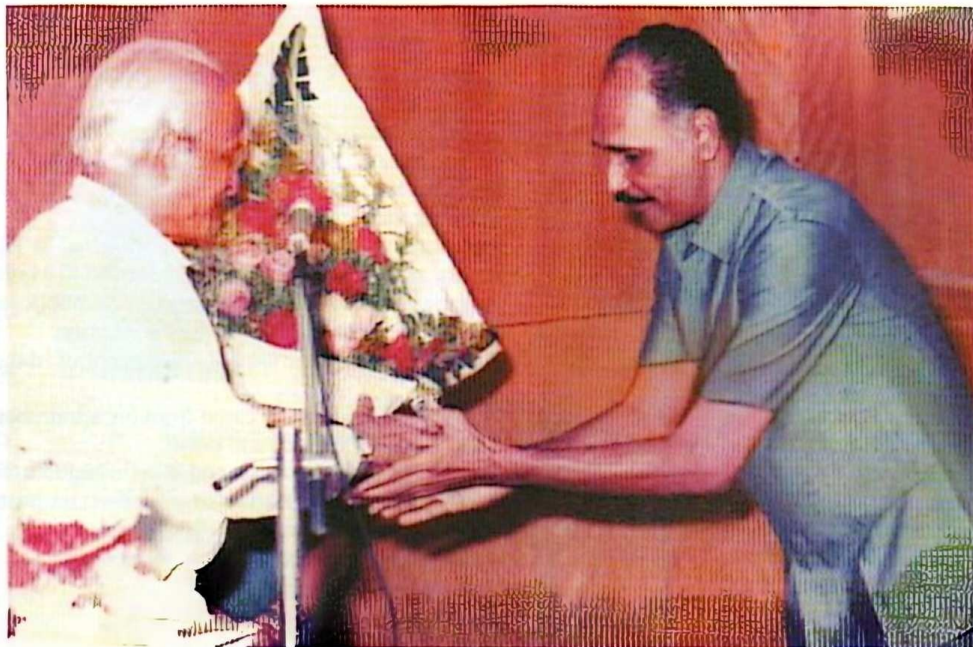
Vijaykumar of Kerala-in-Mumbai and was told that he was on his way to Raviettan's and would contact me after reaching there. After 5 p m, Vijaykumar informed me the demise of Raviettan and that his body was taken to Gurunanak Hospital and it would be kept for public view next day between 12 noon and 2 p m.

I was shocked beyond words and my mind was filled with memories of Raviettan.

After emergency, the Shiv Sena came to power in BMC. Being a Malayali I was troubled by them during my tenure as Ward Officer (Slums) and Sr Ward Officer in M Ward, Chembur, and

Deonar Area on the Eastern Suburbs. My family and I were under threat by the elements of Shiv Sena and I felt, my time was too bad to survive. I was then staying at Versova and my contacts P K Rajan, Achuvettan and senior members of Kendriya Sanghatana told me that only P K Ravindranath could be of some help. When I met him at his residence, he comforted me and put me at ease. It was indeed a turning point in my life.

His writings such as 'Shiv Sena's trusted Malayali Ward Officer: Mr Balachandran' and 'MLA sets bad precedent' were two examples how he used his pen on my behalf.



P. K. Ravindranath and V Balachandran

When people in BMC came to know about my contact with Ravindranath Sir (those days I addressed him 'Sir'), the pressure on me started reducing and the corporators found me 'good for work'. Hatred soon disappeared and they accepted me as a task master. This change of attitude was the result of his invisible hand since I had no other contacts or godfathers in Mumbai.

Now I am orphaned.

When I was transferred to H (West) Ward, the Mayor of Bombay initiated his 'Clean Bombay, Green Bombay' programme and I took the initiative to implement it. Ravindranath wrote several pieces on my beautification initiative and those write-ups had a

great impact on our anti-pollution programmes during festivals.

When I retired from BMC on October 31, 1994 as Dy Municipal Commissioner, Ravindranath along with Oliver Andrade, Municipal Councillor, organized a farewell function at Otters Club, Bandra. Sunil Dutt MP and Dilip Kumar, actor, attended the function.

Later I became a part of the programmes attended by him, be it for Malayalee Samajam, Mahila Samaj, People's Art Centre, various Onam programmes and social, cultural and religious events. He was a friend, philosopher and guide to many organizations and he had clear cut views on all matters.

Raviettan was fortunate to have strong support of his wife Tara and she used to accompany him to many events. Many thought that she was an original Malayalee as she spoke fluent Malayalam, office bearer of Keraleeya Mahila Samajam and participated in Kaikottikkali.

A plot was allotted to Keraleeya Mahila Samaj on 'Vacant land Tenancy basis' during Mayor Madhavan's tenure and this was not like by his successors and

they put hurdles in its survival as it occupied a part of Mayor's Bungalow in Shivaji Park but Tara Ravindranath always had something up her sleeve to get them overcome. Finally she sought Raviettan's intervention and he talked to Governor of Maharashtra, K Sankaranarayanan. It finally clicked and BMC accepted his recommendation and granted more or less on a regular basis.

Raviettan had a tremendous influence on political leaders and bureaucracy and he silently worked on them without letting the beneficiaries know who he indeed contacted for their work.

Mumbai Malayalees will remember him for a long time. ■

Death takes a person away and we feel how much closer the person is to us.

- Upendra Menon

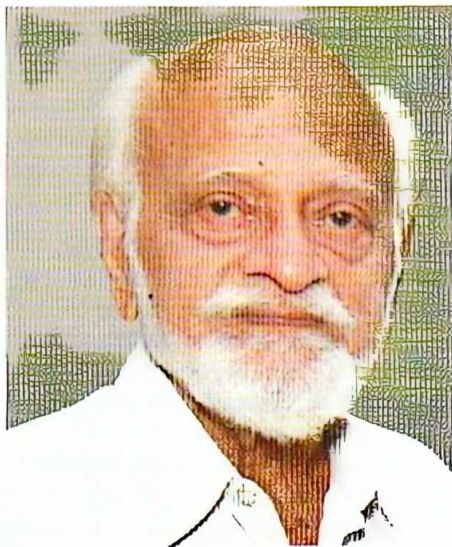


At birth he cries and makes everyone around happy but he makes others cry while he departs. It's said death does not matter; what matters is the journey from birth to death.

Here is a person who showed us not only the journey but death can also matter. The body will not turn out to be mere ash in a few hours. It's in use at J J Medical College, the eyes will give sight and a new life to some others.

While many of us here stand in silence, immersed in grief, I can see him there away with a smile on his face, always a good friend, many a times an uncompromising elder brother.

Our association started when we wanted Mathrubhumi weekly regularly at home. He was to be contacted in Mumbai that time. We were coming closer when he suggested my name as Vice chairman in railway Action Committee RAC. Our association



became closer as time passed. Our interaction was much more when he entered Kerala in Mumbai. When he with Tara chechi called on us, our house was blessed.

Of late when he agreed to take up as Chief editor of Mumbai Malayali Directory and my name was proposed

as Chief Co-ordinator, he nodded in agreement. A plethora of interaction for many matters especially reinforcing the foundations of the directory, he was there ready for action as always. He was always there to come along with us for identifying the patrons and we could complete and publish in web.

I have noticed his concern for family when Tarachechi had a knee operation. Keeping aside his pen and paper and turning his head away from all important functions outside home, he held his wife in support when she needed it.

His commitment to Mumbai Malayalis touched a new height when he attended Mumbai Pooram preparatory meeting at Nair Samaj hall at Dadar. He could hardly speak and physically constrained on the movements yet he would call the organizers, ask for pen and paper to inform them, his willingness, to be a part of souvenir committee.

Thank you Ravietta, for being with us as a source of inspiration, motivation and guide. No doubt you were, you are, our pride. ■

The stalwart of Print Media

- C K K Poduval



It was 15 minutes past five in the evening of Monday, the February 18, 2013. A message from Vijaykumar, the Managing Editor of Kerala in Mumbai informed me

that 'Ravietta' left us forever a few minutes ago. I remained frozen for a few minutes as the memories of Previous Sunday at Kalidas Natya Mandir rushed in. On that day, Ravietta accepted the life time achievement award for the services rendered for the last six decades to the print media, consisting of Rs one lakh and a citation, presented jointly by Shailaja Pratap Nair Foundation and Kerala-in-Mumbai. Incidentally, I too received an award for my lifelong association with the stage as an actor and director during the same event.

Soon the news was confirmed and it was my duty to inform all known people including the members of Mulund Keraleeya Samajam, that sad piece of information.

Ravietta had a strong bondage with the Mulund Keraleeya Samajam. On the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the Samajam, an award was instituted in memory of K M Mathews. The jury consisting of Sreeman, Lion Kumaran Nair and Dr A Venugopal unanimously decided to bestow it on P K Ravindranath considering his six decades of service to the print media.

His ill-health did not permit Ravindranath to come to the event and so it was organized at his own home. President K Gopalan Nair, General Secretary C K Lakshminarayanan, G Mohan Kumar, Oommen Michael and members of the jury panel besides Kerala-in-Mumbai's Vijaykumar and

Lakshmi Venkatachalam and me went to his residence in Patrakar Colony. When the award consisting of a purse of Rs.25,000 and citation was presented, Ravietta unable to speak, gestured to his wife Tara to read his letter of appreciation and gratitude. It was indeed a heartrending occasion. Ravietta was an elder brother to me. Since he came to see and analyse my first drama on June 15, 1963 at King George High School, Dadar, we were in constant touch.

It was a rare sight that after the death, the physical remains, instead of being moved to the cremation ground, were taken in an ambulance to J J Hospital for the use of the medical students for their education and research. It was indeed a valuable gift on his part to will that it should be done so that his entire life and physical body were dedicated for the benefit of humanity. ■



P. K. Ravindranath was 'PKR' for colleagues and 'Raviattan' for close friends. My close association with him started when he was the Chief of Bureau of

Mathrubhumi Daily. As a PR personnel, representing the Silk and Synthetic Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), I had to approach him with the Press Releases of the organization. Though the Press Releases had little relevance to the Malayali readers, he would forward select items to Calicut office which would invariably carry them in Mathrubhumi Daily. When I approached M.V.Kamath, the renowned journalist for writing the history of SASMIRA, he declined due to paucity of time but graciously recommended me to PKR.

My adulation for him began much earlier after I started my journalistic career with Free Press Journal in 1972. The Evening News of India, the

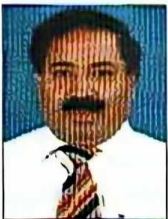
evening published by The Times of India group started a feature focusing on Malayalis in the Cosmopolitan Bombay Series in September 1985. PKR wrote about Bombay's Malayali Legacy highlighting the profiles of many successful personalities including Sarvashri. K. M. Philip, Father of Rubber industry; P.K. Koshy, the engineering stalwart; Rajan Vaidyar, Ayurveda promoter; K.P.Ramachandran Nair, India's ace reporter; Padma Nair described by the Mumbai Police as 'extortionist'; Nirmala Matthan, TV personality; Ezhikara Ambujakshan, playwright and art promoter; M.K. Sambamoorthy, Public Sector PR man; V. Balachandran, Shiva Sena's trusted Malayali Ward Officer; C.D. Oommachen, Malayali MLA; Capt. C.P. Krishnan Nair, the ace Entrepreneur; K.S. Neelakandan, PR Czar; the Moplabs of Bombay (Ahmed Ismail, P.C.K. Moosa, K.P. Ali Koya and P.K.K.

Mammoo); besides the Narielwala; Malayali dance teachers; Circus performers etc. His close proximity with the 'successful Malayalis' had helped him to feature them in Kerala in Mumbai, where he was the Consulting Editor till his end.

When I was in charge of the Press at the Indian Merchants' Chamber and as Chief Executive Officer of Priyadarshni Academy, I had occasions to interact with him intimately. His amiable and friendly nature brought me closer to him in recent times. Whenever, I needed advice on some features in Kerala in Mumbai, he was too glad to respond. The last time I could see him was at the Raagalaya event when he was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He is no more with us but his memory will ever be fresh in the minds of Keralites in Mumbai for years to come. My humble pranams to a journalist who was humane and friendly till his end. ■

Man of all seasons

-Johnson G Therattil

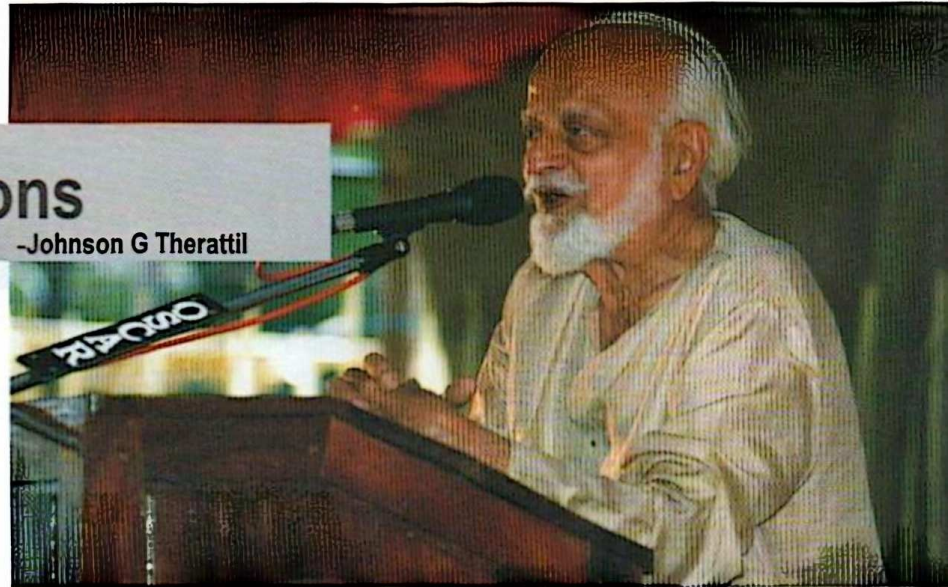


An Obituary to a close friend is never an easy task especially if he is a journalist, a senior one at that, a multi-talented personality, who had a penchant for creative

writing, editing, re-writing press releases, writing news stories, a writer, a film buff, all rolled in one! P K Ravindranath was a man who wore different hats to befit the occasion.

P K Ravindranath left planet Earth to be close and with his Creator God, who created a vacancy in His Board of Directors, so that PKR could join him on Monday 18th February 2013. Even in his second innings, his life after death, he left something for humanity his body was donated for scientific research.

PKR connected instantly with people - politicians, (he was Press Secretary to

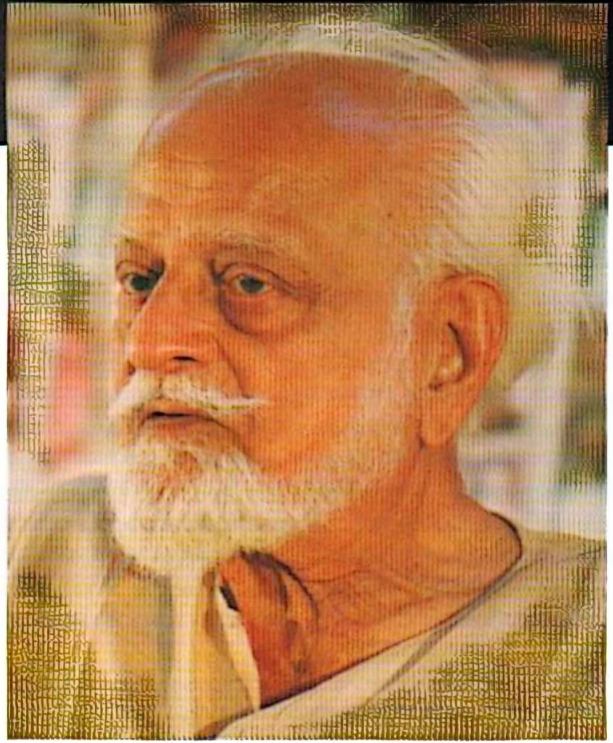


former Chief Minister Sharad Pawar), film folk (he wrote English sub-titles for Malayalam films), students (who acknowledged him as a great teacher, a soft spoken person, humble, kind, yet young at heart) and also people at all levels. During his lifetime, all of 86 years, this unique gift, landed him with an assignment at INSHARP (INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HARMONY AND PEACE), when I was General Secretary. Here, I came closer to late PKR and got to know him better, at a more personal level. He

even contributed to the print industry. Late PKR breathed life into the Nation Herald. Despite having his hands full with these commitments, PKR still found time to author a book titled "SLICE OF LIFE".

PK Ravindranath is survived by his wife Tara, one daughter and two sons. To them we offer our family's heartfelt condolences and pray that the Almighty should give them all the strength and fortitude to come to terms with his untimely passing away. Rest in Peace PKR!!!

പി കെ രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ് അനുസ്മരണം



അമ്പ ത്തഞ്ചുവർഷത്തെ സുഭീർഘമായ സ്നേഹബന്ധമാണ് എനിക്ക് രവീന്ദ്രനാഥുമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. അദ്ദേഹം പ്രമീ പ്രസ്സ് ജർണലിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിരുന്ന കാലംതൊട്ടുള്ളതാണ് ഈ ബന്ധം. നിരവധി കലാസംസ്കാരിക പരിപാടികളിലും, വേദികളിലും ഞങ്ങൾ ഒത്തുചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. മനസ്സിൽ മായാതെ നിൽക്കുന്ന സുപ്രധാനങ്ങളായ ചില

സംഭവങ്ങൾ ഓർമ്മ വരുന്നു. 1974-ൽ നിർമ്മാലും സ്പോർട്സെന്റ് സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ എം ടിയെ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ സഹായിച്ചത് അദ്ദേഹമായിരുന്നു. അക്കാലത്ത് ദേശാഭിമാനിയുടെ ബോംബൈ ലേഖകനായിരുന്നു ഞാൻ. രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ് മാതൃഭൂമിയുടേയും. വാർത്താശേഖരത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ പരസ്പരം സഹായിച്ചിരുന്നു. മാതൃഭൂമിക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ തരപ്പെടാത്ത വാർത്തകൾ അദ്ദേഹം ദേശാഭിമാനിക്കു നൽകിയിരുന്നു.

ഒ എൻ വി കുറുപ്പ് കേരള കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിന്റെ ചെയർമാനായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ, കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിന്റെ ശോചനീയാവസ്ഥ പരിഹരിക്കാനായി ഒരു ഫണ്ട് സ്വരൂപിക്കാൻ ബോംബൈയിൽ വന്നു. എം കെ നായരും, രവീന്ദ്രനാഥും ഞാനും ചേർന്നാണ് രണ്ടു വർഷംകൊണ്ട് അരക്കോടി രൂപ പിരിച്ചെടുത്തത്. രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ് അതിൽ പ്രധാന പങ്ക് വഹിച്ചു.

പിൽക്കാലത്ത് ഒ എൻ വിക്ക് ജ്ഞാനപീഠം പുരസ്കാരം ലഭിച്ചപ്പോൾ കേരളീയ കേന്ദ്രസംഘടനയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ നൽകിയ സീകരണത്തിലും പിന്നീട് നടത്തിയ മഹാകേരളീയം പരിപാടിയിലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വിലയേറിയ സഹായ സഹകരണങ്ങൾ ലഭ്യമായിരുന്നു. മലയാളികളുടെ ഏതൊരു നല്ല കാര്യത്തിനും രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ് ഒപ്പം നിന്നിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പാവനസ്മരണക്കുമുമ്പിൽ കെ കെ എസ്സിന്റേയും എന്റെയും ആരോജ്ജലികൾ!

ശ്രീമാൻ സെക്രട്ടറി, കേരളീയ കേന്ദ്ര സംഘടന



മറുനാടൻമലയാളിക്ക് സുപരിചിതനും സമുന്നതനുമായ ഒരു വ്യക്തി. ഫത്രപ്രവർത്തകൻ, കോളമിസ്റ്റർ, അധ്യാപകൻ, മലയാളികളുടെ ഏതു പ്രശ്നത്തിലും ഇടപെടുകയും കൂടെ നിൽക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്ന ഒരു ഉത്തമസുഹൃത്ത്. സങ്കുചിതാശകൾക്കും കക്ഷിരാഷ്ട്രീയത്തിനും എതിരെ തിന്ന് സ്വന്തം വ്യക്തിത്വം കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിച്ചു. മലയാളിയുടെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പാവനസ്മരണക്കുമുമ്പിൽ

അഭിമാനമായ കുപ്പുകൈ!

അന്തപ്പൻ (ആദം തിയറ്റേഴ്സ്)



1968-ൽ ടൈംസ് ഓഫ് ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ന്യൂസ് ഡെസ്കിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്തിരുന്ന കാലം തൊട്ട് രവിയേട്ടനെ അറിയാം. അന്നദ്ദേഹം അവിടെ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് എഡിറ്ററായിരുന്നു. പിൽക്കാലത്ത് അദ്ദേഹം ഉയർന്ന ഔദ്യോഗിക പദവിയിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നു. നെഹ്റു സെന്റർ ഡയറക്ടർ വരെയായി. മലയാളികളുടെ ചെറുതും വലുതുമായ എല്ലാ സംരംഭങ്ങളിലും രവിയേട്ടന്റെ

സാന്നിദ്ധ്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. മാധ്യമങ്ങളിൽ അവ എത്തിക്കുന്നതിലും കലാസംരംഭങ്ങളെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലും അദ്ദേഹം മുൻപന്തിയിലായിരുന്നു. അടുത്ത കുടുംബ സൗഹൃദമാണ് എനിക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നത്. യാതൊരു സങ്കുചിതതാൽപര്യവും കക്ഷിരാഷ്ട്രീയ ചിന്താഗതികളും രവിയേട്ടൻ പുലർത്തിയിരുന്നില്ല. മലയാളികളുടെ നന്മയുടെ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം രവിയേട്ടന്റെ ആശംസകളും അനുഗ്രഹങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ദേഹവിയോഗം കലാസംസ്കാരിക സാമൂഹ്യരംഗത്തിന് വലിയ നഷ്ടംതന്നെയാണ്. ആ പാവനസ്മരണക്കുമുമ്പിൽ പ്രണാമം അർപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

ബാലാജി നാടക/സിനിമാനടൻ

ജീവകാരുണ്യത്തിന്റെ പ്രതീകം



ബഹുമുഖപ്രതിഭയെന്ന നിലയിൽ നിരവധി മേഖലകളിൽ പ്രശോഭിക്കുന്ന, വിനയാന്വിതനായ രവിയേട്ടനെ മുംബൈ മലയാളികൾക്ക് പരിചിതമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ജീവകാരുണ്യത്തിന്റെ മുർത്തിരൂപമായി രവിയേട്ടനെ മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞത് അദ്ദേഹം വിടപറഞ്ഞ ശേഷമാണ്. അന്ത്യദർശനം കണ്ണീരോടെ മാത്രമെ ഓർക്കാൻ കഴിയൂ. മരണാനന്തരം തന്റെ ഭൗതികശരീരം മനുഷ്യനന്മക്കായി പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്താൻ മുൻകൂട്ടിത്തന്നെ നിശ്ചയിച്ച ആ മഹാത്മാവിന്റെ പാവനസ്മരണക്കുമുമ്പിൽ പ്രണാമം അർപ്പിക്കട്ടെ.

എഴുത്തിന്റെ മേഖലയിൽ ഒരുപാട് സംശയങ്ങൾ രവിയേട്ടൻ തീർത്തു തന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. 'മുംബൈ മലയാള നാടകവേദി-താളുകൾ മറക്കുമ്പോൾ' എന്ന പംക്തിയുടെ ഒടുവിൽ രവിയേട്ടനുമായി ഒരുഭിമുഖം തയ്യാറാക്കണമെന്ന് വൈറ്റ് ലൈൻ വാർത്തയുടെ പത്രാധിപർ പ്രേംലാലും ഞാനും തീരുമാനിച്ചിരുന്നു. രവിയേട്ടൻ അതിനു സമ്മതിച്ചിരുന്നതുമാണ്. പക്ഷെ അതു സഫലീകരിച്ചില്ല. അങ്ങനെയൊരു നിരാശ മനസ്സിൽ ബാക്കി കിടക്കുമ്പോഴും അദ്ദേഹവുമായി പങ്കുവെക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സന്ദർഭങ്ങൾ തിളക്കമാർന്ന സ്മരണകളായി മനസ്സിൽ നിറഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുന്നു. ഒപ്പം രവിയേട്ടനും.

പവിത്രൻ കണ്ണപുരം



മുംബയിലെ കലാസാംസ്കാരികരംഗത്തും പത്രപ്രവർത്തനരംഗത്തും ഉള്ള മലയാളികളുടെ വലുപ്പനായിരുന്നു ശുഭ്രവസ്ത്ര ധാരിയായ ഈ കോഴിക്കോട്ടുകാരൻ. അരനൂറ്റാണ്ടുകാലം പത്രപ്രവർത്തനരംഗത്ത് ജ്വലിച്ചുനിന്ന വ്യക്തിത്വം. എൺപത്തിയാറാമത്തെ വയസ്സിലും ശാരീരികാസ്വാസ്ഥ്യം വളരെയേറെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടും സാംസ്കാരിക വേദികളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പങ്കെടുത്തിരുന്നു. ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ പത്താംതിയ്യതി രാഗലയയുടെ വാർഷികസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ആണ് ഒടുവിലായി രവിയേട്ടൻ പങ്കെടുത്തത്.

1963-ലാണ് ഞാൻ രവിയേട്ടനെ പരിചയപ്പെട്ടത്. കുർള കൈരളി കലാകേന്ദ്രം അവതരിപ്പിച്ച കർമ്മഭൂമി എന്ന നാടകം രവിയേട്ടൻ 'കാണുകയും നാടകാവലോകനം പത്രത്തിൽ എഴുതുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. എല്ലാ കലാസാംസ്കാരിക പരിപാടികളേയും പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് നാടകത്തേയും അദ്ദേഹം പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇതുപോലൊരു വലുപ്പനെ ലഭിക്കാൻ ഇനിയെത്ര കാലം കാത്തിരിക്കണമെന്ന് പ്രവചിക്കുക വയ്യ. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആത്മാവിന് നിത്യശാന്തി നേരുന്നു.

വിശ്വനാഥൻ പള്ളൂർ

വിനയാനീതനായ വലിയ മനുഷ്യൻ



രവീന്ദ്രൻസാറിനെ ആദ്യമായി കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ഒരു ചിത്രകാരനോ കലാകാരനോ ആയിരിക്കാമെന്നാണ് കരുതിയത്. എന്നാൽ പിൻകാലത്ത് സഹോദരതുല്യം രവിയേട്ടനുമായി അടുത്ത് ഇടപഴകിയപ്പോഴാണ് വിനയാനീതനായ ആ വലിയ മനുഷ്യന്റെ മഹത്വം മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞത്. ഒരിക്കൽപോലും ദേഷ്യവും അസംതൃപ്തിയും രവിയേട്ടന്റെ മുഖത്തു കാണാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. അതുപോലെത്തന്നെ പൊട്ടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതും കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. ശാന്തവും സ്നേഹം തുളുമ്പുന്നതുമായ

വാക്കും പെരുമാറ്റവും മാത്രമാണ് എന്നും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റേതേ ജാഡയോ അഹങ്കാരമോ തൊട്ടുതീണ്ടിയിട്ടില്ലാത്ത സ്വഭാവം ശാരീരികാസ്വാസ്ഥ്യവും യാത്ര ചെയ്യരുതെന്നുള്ള ഡോക്ടറുടെ നിർദ്ദേശവും ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ് രവിയെ കാണാന കഴിയാതെ പോയതെന്ന് ക്യാപ്റ്റൻ കൃഷ്ണൻ നായർ പറഞ്ഞു. മരണാനന്തരം സ്വശരീരം മനുഷ്യനന്മക്കായി ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താൻ അദ്ദേഹം നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്നു. ആ ജീവകാരുണ്യ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഒരു മഹാത്മാവാക്കുന്നു. ആ പാവനസ്മരണക്കൂ മുമ്പിൽ ആദരാഞ്ജലികൾ അർപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

ജി കെ രത്നകുമാർ



മുംബൈ മലയാളികളുടെ കാരണവരെയോ നമുക്ക് നഷ്ടമായത്. മലയാളിയുടെ ഏതൊര നല്ല സംരംഭത്തിനും നന്മ നേരുന്ന വ്യക്ത സപ്തസ്വരയുടെ എല്ലാ പരിപാടികളിലും രവിയേട്ടന്റെ മഹനീയ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യം ആശംസകളുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ശുഭ്രവസ്ത്ര ധാരിയായ രവിയേട്ടന്റെ മനസ്സും ശുദ്ധമായ

രൂപവും അവശനിലയിലായിട്ടും രാഗലയയുടെ വാർഷിക പരിപാടിയിൽ അദ്ദേഹം സന്നിഹിതനായി എന്നത് ശാരീരികമായ അവശതയെ അതിജീവിച്ച മനുഷ്യനെയാണ് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്. സഹധർമ്മിണി താരച്ചെച്ചി അതിമനോഹരമായി മലയാളം സംസാരിക്കുമെന്ന മാത്രമല്ല, മലയാളത്തിനകം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുകയും ചെയ്തു. മുംബൈ മലയാളികളുടെ കലാ സാംസ്കാരികരംഗത്തിനും അവരുടെ കൂട്ടായ്മക്കും രവിയേട്ടന്റെ വേർപാടിയ വലിയ നഷ്ടമാണ് വരുത്തിയത്. സ്വന്തം ശരീരം മൊത്തം മെഡിക്കൽ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ച രവിയേട്ടന്റെ മാനവസ്നേഹത്തിനും ജീവകാരുണ്യത്തിനുമുന്നിൽ പ്രണാമം.

പ്രേംകുമാർ

(ഗായകൻ, സംഗീതസംവിധായകൻ)

STATEMENT ABOUT OWNERSHIP AND OTHER PARTICULARS ABOUT THE NEWS PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE 1ST ISSUE EVERY YEAR AFTER THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY

Kerala in Mumbai (Form IV- See Rule -8)

1. Place of Publication	: Mumbai	5. Managing Editor's Name	: P V Vijaykumar
2. Periodicity of its Publication	: Monthly	Whether citizen of India/	: Yes
3. Printer's Name	: P V Vijaykumar	Address	: B-105, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Mumbai-400 059
Whether citizen of India?	: Yes	6. Owners	: Vibrant Printing & Publishing Pvt. Ltd. B-105, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Mumbai-400 059
Address	: B-105, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Mumbai-400 059	7. Printing Press	: Sharprints, 13/679, Sardar Nagar-1, Sion, Mumbai-400022
4. Publisher's Name	: P V Vijaykumar		
Whether citizen of India?	: Yes		
Address	: B-105, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Mumbai-400 059		

Raviettan - an eternal social yogi

- Sriprakash Menon



Raviettan as he is popularly known never used Menon in his name. I came to know about that in P K Ravindranath, the K stood for Konthimennon P was his ancestral

home name in Kozhikode, much later. For him casteism, religion and class was least important, he judged people by what values they had in life and how good they were in the social realm.

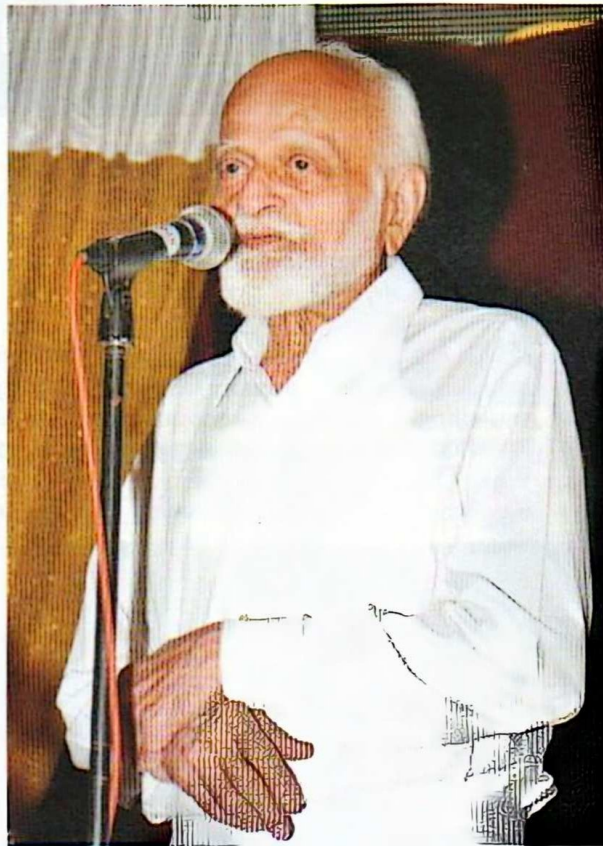
My association with him was from the mid eighties when I landed for work in Mumbai from Pune via Delhi. It was at a cultural function and later at a seminar on cinema, I had an opportunity to get introduced to him. My association with him grew over the years and I used to visit him at the Mathrubhumi office at Fort. What I liked about him the most was his simplicity and vast knowledge about varied subjects. As a budding journalist I got cue from his advice and guidance.

As I started attending functions and programmes organised by Malayalee organisations, I got more familiar with Raviettan. As far as Malayalee functions were concerned whether it was organised by Bombay Keraleeya Samajam, People's Arts Centre, Raagasudha, Raagalaya or any other Kerala organisation, he was an iconic figure presiding over the proceeding. Actually, he was more Maharashtrian than Keralite, after migrating from Burma to Kozhikode. He was in Kerala for less than ten years but developed deep bondage with a handful of friends there before coming down to Mumbai. No wonder he was so nostalgic of his home state.

Right from the beginning of Raviettan's career at the Free Press Journal, he established himself for his writings as well as for his conviction. He wanted to grow beard and then editor veteran S Sadanand wanted it to be removed. How Raviettan could manage to grow beard and continue in the FPJ is an interesting story itself.

Raviettan was well connected with writers, thinkers, rationalists and political heavy weights of his times. No doubt he was a socialist at heart and hated discrimination on the grounds of religion or caste. He was not a traditional or religious person but he would never be critical about them.

He was a prolific and radical writer and wrote for many publications including Asiaweek, Mainstream, National Herald besides FPJ, Times of India and Mathrubhumi where he worked for several years. His association with Maharashtra and its



politics through his writings are too well known. It was the experience, understanding and closeness to regional politics that got him closer to Sharad Pawar. He was chosen as the press advisor to then chief minister of Maharashtra by Pawar himself. After this semi political stint at Mantralaya, he was appointed as director of publications at the Nehru Centre.

Raviettan was from the old school of journalism and he was vehemently opposed to changes especially in the

arena of print journalism. Journalism of course in the present times is against any kind of social activism. Only those social and political issues, approved and sanctioned by the management of publications, will find enough space to be written about of course tokenism does exist. As pointed out by a leading foreign newspaper, Indian journalism is more influenced by the market forces and has become a PR tool to reach out to the people. People like Raviettan would not trade good old values for a change which would bring riches and comfort. This was a great challenge which Raviettan till his death lived with and did not compromise.

Though he acted in a Malayalam film directed by Jayaraj, may be just to oblige his well wishers. He was not particularly awed by the television media or else with his bearded intellectual look he could have anchored several socio-political shows on Malayalam channels. He was not a big fan of TV. He loved movies, he has not only written some critical pieces on cinema, he was a movie buff himself. His association with writer, editor, author and well known film maker M T Vasudevan Nair blossomed as both shared common interest in literature and cinema.

A very unassuming person, Raviettan was very popular in his heydays as a writer, reporter and social activist. Always in white dress, he was not at all aspirational, he was not moved by the trend or the market whether it was media or the

outside world. Raviettan like many others of his times was not comfortable with computer and laptops but it never affected his professional or personal work. He never compromised his principles. His never said no to anyone when they sought his help though some of the people whom he supported may have questionable credentials, this of course was a problem with him.

His social attitude dominated his decisions. To great extent he was

stubborn and reluctant to change. After his operation at Hinduja, a well wisher had suggested to him an alternative therapy for his ailment but after knowing the attitude of that medical practitioner, he outrightly rejected the offer for medicines. That's Raviettan. Had he been a little flexible, he may have been around for several years more, but that's life and that's how some "unforgettable people" are made of.

Both Tara ji and Raviettan were made for each other and they shared common interests though she is spiritual and homely. Both of them together have attended innumerable functions in Mumbai. Raviettan was an eternal yogi always trying to guide and advise people in the outside world. Raviettan's children Anuja, Jayesh and Naresh all

are well settled and were quite supportive. They led their own lives but the "grand couple" chose to be "independent" in the sylvan surroundings of Patrakar Nagar, Bandra east. Raviettan enjoyed teaching students and would travel from one suburb to another by public transport for the sake of lectures. He was very popular with students and was greatly enjoying this new found interest in his evening of his life. His life was a true example of "high thinking and simple living" in this glitzy megapolis Mumbai.

Noted journalist and author M V Kamath in his foreword for Raviettan's book "A Slice of Life" said in five decades Ravi has turned out to be not only an acute observer of the passing scene but a friend, philosopher and

guide to numerous people. They include iconoclast Dr Abraham Kovoor, vedic scholar Dr T K N Trivikram, actors Motilal, Sunil Dutt and Amitabh Bachchan, socrates of Kerala - Balakrishna Pillai, poet Kamala Das, cartoonist and FPJ colleague Bal Thackeray and several others.

I shared a good rapport with Raviettan and quietly studied him how he could be so untouched by the ever changing dynamic media like a steady "swan on the placid water" not drenched in the water of time. When I visited him at his residence, his eyes deep and attentive spoke for the last time. A glance which expressed several words in silence and solitude. That warm smile hidden beneath the flowing beard, Raviettan, Sir, I will miss you ! ■

PKR- He gave more than he got

- Prakash Padikkal



Two decades ago, my wife introduced me to P K Ravindranath at a function. My wife had worked with Mr. Ravindranath on a project.

Years later, when I became active in the social field, I had a chance to meet Mr Ravindranath not once but on several occasions in functions where the Malayalee community gathered. Always dressed in white, he was addressed as "Raviettan" and was treated with affectionate brotherly feelings and immense respect. He radiated warmth and was very likeable as a human being.

It seems very strange to be talking about Raviettan in the past tense. I have known him as a person who has given 100 percent to any project he undertook. Mumbai Pooram was one such event, where he was totally involved much to the delight of its organisers. The magazine, Kerala in Mumbai was one of Raviettan's pet projects.

In May 2012, Vijaykumar (Managing Editor of Kerala in Mumbai) wanted to meet me with regard to an article about my social activities. He said he would come home to meet me. When I opened the door of my flat, I was surprised to see Vijaykumar accompanied by

Raviettan. I welcomed them home and later when Vijaykumar told me that Raviettan had come to interview me for the Kerala in Mumbai magazine, I was embarrassed. Why should a senior citizen and a journalist come to my house to meet me, especially when he was ailing? I would have gone and met Raviettan for the interview, instead. When I mentioned as much to Raviettan, his response was, 'an



individual's deeds are the deciding factor'. He would not let anything come in the way of his work. His dedication to his art was admirable.

Raviettan was ailing for some time and when we met, I realized he was finding it difficult to talk continuously. I could see his physical suffering and realized he was fighting the disease. Even though he was unwell and needed support to move, he attended to all his cherished programs.

The last program that Raviettan attended was Raagalaya's annual program at Kalidas Auditorium, Mulund. He arrived in a wheelchair and was taken up the stage to receive the lifetime achievement award given by Raagalaya. As he stood up, my eyes turned moist at the struggle he was going through, but it was his strong determination which enabled him to do whatever he wanted to, and with much success.

Raviettan's wife always followed him like his shadow. She has been with him in all his good times and the difficult, too. My heart goes out to the lady who has lost her companion and husband.

Raviettan always gave 100 percent to whatever he undertook. In death too, it was the same. His mortal remains were taken away in an ambulance to J J Hospital, Mumbai.

He had long since decided to donate his body upon his death—he saw to it that his body too would prove useful to others.

The loss of a veteran journalist and a karmayogi—in the real sense of the term, is a huge loss to all Keralites in Mumbai. I feel I have lost one of my closest relatives, whom I respected and loved a lot. Raviettan's death is an irreparable loss to Malayalees in Mumbai. His presence and warmth will be hugely missed. ■

A SLICE OF LIFE

- M V Kamat



P K Ravindranath is an old friend. And that means I have known him since 1952 when he joined the Free Press Journal. I was then editor of the Free Press Bulletin. But

equally doing more writing for the Free Press Journal than I care to remember. By the time that Ravi and so I remember him joined as, I had been on the FPJ staff for six years. Considering the turnover that was characteristic of the FPJ staff, I could have been described as a veteran. Few stayed that long at 21 Dalal Street.

When Ravi joined the FPJ no one could possibly have taken him for a fresher. He had seen life. Uprooted from Burma and back in Calicut he had tasted politics, becoming secretary of the Calicut unit of the Indian Students Congress. While still a student he had served as a reporter to The Malayalee published from Trivandrum (now Thiruvananthapuram). As a student activist he had dared to defy the dreaded Malabar Special Police and had to be pulled up by a President of the Kerala Pradesh Congress committee for his foolishness.

So, when he came to the FPJ he came as one whose political thinking had been already honed, and therefore needing no special guidance. He quickly showed astuteness in many remarkable ways, as this collection of his various articles spread over half a century would show.

Half a century. That is a long time. In these five decades Ravi has turned out to be not only an acute observer of the passing scene, but a friend philosopher and guide to numerous people, some of whose lives and times he has chronicled in this book, sometimes with humour, sometimes with sharpness, but always with compassion. And the people he had known! They include men and women from practically all walks of life. You have Dr. Abraham Kovoov the

iconoclast, Dr. T K N Trivikram the Vedic Scholar, Motilal the great film actor, Balakrishna Pillai, the 'Socrates' of Kerala, the widow of Champakaraman Pillai the patriot, Atma Ram, the fim maker, Amitabh Bachchan no less, Sunil Dutt, Fr. C Rodrigues, a clergy man, Kamala Das the rebel, and among fellow journalists, K P Ramachandran Nair ace reporter, M P Iyer, K N Singh- name a person and Ravi has known them all, including Padma Nair, described by the

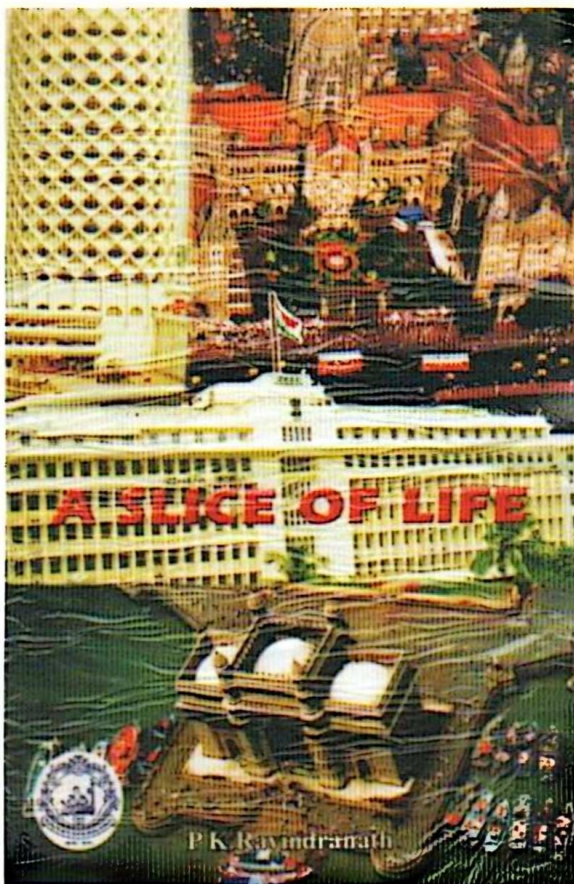
was declared but he was apparently bowled over by Sanjay Gandhi who came courting editors in Bombay in 1976 as Ravi's article in Asiaweek indicates. But that would only show that Ravi not only had the courage of his convictions but was open to persuasion. When Sanjay died Ravi wrote again for Asiaweek: He said: "In the end it was the monotheistic structure of the group that cut it down. Sanjay Gandhi was so high in the party and a second line of acceptable leadership was so

conspicuously absent that his death left the youth wing of the Congress without any hope of survival in its present form".

Whatever his personal views, as a reporter and a journalist, Ravi kept them well under control and would not let them colour his writing. He could thus write mouth-watering relish about the biryani served him by Godwari Parulekar, a communist leader of tribals, with uninhibited enthusiasm about Habib Tanvir, the Chattisgarh folk theatre authority and with equal objectivity about riots in Bhivandi of Behrampada. Of the former he writes: "With the paralysis that struck the intelligence and the police force in Bhivandi, local social and political workers also appear to be immobilised with fears of consequences or reprisals....". Ravi may have once been a friend of Thackeray but when it came to reporting he had no qualms of calling a spade just what it is, a spade. Of the Shiv Sena and the Bombay riots he wrote (Mainstream 22 Feb, 1969):

"The Shiv Sena chief, Bal

Thackeray who was in Preventive Detention on the second day of the riots had a new experience in life, jail. He is known to have broken down and wept when the police officials went to his house early in the morning to arrest him!" To that he added with refreshing candour: "The riots and the violence have discredited the Shiv Sena. It has lost face even among its own cadres who were capable of independent



Bombay police as an 'extortionist'!

During his career he came to know not only Bal Thackeray, the Shiv Sena leader, but his parents and entire family as well. In a way Thackeray had been responsible for getting Ravi sacked from the FPJ nevermind if he was reinstated the very next day! That, it may be said, was part of the FPJ culture.

Ravi had the guts to resign from The Times of India, when the Emergency



pieces, each reflecting the times in which they were written, is the sheer range of Ravi's life as a journalist. It is difficult to put this book down once one starts reading. Ravi holds the reader's attention with charming openness. And to think that but for the fact that he was once "carried away by righteous indignation" as he puts it when an upstart British official called an Indian mess supervisor in the Middle East "You dirty Indian bastard" he would have been in serving in Kuwait and probably retiring fifty years later with a fat bank balance! His anger mounting, Ravi had become instrumental in becoming secretary of

thought and analysis". When it comes to analysing the Shiv Sena's past, Ravi sticks to truth. That is why it is important to read his penetrating study: 'Cleansing the Police of communalism' (June 2001).

Ravi has neatly subdivided his book into several sections like 'Personalities', 'Riots', 'Investigation', 'Perceptions', 'The Arts', and 'Review' and every section brings out the best of Ravi. What is most striking about Ravi's writings is the meticulous research that has gone into each piece and the fairness with which he greets his subjects. Nowhere does one find any rancour of personal bias. It is as if he is merely holding the mirror to every situation. An example of this kind of writing is Ravi's article on 'The Fight Against Obscurantism' which he wrote for The Times of India, thirty years ago. It speaks of the obscurantism among Parsis and Christians and how when a Catholic priest in Pune conducted a mass, Indian style, complete with *chandanam*, flowers, arti and recitation of hymns in Sanskrit, critics attacked him for contaminating the holiest act in Catholic worship with 'un Christian' symbols. In today's context the priest would probably be dismissed as a product of safronisation!

Ravi's frankness and openness is admirable even when it is appalling! He is willing to take on even fellow journalists, with brutal transparency. There surely will be many red faces among columnists when they read what Ravi has to say about them. Thus he writes: "Each newspaper and journal has its own favourite set of columnists churning out their 600-word pieces week after week. They pick up cues from each other or from the day's headlines to dish out their say. Anything new or fresh in what they say?...Wade your way through the haystacks to look for the proverbial needle."

As for today's journalism Ravi says: "Today's editors are chosen for their adaptability to the dictates of the advertising manager. This is true of almost all newspapers...my mentors in journalism fifty years ago would be squirming in their graves. The dividing line between truth and fiction, propaganda and fact, advertising and news are all fast thinning,... The truth is that except for a few newspapers like The Hindu, the sticklers for truth and objectivity are unknown commodities in the print medium...."

What is stunning about this rare collection of essays is that they could, one supposes, also be called period

Indo-Pakistan Staff Association with membership of 3000 who paralysed an oil company with a one-week strike. That the Kuwaitis thereafter bundled him into a steamer and deported him with just a shirt on his back speaks volumes for Ravi's sense of patriotism and even more his willingness to stand bravely for a cause. Those are the virtues that come through so richly in his later writings for which the Lord be praised. One suspects that it was all the making of the Good Lord to get the British official to swear at Indians. But for that Ravi would probably never have come to India or become a journalist! So thanks are due to God for being so originally merciless!

It has been a privilege to have known Ravi for half a century. It is not that we have always been in agreement on sundry issues. But it speaks for Ravi's catholicity of mind, his great capacity not only to make but keep friends that he is regarded with respect and affection by his fellow journalists. This book is aptly entitled A Slice of Life. A slice, indeed.

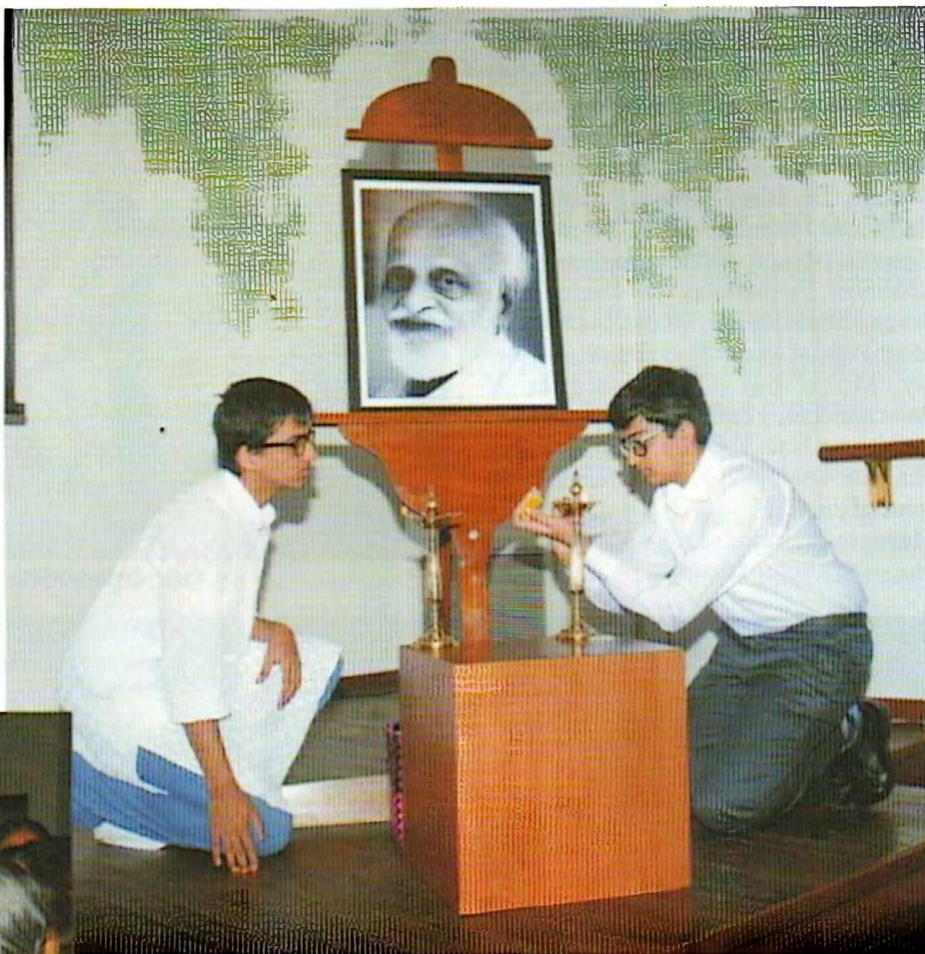
Or else what would be a life of journalism for?

(From FOREWORD by M V Kamath to PKR's A Slice of Life) ■

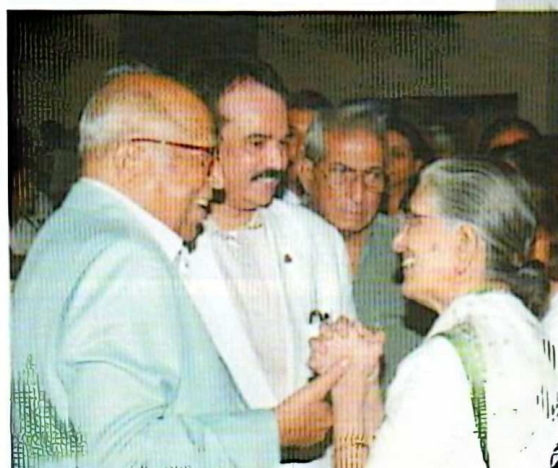
P K Ravindranath Memorial Events

It was a solemn occasion when many admirers of late P K Ravindranath assembled at Nehru Centre Auditorium to pay tributes to his memory. It was surprising to see so many people from different walks of life to be present simply on the basis of a newspaper notice on a busy Saturday evening.

Mrs Tara Ravindranath and her children Jayesh and Anuja attended the function. In his introduction, Jayesh said that it was not a condolence meeting but an occasion to celebrate the achievements of Ravindranath. He on behalf of his immediate family, recalled the past activities and ideas of his father. Soon Capt C P Krishnan Nair of the Leela Group recalled his association with Ravindranath and his assistance in overcoming the obstacles that he was subjected to and thankfully mentioned that whatever Raviattan did was not with any objective



PKR's grandchildren light the lamp



Capt. Krishnan Nair and Prince Vaidyan with Tara Ravindranath

of compensation. Whatever he did was with sincerity and commitment and for a just cause. Anuja also spoke on behalf of her mother and thanked everyone who attended the event.

Ravindranath's second son Naresh presented a video film showing some moments from Raviattan's life. Kerala-in-Mumbai organized another memorial event next day evening at Marol Education Academy auditorium and



Capt. Krishnan Nair



Anandini Thakur



Anuja

many noted personalities from all over Mumbai and suburbs attended the memorial.

Ravindranath's wife Smt Tara and daughter Anuja lighted the auspicious lamp. Many of the participants recalled their association with Ravindranath and spoke at length. Adv Padma Divakar, M N Kutty Nair, Dr Aprain, Dr Gopakumar G Nair, Dr Bijoy Kutty, Girish Nair, Harikumar Menon, K R Narayanan, Upendra Menon, Prince Vaidyan, P R Krishnan, Premkumar, Dr Panicker of Seven Hills Hospital, Suresh Menon, A S Madhavan of Varier Foundation, Former Dy Municipal Commissioner V Balachandran, Prof A Vijayashankar, Sasidharan Nair, K D Chandran, Lakshmi Venkatachalam and K V Satyanath were some of them.

Managing Editor P V Vijayakumar proposed a vote of thanks.



Tara Ravindranath and Anuja light the lamp



Tara Ravindranath addresses the gathering



Sections of the audience



Speakers at the memorial organised by Kerala in Mumbai

S K Pottekkat

MASTER STORY TELLER

- Satyanath

This month on March 14, the Malayalees who are fortunate to take a dip in the sea of his writings will celebrate the master story teller S K Pottekkat's birth centenary. The best tribute to him would be a second reading of his books, be it poems, short stories, novels or travelogues: The popularity of his stories can be gauged from the fact that no other Malayalam author was translated into so many Indian and foreign languages. Russian, English, Czech, German, Hindi, Tamil and Kannada are some of them.

Originally there are 23 compilations of his short stories while there are 10 novels. In 1969, SPCS brought out a volume of selected short stories. DC Books brought out later with some more stories and now all his short stories are available in three volumes published by Poorna Publications.

It is very difficult to categorise his short stories as fair, good or excellent. All of them are good, meeting their objectives. The backgrounds could be a Kerala Village, a Kashmir village or a Europe or African village and their characters are also varied. No other Malayalam short story writer could paint such vivid characters. His short stories would never bore you but goad you to read more and more.

His first novel 'Vallikadevi' was published in 1937. May be, this must be the least read among his novels as its later editions are rarely found. Among his other novels, Oru Desathinte Katha, Oru Theruvinte Katha, Vishakanyaka, Mootupatam and Natanpremam are popular. The last two mentioned were also successfully adapted into movies.

One salient feature of SK's novels is that all of them are woven around intense love stories. Natanpremam (Village romance) has a close resemblance of Sakuntalam but unlike the latter, it ends in a tragic note. Ravindran, Malu and Ikkoran are the main characters. Ikkoran, a drunkard, saves Malu from a suicide attempt. She was betrayed by Ravindran and the suicide was an attempt to save her pride by covering up her pregnancy. Ikkoran promises her to keep her secret as his own and marries her. After 11 years, Ravindran visited Mukkam again and had a chance meet with Raghavan, his son from Malu. Though he married twice, he did not have a child and

wanted this boy back but was firmly refused. Soon Ravindran was bed ridden and Ikkoran, Malu and the boy visited him. Ravindran's grief was unbearable for Ikkoran and he told him to take his child. Life without the child was too much for Ikkoran and Malu and they found an escape route in suicide.

Mootupatam is the love story of Appukuttan and Amina. It is also the story of the amity existed among Muslims and Hindus of Kerala villages. To escape from the cruelty of his father, Appukuttan goes to Bombay, bidding

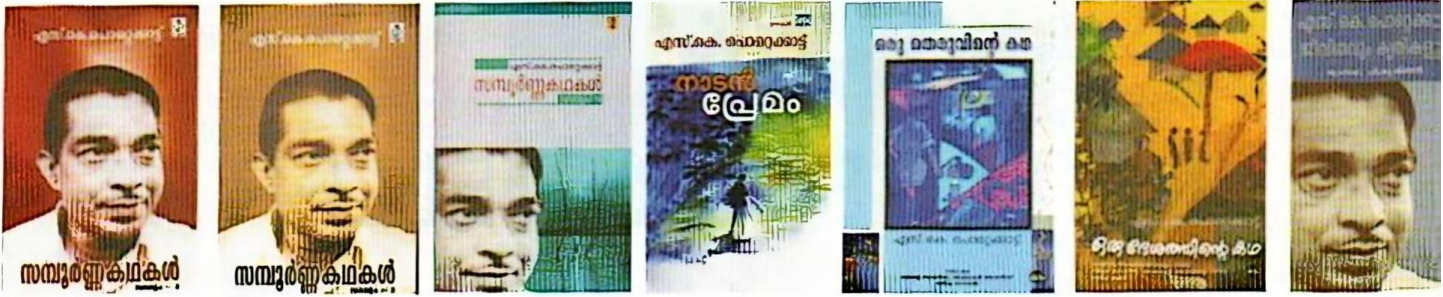


good bye to Amina, the only person, he found, worth reposing his trust. "Amina can claim my life anytime but I am happy with your memories alone." When Hindu-Muslim riot breaks out in Bombay, many innocents were killed and it was then that Alikutty, Amina's brother, called on Appukuttan to inform him about the death of his father Chathukutty. While returning, before his eyes, Appukuttan witnessed one Hindu zealot butchering Alikutty. Appukuttan returns to his hometown, informs Amina

about her brother's death, hands over Rs.2000 lying that it was entrusted to him to hand over, arranges her marriage with another Muslim youth. He then walks away. Mootupatam gives you a true picture of a Kerala Village of the forties. It provides humour and sorrow.

Vishakanyaka depicts the life of Travancore immigrants to Malabar, dreaming about a prosperous life there and the miseries they are subjected to. Most of the original immigrants died of malaria though late comers benefitted. There are many characters in this novel and each of them is etched with utmost care. The major character of this story is the Wayanadan soil and all human characters are only supplementary to it.

Oru Theruvinte Katha (The story of a street) cannot be called a novel in the real sense. There are many plots in it, not entirely entangled but give a glimpse into the keen sense of observation of the novelist. In its creation, SK redefines all definitions of a modern novel. It is the tales of several vagabonds and each of them is a true representative of humanity. "It cannot be fathomed that any other writer could paint the story of those characters so brilliantly. It is a huge world of small men," so says the Bara Prasad Gupta, the well known Hindi novelist. SK brings before the reader all types of people who live on the street with their good and bad points without any exaggeration. Kurup who struggles to bring up his daughter, becomes distraught when she suddenly dies and refuses to accept thousand rupees sent by Omanchi who undergoes an elaborate bath once in a week, followed by a session with a prostitute, how a well intended charity of Sudhakaran by way of inserting currency notes in to the pockets of street children brings havoc and hell in their lives, how Kurup who concocts new stories to increase sale of



Books by and on S K

newspaper avoid a good piece that involves a benefactor of his daughter etc are some characters that come to mind. This would stir the mind of the reader with intrigue, romance, tragedy, humour etc and its small bits of incidences would return to him even after half a century. Incidentally Mrs Menon of this novel also appears in Arabiponnu (Arab God) jointly written by M T Vasudevan Nair and N P Muhammed. It is mentioned here only to highlight the fact that how real life incites the imagination of great story tellers.

'Oru Desathinte Katha' (The story of a hamlet) is the culmination of all skills of S K as a story teller and needless to say, it fetched him the greatest literary award of India 'Jnanpith' in 1981. This led to a great interest in his writings all over India. It was also led to the translations of many of his short stories and novels. Bharateeya Jnanapitham itself brought out its Hindi version under the title "Katha Ek Pranther Ki".

'Oru Desathinte Katha' is an extension of Oru Theruvinte Katha in the sense that instead of the story of a street, it tells the story of a small hamlet. It has a vast canvas and innumerable characters, each of them is distinct from the other but all of them are very poor, farmers, workers, small time business men and there is no rich man among them except one. There are a number of love stories but none of them leads the story. Mostly the events revolve round the small village but gradually spread to towns and cities of India and abroad.

Athiranipatam is the focal point of the story and it involves Sreedharan, his pleasures and travails. The story of Sreedharan has a close resemblance to Pottekkat as Sreedharan is the only son of his father's second wife and he has co-

brothers from his father's first wife. It touches many events of national and contemporary issues, such as communal riots, Mappila mutiny, Wagon tragedy, Indian freedom struggle, etc. No character is type cast. Humour is plenty in this novel and makes the reader to smile inwardly.

SK has thrown out all definitions of novel and wrote as he pleased, yet he won the hearts of the reader. In fact, his novels, especially the last two mentioned, have the structure of short story while his short stories are not really

SK signature is visible in them.

SK was a poet turned novelist and this gave his novels and short stories a poet charm. Unlike his contemporary Changampuzha, he did not raise his voice when witnessed injustice but transferred his feelings very effectively to the reader. After completing his story, he did not stand aside and watch the reader going through it but took them along and shared his feeling in equal measure. This is what endeared him to the reader.

It will be a grave error if we do not mention the contribution made by SK



S K with Basheer

short but has all the specifications of a novel. His above mentioned two novels are written in such a way that the writer could terminate anywhere. Nevertheless, he enjoyed writing it and the reader is happy to conclude reading as if he is concluding a well served feast. However you love your payasam at the end of a Malayalee feast, you are compelled to terminate eating as you start eructating. It is true for SK's stories. More you read, more you ask for it, though not immediately.

Three of his novels, Premashiksha, Kabeena and Kurumulagu, are candles before the bright sun. They are small in size and the stories are based abroad, as SK was familiar with those regions. This factor has certainly adversely affected their popularity. Even then the typical

towards travel literature. Travel was a passion for him and often he left to shores of other countries without even having money to meet his expenses. He travelled all means including walking, boating, on board trains and ships. To earn his expenses, he worked in various capacities including that of a labourer. In many places, he could not converse with the local people but he never felt lost. For him his lively eyes and expressive face were more than enough to communicate. In one

of his travelogues, he mentioned the pangs he suffered when he had to spend the night alone along with Negroes who were known man-eaters. He smiled and thanked God abundantly when he found himself alive and kicking in the morning and receiving hospitality from his hosts.

His travelogues are as interesting as his stories rather they are stories based on reality. Dr Sukumar Azhikode writes in one of his Introductions to SK's books, "During his travels, Pottekkat might have experienced happiness and miseries but when we read this book, we experience only the pleasantries. Far away from us places that we may not ever see, we see the pictures of those places in his inimitable narration along with the sweetness of his writing style." ■

It happened with **SATHYAN**

Manuel Sathyanesan was the eldest child of Manual and Emily of Aramada Village, near Thiruvananthapuram. After passing matriculation, he became a teacher and the salary he received was meager and so, he became a clerk in a government secretariat. This monotonous job was not attractive to him who loved adventure and so he resigned to join army when World War II started. He continued in the job till he became Subedar Major and took part in Burma war. Then he left army and joined state police as sub-Inspector. Sathyanesan was interested in dramatics and during his school days, he always participated in school drama, in female roles. His best role during school days was that of Desdemona of Othello, a master piece of Shakespeare. During his police days, he joined Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair's drama troupe and acted in a few plays but his superiors did not like this. During these days, K Balakrishnan of Kaumudi Weekly took initiative to make a Malayalam movie, *Thyagaseema* and offered a role to him and Prem Nazir. Unfortunately this movie never saw light. Then came P Subramanyam's "Atmasakhi" in which

he had a role as a college student. He was then 39. The first super star of Malayalam, Sathyan was then born. During his police days, Sathyan was attached to Alapuzha and when farmers' agitation started in Punnapra-Vayalar,



he was posted there. As an inspector, Sathyan believed in third degree method and his notoriety kept the criminals subdued. Sathyan in those days did not like Communists and never spared any opportunity to use his muscle power on them. Once he dragged a communist agitator to the police station and subjected him to third degree method.

When Kunchacko decided to make Kundoor Narayana Menon's poem *Komappan* into a movie titled *Palat Koman*, Sathyan was chosen to play the title role. Since the story was not much known for people of south Kerala, Sathyan as professional actor, wanted to know the storyline. Kunchacko directed him to the man who wrote its screenplay and dialogue. Sathyan found that person a little familiar but could not place him. The writer detailed the story line with due respect and when they were about to part, asked the actor if he remembered him. Sathyan replied that he had a gut feeling of having met him in the past but did not recollect the details. That man then told him that he was Sarangapani whom Sathyanesan the police inspector brutally tortured. Sathyan felt ashamed of his past and profusely apologized to him. He enquired about him, his family and children. In an attempt to placate him, Sathyan helped him financially on several occasions and they remained close friends until Sathyan died in 1971. The chance meeting between Sathyan and Sarangapani left a deep impact in him and hence he was always respectful towards the poor and downtrodden.



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THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF KERALA IN MUMBAI

Marking the end of incessant telephonic calls requesting entry passes, the curtains of the Sri Kalidas Natya Mandir rose to a thunderous welcome on February 10th. On a vacant stage came a highly recognizable gentleman accompanied by his wife and close confidants and soon the musical voice of Geetha Poduval, the anchor, started reciting a citation, *More we write, we feel, less is said, You are lavish in spreading love to all And they returned, in abundance, respect to you. Free Press Journal, the Times of India and the Mathrubhumi You served them with distinction; Press Advisor to CM, director of Nehru Centre; And a professor to aspiring journalists; Author of scores of books; Never turned away anyone who needed your counsel; How can we repay what you've given us? Accept our salutation, love and Veneration.*

Miserly in words, informing the audience that the senior-most journalist

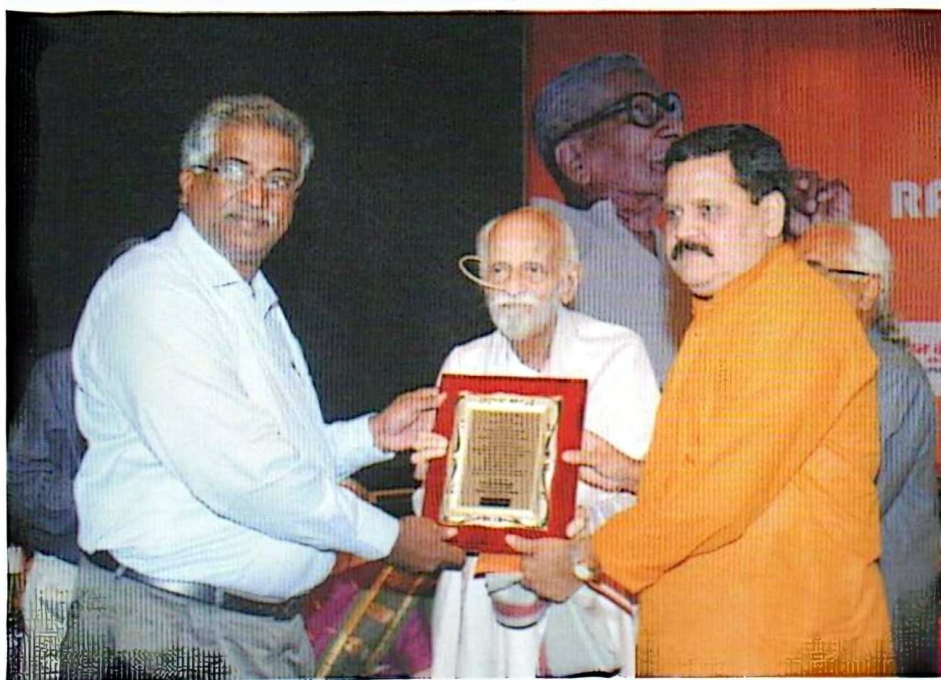


Mrs and Mr Ravindranath at his last felicitation. Rajan V Nair, Dr. Gopakumar Nair and Vijaykumar with them

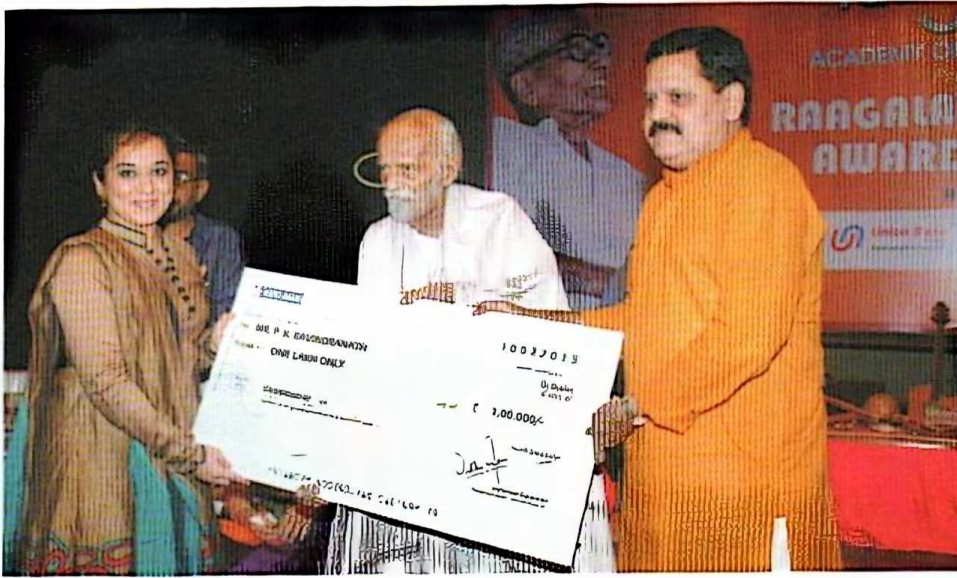
of Mumbai and a prominent contributor to the periodicals of the City, Prof P K Ravindranath was unanimously nominated to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for a Keralite in any chosen field and instituted jointly by Shailaja Pratap Nair Foundation and

Kerala-in-Mumbai as its first recipient. FEI Cargo Ltd, an upcoming logistics firm, instituted the award 'Shailaja Pratap Nair Puraskar' of Rs.1 lakh and a citation on behalf of Shailaja Pratap Nair Foundation, a charitable body. The standing ovation of more than a thousand persons present there was a clear sign of the approval of the public who observed 'Raviattan' from close quarters. It was eye-moistening scene that Raviattan rose to accept the award from Gopakumar G Nair, social activist Rajan V Nair, Pratap Nair and Vidhi of FEI Cargo Ltd along with the Managing Editor of 'Kerala in Mumbai'. A thunderous applause reverberated the auditorium.

Soon other awards followed. Shri C K K Poduval, a sure fixture of Malayalam theatre in Mumbai and its suburbs, walked up to receive the award instituted by 'Kerala in Mumbai' for Malayalam theatre. Mr Poduval has served the Malayalam theatre with distinction as organizer, director and actor for several decades. He received his award from Host International Managing Director Vijayakumar and theatre-film personality K D Chandran.



Pratap Nair and Vijaykumar handing over the citation



Vidhi of FEI Cargo and Vijaykumar hand over the cheque to Ravindranath

Shri Thomas Mathew, Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation and director of several corporate organizations besides conscientious social worker, received his award from Prince Vaidyan, President of K & K Foundation, social campaigner and former actor, for his contribution towards the economic upliftment of the common man.

Dr Bijoy Kutty, the founder of Platinum Hospital of Mulund, received his award from Managing Director of Naik Froze Foods Pvt Ltd M R Francis and Rajan Nair, for his contributions towards healthcare of the poor and the needy in the suburbs at affordable rates and often free of cost.

Shri P V K Nambiar, Corporator of Vasai Municipal Corporation and a known personality in the Vasai Virar belt for his contributions to the society in various capacities through Malayali organizations and Lions Club International, received his award from C R Unni and Prakash Padikkal, social workers of Mulund belt.

The release of the Annual Issue of 'Kerala in Mumbai' was done at the hands of Johnson and Alice Therattil the political and social activists, Managing Director of Navbharat Constructions and President of Hiranandani Keralites Association S R Pillai, CMD of MIEL e-Securities M N Kutty Nair, Thomas Mathew, S G Nair of Four Stars and



Pratap Nair and Gopakumar Nair felicitate Ravindranath



A standing ovation to PKR on his felicitation



Prince Vaidyan felicitates Thomas Mathew, MD of LIC



K D Chandran presents citation to CKK Poduval

Rajan V Nair.

The award presentation ceremony was aptly followed by a scintillating dance performance by Smt Sudha Chandran, danseuse, trainer and actress and her team of dancers. This captivating performance with excellent abhinaya and rapid footwork enthralled the audience beyond expectations. Though Sudha and her disciples appeared in different costumes in consequent dances, there was hardly any delay between the items. Sudha became an inspiration and a model to all to emulate.



Tara Ravindranath thanks the organisers on behalf of PKR



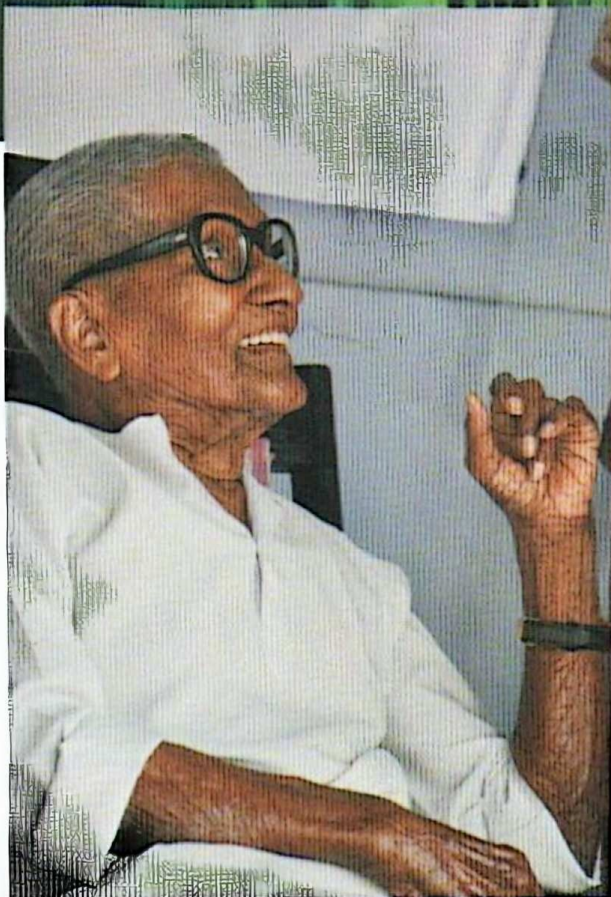
M R Francis hands over citation to Dr Bijoy Kutty



C R Unny and Prakash Padikkal hand over the citation to PVK Nambiar

NINTH RAAGALAYA MUSIC AWARDS

As in the past, Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts organized its music Award Nite with a change in venue. It was Mulund's Sri Kalidas Natya Mandir. The Life Time Achievement Award was.....





Dance performance by Sudha Chandran's troupe

As in the past, Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts organized its music Award Nite with a change in venue. It was Mulund's Sri Kalidas Natya Mandir. The Life Time Achievement Award was already declared. The awardees are doyen of Malayalam film music K Raghavan and the danseuse Smt Sudha Chandran. The award consisted of a purse of Rs.25000 and a citation.

Shri Raghavan was presented with the award on January 5 at his residence at Thalayi, Thalasseri by President P V Vijay Kumar, Rajan V Nair the Social worker, Prasad and Asianet 'Pattupetty' fame Suresh Kumar. The proceedings videographed was shown on the screen in the auditorium and the audience



D R Nair and S R Pillai hand over award to Sudha Chandran



Sudha Chandran replies after receiving her award



Sureshkumar



Kallara Gopan



Ramesh Pisharody

lapped it up.

Smt Sudha Chandran was handed over her award by S R Pillai, D R Nair (VP, Hiranandani Constructions and Anish Kumar (MD, Bank of New York Millon. 'Pattupetty' fame Suresh Kumar anchored the show, peeping into the details of Raghavan's life. Playback Singer Kallara Gopan, Viswanathan, Prem Kumar, Sunil, Preeti Warriar, Baburaj, Madhu Nambiar, P V Vijayakumar, Sebastian, Soumya, Neethi and Chandini rendered Ragavan Master's compositions from Neelakkuyil to Yuddhakandam. It was a journey to the past and an immersion in nostalgia.

Actor and mimicry artiste Ramesh Pisharody led the audience into a laughter riot by his skills.



Kallara Gopan being felicitated



A chorus being presented by all the singers

P.K.R : A tribute in remembrance...



-Lakshmy N, Mumbai

A charismatic smile unforgettable,
A pensive look with the brain in work
Never in anger or in sour mood- a saintly face
Never a 'No' to displease any one .

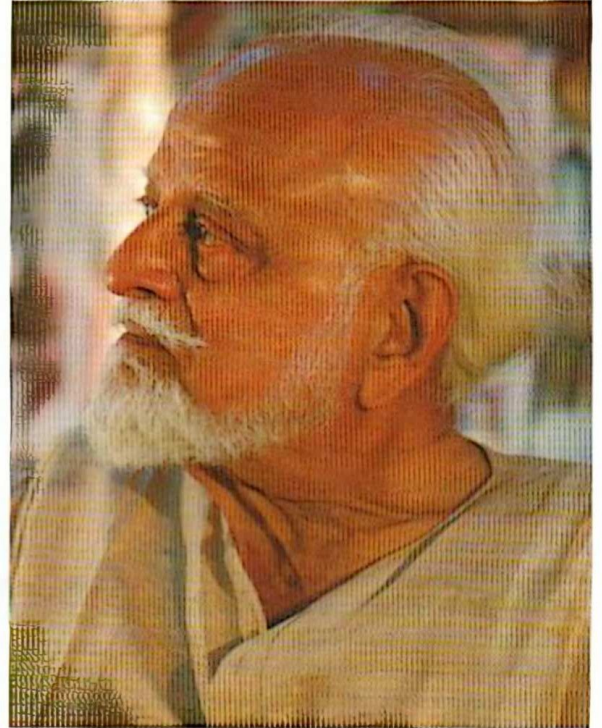
A gentleman, always in white attire
A philosopher to people with quest
A friend to all, with no bias or contempt
A guide to all who seek wisdom, was PKR.

A tall figure among Mumbai Malayalees
A pious man with many an awards and honours
Came to limelight with Sharad Pawar's biography
Curious people flocking to know more of PKR.

Great strength to his beloved wife and children
Grandpa of journalism, literary and social circle
Gave all his energy until death to the malayalee arena
Granting his blessings with no air of superiority.

PKR, my close friend and guide for over two decades
Passed on positive energy to writers and journalists alike
Placing this humble tribute, looking back over the years
Praying to Almighty, to rest the good old soul in peace.

May his family gain the strength to bear the loss
May his admirers find solace in remembrance
May his charismatic smile envelope us all
May his soul lead one and all towards an impeccable life.



With best wishes to
Kerala in Mumbai
On its 3rd Anniversary



A-106, 1st Floor, Kotia Nirman, New Link Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 058.
Website : www.shogunorganics.com

REVIVING SWATHI'S MUSIC

- K. R. NARAYANA



■ The Puthan Malika Palace, popular as the Kuthira Malika (Mansion of Horses), is a palace built by the then Maharaja Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma of Travancore (1813-

1846), on the south-eastern side of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala). The palace owes its name to the 122 horses that are carved into the wooden wall brackets that support the southern roof. The palace forms a part of a vast complex of royal buildings in the vicinity of the famous Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple. Built in the 1840s, Kuthira Malika is a fine example of traditional Kerala architecture, with its typical sloping roofs, overhanging eaves, pillared verandahs and enclosed courtyards. Intricate carvings adorn the wooden ceilings with each room having a distinctive pattern. The building was left unoccupied for more than a century, following the demise of Swathi Thirunal in 1846

A portion of Kuthira Malika has been converted into a Palace Museum that houses some of the assets owned by the Travancore Royal Family. The courtyard of this palace is the venue for the famous Swathi Sangeethotsavam, a music festival conducted every year, to commemorate the legacy of the musician, composer monarch, late Swathi Thirunal. A descendent of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal, Prince Aswathi Thirunal Rama Varma initiated



Carvings of horses in Kuthira Malika



Rama Varma in front of the Kuthira Malika

the "Swathi Sangeethotsav", a week-long festival of classical music open to the public, from 6th to 12th January every year. It is here that this 44 years old prince enthalls a huge audience of music lovers from all parts of the world every year, to commemorate the compositions and musical expertise of his legendary ancestor.

The Musician Prince

Prince Rama Varma is a Carnatic musician, veena artist and a mentor of the Rotterdam Conservatory of Music. He was born to the princess Pooyam Thirunal Parvati Bai Thampuratti and Chembrol Raja Raja Varma, on 13th of August 1968, in the Royal family of Travancore, which has been closely associated with music and art. His mother is the niece of the last king of Travancore, H.H. Sri. Chithira Thirunal Bala Rama Varma.

Thus, Prince Rama Varma is the grandnephew of the last ruler of Travancore and the descendant of the famous composer musician Maharaja Swathi Thirunal. He is also the descendent of Raja Ravi Varma, the pioneering painter artist of the country through his maternal grandmother. This prince is the first in the royal family to perform in public.

Prince Rama Varma fell in love with music in general, and with that of M.D. Ramanathan and Kishore Kumar in particular, when he was a child. He grew up listening to the music of the

various great maestros who performed regularly at the Navarathri Mandapam Thiruvananthapuram and musical gear like Semmangudi Sreenivasa Iyer, Dr Musiri Subrahmanya Iyer, and the like who were involved with the Swathi Thirunal Music Academy in Trivandrum. It is said when the doyen Carnatic music Dr M Balamuralikrishna and his disciple Prince Rama Varma share the dais, the guru enjoys every bit of his disciple's performance. And when the two get together, they are more than happy to speak about their personal and professional rapport.

A post graduate in Commerce, he started learning music in 1982, from Vechur Hariharasubramani Iyer, a disciple of Semmangudi. In 1994, when his guru passed away he continued his music training under Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr M Balamuralikrishna. He also learnt Saraswati Veena under Trivandrum R Venkitaraman and later



Prince Rama Varma



Puthan Malika Palace



**Rama Varma with his
Guru Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna**

under K.S.Narayaswamy, who is reputed as the pioneer of Carnatic music. The prince has given numerous concerts all over India and abroad, including those at some of the most prestigious venues in Europe. His first CD was released at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Using inputs from various walks of life to enrich his art, his music is noted for its strict adherence to tradition coupled with his own distinctive brand of creativity. He is a true admirer of music and reported to have said once, "I am open to all varieties of music and never bound to one particular school or thought of music."

Fluent in Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil and French, Prince Varma is well read and has travelled widely. He specializes in taking classes and giving lecture demonstrations about various aspects of music to the great appreciation and delight from his students and members of the public. He believes in making his lectures entertaining and his concerts informative.

He had the privilege of honoring two living legends, Shri Manna Dey who turned 85 and Dr Balamuralikrishna

who turned 75 in 2005, with concerts by the legends themselves that was held in Trivandrum in November 2005.

He proved his dynamism as an organizer and visionary yet again recently by spearheading the move to allow women inside the Navarathri Mandapam, both as performers and as listeners as well, breaking a more than three centuries old tradition. He handpicked octogenarian veteran Parasala Ponnammal to be the first woman to enter the Navarathri Mandapam, thus coaxing her out of a mostly retired life and reintroducing her glorious artistry to the music loving public of Kerala. He was invited to perform at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan by His Excellency The President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, who calls himself Prince Varma's fan after listening to his CD, 'Thaanam - The Pulse Of The Veena.'

His college address book describes him aptly as someone who "Entertains us with his classical music and less classical jokes." He is striving to be a worthy descendent of his illustrious predecessor Maharaja Swathi Thirunal

who is described as the "Prince among musicians and a Musician among princes."

The Swathi Thirunal music festival has built up a reputation for him, as one of the best for musical fare offered and the elegant ambience of

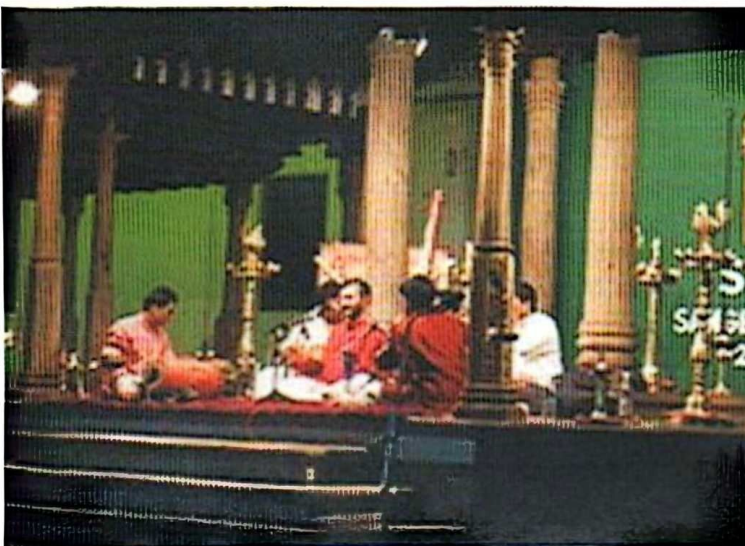
the palace, said to be designed by Swathi Thirunal himself. On the eve of the festival, the organiser of the fete, Aswathy Thirunal Rama Varma, explains that the significance of the festival lies in the fact that it is the best tribute to pay Swathi Thirunal who is perhaps the only one to have composed in both the Carnatic and Hindustani styles of music. Hence it is befitting that the festival, which revolves around the compositions of the Maharaja, be held on the premises of his palace.

Thyagaraja Aradhanas are held all over India and abroad. But the one in Tiruvayyar is special. "The Government of Kerala used to conduct the festival in Kuthiramalika till a few years back. But then they decided to hold it in different places all over Kerala. While the thought behind the move was laudable, it was a pity that it was at the cost of the festival being discontinued at Kuthiramalika. So, although there were only two weeks to go, I managed to organise the festival in 2000 and keep it going," says the Prince. He admits that while the initial response to the festival was poor, over the last few years, the place gets filled to capacity.

"There were occasions when people had to stand and listen to maestros such as Dr M Balamuralikrishna, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Ajoy Chakrabarty, and T M Krishna and so on. The feedback from musicians has also been encouraging. Many of them enjoy the ambience and the opportunity to sing to a discerning audience. There is no time limit and it is just music that reigns," he adds.

Popularising Swathi kritis

Rama Varma says his aim is to popularise compositions of the royal composer that are yet to be discovered or are rarely sung. "Over the years, some of



The Prince performing at the Swathi Sangeethotsavam

Continued in page 41

Significance of Shivaratri

- Lakshmi Venkatachalan



■ Shiva is the Lord of destruction in the Hindu Trinity of Gods, the other two being Brahma (creation) and Vishnu (Sustenance). Shivaratri, the night of Shiva is the most

important festival for Shiva and celebrated all over India and Nepal with observance of fasts, chanting of Om Namah Shivaya, keeping awake the whole night and praying to Lord Shiva. This year Shivaratri falls on March 10.

For millions of devotees, MahaShivaratri is an auspicious day and by observing fasts and prayers on that day and night they believe to have absolved themselves of sins and would attain moksha (salvation). MahaShivaratri is celebrated every year on the 13th night of Krishna paksha, the waning moon, in the Malayalam month of Kumbham, (mid February-mid March) on the day previous to the new moon night.

Shiva is considered the Adi (first) Guru from whom the yogic tradition originates. The planetary positions on the night of Shivaratri are such that there is a powerful natural upsurge of energy in the human system. It is said to be beneficial for one's physical and spiritual wellbeing to stay awake throughout the night.

Union of Opposites

In Shiva we find the blending of the fierce and the benign. Shiva is the bestower of boons. He is easily pleased



and generous in giving. But He is also a powerful enemy and can be relentless in punishing the wicked. He is ardanareeswara - half feminine and half masculine- Without shakti He is inert. With Shakti by His side He makes the world whirl around. He wanders like a sanyasi with a garland of bones round his neck, a tiger's skin as a loin cloth, a skull cap as his mendicant's cup and vibhuti smeared all over his body. But Shiva is also Kameshwara - Lord of Love - the devoting husband of Kameshwari (Parvati) and Shiva -

Parvati is the symbol of marital bliss. As a doting husband, he destroyed King Daksha's sacrifice when he lifted his wife Dakshayani's body from the sacrificial fire and wandered in fury all over the earth and her body parts fell in several places creating shakti spots within our country, according to Hindu texts. Shiva is the staunch ascetic,

role model for meditation but he is also depicted as the ideal householder with his sons Ganesha and Murugan and wife Parvati, adorning several Hindu puja rooms. The cosmic dance of Shiva, Ananda Thandavam symbolizes the cosmic cycle of creation and destruction as well as the rhythm of birth and death. According to some scholars thandavam is an allegory of creation, preservation, destruction, salvation and illusion manifestations of eternal energy.

Rituals in Shivaratri worship

Devotees of Lord Shiva, both men and women, observe Shivaratri by following certain rituals with sincerity and devotion. Throughout the day, they abstain from eating food and break their fast only the next morning, after the nightlong worship.

Pouring of water (abhishekam) over shivalingam is carried out in temples and houses on this day and this ritual bathing is an important part of Shiva worship. In fact water from rivers like Ganges, Godavari, Cauvery etc are brought and poured over the lingam in temples and puja Mandals. Apart from water milk, yoghurt, honey and rosewater is poured over the lingam to the chanting of vedic mantras. Om namah shivayay



Nisha Gilbert

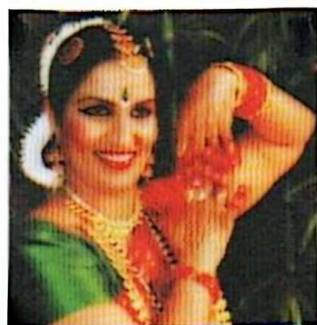
Passion for DANCE

- Lakshmi V

Nisha Gilbert has a passion for dance that was nurtured by her parents since she was a child. Today she is one of the popular dance teachers and choreographers in Mumbai's cultural scene

I want to connect today's youth with our ancient classical dance form of Bharatanatyam," says Nisha Gilbert, dancer, choreographer and Bharatanatyam dance teacher who runs the Nupur school of Dance in Kurla. "Today's youth are too stressed out and do not have the time or inclination to sit back and concentrate on any fine arts. Dance brings around us a positivity and I want to impart knowledge about dance to as many students as I can".

Nisha started her Nupur Dance School in 2009 with 10 children and today she has about 55 students ranging from the age of 4 to women in their



30's. "College students have shown an interest in studying Bharatanatyam which is very encouraging. I am happy that I am able to familiarize them with one of our ancient Indian art forms. I have a lady who is a grandmother who is now learning dance from me, thus fulfilling a long cherished dream of hers."

Nisha hails from Vellattangur village (near Guruvayur) in Thrissur District, and completed her schooling at Lady Immaculate Girls School near Guruvayur and her graduation and post-graduation in English Literature from Vimala College Thrissur. Living in a large joint family in Kerala as a child, she is still in close touch with her relatives. Her father Francis worked in Abu Dhabi while she stayed with her mother Lucy Francis and grandparents and uncles and aunts at the village.

Even as a child, she was interested in dancing and her parents encouraged her to study Bharatanatyam, very rare in those days among Christians since the songs are all on Hindu Gods and Goddesses and may displease some members of her own community. Nisha has a brother Shine Francis, working in Abu Dhabi.

Nisha started learning Bharatanatyam at the age of three, at first under several teachers. She learnt for some time under Kalamilayam Kalyanikutty. She later learnt for a long period of time from Kalamandalam Sudha and performed her arangettam under this teacher in 1986.

While in school and college Nisha had participated in several classical and folk dance competitions and won several prizes. During her student days she was Vice-President of Christian Life Community under the Thrissur Archdiocese and has choreographed dances and performed in their



programmes.

Nisha got married to Gilbert George in 1999 and came to Mumbai. Gilbert works in a senior position at Jet Airways and encourages her dance efforts. He belongs to Poonkunnam in Thrissur and is also artistically bended, with writing poems and painting as his hobbies. However Gilbert has been in Mumbai since his childhood and completed his education here since his father was employed in Parke Davis Mumbai.

Nisha and Gilbert have two children:

a boy Charles aged 12 years studying in Std VI and a girl Nupur aged 7 years studying in Std II at Arya Vidya Mandir BKC Complex. Both her children are learning violin western and Nisha is teaching Bharatanatyam also to Nupur.

After marriage Nisha took a break from giving performance and looked after her home and family. But she did not lose touch with her passion for dance and learnt for some time under Jayasri Nair of Upaasana Academy Chedanagar. Currently she is learning from Nandini Ashok of Shree Paavitra Dance Academy. She takes advice from the singer Sivaprasad who helps her in the choice of songs for her performances. In between, for some time, she worked as a choreographer at Kohinoor International High School. Nisha has also choreographed for Church programmes, school annual events and at various social organizations.

Social Work

During the days when she had taken a break from dance, Nisha used to choreograph and teach dances for inmates of St Catherine's orphanage in Andheri. She would like to continue to do this deed in future also. ■



Nisha performs along with her students



Two stalwarts go behind the curtain

his native place and of late he was almost blind because of diabetes. During his forty years of Mumbai life, he was involved in many cultural and literary activities in the city and its suburbs. He had four compilations of poetry to his credit and one of them 'Chukanna Swapnangale Mappu' won the Pahlavi Award. He wrote lyrics for the plays staged in Mumbai. He adored the positions of Editor of Visala Keralam and was convener of Sahitya

Vedi. He published many poems in periodicals and recently a compilation all his works like poems, plays, lyrics etc under the title *Cheppad Somanathante Krutikal* was published by Paridhi Publications of Thiruvananthapuram. Rajan Kadannappalli was active in the fields of Malayalam drama and social activities. A native of Kadan-nappalli near Kannur, he was convalescing at a cardiac surgery and the end was unexpected.

February 2013 found two stalwarts, who imprinted the Mumbai Malayalee cultural scene with their presence, disappearing behind the curtain of time. Cultural activist and poet Cheppad Somanathan (62) committed suicide at his residence in the native place. The reason of his sudden action is not yet known but in his last hand written note he cleared everyone of any cause. Somanathan landed in Mumbai in 1970 and retired as Senior Scientific Officer from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre two and a half years ago. He was a bachelor. After retirement he moved to



Cheppad Somanathan Rajan Kadannappalli

One of the plays he directed was being staged in Mumbai when he breathed his last at native place. He was editor of Malayalam Mission Magazine, and was an office bearer of Malayalee Chamber of Commerce. He won the M N Kurup Memorial Award and also Nataka Pratibha in 2010. He was General Manager of Dattani Group of Industries, Kandivli. He acted in more than 50 plays over 150 stages and directed some of them. Spouse: Girija and the couple have two children.

Golden Jubilee celebrations of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti

■ T.K.A Nair, advisor to the Prime minister of India has inaugurated the golden jubilee celebrations of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti. The inaugural function was held on 24th February from 4:30 pm onwards at Samiti's educational complex at Lokhande Marg,Chembur. While speaking on the occasion, Nair said that the relevance of the messages of Sree Narayana Guru would remain at all times. So it is our responsibility to spread the message of brotherhood and message of religious harmony taught by Sree Narayana Guru, he said. He appreciated the educational activities carrying out by Samiti in an area where 90% of the people were economically backward. L Radhakrishnan, Chairman, JNPT said that selfishness was hunting the new generation. To change this, they should be involved in charitable and social activities. Film actor Devan was Guest of honour.

Ms K K Ramakrishnan, Harilal Pottath. M A Karthikeyan, senior members of the Samiti were felicitated.



TKA Nair inaugurating the golden jubilee logo by lighting the lamp. JNPT Chairman L.Radhakrishnan, film actor Devan, N.S.Salimkumar, N.Ssidharan and Dr.KK Damodaran are also seen.

N.Sasidharan, President, Dr.KK Damodaran, President Emeritus, M I Damodaran, Chairman, N.Mohandas, Vice Chairman, O K Prasad, Asst Secretary and VV Chandran spoke on the occasion. A musical programme by playback singers Biju Narayanan and Preeti

Warrier was also held. The Trust has planned a year-long cultural,educational events, all religions conferences, personality development programs, seminars etc in various cities in India and abroad. The trust has now 15000 members,17 Guru centres and 25 units.

Principal M.P. Pillai 'Adarsh Shikshak Puraskar'

■ Mangesh Vaghate, Assistant Teacher, New English School, Lanja, Ratnagiri District was presented with the Principal M.P. Pillai 'Adarsh Shikshak Puraskar' on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of late M.P. Pillai, Founder Principal of Powai English High School on February 23, 2013. The function was organized by Principal M.P. Pillai Charitable Trust at Powai English High School. Vaghate was the fourth recipient of the Best Teacher Award from Rural Maharashtra. Chandan C. Sharma, Corporator, presented cash prize, a certificate and a shawl to Vaghate.

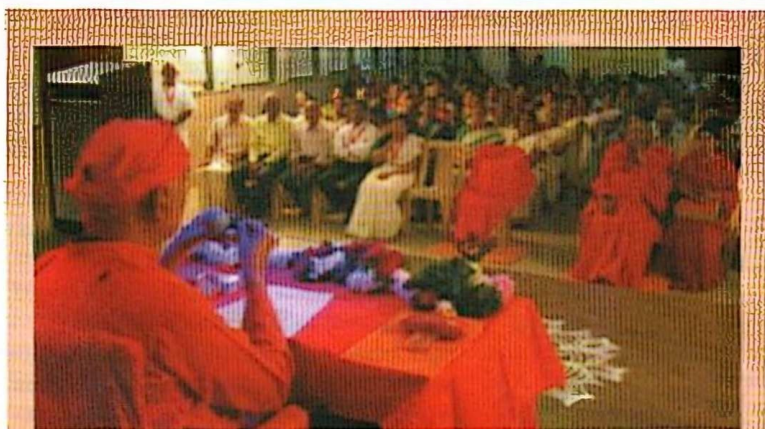
S.R. Pillai, President, Shree Ayyappa Seva Sangham, Dr. K.M. Vasudevan Pillai, Secretary & C.E.O. Mahatma Education Society, V N Gopalakrishnan, Journalist, Vijaykumar Pillai, General Secretary, KNSS, Smt. Srikala Suvarna, Head Mistress, Powai English High School, Smt. Kusumlata



Shri. Chandan C.Sharma presenting the Best Teacher Award to Shri. Mangesh Vaghate. Seen in the picture are S.R. Pillai, Dr. K.M. Pillai, V.N. Gopalakrishnan, Rajasekharan Pillai, Venu Gopal and Gopal S. Pillai.

Gusain, Head Mistress, Powai English Primary School and others spoke on the occasion. There was a variety

entertainment programme by the students and certificates and cash prizes were given to the participants.



Swami Bhoomananda Tirthaji Maharaj is seen addressing the devotees. Ma Gurupriyaji is also seen in the picture.

Discourse by Swami Bhoomananda Tirthaji held

■ The Centre for Inner Resources Development, Mumbai, a Unit of Narayanasrama Tapovanam, Kerala organized a two-day discourse by Sampoojya Swami Bhoomananda Tirthaji Maharaj at the Shree Ayyappa Vishnu Temple Hall on February 18 and 19, 2013. Swamiji spoke in Malayalam on the topic, God and Devotee-Face to Face (*Bhagavaanam Bhaktanum Nerkkunere*). The discourse was part of the 3rd Annual Mumbai Jnaana Yagna. Ma Gurupriyaji also accompanied Swamiji. Shri. V.N. Gopalakrishnan compered the two-day programme. The International Spiritual Research Centre (ISRC) under the aegis of Yogi Divine Society, Powai also organized a discourse by Swami Bhoomananda Tirthaji Maharaj on the Significance of *Satsangh* at the Swaminarayan Temple, Powai on February 21, 2013. P. Bharatbhai Mehta and P. Hemantbhai Vashi welcomed Swamiji and spoke on the occasion. Mahaprasad was served for the devotees.

Kerala Loco Pilot Welfare Association

■ Kerala Loco Pilot Welfare Association, an organization of Pilot's men and motormen of Central Railway, Mumbai division, elected their new office bearers for the period 2013-15. Shibu Chacko, Sunil Raj, T Sivanathan are respectively President, Secretary and Treasurer. Other office bearers are K C Roy (Vice President), Santhosh PV and Shaji Alex (Jt Secretaries), J J Manjali (Jt Treasurer), Jithin Shyam, Sajith C K, Pramod Pillai, Jayakumar T, S Mukesh and P P Jose (Committee members) and P J Joseph (Internal Auditor). Roy Joseph presided and Jayakumar T welcomed the members. Shibu Chacko and Sivanathan presented the annual reports and income and expenditure account. A warm send off was given to the retiring employees R A Menon, V Sasidharan, S M Pillai and K K George. Pramod Pillai proposed a vote of thanks.



Shibu Chacko



Sunil Raj



T Sivanathan

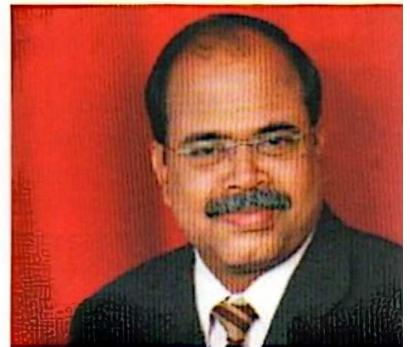


A Scence from the dance performance by children at Thapasya Kalavedi's 21st Annual day programme held on 03/02/2013 Prarthana Mandapam of Sabarigiri Temple , Vasai (W).



All Thane Malayalee Association (ATMA) Celebrated its 10th Anniversary at Gadkari Rangaytan -Thane. Celebrity Guest Ms.Parvathy Omanakuttan inaugurated the function.

Dr. Suresh Nair selected for State Teacher Award 2012-13



The Maharashtra Government has declared the names of the teachers have been selected for State Teacher Award for the year 2012-13. This award is conferred to the teachers who have performed exemplarily well in education and to promote and reward them in their work. The awards will be conferred on teachers' day, 5th September 2013.

In the Secondary section, from Mumbai district, four teachers are selected for this year's award. One among these is Dr. Suresh Nair, the Principal of Vivek Vidyalaya, Education Society's Vivek Vidyalaya. He has 25 years of teaching experience. He is the Principal of Vivek Vidyalaya since 2006. In 2012, he has been awarded the Abraham Lincoln Headmaster Puraskar from Shiksha Bharti Mumbai Division. He has also been awarded the Best Principal Award by Science Olympiad Foundation, Delhi for the best performance of students of his school in Science Olympiads and his contribution to the awareness campaign of Science Olympiads among the students of Mumbai. He is associated with Shri Ayyappa Seva Sangham, Kandivalla Goregaon and Lokhandwala Town Malayalee Association.

Tenth Anniversary of Thanima

Thanima Samskarika Vedi of Lodha Heaven celebrated their tenth anniversary with a number of cultural programmes.

In the event inaugurated by

Raagasudha Ramesh, Dinesh Kodakkad and Ravindranath Dombivli were Chief Guests. The participants of Guinness Record *Mahakaikaottikkali* were felicitated during the celebrations



Raagasudha Ramesh lighting the lamp

Farewell to Dr. Mrs. Sulochana Nair

Dr. Mrs. Sulochana Nair, an eminent gynaecologist practising in the Western Suburbs of Mumbai, has decided to leave Mumbai and settle down in Kerala.

Dr. Mrs. Sulochana Nair has been a well wisher and benefactor of Borivli Malayali Samajam for a long time. She has been associated with the Diagnostic Centre of the Borivli Malayali Samajam ever since its inception. A vast number of lady members of the community in and around Borivli in general and the Samajam members in particular have benefited from medical consultations with her.

On the eve of her departure to Kerala, The Borivli Malayali Samajam accorded a memorable farewell to her on 3rd February 2013 in the Diagnostic Centre premises at of the Samajam at Borivli (W).

On this occasion, Dr. Sulochana Nair was felicitated with a memento and *Ponnada*. The Samajam President Shri Shiraj Nair, Secretary Shri Anilkumar,



Samajam members with Sulochana Nair during farewell

the Guest of Honour Shri A.K.G. Nair and other Honorary Doctors of the Diagnostic Centre appreciated, and expressed gratitude for the valuable community services rendered by Dr. Sulochana Nair and wished her all the very best in her future personal and professional life.

The function also witnessed honouring of the Samajam Volunteers associated with the Diagnostic Centre. The function was attended by well wishers, Samajam office bearers, doctors and other members from the community.

Kodungallur Koottayma

While addressing the members of the Koottayma, Dhanapalan informed that all issues related to the railways had been taken up with the ministry and he would do whatever was needed to be done in this respect. The meeting was held in Tilak Institution Hall, Vashi. P K Anandan presided. MPs have strongly recommended for more trains linking Kerala and would pursue the same in future too, Dhanapalan said. P M Salim (Commissioner of Customs),

N J Kurup (Tilak Group of Institutions), Sunny Kutty George, Benny George and V S Abdul Kareem (President, Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council) were Guests of Honour. Malayalam Foundation Chairman K Sasidharan, Murali Menon, V V Murali, K K Pradeep, Ramdas K Menon, E S Vasudevan, E S Sajeevan, Adv S K Menon, Sunil Kumar and Suresh Babu also spoke.



Customs Collector P M Salim lights the lamp to commence Kodungallur Koottayma. The annual get together was inaugurated by K P Dhanapalan M P.

Tru Indian felicitates Rixon George Samuel

■ Tru Indian Information & Guidance Society, a registered charity organisation operating from Dombivli, felicitated Rixon George Samuel, a student of Standard VII of



Kumberkanpada Model English High School for being selected to the Super Star Junior 4 of Amrita TV Channel. Rixon is already active in the fields of music and dance and participated in many inter school contests and Raagalaya Academy's music contest. He also participated in a Rajasthani dance in the Kaun Banega Crorepati Republic day episode. His parents are Bina and P N Samuel of Dombivli West.

Three more Malayalam channels

On 10th and 11th of February, three new channels opened up for the TV aficionados. Two of them are from print media, Mathrubhumi (Kappa) and Madhyamam (Media One) while the third is from Nina Pillai. More channels are to follow: Kerala Kaumudi's Kaumudi TV, Janam TV of K Muraleedharan, RSS Channel, actor Siddique's Health channel, Jaya Malayalam and finally See TV.

Thyagaraja Aradhana



Thyagaraja Aradhana was conducted by Smt. Prasanna Varrier's "Swarnavam" at Kandivili, on Feb 9th 2013. During the event, *Pancharatna Kritis* were rendered by the participants.



Shree Vidyadhira Educational & Charitable Trust (Mumbai) sponsored a religious discourse- Narayaneeyam at Trust Premises at SASNE Village, MURBAD, Thane Dist on 3rd Feb 2013 for the general welfare and upliftment of the village inmates as a whole.

Rudrabhisekham at Powai Temple

Ayyappa Vishnu Temple at Powai Hari Om Nagar will celebrate Sivaratri on March 10 with Rudrabhisekham by Rudralaya Group IIT Powai and an English Discourse on Shiva Mahima by Prof Ramasubramanian of IIT Powai and Bhajan by Hari Om Bhajan Mandali in the evening. Devotees can partly sponsor and participate in the Rudrabhisekham by paying Rs 151/- and get receipts for the same. Water from sacred rivers from all over India are being specifically brought for the Abhisekham. Further details can be obtained from the temple office (25775370) or Dr G Ramakrishnan or Bhakti Gitanjali.

Malayalam Festival

Adarsha Vidyalaya of Chembur was the venue for the *Malayalotsavam* organized by Malayalam Mission. There were seven stages named after Ezhuthachchan, Ulloor, Asan, Vallathol, Basheer, Balamani Amma and Sukumar Azhikode for performances by the students. And they fully utilized the opportunity and presented folk dances, oppana, Margamkali, light music, folk songs, *mappilapattu*, film songs, recitation of poems, stage plays, essay writing, quiz etc. Powai zone, Navi Mumbai and Dombivli zones secured the first, second and third places respectively. Secretary R D Harikumar declared that the winners would receive their awards on February 24 at the concluding session of Malayalotsavam to be held at Thane.

The spectators numbering more than 1000 cheered the participants.

Progressive Malayali Samajam

Progressive Malayali Samajam, Majiwada, celebrated their Golden Jubilee. Closing ceremony was inaugurated by Dr. Sanjeev Naik MP and Thane MLA Shri Eknath Shinde on Jan 27, 2013. The venue was Kashinath Ganekar Auditorium Thane. Rajan Vichare, Pratap, Sarnaik, Thane Mayor H.S. Patil and George Pappan lighted the lamp.

Sreekant Nair receives award from Eknath Shinde MLA



Shivanjali Classical Dance Academy National level contests for dances, music and painting



Shivanjali Classical Dance Academy- Thane celebrated its 3rd Annual Day on 16th Feb 2013, at Dr. Kashinath Ghanekar Auditorium, Hiranandani Meadows, Thane-West.

17th Anniversary Celebrations of Powai Guru Centre held

Powai Guru Centre under the aegis of the Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti organized its 17th anniversary celebrations at the Jain Mandir Hall on February 17, 2013. Ms. Kanakalatha, leading Malayalam Film Actress and Teleserial Artiste was the Chief Guest. Educational Merit Awards were presented to the top scorers on the occasion. Several eminent personalities also graced the occasion. Lunch was served to all the participants

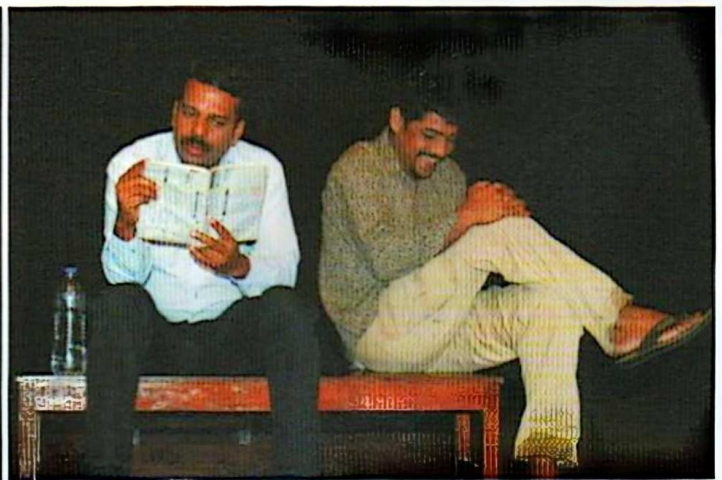
Tru Indian Information and Guidance Society, recognised by International Dance Council (UNESCO), has decided to hold competitions for dance, music and painting at the national level. To coordinate the items, timings and judges, an advisory panel with film-serial actress and danseuse Urmila Unni as Chairperson is formed. Other members of the panel are Dr Pushpita Mukherjee (Reader in dance department of Ravindra Bharati University, Kolkata), Viju Kodungallur (BC8 Folklore Academy Chairman), P G Johnson (Script writer and director), V K Mohammed of Bhilai, Das Mohapatra (Secretary, Theatre Movement of Cuttack), P N Bhatt (Secretary, Bombay Amateur Artists Association) R L V Anandan (Dancer and Dance Director), P K Anandan (President, Lions Club, Kalyan), Sasi Nair (Sanpada), E S Vasudevan (Kandivli), C P Sajeevan (Treasurer, World Malayalee Council), M V Parameshwaran (Chairman, Kairalee Charitable Foundation, Pune) and T G Suresh Kumar (Secretary, Sangli Kerala Samajam). These competitions will be held with the co-operation of the cultural departments of Union and State governments and guidance of International Theatre Association. The venue and time will be declared later.

Soorya Festival

Soorya Festival started with the lighting of lamp by P V Vijayakumar, Managing

Editor of 'Kerala in Mumbai' and President of Raagalaya. Two short plays were staged. Soorya Theatre group presented Thaskaran and Goodnight, both directed by Soorya Krishna Moorthy. 'Thaskaran' is a

humorous satire by N A Prabhakaran, on the corrupt social system and 'Goodnight' written by N N Pillai, is an excellent portrayal of the impact of fear on ordinary human beings.



Drama held at Mysore Association Hall during Soorya Festival

Pravasi Kalasri Award



CKK Poduval



Lata Surendra



Ayswaria Warriar



Nambisan

CKK Poduval, Smt Lata Surendra, Smt Ayswaria Warriar and Kalalayam Nambisan are chosen from the Western Zone for the Pravasi Kalasri Awards instituted by Kerala Sangeeta Akademi for artistes residing out of Kerala. These artistes are chosen for drama, classical dance and percussion instrument. It is the first time that pravasi artists are

chosen from outside. Only Kerala has instituted this kind of awards for the people of the state living outside. The awards will be presented on March 27 at Secretariat Durbar Hall, Thiruvananthapuram by Minister for Culture K C Joseph. The award will have a purse of Rs.7,500.



From the Ponkala festival held at Vaikunta Temple, Vashi



PVK Nambiar being felicitated during Bassein Keraleeya Samajam's Annual Day

Sree Muthappan Vellatta Mahotsav

The Vellattom programme started at 5.30 p.m was preceded by Thayambaka and followed by Oottu Prasadam (Annadanam). Over 700 devotees participated in the Powai Muthappan Seva Samithi organized Sree Muthappan Vellatta Mahotsav on February 2, 2013 at the Municipal programme. Sree Muthappan is a folk Hindu deity commonly worshiped in North Malabar region of Kerala and Coorg region of Karnataka. Muthappan and Thiruvappan are considered to be a manifestation of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu. Worship of Muthappan is unique in that it does not follow the Brahminical form of worship as in other Hindu temples of Kerala. The main mode of worship is via a ritual enactment of Muthappan, performed daily at the Parassinikadavu temple in north Kerala. Fish and toddy are used as offerings to Muthappan, and people of all castes, religions and nationalities are permitted to enter the temple and take part in the worship. Muthappan is the principal deity in the ritualistic Theyyadance.

Sharanadhara Trust seeks funds

Sharanadhara Trust is a registered organization founded by P R S Raman and others with the objective to reach out the needy and indigent people and support them in the medical, education and social development fields. Their trust does not classify people based on secular, creed, caste or ethnic differences.

The trust seeks funds from all Individuals, Societies, Organizations Corporate Organizations to carry out these activities For details, please visit sharanadhara@gmail.com or call 09819444954/09594932888

Thyagaraja Aradhana

Powai Fine Arts paid their tribute to legendary musician Thyagaraja on February 10th at the Ayyappa Vishnu Temple auditorium, behind Hiranand Hospital, Hari Om Nagar, Powai

Again into the Lotus Eaters Land

- Revathi

Creating a new record, Kerala again slid into the Lotus Eaters Land last month. New Record was created as it was for the first time that Kerala was pushed into a bandh lasting two consecutive days. There are other states in India which observed bandh for a week in the past. February 19 saw hectic activities over the state as none could guess the consequences of the bandh. Several central trade unions warned the people to store enough materials needed for the impending days in advance. The bandh loving Malayalees stocked in adequate quantities of pulses, oils, vegetables and other items besides other essential items like 'bottles', chicken and fish to last a week. Resorts and other stations of relaxation were booked and everywhere an atmosphere of methodical preparations was visible.

Unlike earlier occasions, the bandh in the disguise of 'hartal', service organizations and service sector associations affiliated to both the leftist parties and BJP jointly called the bandh. While trade unions affiliated to the UDF allies joined the strike, their service organizations theoretically did not join it. Since transport facilities



were unavailable, literally they too part of the striking force. This opened a field day for youngsters who zoomed along the road on their bikes. The demands were quite 'genuine' and 'moderate'. They were (1) arrest the price rise, (2) strict implementation of labour laws, (3) universal social security to workers of the unorganized sector, (4) stoppage of disinvestment in public sector, (5) job security, (6) ban of outsourcing, (7) minimum wage of Rs.10,000 to all working persons, (8) non-capping of gratuity and pension limits, (9) pension to all and (10) granting of registration to trade unions within 45 days of application.

Newspapers not siding with any political parties, carried a number of letters from the readers, criticizing the so called hartal and warned of a gloomy future if the trend was allowed to continue. They

pointed out that no earlier strike could prevent price rises. After the first day of the strike, the loss to the state exchequer was put at Rs.4,000 crores. It is a well known fact that none bothers about the losses to the state. These Lotus eaters only want job security against all odds with frequent rises in wages and allowances, facilities, benefits and low prices for all items and assurances of steady supply of materials of all kinds. Nevertheless they should be complemented for their farsightedness about the need of other people's support and hence demanded pension to all in the state. Now none would oppose the bandh or hartal or stri really ke unless he wants to work or refuses to be lazy. The State government boldly faced the strike by doing nothing. The police DIG declared that anyone who wanted to work would be given police protection and some people believed him sincerely. When they were attacked by the strike supporters, the police advised them to go home to maintain law and order!



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Dysmenorrhea

(kastha-atrava)

- Dr Reshma Kunju

The medical term for menstrual cramps is dysmenorrhea. The cramps can be intermittent or constant and sharp. This pain is generally felt in the back and lower abdominal portion. Generally, these pains are the result of uterine contractions, which could be worsened by any kind of emotional stress.



Dysmenorrhea is known as **kastha-atrava** in Ayurveda.

Dysmenorrhea is painful menstruation (Each month, the inner lining of the uterus (the endometrium) builds

up in preparation for a possible pregnancy. After ovulation, if the egg is not fertilized by a sperm, no pregnancy will result and the current lining of the uterus is no longer needed. The woman's estrogen and progesterone hormone levels decline, and the lining of the uterus becomes swollen and dies. It is then shed and will be replaced by a new lining in the next monthly cycle.)

This pain could start at the beginning of the menstrual cycle and continue till the end of the cycle. Menstrual cramps are not the same as the discomfort felt during premenstrual syndrome (PMS), although the symptoms of both disorders can sometimes be experienced as a continual process. Many women suffer from both PMS and menstrual cramps.

Cramps may appear at an early stage in puberty or as a secondary complaint, occurring after several years of pain-free cycles. Menstrual cramps can range from mild to quite severe. The pains can take the form of simple cramps or may be so incapacitating that the sufferer is forced to take to her bed.

Menstrual pain is a common gynecological complaint in adolescents, but the majority of cases are not associated with a disease.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DYSMENORRHEA

In primary dysmenorrhea, there is no underlying gynecological problem causing the pain. This type of cramping may begin within six months to a year following menarche (the beginning of menstruation), the time when a girl starts having menstrual periods. Menstrual cramps typically do not begin until ovulatory menstrual cycles (when an egg is released from the ovaries) occur, and actual menstrual bleeding usually begins before the onset of ovulation. Therefore, an adolescent girl may not experience dysmenorrhea until months to years following the onset of menstruation. The pain tends to decrease with age and very often resolves after childbirth.

Primary dysmenorrhea is caused by strong uterine contractions brought on by an increase in prostaglandin. When the old uterine lining begins to break down, molecular compounds called prostaglandins are released. Prostaglandin is a hormone that causes muscle spasms of the uterus (endometrium). When the uterine muscles contract, they constrict the blood supply (vasoconstriction) to the endometrium. This contraction blocks the delivery of oxygen to the tissue of the endometrium, which, in turn, breaks down and dies. After the death of this tissue, the uterine contractions literally squeeze the old endometrial tissue through the cervix and out of the body by way of the vagina. Other substances known as leukotriene, which are chemicals that play a role in the

inflammatory response, are also elevated at this time and may be related to the development of menstrual cramps.

In case of secondary dysmenorrhea, there are a number of underlying conditions which can contribute to the pain including:

Endometriosis (inflammation of the lining of the uterus and cells from the uterine lining getting located in other areas of the body)

Blood and tissue being discharged through a narrow cervix

Uterine fibroid (non-cancerous uterine growth that respond to estrogen levels) or ovarian cyst

Infections of the uterus

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)

Intrauterine device (IUD) being used for contraception

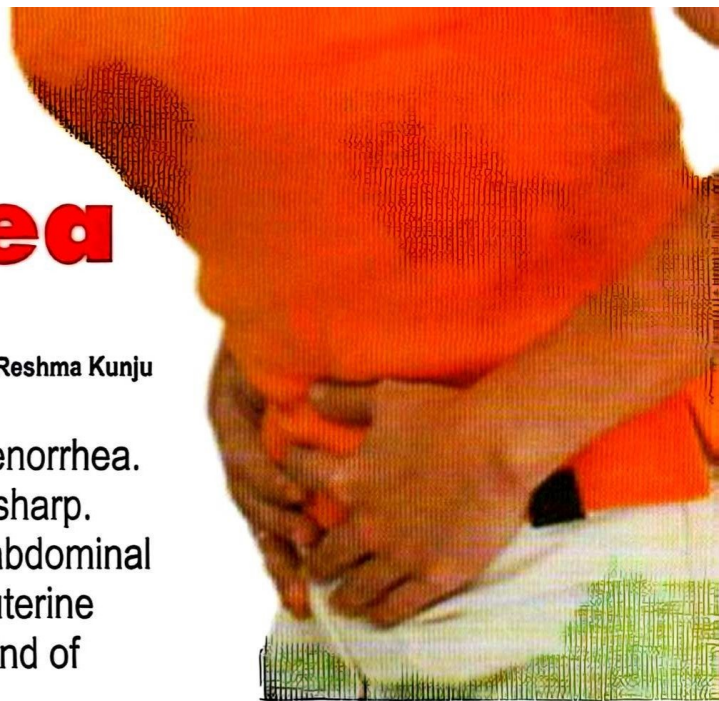
Adenomyosis (a benign condition in which the cells of the inner uterine lining invade its muscular wall, the myometrium)

Adhesions (abnormal fibrous attachments between organs)

Secondary dysmenorrhea may be evident at menarche but, more often, the condition develops later and tends to increase in intensity over time.

Long-term prognosis (outlook) for menstrual cramps

In general, a woman's menstrual cramps do not worsen during her lifetime. In fact, the menstrual cramps of primary dysmenorrhea usually diminish with age and after pregnancy. This is thought to be due to the fact that the nerves of the uterus degenerate with age and disappear late in pregnancy, with only a portion of these nerves regenerating after childbirth.



When there is secondary dysmenorrhea with an underlying condition contributing to the pain, the prognosis depends on the successful treatment of that condition.

Signs and Symptoms

Abdominal cramping, bloating or dull ache that moves to lower back and legs

Heavy menstrual flow

Headache and/or nausea, and they may lead, although infrequently, to the point of vomiting

Constipation or diarrhea (Remember, the prostaglandins which cause smooth muscles to contract are found in both the uterus and intestinal tract)

Frequent urination (in some cases)

Vomiting (not common)

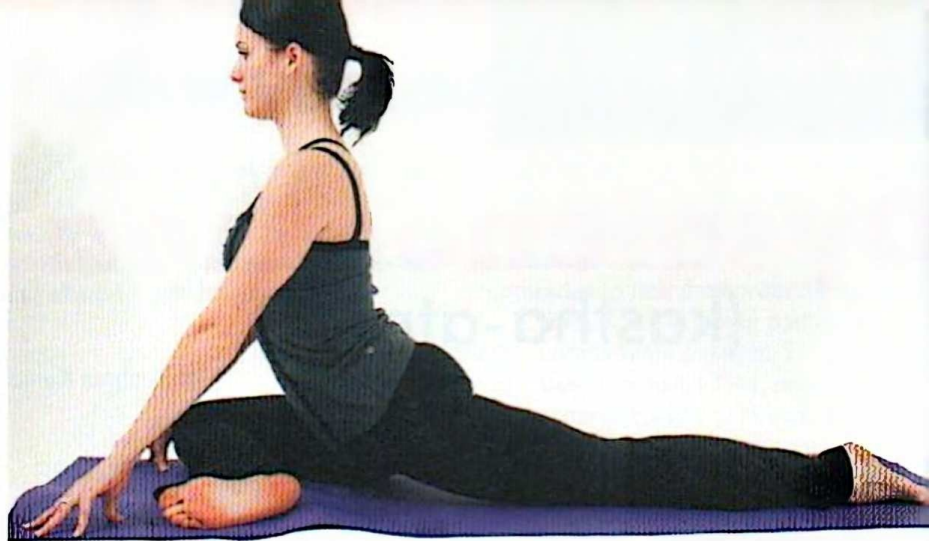
Menstrual cramps usually start shortly before the menstrual period, peak within 24 hours after the onset of the pains, and subside again after a day or two.

Causes

Dysmenorrhea is a pre-menstrual syndrome which causes severe pain. Researchers have not yet found the exact reasons for pre-menstrual syndromes. Most women suffer from menstrual cramps because of stress. An imbalanced daily routine and unhealthy food habits can also cause pre menstrual pains. Psychological problem, mainly anxiety, is a major cause for this. One can get some relief from these pains by relaxation and Yoga.

Menstrual Cramps

Menstrual cramps can be scientifically demonstrated by measuring the pressure within the uterus and the number and frequency of uterine contractions. During a normal menstrual period, the average woman has contractions of a low pressure (50-80 mm Hg), which last 15-30 seconds at a frequency of 1-4 contractions every 10 minutes. When a woman has menstrual cramps, her contractions are of a higher pressure



(they may exceed 400 mm Hg), last longer than 90 seconds, and often occur less than 15 seconds apart.

Why are some cramps so painful?

Menstrual cramps are caused by the uterine contractions that occur in response to prostaglandins and other chemicals. The cramping sensation is intensified when clots or pieces of bloody tissue from the lining of the uterus pass through the cervix, especially if a woman's cervical canal is narrow.

The difference between menstrual cramps that are more painful and those that are less painful may be related to a woman's prostaglandin levels. Women with menstrual cramps have elevated levels of prostaglandins in the endometrium (uterine lining) when compared with women who do not experience cramps.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis of menstrual cramps is usually made by the woman herself and reflects her individual perception of pain. Once a woman has experienced menstrual cramps, usually with the adolescent onset of her menses (monthly menstrual flow), she becomes well aware of the typical symptoms.

If you are experiencing severe menstrual cramps, consult your health practitioner. A pelvic examination will be

performed to check for any abnormalities and signs of infection. Additional tests such as imaging tests (ultrasound, CT or MRI scan), a laparoscopy or hysteroscopy may be performed to determine the underlying cause of secondary dysmenorrhea.

Yogic Management

The pigeon pose is one of the most popular poses for the treatment of this problem.

The hero pose can be practiced by people who do not want to make painful movements. This exercise is also one of the best ways of calming the thoughts and relaxing the body.

The wide squat pose is very useful in reducing the hip pain.

Yoga is an effective remedy for relieving pain and stress, and regulating hormonal discharge, which effectively controls the condition.

Ayurvedic Management

Ayurvedic treatment emphasizes sweating, cleansing douches, and medicated enemas. Oil therapy, including massage, is used to relieve any obstructions in the passage, relieve any spasms, facilitate free movement of vata in the proper direction, and enhance a proper menstrual flow. Gentle massage with sesame oil, dhanwantharathailam, narayanthailam, or kottamchukkadithailam is advised over the lower abdomen, pelvic region, and thighs. Sweating methods and fomentation remove the toxins and also relieve muscular spasms and tenderness.

A medicated enema with a mixture of oil, milk, herbal paste, and decoction of tea also pacifies vata and reduces any flatulence, removes obstruction of fecal matter, and relieves the tension in the pelvic cavity. These three therapies together help relieve pain and discomfort in the pelvic region.

Ayurveda has different types of antispasmodic, muscle relaxing, and

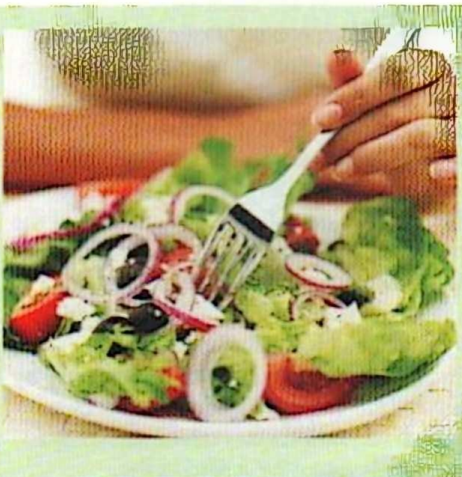
Home Remedies

Vegetarian food can be highly effective in the reduction of menstrual pain.

A person should avoid red meat in the week before the monthly menstrual period. Any kind of junk food should be avoided at this time.

Incorporating seafood and fish in the diet chart can offer benefits.

Grains, vegetables and fresh fruits can reduce the pain and give some comfort.



The following methods can relieve pelvic pain.

Castor oil pack - Apply oil directly to skin, cover with a clean soft cloth (for example, flannel) and plastic wrap. Place a heat source (hot water bottle or heating pad) over the pack and let sit for 30 to 60 minutes. For best results use 3 consecutive days in 1 week.

Contrast sitz baths - Use two basins that you can comfortably sit in. Sit in hot water for 3 minutes, then in cold water for 1 minute. Repeat this three times to complete one set. Do one to two sets per day 3 to 4 days per week.

When you feel cramps coming on, go for a walk or run, or go swimming. You may also get on an exercise bike and use it regularly. Any kind of exercise helps to inhibit prostaglandin production and boosts the release of pain-killing endorphins. Exercise also relieves bloating.

Contradictorily, many women feel the need to lie still while experiencing menstrual cramps, while others find that exercise helps relieve the pain of dysmenorrhea. This variation from woman to woman may explain why some researchers report that exercise makes symptoms worse, though most studies report that exercise appears helpful.

Yoga stretches during your periods can also help. One position in yoga goes like this: Kneel on the floor and sit on your heels. Bring your forehead to the floor against your body. Close your eyes. Hold the position for as long as it is comfortable.



pain relieving herbs along with emmenagogues as herbal medicines for the treatment of dysmenorrhea. These medicines can treat the disease, its conditions and symptoms without any side effects.

Ayurvedic practitioners use Cyperus: This is a special Ayurvedic herb that is very effective for relieving menstrual cramping pain and is useful in dysmenorrhea for all types of doshas. Myrrh, GuggulAshoka herbs are also useful.

In Vata type of dysmenorrhea a patient has severe colicky pain, constipation, dry skin, headache, anxiety, palpitations, abdominal distension and gas. Anti-Vata diet with moist and oily foods should be taken. Turmeric, nutmeg, asafetida, ginger, valerian and jatamamsi are effective in this type of dysmenorrhea. The effect of these herbs is enhanced by demulcents such as Shatavari and licorice, which possess a soothing and cortisone-like effect.

In pitta type dysmenorrhea cooling herbs such as Gotu kola, jatamamsi, passion flower and hops are useful.

In Kapha type dysmenorrhea spicy herbs and antispasmodics like ginger, calamus, myrrh, Guggul, cinnamon and nutmeg are useful.

Herbal formula for dysmenorrhea treatment focuses on detoxification and

elimination. Herbs like blood purifiers, laxatives and diuretics can help in getting some relief. It can also help stimulate the self-healing power of the body and counteract the physical symptoms. Herbs can be useful to tone organs as well as for the nourishment of blood and tissues.

If cramping is severe, low dosage oral contraceptives may be prescribed to prevent ovulation which thereby reduces the production of prostaglandins. If you suffer from secondary dysmenorrhea, treatment will depend on the underlying cause. Treatment may include antibiotics for the infection, polyps to treat endometriosis or surgery to remove fibroids.

Natural and holistic treatments are a gentler and safer alternative to alleviate the pain and discomfort of menstrual cramps. Using herbal remedies helps to support the female reproductive system and promotes overall health and wellbeing.

Some physicians advise that alcohol consumption should be avoided, or at least limited, by women experiencing menstrual pain, because alcohol depletes stores of certain nutrients and alters the metabolism of carbohydrates, which in turn might worsen muscle spasms. Alcohol can also interfere with the liver's ability to metabolize hormones. In theory, this might result in elevated estrogen

levels, increased fluid and salt retention, and heavier menstrual flow. If you must drink, limit yourself to a glass or two of light wine.

Eliminate refined foods, sugar, and methylxanthines (coffee and chocolate). The caffeine in tea, coffee, chocolate and cola can also contribute to menstrual discomfort by making you nervous. The oils in coffee also may irritate your intestines.

Magnesium and vitamin B6 rich diet helps to promote hormone production and induce relaxation. Calcium may help prevent menstrual cramps by maintaining normal muscle tone. Likewise, magnesium also plays a role in controlling muscle tone and could be important in preventing menstrual cramps. Vitamin E to improve blood supply to muscles. In all, these nutrients help to relax the walls of blood vessels, reducing cramping sensations. A well-balanced, mixed diet comprising meat, whole grains, brewer's yeast, green leafy vegetables, fruits, cold-pressed oils, eggs, wheat germ, sweet potatoes, dairy products, shellfish and nuts should provide you with all the above mentioned minerals and vitamins.

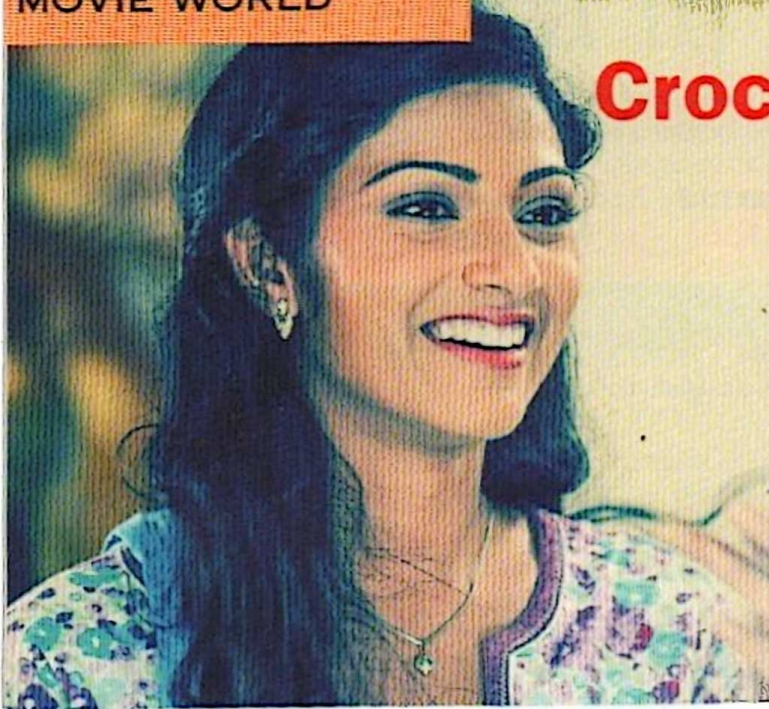
Take essential fatty acids (Omega-3 and Omega 6 oils such as flaxseed, evening primrose) rich foods to reduce inflammation and/or support hormone production. You may increase the intake of essential fatty acids, found in cold-water fish, nuts, and seeds.

Too many women tend to skip meals and consume excessive amounts of sweets and salty foods just at the time when they should be even more careful about their diet. Remember, even if your well-balanced, mixed diet doesn't provide you with relief from cramps immensely, it will dramatically improve your overall sense of well-being. Salty and sweet junk food will definitely make you feel bloated and sluggish. Also, go for small meals spaced out well throughout the day instead of fewer, heavier meals.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

Relaxation techniques have been used with some success to alleviate dysmenorrhea in some young women. According to one preliminary study, the symptoms of menstrual cramps, nausea, irritability, and poor concentration greatly improved after 20-minute relaxation sessions twice per week.

Many women face difficulties in carrying out their regular daily tasks due to the pain caused by dysmenorrhea. To reduce these problems, one should reduce anxiety and depression. One should practice balanced food habits and maintain proper cleanliness during the



Crocodile Love Story

Debutant director Anoop Ramesh directs Crocodile Love Story produced by Anurag Motion Pictures. For the first time in Malayalam films, Animatronics will be used, as in the case of Yanthiran and Jurassic Park, as a crocodile has an important role in it. The film with the theme of romantic comedy tells the story of a girl who falls in love with a fat man while their parents are against their affair. Eventually couple escapes and reaches a forest, where they have to face an encounter with a crocodile that was not ready to give up without a fight. Pravin Prem, Avanthika Mohan, Manikuttan, Kalabhavan Mani, Prem Kumar, Santosh Kurup, Maya Viswanath and Praseeda Menon are the main actors.

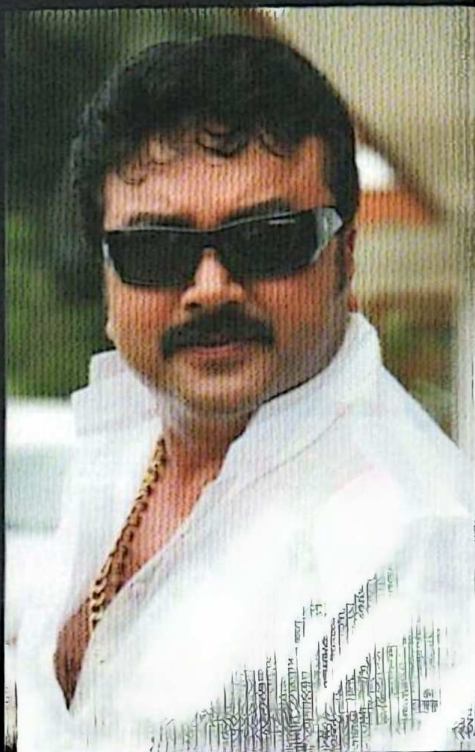
Lucky Star

Actor Jayaram will next be seen in yet another family drama, directed by debutant Deepu Anthikad. Titled Lucky Star, the movie will see Jayaram and Mukesh in prominent roles. Deepu is the nephew of veteran director Sathyan Anthikad and is also a popular ad film maker.

When it came to casting for his debut, the director says he couldn't find a better match than Jayaram, who is a hot favourite for family films.

It will also see debutant Rachana Narayanakutty, a popular face on television, essaying the role of Jayaram's wife. Deepu is planning to rope in a child artist from Bollywood to play the young boy.

Deepu Anthikad credits this first venture to his uncle and director Sathyan Anthikad. "When I used to work on my short films, my uncle used to give me tips to improvise it. Similarly, his suggestions and support helped me come out with Lucky Star," says Deepu.



Black Forest

International award winner director Joshi Mathew comes with his new movie Black Forest, which deals with the nature and environment. The story is revealed through the eyes of a boy. The boy is Chetan Lal and other main actors are Manoj K Jayan, Asokan and Meera Nandan. Other actors are Master Akash, Baby Parvathi, Baiju, Krishna Prasad, Dinesh Nair, Kalabhavan Shajohn, Priyadarshan, Vishnu, Suneet Milan, Adityan and Ashwathi Nair. The entire film is shot on a 1300 feet high mountain over a period of 22 days. It is produced by Baby Mathew Somatheeram.

Radio

Ummar Muhammed's "Radio" talks about the social issues of today. In the modern society women are being victimized in most of the crimes which involve by both men and women. "Radio" points out such critical issues focusing on a sales girl hailing from a middle class family.

The cast line includes Nissan, Harisree Asokan, Irshad, Iniya, Shobha Mohan, Sarayu, Thalaivasal Vijay, Manian Pilla Raju, Kochu Preman, and Thesni Khan. Under the banner of Vijay Combines, "Radio" is produced by S.C. Pillai. Music by Mohan Sitara and lyrics by Rafeeq Ahmmed. Sabu Ram handles art direction.



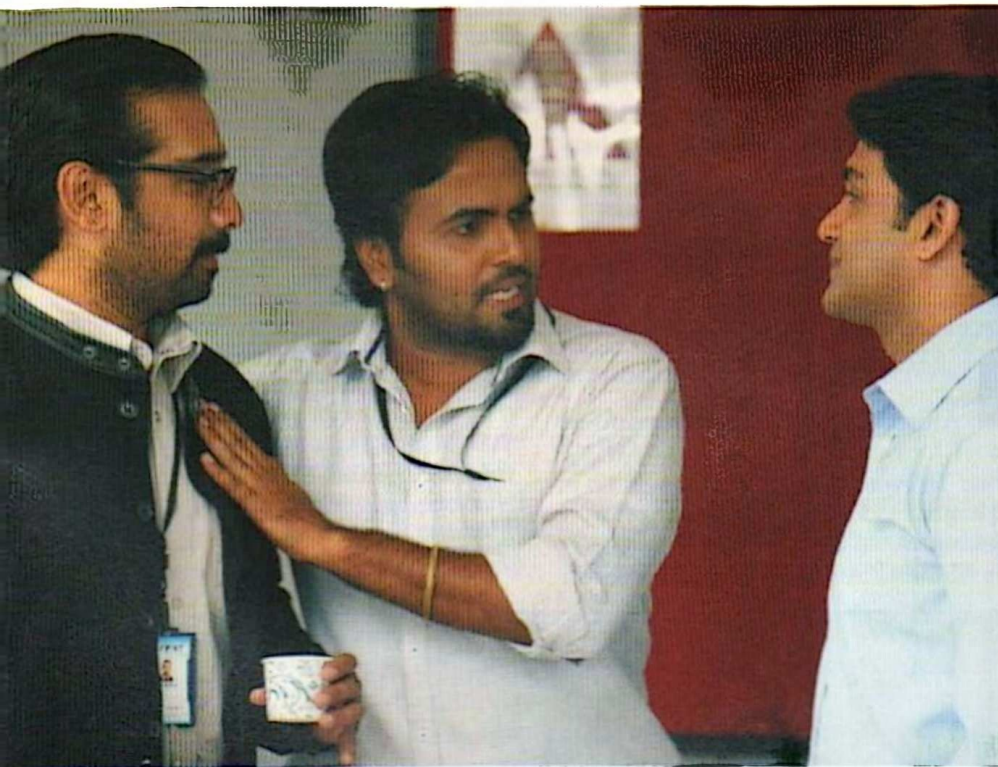
Omega.exe

The three friends Sidharth, Avinash, and Nishchal are software engineers. In a special circumstance, Avinash reaches Kerala. There he develops a better relationship with the family of Sidharth. With the passage of time, some secrets were disclosed to the three friends.

Though the plot unfolds in a mysterious background, the narrative is interspersed with elements of love and the value of human relationships. Glimpses of friendship, fun, romance are all there to make the story lively.

'Omega.exe' is the debut movie of Binoy George starring Vineeth, Harish Raj and Iniya in the lead roles. Written and produced by Shaji Francis under the banner of Third Act Creations, 'Omega.exe' which is set in IT background, sketches the story of young minds.

Kannada actor Harish Raj, Vineeth, and Sanchu essay the roles of Avinash, Sidharth, and Nishchal respectively. Iniya plays software engineer Aleena. The cinematography is handled by Bijoy and the script and dialogues are co-written by Shaji Francis and Binoy George.



Call me @...



Frame to Frame Movies makes Call Me At... with Arjun Nandkumar and Natasha in the leading roles. Debutant Francis Thannickal wrote the story and directed it. The main actors are Arjun, Nandakumar, Mallika, Nedumudi Venu, Indrans, Mamukkoya, Prajod, Sona Nair, Thesni Khan, Ambika Mohan, Natassha Dossietc. Afsal Yusuf scores the music for the lyrics written by B R Prasad.



പ്രൊഫ. വിജയലക്ഷ്മി

ഗുപ്തകാശി

ഇന്ന് സപ്തമം 11. ദിവസത്തിന്റെ സവിശേഷത പെട്ടെന്ന് മനസ്സിൽ ഓടിയെത്തി. ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ അഭിമാന-ഭാജനമായ യുവയോഗി സ്വാമി വിവേകാനന്ദൻ വിദേശീയരെ അഭിസംബോധന ചെയ്ത് ഓരോ അമേരിക്ക കാരനെയും സ്വാധീനിച്ച വിശിഷ്ട ടിനം. കാലാന്തരത്തിൽ ഈ ദിവസം ഒരു ദുരന്തസ്മൃതിയായി പരിണമിച്ചെന്ന് മറ്റൊരു വസതുത!

ഞാൻ വാതിൽ തുറന്ന് പുറത്തെ വരാന്തയിലെത്തി പൂർണ്ണമൊന്ന് കണ്ണോടിച്ചു. തലവേദന അപ്പോഴും വിട്ടുകുന്നിരുന്നില്ല. വരാന്തയിൽനിന്നും കോണി ഇറങ്ങി താഴെവന്ന് അടുത്തു തന്നെയുള്ള അടുക്കള ജനലിലൂടെ യുള്ള വെളിച്ചം കണ്ടു. അങ്ങോട്ടു ചെന്നു. ലോകം മുഴുവനും കൊടും തണുപ്പിൽ ഗാന്ധിനിയുടെ ആഴ്ന്നിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ മഞ്ഞണിക്കൊടുമുടികളും നക്ഷത്രജാലങ്ങളും മിഴി തുറന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഹിമാലയസാനുക്കളിൽ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തുപോലും യേം എന്ന വികാരം എനിക്ക് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടില്ല. സർവ്വ സാക്ഷിയെങ്ങും നിറഞ്ഞുനിൽക്കുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ ഒറ്റയ്ക്കല്ലല്ലോ എന്ന ആശ്വാസം. അടുക്കളയിൽ ഒരു വലിയ വീപ്പയിൽ വെള്ളം ചൂടാക്കാൻ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. വിറകുമുട്ടികൾ കത്തി

ക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. വാതിൽ കുറ്റിയിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ തിരിച്ചു വന്ന് രജായിയിൽ വീണ്ടും കിടന്നു. 4 മണിക്ക് ഉണർന്നു.

പ്രാഥമികകാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം നിറവേറ്റി ക്ഷേത്രനടയിൽ എത്തിയെങ്കിലും അമ്പലം തുറന്നിട്ടില്ല. തലേദിവസം മൂന്നുതവണ അകത്തുകയറി തൊഴുത താണെങ്കിലും വീണ്ടും ഇവിടെ വന്ന് തൊഴാനുള്ള സാഹചര്യം ഒരുക്കണെ എന്ന് മനസ്സുറുകി പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചു.

മടങ്ങിയെത്തുമ്പോൾ തിരിച്ചു ഗൗരിക്കുണ്ഡലിലേക്കു നടക്കുന്നവർ പുറപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുവാനുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശം കിട്ടിയപ്പോൾ വിജയലക്ഷ്മിയേയും കൂട്ടി നടന്നു തുടങ്ങി. കേദാരേശ്വരനോട് യാത്ര പറഞ്ഞ് മന്ദാകിനിക്കു കുറുകെയുള്ള ഇരുമ്പുപാലം കടന്ന് പ്രയാണം ആരംഭിച്ചു. കുറച്ചുനേരം നടന്ന് കുതിരപ്പേട്ടയും കടന്നപ്പോൾ ഒരു ഹനുമാൻ ഗുഹയും അതിനോടു ചേർന്ന് ഒരു ആശ്രമവും കണ്ടു. തലേന്ന് അങ്ങോട്ടു പോയപ്പോൾ അന്നെ ഈ പവിത്രമായ സ്ഥലം ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിരുന്നു. മടക്കയാത്രയിൽ അവിടം സന്ദർശിക്കണമെന്ന് തീരുമാനിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നതിനാൽ ഞങ്ങൾ രണ്ടുപേരും അവിടേക്ക് നടന്നു. ഈ

ഗുഹയോട് ചേർന്ന് ഒരു ആശ്രമമുണ്ട്. ഗുഹയ്ക്കകത്ത് പ്രധാനമായും ഹനുമാനെ ആരാധിക്കുന്നു. ശ്രീരാമൻ, സീത, ലക്ഷ്മണൻ എന്നീ പ്രതിഷ്ഠകളുണ്ട്. അകത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്ന സന്യാസി ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രസാദം തന്നു. തട്ടത്തിൽ 'ബ്രഹ്മകമലം' എന്ന ഹിമാലയത്തിൽ മാത്രം കാണുന്ന പൂഷ്പങ്ങളു മുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

തട്ടത്തിൽനിന്നും പൂക്കളെടുത്തു കൊള്ളാൻ അനുവദിച്ചതനുസരിച്ച് വിജയലക്ഷ്മിയും ഞാനും രണ്ടു പൂഷ്പങ്ങളെടുത്തു. ഞങ്ങൾ ആദി ശങ്കരാചാര്യസ്വാമികളുടെ ജന്മദേശത്തുനിന്നും വന്നവരാണ് എന്നറിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മുഖത്ത് സന്തോഷവും ബഹുമാനവും പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുന്നത് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വ്യക്തമായി മനസ്സിലായി. ഇതിനിടെ അദ്ദേഹം കാലടി സന്ദർശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നറിയിച്ചപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് മനസ്സ് അഭിമാനപൂരിതമായി. നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകൾക്കിപ്പുറവും ആചാര്യസ്വാമികൾക്ക് ലഭിക്കുന്ന ഈ ആദരവ് ഏതൊരു കേരളീയനേയും സന്തോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. വീണ്ടും ഗൗരിക്കുണ്ഡലിലേക്ക് കാഴ്ചകൾ കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടുള്ള യാത്ര ആരംഭിച്ചു. ചെമ്മരിയാട്ടിൻ പറമ്പുവരെ മേയുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലൂടെ മനോജ്ഞമായ



Badrinath Temple

കാഴ്ചകൾ കണ്ടു ഞങ്ങൾ നടന്നു നീങ്ങി. ഇതിനിടെ ക്ഷണകൂടാതെ ഞങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം ചേർന്നു. വിവിധ പുസ്തകങ്ങളേയും സ്ഥലങ്ങളേയും പറ്റി സംസാരിച്ച് ഞങ്ങൾ രാത്രിയിൽ എത്തിയത് അറിഞ്ഞില്ല. എന്റെ സാധനങ്ങൾ സൂക്ഷിക്കാൻ ഏല്പിച്ചിരുന്ന കടയിൽ കയറി അവിടെനിന്ന് ഓരോ പായയും കൂടിച്ച് വിശ്രമിക്കുന്നതിനിടയിൽ വിനോദം ബീനയും എത്തി. ഏകദേശം മൂന്നര മണിക്കൂർ കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾ ഗൗരികുണ്ഡിൽ തിരിച്ചെത്തി. പൂട്ടുനീരുറവയിൽ മുങ്ങിക്കുളിച്ചപ്പോൾ ക്ഷീണമെല്ലാം പമ്പ കടന്നു. അവിടെയുള്ള ഒരു കൊച്ചുകുഴൽത്തിൽ ദർശനം ചെയ്ത് സംസാരിച്ചു നിൽക്കുന്നതിനിടെ യാത്രാസംഘത്തിലെ മറ്റുള്ളവരും എത്തിച്ചേർന്നു. ബസ്സുകൾ ഇതിനകം തയ്യാറായി നിന്നിരുന്നു.

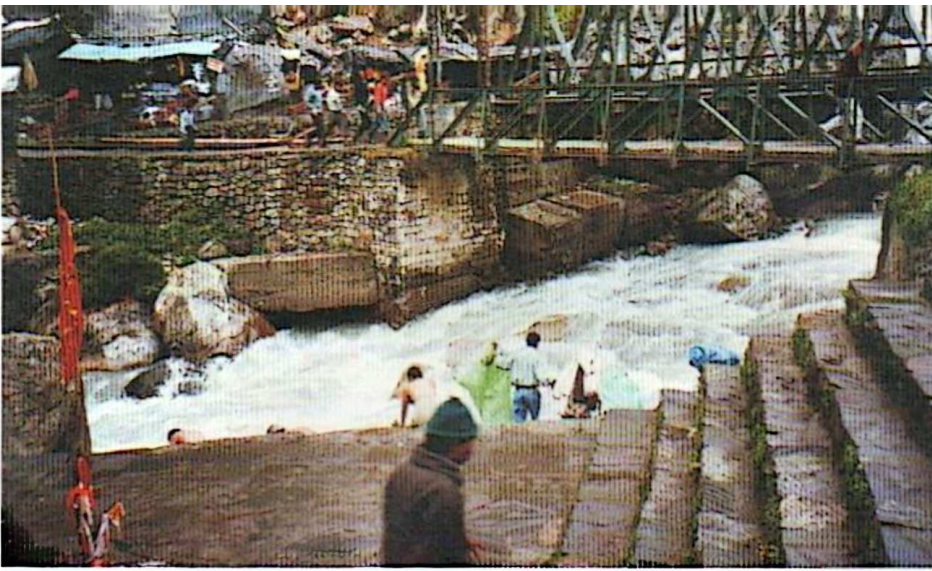
ഇനിയുള്ള യാത്ര ബദരിയിലേക്ക്. കാലങ്ങളായി ആഗ്രഹിച്ചിരുന്ന ആ ദർശന സൗഭാഗ്യം മനസ്സിലേർത്തപ്പോൾത്തന്നെ പൂർവ്വാധികം ഉന്മേഷം വന്നു. അന്ന് ഗുപ്തകാശിയിലായിരുന്നു യാത്രാസംഘത്തിന്റെ വാസം. ഗുപ്തകാശിയിലെ വിശ്രമത്തിനിടെ ഉമിമത് സന്ദർശിക്കുവാനുള്ള അവസരം ഉണ്ടാക്കാമെന്ന് രാമദാസ് പറഞ്ഞു. കേദാർനാഥിലേക്ക്

പോകുമ്പോൾ ഇരുട്ട് മൂടിതുടങ്ങിയിരുന്നു. ആയതിനാൽ വഴിയോരക്കാഴ്ചകൾ നഷ്ടമായി. ആ സൗഭാഗ്യം തിരിച്ചുകിട്ടിയത് മടക്കയാത്രയിലാണ്. തെളിഞ്ഞ പകലിൽ മനോഹരകാഴ്ചകൾ കണ്ടായിരുന്നു മടക്കം. ഏകദേശം 11 മണിയോടെ ഞങ്ങൾ സ്വർണ്ണപ്രയാഗയിൽ എത്തി. ഇവിടെവെച്ച് കേദാര ധാമത്തിൽ നിന്നു ഉഴവിക്കുന്ന സോനാഗംഗയും സംഗമിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെനിന്ന് അഞ്ചുകിലോമീറ്ററോളം സഞ്ചരിച്ചാൽ ത്രിയുഗീനാരായണ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിലെത്താം. ഇവിടെവെച്ചായിരുന്നു ശിവപാർവ്വതിമാരുടെ വിവാഹം, മഹാവിഷ്ണുവിന്റെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ നടന്നതെന്ന് വിശ്വസിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു.

സീതാപ്പുരിലെത്തി ലഗേജുകളെല്ലാം തിരികെയെടുത്ത് ഗുപ്തകാശിയിലേക്ക് പുറപ്പെട്ടു. മലഞ്ചെരുവുകളിൽ ബാസ്തമി അരി, വിവിധ പച്ചക്കറികൾ, കടുക് മുതലായവ ക്ഷണി ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ മത്തങ്ങ, ഉരുളക്കിഴങ്ങ്, പീച്ചിൽ, കക്കിരിക്ക മുതലായവ ധാരാളമായി കാണാം.

ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് ഏതാണ്ട് രണ്ടു മണിയോടെ ഞങ്ങൾ ഗുപ്തകാശിയിലെത്തി. കേദാരയാത്രക്കിടയിൽ ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിച്ചിരുന്നു. മൂന്നു ജീപ്പുകളിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഏതാണ്ട്

മുപ്പതുപേർ ഉമിമം സന്ദർശിക്കാൻ പുറപ്പെട്ടു. ബാക്കിയുള്ളവർ യാത്രാക്ഷീണത്താൽ താമസസ്ഥലത്തുതന്നെ തങ്ങി. കേദാർനാഥക്ഷേത്രം മഞ്ഞുമൂടി കിടക്കുന്ന സമയത്ത് കേദാരക്ഷേത്രചൈതന്യം ആവാഹിച്ച ഉമിമത്തിനുള്ള ഓഖിശേശശർ ശിവക്ഷേത്രത്തിൽ പൂജ നടത്തുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ശങ്കരാചാര്യന്മാരും പഞ്ചകേദാര പ്രതിഷ്ഠകളും ദർശിക്കാനുള്ള സൗഭാഗ്യം ഉണ്ടായി. ഉഷ-അനിരുദ്ധ വിവാഹം നടന്നത് ഇവിടെവെച്ചായിരുന്നു എന്ന് വിശ്വസിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. ഒരു ഹോമകുണ്ഡത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗവും നടമുറ്റവും മറ്റും ഇപ്പോഴും അവിടെ കാണാം. മാത്തിന്റെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ അവസ്ഥ തികച്ചും ഭയനീയമാണ്. ജീർണ്ണത ഏറ്റു വാങ്ങി നിൽക്കുന്ന ആ പൈതൃകസമൃദ്ധ്യം വേദന ഉളവാക്കുന്ന ഒരു കാഴ്ചയാണ്. ജീർണ്ണോദ്ധാരണത്തിന് ഒരു എളിയ സംഭാവന നൽകി അവിടെ നിന്ന് പുറപ്പെട്ടു. കോടമഞ്ഞ് മലകളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചുനിന്നുപോയി കയറി കയറി വന്നുതുടങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ഹിമബിന്ദുക്കളിൽ ഒന്നുരണ്ടെണ്ണം മുഖത്തു വീണപ്പോൾ തിരിച്ച് ജീപ്പിൽ കയറി. ക്ഷണിയിടങ്ങളിലെ കാഴ്ചകൾ കൗതുകവും വിസ്മയവും ഉണർത്തുന്നവയായിരുന്നു. പച്ചയണിഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുന്ന മരങ്ങളിൽ നിറഞ്ഞു



Mandakini bridge

നിൽക്കുന്ന ഓറഞ്ചുകൾ നയനാനന്ദകരമായ അനുഭവമായി.

ആ കൊച്ചുപട്ടണത്തിൽ ഒരു ചെറിയ ഷോപ്പിങ്ങിനുവേണ്ടി ഒന്നു കറങ്ങി. കടകളിൽ കണ്ട പച്ചക്കറികളും പഴങ്ങളും മനസ്സിൽ എന്തെന്നില്ലാത്ത സന്തോഷമുണ്ടാക്കി. എല്ലാം പുതു മനറിൽ വെമ്പൽ വാക്കുകൾക്ക് അതീതമാണ്. സരസ്വതീ തീർത്ഥം എടുക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു ചെറുപാത്രം വാങ്ങി.

യാത്ര പ്രായേണ ക്ലേശം നിറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ നാലു മണിക്ക് പുറപ്പെട്ടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പതിനൊന്നു മണിയോടെ ജോഷിമറിൽ എത്താൻ കഴിയുമെന്നും അതിലൂടെ സമയം ലാഭിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാമെന്ന് മനസ്സിലായി. ജോഷിമറിൽ നിന്നും തികച്ചും വീതി കുറഞ്ഞ പാതയായതിനാൽ കോൺവോയ് അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലാണ് വാഹനങ്ങളെ പോകാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നത്. ഒരു വഴിക്കുള്ള വാഹനങ്ങളെ പൂർണ്ണ

കഴിഞ്ഞ ലക്കത്തിലെ 'കെ എം ആർ കലാസമിതി പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ രക്ഷകൻ' എന്ന ലേഖനത്തിൽ താഴെ പറയുന്ന വിവരങ്ങൾ ആകസ്മികമായി വിട്ടുപോയി. അവ ഇപ്രകാരം: സുധീർ 'ദേശാഭിമാനി'യിൽ സീനിയർ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ആണ്. ഭാര്യമായ അദ്ധ്യാപികയും. മകൾ സീമയും ഭർത്താവ് കേണൽ ജയറാമും അവരുടെ രണ്ടു കുട്ടികളുമടങ്ങുന്ന കുടുംബം ഡൽഹിയിലാണ്. മകൾമായ, ഭർത്താവ് പ്രവീൺ ചന്ദ്രൻ, രണ്ടു കുട്ടികൾ എന്നിവരടങ്ങുന്ന കുടുംബം മുംബയിലെ മീരാറോഡിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നു. സുധീറും ഒരു നടനാണ്. അടുത്ത കാലത്ത് കെ എം ആറിന്റെ 'കർമ്മഭൂമി' വീണ്ടും അവതരിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ, സായ്പ്പിന്റെ ഭാഗം അഭിനയിച്ചത് സുധീറായിരുന്നു.

മായും കടത്തിവിട്ടതിനു ശേഷമേ തിരിച്ചുള്ള വാഹനങ്ങളെ കടത്തി വിടുകയുള്ളൂ.

അടുത്ത ദിവസം തിരുവോണം, നാടിന്റെ 'പൂവേ പൊലി'യുടെ അലയൊലികൾ എവിടെനിന്നോ, ഉണർന്നപോലെ. നേരത്തെ ഉണരാൻ അത് തികച്ചും പ്രേരകവും പര്യപ്തവുമായി. മുറ്റത്തു പടരുന്ന വർണ്ണങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലേക്ക് സന്നിവേശം

നടത്തി. സാക്ഷാൽ വാമനമൂർത്തിയെ ബദരീനാരായണനായി ദർശിക്കുന്നതും ഈ പുണ്യദിനത്തിൽ തന്നെ. ഇത് ആകസ്മികമായ സൗഭാഗ്യം തന്നെ. ഗുപ്തകാശിയോട് വിട പറഞ്ഞ് നാലു മണിയോടെ പുറപ്പെട്ടു. ഇനി ബദരീനാഥസവിധത്തിലേക്ക്. സൂര്യശക്തികൾ തിരനോട്ടത്തിനൊരുങ്ങുമ്പോഴേക്കും ഞങ്ങൾ രൂദ്രപ്രയാഗ പിന്നിട്ടു. കേദാരത്തിൽ നിന്നും ബദരീയാത്രയ്ക്കിടയിൽ ഉള്ള പ്രധാനജംഗ്ഷനാണ് രൂദ്രപ്രയാഗ്. അളകനന്ദയും മന്ദാകിനിയും സമ്മേളിക്കുന്നത് ഇവിടെയാണ്. പഞ്ചപ്രയാഗദർശനവും ഞങ്ങളുടെ തീർത്ഥാടനത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. ഗംഗോത്രിയിൽനിന്നും ഉത്ഭവിക്കുന്ന ഭാഗീരഥിയും ബദരീനാഥത്തിൽനിന്ന് ഉത്ഭവിക്കുന്ന അളകനന്ദയും ചേരുന്ന ദേവപ്രയാഗയെ കുറിച്ച് മുമ്പ് പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിരുന്നല്ലോ. രൂദ്രപ്രയാഗയെ കുറിച്ച് പഠനം കഴിഞ്ഞു. അടുത്തതാണ് കർണ്ണപ്രയാഗ. അളകനന്ദയും നന്ദാദേവി കൊടുമുടി കളിൽനിന്നുള്ള പിൻഡർഗംഗയും സംഗമിക്കുന്നത് കർണ്ണപ്രയാഗയിലാണ്. മഹാഭാരതത്തിലെ കർണ്ണൻ തപസ്സു ചെയ്തത് ഇവിടെയായിരുന്നു എന്ന് പറയപ്പെടുന്നു. ■



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Thoughts on tenses and numbers

-Guruji

People brought up outside Kerala do not care to speak Malayalam properly. Further, they do not even attempt to learn the language from a qualified teacher. The conversational style is mostly polluted that now hardly anyone speaks good Malayalam.

Highly cultured people always insisted that when one wants speak, he or she should first decide on what exactly to be conveyed and to make an impact, what structure of the language to be used. By doing so, that person unconsciously controls his temper and while talking, makes the listener happy. This approach makes the speaker cultured and the listener estimates him as one who hailed from aristocracy. Psychologists say that if one observes a person for five minutes and listens to him for ten minutes, one can tell the character of that person, traditions of his family and also the place where he comes from.

Like in any other language, Malayalam also have three tenses; the past, the present and the future. But in certain times, we may use present or past tense for future tense. For example, suppose we have decided to leave for Kochi tomorrow. In English, we may say, 'I go to Kochi tomorrow.' This we may do in Malayalam also (ഞാൻ നാളെ കൊച്ചിക്ക് പോകുന്നു). Similarly, we are almost reaching a particular place and then a phone call comes to find out if we reached there. We might say, "We reached there". In Malayalam, we would say, "ഞങ്ങൾ ഇതാ എത്തി". If someone did something and the effect of which is still valid, we may use present tense, as in English.

എഴുത്തച്ഛൻ ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ മൂലകഥയിൽനിന്ന് ചില വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ വരുത്തുന്നു. In English, it could be like this: "Ezhuthacchan makes some changes here ". This could also be used in present perfect, as in:

"വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ വരുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട് ."

However, "I got" should not be used as "ഞാൻ കിട്ടി" but it should be "എനിക്കു കിട്ടി". In the same way, "I must go" should not be written as "ഞാൻ പോകണം" but it should be "എനിക്ക് പോകണം ". Another example: For "I am hungry", it should be "എനിക്കു വിശക്കുന്നു " instead of "ഞാൻ വിശക്കുന്നു ".

Unlike in English, in Malayalam, we use a plural form even when singular form to be used, to indicate respect to the person referred to. Example: സ്വാമികൾ, ഭീഷ്മർ, തിരുവടികൾ etc. നിങ്ങൾ could be used to refer to more than one in second person but also to a single person while indicating respect. താങ്കൾ is however is used to indicate a single second person. Aristocracy sometimes uses verb instead of ഞാൻ to show his superior status.

While there are plural numbers for single person indicating respectability, there are certain words used to indicate contempt such as അവൻമാർ, അവളുമാർ, അവറ്റ etc. For neutral gender, even when more numbers are involved, plural number is not necessary as in രണ്ടു തേങ്ങ, അഞ്ചുരുപ, നാലു ദിവസം.

Answer er to Quiz No.8

When different consonants join to make a mixed character, the primacy is given to the second consonant and the first is only half pronounced. Following this edict, in തത്ത്വമന്ദിരം, the conjoint character ത്വ becomes ത് + ത് + വ and it is unwarranted. Therefore, a single ത് will do. Therefore, തത്വമന്ദിരം is right. In case you have old photographs of Sabarimala Temple, you would note തത്വമന്ദിരം written at the place where now തത്ത്വമന്ദിരം is inscribed. Generally people blindly accept without application of mind or logic, anything practiced in a venerated place. The error in the given word must have happened so. Now many Ayyappa temples display this wrong slogan.

Only K S Nair from 3, Priya, Ghatkopar West sent the correct answer.

Quiz for March 2013

From the Editorial of Kala Kaumudi dt.January 29, 2013, in the context of S Janaki refusing Padmabhushan while Madhu did not say anything.

പൈതൃകഗുണകൊണ്ടോ, തറവാടിത്തംകൊണ്ടോ, മര്യാദകൊണ്ടോ ആകാം ഇതുവരെ മറുത്തൊന്നും പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടില്ല മധു.



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