

Onam Special

# Kerala in Mumbai

The Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

■ Vol. 6 No. 5 ■ Price Rs. 70 ■ August 2015

## OUTDOOR ADVERTISING WIZARDS



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# Aftermath of Execution of Yakub Memon

**F**inally the lone culprit of 1993 March serial blasts, sentenced to death was executed on July 30, after a prolonged legal battle of more than two decades. The merits and demerits of execution are beyond our scope but unfathomable comments on favouring or disfavouring death penalty by various 'so called' leaders and the exploitation of the electronic and print media is deplorable.

There were attempts by religious fanatics, political opportunists and limelight seekers, neo-opinion makers etc who ranted about fallacy of death penalty as a savage measure by an uncivilized state forgetting that the punishment is still remaining in the statutes. What they stated was inappropriate for the occasion. When our neighbor is looking for opportunities to unsettle our dear nation, these personalities were giving fodder to them. They could have said all their views a couple of weeks ago or after the execution. When they were shooting their mouth, they were well aware of the fact that their statements would not make any mark in the judicial or presidential orders except that the world would realize what type of 'banana republic' India had become. It is a fact that none of the so called leaders is an expert on the subject.

It was Justice V R Krishna Iyer who introduced the concept of 'rarest of rare cases' would call for the capital punishment and many courts in the world quoted him and complimented him. It is well established that not the perpetrator but the conspirator who would invite this punishment. He has also mentioned that even the mercy petition to the Governor or President should be decided without undue delay. Many politicians opposed this punishment possibly because they feel they could create a vote bank or can help their party workers involved in murderous acts to escape the noose.

The channels made this event quite a celebration and continued to display the photograph of a young Yakub Memon, in lieu of the latest, to secure sympathy for him from the mass. Unwanted, unrelated and imaginary details were served to tantalise the readers/audience. It is time to introduce some kind of a censorship for the media to ensure that they do not mislead the public. Remember, the 'live' telecast of '26/11' events helped the Pak handlers to guide the perpetrators to the disadvantage of India.

We strongly feel that the capital punishment should remain in the statute, to be used rarely, to discourage the rioters or terrorists from murdering the innocents. All the victims killed or suffered injuries, were totally innocent and had no connection with the so called communal riots preceding it and it is natural that the kin of these victims feel strongly that justice could be met only by awarding death penalty to the culprits. Relatives of the culprits and the defence lawyers would naturally oppose the death penalty.

In many terrorist attacks, we find the real executors are poor and did it for money or they were highly motivated by indoctrination. The real perpetrators would never want the executors to be caught alive for fear of being exposed. In the absence of deterrents, terrorists would be encouraged to come here as they please and live in our jails at our expenses, as 'kasab' said. A life in Indian jail is far better than the life in their country, while their kin would be looked after by the handlers, they believe.

Many argue that most of the nations have abandoned death penalty to be included in the civilized nations' list but not all countries followed suit. Even in US, there are a few states that retain death penalty (by a deadly injection) and their counterpart in the East, People Republic of China still retain it and let's leave the Islamic nations aside. It shows both the rightist and leftist nations have it, then why not the centrist India?

One should clearly distinguish terrorism against an individual and against unsuspecting innocents. The Sri Lankan act was directed against Rajiv Gandhi alone but a few innocent people were affected as Rajiv was unavailable without a group of people around. This belongs to the first category whereas the serial blasts in Mumbai belonged to the latter category and hence more brutal. It cannot be discouraged without a deterrent. Its absence would only encourage the terrorists to frequently indulge in their favourite game.

The recent execution would serve as a punishment to the main culprit at large, as they would not be able to have a peaceful sleep as long as they live even abroad, as the one executed was their younger brother. Capital punishment is like freedom, it lasts only till you use it and let's use sparingly.

**Superb Magazine**

Enjoyed reading many articles in Kerala in Mumbai July issue. The magazine becoming very interesting and readable for even non- Malayalees. Singlish by K R Narayanan was superb. You may start a column for readers on what they like about Mumbai.

-Umesh Kashikar

PRO to the Governor of Maharashtra

**Features on Young Mumbai Malayalees**

KERALA IN MUMBAI is a very interesting magazine. Maybe you can make it more interesting by including a series of features on young Malayalees and cover news of Mumbai Malayalees apart from covering Samajam news.

Sherley Singh  
Chakala



Sulochana Achan (left) and KD Skandan (right) in the drama 'Kshetram'

**God as the Doer**

Glanced thro' the latest issue of KIM. The article by Sulochana Achan (Chechi)... The Real Doer ... was interesting and stimulating. We acted in Nanappan Chettan famous drama "Kshetram" in 1994 at Chembur Fine Arts. A talented artist!

I had a similar experience about 40 years back. I fully endorse what she said last: "My belief that God is the doer became more certain. As I climb the steps of my life, that knowledge only strengthened over time."

K D Skandan



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

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30 July 2015

## **MESSAGE**

I am pleased to know that 'Kerala in Mumbai' is bringing out its Onam Special issue shortly.

Onam is one of the most important festivals celebrated by the Malayalees living across the world. Mumbai is home to a large number of people of Kerala origin. I am sure, the festival will bring them closer and enable them to celebrate the festival with great enthusiasm and happiness.

I found 'Kerala in Mumbai' very interesting and readable. It made me wonder how nice it would be if similar magazines could be started by the people from various States of India living in Mumbai. I am sure, the Onam Special issue will be welcomed by the people.

I congratulate 'Kerala in Mumbai' and wish the readers a very happy Onam.

  
(Ch Vidyasagar Rao)

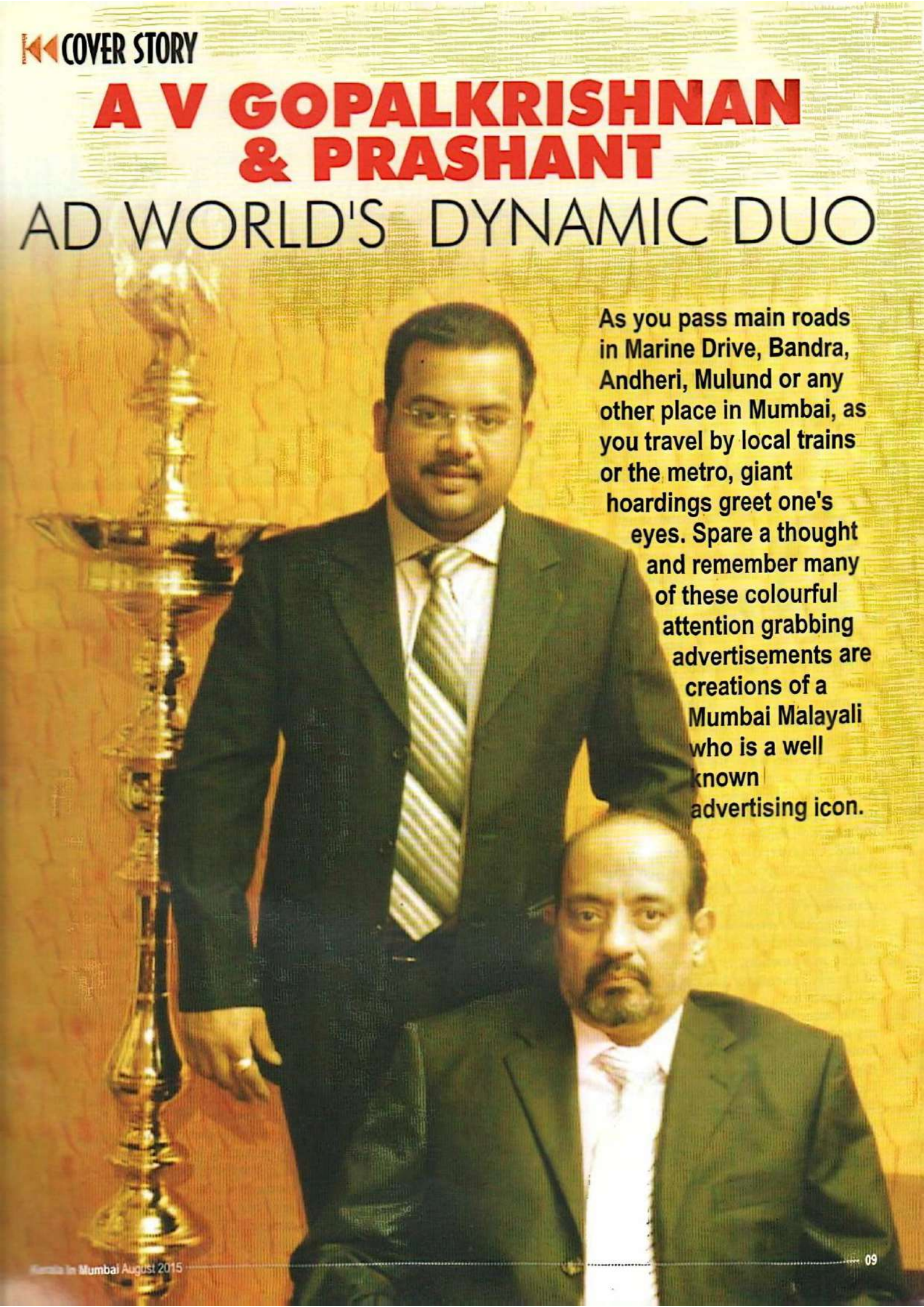


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# A V GOPALKRISHNAN & PRASHANT

## AD WORLD'S DYNAMIC DUO



As you pass main roads in Marine Drive, Bandra, Andheri, Mulund or any other place in Mumbai, as you travel by local trains or the metro, giant hoardings greet one's eyes. Spare a thought and remember many of these colourful attention grabbing advertisements are creations of a Mumbai Malayali who is a well known advertising icon.



Vakola Flyover



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

■ AV Gopalkrishnan studied B Com and Law. But he was destined to do more creative things. He found his calling in advertising and visual media. As Managing Director of In & Out

Advertising (P) Ltd, A V Gopalkrishnan is a man to reckon with in the advertising field. Along with his son Prashant Gopalkrishnan who is Jt Managing Director of the company, Gopalkrishnan has taken In & Out Advertising to great heights and has made its presence felt in several cities of India as well as the UAE.

In & Out Advertising is a company that leases out spaces for advertisements at strategic points outdoors. The young man sitting on a bike near the curve atop a flyover, the rectangular hoarding of a jewelry studded young woman at a height on a junction..., these are a few of the advertisements that the company sells space for.

“To become an established leader in my area of business,” says Gopalkrishnan, “two things are important: visual appeal and location of the hoarding. Nowadays with flex printing, accuracy, colour contrast and visibility are assured. Gone are the days when artists had to climb the scaffolding and paint the advertisements.” The company owns private and public spaces for displaying advertisements as per the customers’ specifications and deals with



**“To become an established leader in my area of business, two things are important: visual appeal and location of the hoarding. Nowadays with flex printing, accuracy, colour contrast and visibility are assured.”**

getting permissions form Municipal corporation and other local bodies.

Gopalkrishnan hails from a conservative family in Kerala, belonging to Arangottukara village that is located interestingly in part Thrissur and part Palakkad districts. After completing his SSLC, at the age of 15, young Gopalkrishnan set out for Mumbai, then Bombay, to the land of opportunities. He completed his Graduation in Commerce and also a Degree in Law at the Government Law College where he had the good fortune of being taught by legal veterans like Ram Jethamalani, Soli Sorabjee, N A Palkhiwala and others.

Gopalkrishnan remembers Bansi Mehta in whose Chartered Accountancy firm he worked as a clerk. But the glamorous world of visual media fascinated him and he joined M/s Clarian & Mc Cann Advertising Services and was part of the first Asiad that was held in Delhi. It was here that he learnt the importance of outdoor displays. Later he joined Johnson & Johnson but left it when he realized his calling in life was outdoor advertising and he plunged headlong into it.

Forty years in this field and he says, “Today, as I look back, I am clear that I had taken the right decision. I started with one project but now we have over 150 hoarding spaces in Mumbai, more than 300 in Andhra Pradesh and other locations within the country.” When his son Prashant joined him, the company expanded to other Indian cities and to

the UAE where they have more than 85 hoarding spaces.

"I never worked solely for the money part of it. Outdoor advertising was my passion." says Gopalkrishnan. "I always tell my staff, ' money should be in your pocket, not in your head', meaning you should not become arrogant."

"As a rule to succeed in any venture, three things are important: hard work, sincerity and luck. I would attribute my success to the effort I put in my early days, and dedication with which I worked for my company and a little bit of luck that was bestowed on me by the Grace of God."

Prashant Gopalkrishnan looks after 90 % of his business now and looks up to his father for guidance and advice. As a proud father Gopalkrishnan mentions that his son is very hardworking and committed to the company. "With his untiring efforts we are now planning for expansion into other areas of business like exports, construction line etc", he says.

Gopalkrishnan's parents are the late Venkatachalam and Lakshmi who is 94 years old. His father was a landowner in Arangottukkara and had a textile



Gopalkrishnan with his family

**"Not only is (my father) an avid reader and keeps himself well informed about the happenings around but he also is a keen listener who has this rare quality for a man of his stature, to listen to even people half or one third his age, because he strongly believes everyone has talent and ability." (Prashant about Gopalkrishnan)**

business.

Gopalkrishnan's wife Radha also belongs to Arangottukkara and after marriage she came to Mumbai with him. Prashant is their only son, married to Priya originally belonging to Palakkad but brought up in

Bombay like Prashant. They have two children Maanya and Nidaant. Regarding future plans for the company Prashant says, "I am looking at buying

out companies that have billboards in Mumbai and other parts of India and identifying and putting up billboards in newer areas and regions."

Regarding his father Prashant is eloquent. "My father is an institution and has a sea of experience and knowledge. His vision and intuitions are the sole reason that he has achieved this position in society. Not only is he an avid reader and keeps himself well informed about the happenings around but he also is a keen listener who has this rare quality for a man of his stature, to listen to even people half or one third his age, because he strongly believes everyone has talent and ability".

Gopalkrishnan's hobbies include reading at least ten newspapers daily, biographies, highly spiritual books and magazines covering business and sports. He likes to watch NDTV news and listens to Dr Subramaniam Swamy's and Ram Jethmalani's talks and anything connected with law. Ram Jethmalani has always inspired him, he says. He is the Founder Vice Chairman of Lokhandwala Celebrations Club.

He has received many awards and recognitions including the fourth Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Award 2015 recently. He does a lot of charitable activities offering financial aid to poor patients for treatment, educational assistance for deserving students but does not want to brag about it.

"For me, there is no age for retirement. I will take challenges and push myself to reach higher standards that I have set for myself. Think big and you will become big," he says. ■



Wishing you all happy & Prosperous

*Cnam*



**K & K Social Foundation**



# ONAM

## CELEBRATIONS

Enjoy Onam which is the most joyous yearly festival celebrated by Keralites, wherever they are, in Kerala or outside, irrespective of age, caste, community or religion.



V Balachandran

Onam falls in the month of Chingam (Mid August Mid September) of the Malayalam calendar when, after prolonged rains, the harvest season begins. The granaries (Pathayam) start getting filled up, nature clothes the land with her green garment, and flowers bloom on the wayside and in household gardens. A smiling landscape seems to say, "Come all, come together, enjoy the festival of Onam". In fact, Onam

translates into action three ancient sayings which form the foundation of the Indian culture namely, 'Assemble, talk, open your minds', 'May all be happy', 'The world is one family', 'Lokah samastha sukhinoh bhavantu, Vasudhavia Kutumbakam'.

It is one of the remarkable features of our festivals that we remember God even when we are seized with the spirit of revelry.



## ONAM IN PURANAS

Onam derives its sanctity from its association with one of the incarnations of Sri Krishna. Sree Krishna in the guise of a dwarf (Vamana) pushes to the nether world the Asura chakravathi, Bali, in response to the prayers of gods, the Devas. Bali, unlike other Asuras, was good at heart and generous to a fault. Before going down to the world below (Paltham) he makes one request: "May I see my people at least once a year wearing new clothes and enjoying themselves with feasts, music and dance?" The Lord accedes to the request and hence our observance of Onam in the way we do and even someone dressing himself as Bali going around and mingling with the people. Thanks to the TV and government encouragement there is enough evidence of a growing participation of the people in the festival. It is also a matter of satisfaction that Keralites outside Kerala Harita Keralam- show great enthusiasm in observing the festival.

## COMMERCIALISATION

There is, however, another side to the coin. The spirit of revelry pushes back the consciousness of God. This consciousness alone makes for discipline which is unfortunately ignored when people make merry and get intoxicated. The day after Onam the newspapers and media tell us

about the quantity of liquor sold and the value of money drained away. This is a disturbing trend that needs to be checked. This commercialisation of festival has taken place because of TV and the media.

## PRESENT SCENARIO

Today the granaries do not get filled up as they used to be in the past. Owing to the high cost of labour, cultivation of food crops has become uneconomical especially for small land-owners. This has resulted in the paddy fields being sold for house construction - large housing complexes are a common sight - or for growing commercial crops. Kerala is far from being self-sufficient in food production. The lack of self-sufficiency is also seen in regards to eggs, vegetables and milk. Are we converting the Harita Keralam into a Keralam of bricks and cement structures?

## BONDAGE AND FEELING OF ONENESS

Let's us come together and celebrate Onam with great joy. Let this bonding enable us to promote the prosperity of Kerala with its greenery and sacred ambience. Let us pass on this legacy to our younger generations, so that the culture and glory of Kerala are kept intact.



# MAHABALI

**Bali was the son of Devamba and Virochana. He grew up under the tutelage of his grandfather, Prahlada, who instilled in him a strong sense of righteousness and devotion.**

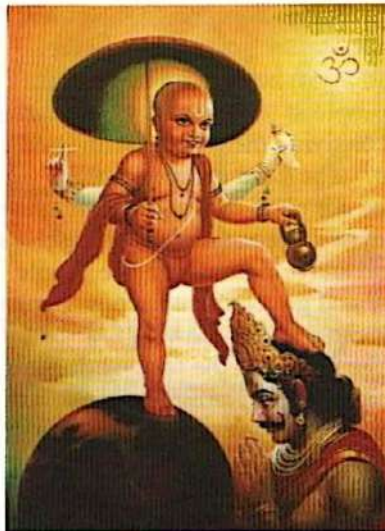


G H Ananthanarayanan

**M**ahabali, also known as Bali or Maveli or Virochana, was a benevolent Asura king. He was the grandson of Prahlada in Indian scriptures. The festival of Onam, celebrated by the people of Kerala, marks his yearly home-coming after being sent down to the nether region of Sutala by Vamana, the fifth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Bali was the son of Devamba and Virochana. He grew up under the tutelage of his grandfather, Prahlada, who instilled in him a strong sense of righteousness and devotion.

Bali succeeded Virochana as the king of the Asuras, and his reign over the realm was characterised by peace and prosperity. The incident narrated below will bring out in sharp focus the qualities of his head and heart.



In the Ksheerabdi Madhanam (churning of the milk ocean), the Asuras were cheated of their share of nectar by the Devas. The Asuras, therefore, launched a war on the Devas led by Bali. Indra challenged Bali with his powerful thunderbolt and told him that he would cut off his head. Bali's reply to it as given in Srimad Bhagavadham is worthy of note. He said, "People engage themselves in war under the prompting of their collective Karma, brought together by the power of Time, and to everyone so engaged, fame, success, defeat and death can occur by turns according to that karma. Therefore, neither victory

nor defeat is permanent with any party. Wise men face the regulating influence of Time in all these matters. They, therefore, are not elated or depressed in success or failure. You seem to be ignorant of this. You who think yourself to be the master of your destiny without taking the factor of Time into consideration will be the object of pity



for wise men." In the fight that ensued, Bali was killed. Sage Narada intervened and stopped the fight. Sukracharya, the Guru of Asuras revived Bali and brought him back to life. Though vanquished, Bali did not feel sorry for his actions, for as he told Indra he felt that victory or defeat was a matter of destiny.

Bali bided his time and one day he decided to attack Devaloka and conquer it. Indra fled incognito on the advice of his Guru Brihaspati. Bali ascended the throne and subdued the earth as well as the nether regions. He held sway over the three worlds for many years.

Indra asked his Guru how Bali got such power,

to which the reply was that it was the Brahminic power imparted by his illustrious Gurus. Only Sri Hari can face him. Therefore, better abandon the heavenly region now and go into hiding until the time turns against the enemy. The Devas then left the heavenly regions disguised in different forms. Indra became a peacock, Kubera a lizard, and the other gods variously disguised went to the hermitage of Kashyapa to whom they related their misfortunes.

Aditi, the mother of the Devas was much upset by this turn of events. Sage Suka advised her to observe Payovrata, the vow of subsisting only on milk, for twelve days in the bright fortnight of Phalgun and worship the Lotus-eyed Lord with supreme devotion. Pleased with her penance, the Lord appeared before her and promised to be born as her son, who would get back for Indra his throne. The Lord then took birth as the son of Aditi in the form of Vamana (Divine Dwarf).

Bali, though of Asura clan, was a just and merciful emperor. He was performing a magnificent Yagna on the bank of the river Narmada for the welfare of his subjects in all the three worlds. Vamana went there accompanied by the prominent sages. Overwhelmed by the splendour and effulgence of the guest Vamana, Bali rose from his seat to receive him and seat him in a place suited to his exalted guest. Bali then asked Vamana what he would like to have in return for the honour done to him to which Vamana replied. Only three feet of earth as measured by his foot! Bali felt slighted by the meagreness of the request for a person of his

standing who commanded all the three worlds. Vamana told Bali of the virtue of humility and contentment and that he would be satisfied with what he had sought. Bali then directed Vindhyavali, his wife who was standing nearby, to pour oblations of water on the feet of the guest as a mark of reverence.

At this point, Sukracharya intervened and warned Bali not to do so, as the guest was none but Lord Vishnu Himself, who had come to divest him of the throne of Devaloka and restore it to Indra. But Bali stood firm in his resolve, as he felt that it would be improper to take back a promise once given and confirmed it by pouring water on the feet of the visitor with the help of

“O Supreme being who indwells everything! the possessions of Bali have been taken away. He has offered to you the whole of this earth attained through Karma, all his wealth and poverty and his own body—all these he has offered to Thee without regret. How then does he deserve this suffering and humiliation to be banished from the earth?”

The Lord replied:

“O Brahma! Whomsoever I really wish to bless, I first take off his wealth. For wealth makes a man proud and arrogant, as a result of which he leads to insult the world and Myself. Subject to the Jiva is to his own Karma, he transmigrates under the compulsion of Karma from species to species

and from body to body until at some distant date he gets a human body (by My grace). However, a person who is devoted to Me never gets infatuated even when favoured by high birth, property etc. The spiritual progress of such a person is not blocked. Bali has remained totally unconcerned even in the face of his downfall. Firm in his vow of truth, he did not break his promise. I am therefore giving him a boon, which is difficult even for a celestial to get. He will become the Indra in the age of Manu Savarni. Till then let him live in the realm called Sutala, in which there are many handiworks of the heavenly architect, Viswakarma. Those who live there shall be free from every kind of misery and I will be protecting all the people residing in Sutala”.

Seeing Bali, his grandson and the preserver of the continuity of his race, free from bondage and favoured by

the Lord, Prahlada said, “A blessing of this kind has never been the privilege of Brahma, nor of Sri, nor of Siva, nor of any others. Thy mercy is indeed unconditional and limitless.” The Lord said, “Prahlada dear! May you be happy and prosperous. You too go to Sutala. There you can be happy with this grandson of yours, an benefit all your relatives. There you will see me everyday, with mace in my hand, guarding the place.”

Legend has it that when King Mahabali was being sent to the nether regions, he requested Lord Vishnu for one last boon and that was that he be permitted to visit Earth once every year to see for himself that his people are happy. This was granted by Lord Vishnu also, as stated elsewhere as a boon that Bali will be the eighth Indra during the time of the eighth Manu, Manu Savarni. It is noteworthy that even though Vishnu put Bali through a harsh test, he retained his faith in God. He is hailed to be a supreme example of the highest Sadhana of Nava Vidha Bhakti. ■

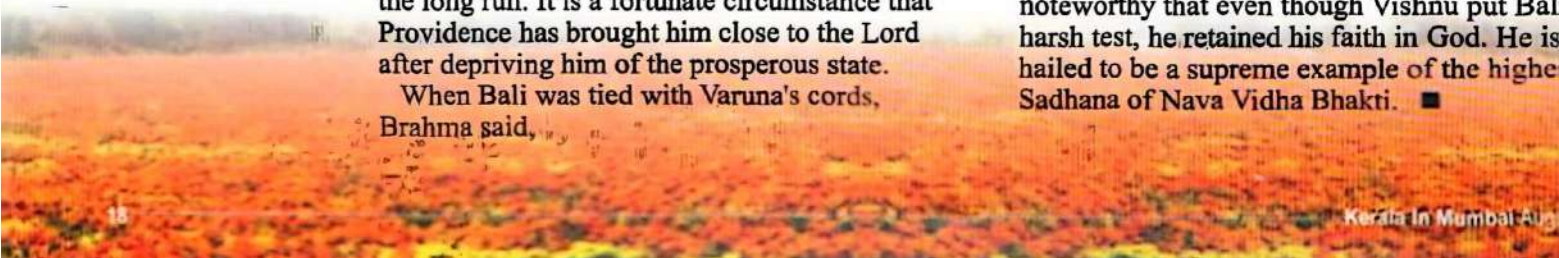
his wife.

Vamana suddenly grew into such gigantic proportions that with one foot he measured the whole earth, with another the rest of the world. He then asked Bali where he should put his next step. Without flinching, Bali told Vamana to put it on his head and bowed in reverence.

There is a misconception among some that this act of dispossessing Mahabali of all his riches is an act of deception practised on him by the Lord. Actually, what the Lord did was to bestow grace on him. This is what Srimad Bhagavatham says:

Even though dispossessed, Bali remained unmoved in the resolution to stick to truth. He told Vamana that a punishment inflicted by a most venerable person like him is to be welcomed rather than shunned, as it leads to the supreme welfare of the individual concerned in the long run. It is a fortunate circumstance that Providence has brought him close to the Lord after depriving him of the prosperous state.

When Bali was tied with Varuna's cords, Brahma said,



# ONAM-Celebration of Equality



Swami Krishnananda Saraswathi

■ Onam is not just a traditional festival of Kerala. It is a celebration of the universal and eternal message of Equality. It is a celebration of Liberation. In the present time the

whole country is divided by caste, economic class, religion, language and many other barriers. These differences existed in the ancient ages as well. The difference is that underlying these differences was a spiritual understanding. *In the principle of prana everybody is equal. in the material principle everybody is unique.* For the development and preservation of society three things are required Spiritual Base, Economic Growth and Political Stability. The Avatar of Lord Vamana was to re-establish the spiritual base. When a man has economic and

political power but not the spiritual base he becomes a proud brute. Also, a person should never be proud of his own charitableness. Mahabali, the great and holy emperor, was in the danger of falling into this trap. Lord Vamana saved him from it and blessed him to be remembered for all time. Mahabali wholeheartedly accepted this.

Material equality is impossible but equality can be attained through spiritualism. The so called modern slogans of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity have existed from time immemorial in our cultural heritage. Kerala, one of the most beautiful parts of Bharat, is God's Own Country. It has a duty to spread its divine culture throughout the world for the development of humanity. The time of Onam is also a very pleasant time of the year. Nature blossoms forth with greenery and water. It is a time of celebration for farmers. Lord Vamana's

blessing to Mahabali coincides with Nature's blessing to Man.

The basis of all this is the Vedic concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (World is One Family). Mahabali's rule was a just one. There was no crime, black money, cheating, encroachment nothing of the sort. It only lacked in one thing and that was the spiritual base. Mahabali tried to attain equality with Indra through material conquest. But material equality is impossible. So Lord Vamana gave him that equality through spiritualism. May the blessings of the Lord shower on all makers, lovers and readers of Kerala In Mumbai on this holy day. Wish you all a happy Onam.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. World is One Family. Jai Sitaram!

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# The Bygone Years

-Sathanath

If you have not read this book, it is strongly recommended that you read soon and if you have read earlier, please read it again for you and your children.

**K**P Kesava Menon is known as the founder editor of Mathrubhumi newspaper, the Malayalam newspaper that took the freedom struggle of India, in Kerala forward when there was none for the said objective. He was a barrister (a rare breed those days), freedom fighter, High Commissioner of India to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), President of Aikyakerala Committee, President of Kerala Sahitya Akademi, first Secretary of Malabar District Congress, President of Thunchath Ezhuthachhan Memorial Committee and many more organizations at various phases of his life.

Menon's editorials, articles, books and his public addresses were ardently followed by Keralites, wherever they were, of his period. He was an agony uncle to many, including to those who were about to be taken to the gallows.

He has written several books, often expounding his experiences and lessons learnt and also on great men like Jawaharlal Nehru, Gandhiji, Jesus, Buddha, and other important Indian personalities who contributed to the efforts to raise the stature of India to higher levels. His books on his personal experiences are *Bilathi Vishesham* (on Europe), *Jeevitha Chinthakal* (Thoughts about life), *Bhoothavum Bhaviyum* (Past and Future), *Bandhanathilninnu* (From



behind the bars) et al but his master piece is his autobiography *Kazhinja Kaalam* (The Bygone Years).

Biographies of noted personalities were written by their admirers, fans and followers to project them in glorious lights. Many world personalities wrote the story of their life to bring to light the unknown facts and facets of their lives and also to expound their views and

ideals. Helen Keller, Adolph Hitler, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru et al are some of them.

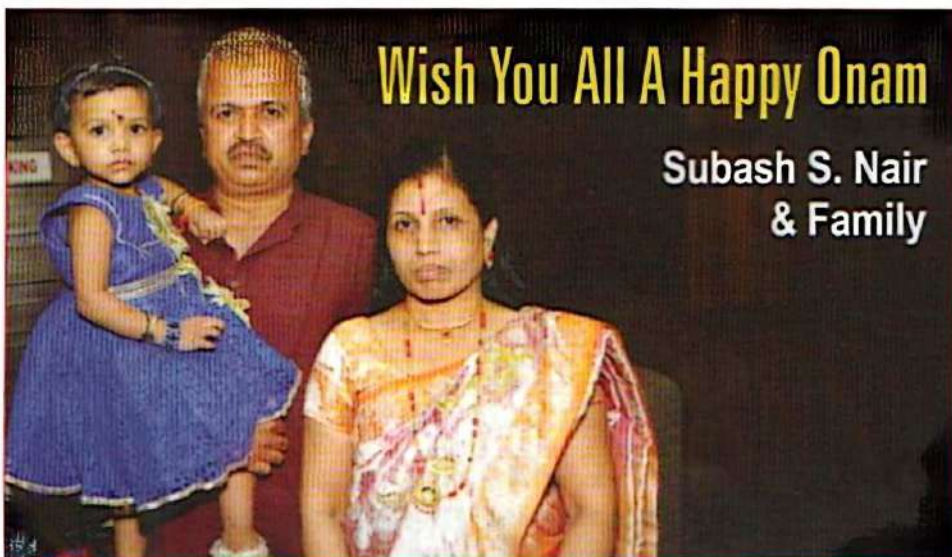
Kesava Menon needed a lot of persuasion from his close friends to put his pen on paper to write his autobiography. He was in a great dilemma. While sticking to truth, had he to write the whole truth? He would write the truth but would not cast aspersions on the person referred to. Since he had already written a few books on his personal life, he would omit all such details. He had initiated many movements and had close acquaintance with the national leaders and hence was privy to many confidential things.

Many readers might have had the opportunity to read books and articles written by others about the events of freedom movement in Kerala, the Mopla Mutiny (as the British put it), Vaikom Satyagraha, movements to form the state of Kerala etc but when one goes through the details provided by Menon, one understands the limitations of such writings. It is thus imperative for one to read this book to have a clear perspective if one cares for truth.

Menon started the work of this book in 1954 and the first edition came out in 1957. As long as he was alive, he revised the contents hence we can read how a Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Kazhinja Kaalam' helped him go to London for a cataract surgery. (Remember that Hanuman happened to see a copy of 'Ramayana' at Vibhishana's bedroom when he first went there!)

Though this writer read the first edition several decades ago, he had to depend on the eighth edition to refurbish his memory before starting this article.

Menon starts his autobiography with his childhood and allows us to understand the intricacies of feudal set up then existing. He mentions that his grandfather died a debtor because of his generosity. He further mentions that his grandmother gave birth to twelve children and the twelfth was his mother as a girl child was a must to take the dynasty forward. He further remembers that Kerala Vidyasala



(now Guruvayurappan College, Kozhikode) admitted Christians, Muslims and uppercaste Hindus while low caste Hindus were denied admission. Menon had his college education in Madras presidency. During those days he had opportunities to listen to the speeches of Bipin Chandra Pal, Gopalakrishna Gokhale etc and was thus attracted to freedom movement. He also penned his first book 'Lala Lajpat Rai', a biography. He was the Secretary of Madras Malayali Club. After obtaining B A from Madras Christian College, Menon wanted to be a barrister and with a lot of constraints his father arranged for his expenses in London. His experiences in London were serially published in 'Manorama' from Kozhikode and later published in book form as 'Bilathi Vishesham.'

In London Menon stayed as a guest of a British lady and her pleasant attitude and hard work made her his role model. After his stay of three years, he returned to India and was given a royal reception with procession, caparisoned elephant and fireworks by the natives.

Menon started his legal practice in Kozhikode in 1915. After waiting for several months, finally he got a case related to inheritance. Before he started his arguments, the District Judge Jackson allowed the petition.

During this period, the Home Rule League of Annie Besant started and Menon became the Secretary of the League in Kozhikode. When its first Malabar District Conference was held in Palakkad in 1916, Annie Besant presided and Menon introduced the resolution demanding Self Government. In the next conference in 1917, Menon was its Secretary. Dr C P Ramaswami Iyer presided and Annie Besant was also present. His involvement in freedom struggle alarmed his relatives and friends. They advised him to leave these activities and to concentrate on his legal career. It had little impact on him and he attended the Lucknow Conference of Indian National Congress. There he met Gandhiji, Bala Gangadhar Tilak, Surendranath Banerjee etc. Since Menon was secretary of Congress Party as well as Home Rule League in Malabar, he and his colleagues were under the glare of the government and his friends started avoiding him. This also had an adverse impact on his legal practice.

His acquaintance with Annie Besant had a positive impact on Menon. Ms Besant was very punctual and to the point while speaking. She also used to work while travelling. She never carried any animosity to those who opposed her

views. Menon followed these traits in his life too. When Ms Besant called on Montague to submit a memorandum seeking self rule, Menon was with her. Though Tilak was in Home Rule League, Gandhi was not very active then. Both of them came to meet Montague and Menon got opportunity to talk to them. All these acquaintances prompted him to write books on them and the income thereof somewhat compensated his loss in the legal practice.

Soon Menon shifted his practice to Madras High Court on the advice of his friends. There he was drawn to trade union activities and became president of some of their unions. During this period he was called on by Barrister Dr Swaminathan seeking his help in one case. This visit helped him to tie a close bondage with Dr Swaminathan. Madras was the venue where Menon could come into contact with so many leaders of India.

During this period he always had an ear to Malabar. To pacify the Indians, India Secretary Montague and Viceroy Chelmsford proposed certain reforms. While Annie Besant and some others were for trying out those reforms, the majority of the members of Home Rule League were against it. This caused a rift between Menon and Ms Besant and they drifted away. The disturbances in the political front deeply hurt him and made him to give up the practice and immerse totally in freedom struggle. He took this decision when he had the responsibility of looking after his family, his siblings and mother besides having a heavy family debt on his shoulders. Rajagopalachari, T Prakasam and Potti Sriramulu had a big role in this decision.

The intervention of Britain in the Khilaphate caused a stir among the Muslim community of India and the so called Mopla Mutiny was a reflection of this.



*Onasamsakal*

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Around this time, Congress decided to form linguistic provinces for its administration as a forerunner to the independence. Menon became its secretary and Rajaji contributed Rs.1000 towards its initial expenses. Many students left their institutions and came forward to work for independence. Kelappan, T V Chathukutty Nair, Mohd Abdurahiman, Kurur Neelakantan Namboothiripad et al were among them. The absence of media support was felt badly by Menon and his colleagues. Other newspapers were reluctant to displease the government and so kept a safe distance from the movement. This situation compelled them to start their own newspaper. Mathrubhumi was thus started as a public limited company with 20,000 shares of Rs.5 each but collecting the share amount was tough as people were not confident of its profitability and thus its life span. Even close friends gave them only oral support but financial support was meagre. Anyway the paper was started with three issues a week. Menon was the editor. Concurrently he was also the secretary of Kerala State Congress Committee. Very soon Congress had its second state conference with Sarojini Naidu in the presidential chair.

Untouchability was at its zenith during these days. During the tour to educate people about the freedom movement, Menon realized that at Vaikom, lower caste people were not allowed to use the temple road where there was no bar for people of other religions. To fight against that injustice, a Satyagraha was planned by breaching the prohibition. Thus the

first non-violent Satyagraha was conducted in Vaikom. Menon and many leaders were imprisoned in Thiruvananthapuram jail for six months.

The freedom struggle was demanding a high price from Menon. There was no income but expenses of running his family of seven people was mounting. Luckily Gandhiji sent him Rs 100 every month for some time. One day Menon had no money at all and was worried how he would buy necessary edible items for the day. By coincidence, he received an envelope by post and it contained Rs.1000/- with a note from an anonymous person requesting him to accept the money for his personal expenses. Very soon his wife Lakshmi was found contacted tuberculosis, an incurable disease those days and she was to be taken to Madras for treatment. Menon had no money but a friend reserved the rail ticket for them and when the train was about to leave the station, a man approached him and handed over an envelope containing Rs.400. Nevertheless after a few months, Lakshmi left him forever.

The financial liabilities forced Menon to give up all positions in Mathrubhumi as well as in Congress and to move again to Madras to restart his legal practice. Later he moved to Malaya-Singapore. The life there was full of unforgettable miseries and he even saw death staring into his eyes. It was also an expensive lesson for him in human behavioral patterns. He was made a minister in the government in exile and later made a prisoner by the Japanese army. By this

time he lost his two daughters Chellamma and Thankam to tuberculosis.

In 1948 August, Menon resumed editorial ship of Mathrubhumi, after his return from Malaya, replacing interim editor K A Damodara Menon. However, he did not accept any political positions as India already attained freedom. But he indulged in several social activities such as public library movement, Rotary Club, All India Editors Conference etc.

In 1951, Prime Minister Nehru personally requested him to take the post of High Commissioner to Ceylon to help the government find a solution to the citizenship for the migrant Indians there. Though he accepted, he could not continue in that position due to difference of opinion with the government of India. In April 1954, he lost his second wife Ammu to cancer and a few days later his mother too. Ammu was the younger sister of his first wife Lakshmi and was a widow when he married her.

Menon dreamt and spoke about Aikyakeralam in 1919 and this idea was dormant in his mind for long. He was the first public figure to demand the merger of Malabar, Kochi and Travancore to form a state of Malayalees and was then criticised for having an immature mind. When he was addressing a meeting in Kollam, he raised the subject again. Then the reaction was what the kings of Kochi and Travancore would do in such a state. When Mathrubhumi was published in 1923, his first editorial was about Aikyakeralam. In 1946, under Menon's initiative a formal committee was formed to work for the state and Raja of Kochi sent a message supporting the idea but Travancore was not in its favour.

In 1946, when Menon was in Malaya, a 15 member Aikyakerala Committee was formed in Aluva, with Kelappan as its President and Menon was made a member. When Travancore and Kochi were merged to form one state, Kelappan resigned his position and Menon was elected its president. The split of Kerala State Congress Committee into two sections in 1952 brought new hurdles.

Though Menon felt happy when the Kerala State was finally formed on November 1, 1956, he was disappointed with the loss of two portions in the northern and southern sides. He was also not happy with the way the state started working but hoped that as the time passed, the functioning would improve. At the end of the book, Menon gives us a road-map for progress.

If you have not read this book, it is strongly recommended that you read soon and if you have read earlier, please read it again for you and your children. ■

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# REJI COTTADIYIL

## BUSINESSMAN WITH VARIED INTERESTS



- Lakshmi V

Construction, real estate, health care, hospitality services, education - Reji Cottadiyil is a businessman with varied interests.

**R**aji Cottadiyil (Issac J Cottadiyil) is a Bhayandar based businessman whose ventures include diversified fields such as construction, real estate, architectural licence works, health care, hospitality and education. He came to Mumbai in 1987. A native of Chettikulangara in Mavelikara, Allapuzha District, Reji completed his schooling and Diploma in Civil Engineering in Kerala. In Mumbai, he first worked in his uncle's automobile workshop and later joined an architectural firm, Bombay Architectural

Consultants earning Rs. 350 per month which is now established as B.A.C Architect and Engineering Pvt. Ltd of which he is now the General Manager.

In course of time Reji started his own company Cottadiyil Enterprises India Pvt Ltd, where he is the Managing Director and is involved in construction of houses under the banner ' Shalom Homes'. Reji recalls his first housing project 'Shalom Apts' in Mira Bhayandar area. Shalom Jove in Planetaria Complex at Bhayander is one of his current projects. Other residential buildings in the Mira Bhayander belt include Shalom Paradise, Shalom Residency, Shalom Garden, Shalom Heritage, Vaibhav Complex, Kenwod Park, Remi Apartment, Rima Enclave, Excel Ark, etc. consisting of flats as well as row houses.

Reji is the Director of Shalom Health Care Pvt Ltd that includes the Shalom Hospital, a 50 bed multi-speciality in Bhayandar. Apart from allopathic treatments by specialists, the hospital has Kerala Traditional Ayurvedic department under Shalom Ayurvedics dispensing ayurvedic treatments to patients.

He is President of Shalom Welfare Centre that administers medical help and educational assistance to poor deserving people. His Shalom Camp Centre at Uttan near Gorai is a sprawling area that is given for meetings, social and church functions



Shalom Hospital and its inauguration (inset)

etc. Reji says that the area is so big that vegetables and fruits are grown there just like in Kerala.

Reji Cottadiyil is active in his St John's Marthoma Church at Mira Road. He is Trustee of the Church and was the Church Project Convener and Marthoma Sabha Mandalam Member earlier. He is also Trustee of the Church's St John's English Medium School.

Reji is also President of YMCA Mira

Bhayander Unit, life member of Y's man, a world wide organization, Life member of Mira Road Malayalee Samajam and executive member (currently) and life member of Kerala Samskarika Vedi. As member of several religious and cultural organizations in this area he helps Malayalees in the Mira Bhayander belt in whatever way he can.

Reji has business interests in Kerala as well - Royal Riviera Hotels and Resorts in Kumarakom, which is one of the 3

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**Reji, his wife and daughters**

Star property in Kumarakom and also delivers house boat services. He is a dealer of H.P Petrol Pump in Kumarakom known as "Cottadiyil Fuels".

He has received various awards from People Arts, Samskarikavedi, Bhayandar and Mira Road Malayalee Samajam, SNDP, Goodwin Jewellers,

St. Thomas Catholic Church, Sacred Arts Catholic Church, etc.

He has also donated Grotto to the St Gregorious Orthodox Syrian Church.

Reji owes his success to God's grace, his hard work and determination to excel in what he does. "From Monday to Saturday from morning to evening, I am totally involved in my various

business activities. On Sundays I am busy with church activities."

"However, I could not have achieved all this without the support of all those around me. To succeed in business you must always be on the look - out for the correct opportunity. My advice to young entrepreneurs would be to ask them take up projects with which they are familiar. My field was civil works so I entered the construction line. My business also includes helping buyers obtain licences, permits etc. You must have a good network of contacts. These are my tips to young men who dream of becoming successful businessmen," he says.

Reji's parents are CI John who retired from the Kerala State Police Department and Liziamma who is a housewife. He has two brothers living in Kerala, one a Health Inspector working with the Government and the other doing business.

Reji's wife Mini hails from Pathanamthitta and is also Director in the Cottadiyil group of Companies. They have two daughters- the eldest one Remi doing her second year MBBS at Pune and the younger one Rima studying in Std XII. ■



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# Dr APJ Abul Kalam

## DOWN MEMORY LANE



**Parur S. Ganesan** (ES (Retd)) has in association with the University of Virginia conducted a number of studies on the past lives of Indian celebrities. Among others like Jawaharlal Nehru, Amitabh Bachhan, Shah Rukh Khan Rekha and Jaya Bahaduri, A.P.J Kalam, our former President too has been included in his studies.

Walter Semkew has concluded that Dr. Abdul Kalam was the reincarnation of Tippu Sultan of Mysore, retaining on perpetuity, his personality traits. Tippu Sultan.

(1750-1799) though a Muslim ruler was an ardent believer of religious co-existence. His court and advisors comprised a number of prominent Hindus ("Raos") and even the

■ Walter Semkew, San Francisco based researcher and propounder of reincarnation theory, who has authored two books on past lives - "Born Again" and "Origin of Souls"-

Commander of Army was a Hindu. Reputed for his cosmopolitanism, Tippu gave land gifts to several temples, and rendered financial and material help to Sringeri Mutt. His feelings were deeply hurt by the armies of the Peshwas vandalizing it. He restored the idol at the venerable spot from the official funds of the state. He also revered the Jagadguru of Sringeri and often sought his blessings. Sometime in 1790 or so he donated 10,000 huns (cash) to complete the Kancheepuram temple and participated in its chariot festival when the temple was completed. Old Kannada literature is replete with elegies to the Sultan and these have found expression in the frescoes on the ceiling of the famous temple at Serbi. Ballads extolling Tippu Sultan are still sung in rural areas of old Mysore state. It is reported that his soul was liberated in Rameshwaram by his Hindu admirers. His reincarnation as A.P.J Abdul Kalam therefore sounds logical.

Dr Kalam in his childhood days lived

and suffered serious penury. His father, a paper vendor in Rameshwaram lived on a day to day existence. As a school going boy Kalam and his brothers used to help him distribute and sell each day's news papers. One morning when Kalam returned to his father's wayside shop after his morning round of paper distribution, a North Indian mendicant on a visit to Rameshwaram noticed the boy and exclaimed "This boy has royal blood in him- and one day he will become a Chakravarthy". Amused, his father replied "no need to become a chakravarty's father- it is ok if I get and can provide two square meals a day to my family!". Later events have proved that even the mendicant's prophesy came true. Whoever imagined that this news paper boy of Rameshwaram would one day become the President of India- a standing monument of India's democracy.

I had the privilege of being his contemporary in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi for two years between 1952 -

1954. He did his BSc (Physics) and I was doing my honours course in Economics. We lived together in the New Hostel attached to the College. I was in room 27 and he in room 29. Considering his financial strains, the Jesuit Priests had kindly allowed him free education and free boarding and lodging in the hostel. In consideration of this, he was required to serve food to us in the hostel mess. Often students used to refer him as 'Water boy Kalam'. One Marudachalam with leftists leanings and I together took affront on this and put a stop to this uncalled for reference. Kalam in those days often gave expression to his life's ambition - to become a pilot ! His career graph however took a sudden change to the steep curve when like the North Indian mendicant, Prof. M.G.K.Menon discovered the real in him- the rest is history.

Dr Kalam never forgot his past or his childhood peers and college pals. During his DRDO days, I often visited him in his bachelor apartment in Hyderabad and we used to reminisce of our college days. After he became the President, we had regular communication and unlike many holding high positions, he always found time to answer all communications. E-



mails were replied within 24 hours and letters within a week. Once he happened to be in Alleppey for a function in a College and in advance he on his own had informed Shri Mahadeva Iyer, his class mate in the college that he would like to have a homely lunch with him and his family in his house. Again, once travelling by car on the streets of Trivandrum he happened to pass through one of his favourite tea shops. He

suddenly stopped the President's vehicle and his convoy and much to the embarrassment and excitement of the tea shop owner demanded

a tea , consumed it, paid for it and then left. Two years ago he had instructed the President of the Shanmukhananda Sabha, Mumbai to call me to the Hall where he was addressing a meeting and that he wanted to see me. On the President's invitation I attended his meeting and having been provided a front seat. Dr.Kalam recognized me and nodded at me. After the meeting when I inquired if I could meet him, I was told that he has suddenly left for Delhi. I was rather upset; but next morning I received a mail from him expressing regret for his failure to meet me and assured me that he would meet me during his next visit to Mumbai which he did!

There is a saying in English "Born a Prince and yet lived with the masses." In Dr A P J Abdul Kalam's case, he was born a pauper, lived with the masses and died an Emperor! ■

ഏവർക്കും  
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# BODHESWARAN

## HE INSPIRED MANY FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN KERALA

Bodheswaran was a talented poet and scholar but he is better known as a leader of those who participated in the Vaikom Satyagraha and Indian Freedom

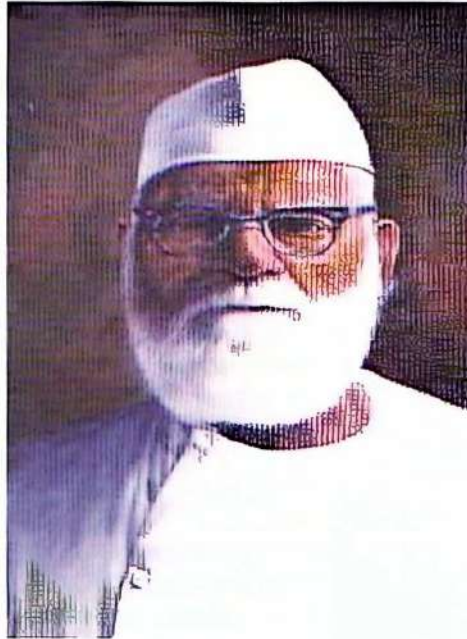


V N Gopalakrishnan

■ Bodheswaran, for a time known as Bodheswarananda was a poet, Gandhian scholar, journalist and social reformer of Kerala. His earlier name was Kesava Pillai. He wrote many

poems and his famous poem 'Kerala Gaanam' inspired many freedom fighters in Kerala. He was a conservative among progressive people and a revolutionary among conservatives. He was mentor for many nationalist leaders and was the leader of the group which went for the propagation of Vaikom Satyagraha. They included K.S. Narayana Iyer, M.P. Padmanabha Iyer, Sivathanu Pillai, Y. Ramaswamy Iyer and other lawyers.

Bodheswaran believed that Vaikom



Bodheswaran

Satyagraha and Guruvayur Satyagraha were the two events that led to the eradication of untouchability. He was the Secretary of the Committee formed in Travancore for the eradication of untouchability. He took a major role in selecting Pattom Thanu Pillai as the General Secretary of the Untouchability Eradication Committee at the instance of Kesari Balakrishna Pillai.

A positive response for Vaikom Satyagraha emerged after the conversation T.K. Madhavan had with Mahatma Gandhi in Tirunelveli. T.K. Madhavan showed his willingness for the meeting with Gandhiji after getting the consent from Congress leaders from Malabar including K.P. Kesava Menon, Kelappan, Abdulrahiman Sahib and Kuroor Neelakantan Namboothiripad.

Bodheswaran was the leader of Vaikom Satyagraha procession from Southern Travancore. The procession from Northern Paravur was led by Mannathu Padmanabhan. Guruvayur Satyagraha took place a decade after Vaikom Satyagraha.

Bodheswaran was born in Neyyattinkara in December 1901 as the son of Kunjan Pillai of 'Chambayil' Puthen Veedu and Janakai Pillai. Named Kesava Pillai by his parents, he completed his education at Neyyattinkara Primary School and Kanjirakulam High School. His childhood was not free from difficulties. He was not very much impressed by the Hindu gods in his earlier years. The prevailing circumstances tempted him to go to the nearby church, which attracted the wrath of his family and relatives. This has prompted him to read 'Bhagavad Gita' and the 'Bhakti Yoga of Swami Vivekananda.

Bodheswaran got immense inspiration from the teachings of Swami Vivekananda which brought him close to

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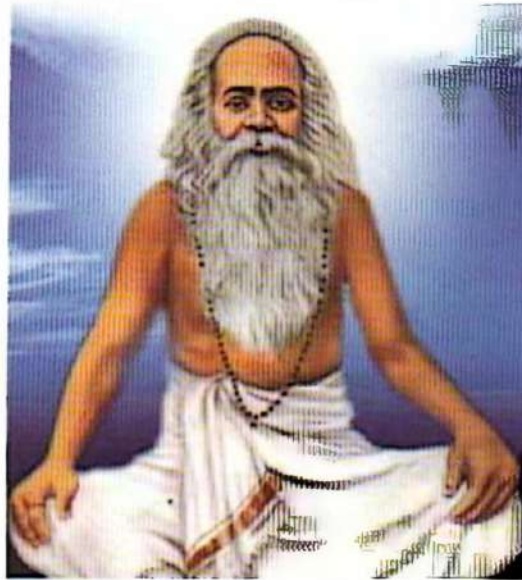


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the nationalist movement and spiritual fields. He spent a brief period at the Ashram of Swami Nirmalananda, the disciple of Swami Vivekananda. Bodheswaran got inspiration for the *pantheebhojanam* (partaking food with untouchables) from Swami Nirmalananda. Bodheswaran believed that Swami Nirmalananda was most progressive as he was instrumental in persuading Brahmins to feed Harijans at Haripad.



**Chattambi Swamikal**

After leaving school he met Sree Narayana Guru, the social and religious reformer and remained in his Ashram for about two years. During that time, he was witness to a procession of Harijans led by one Narayana Pillai, a member of the family of Dewan Neyyatinkara Nanu Pillai. This incident inspired him to work for the emancipation of the downtrodden class and was a turning point in his life. This was the beginning of his initiatives in social work. Later on he travelled throughout the country.

He visited many places in north India including Haridwar and Ujjain. At the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, he changed his name to Bodheswarananda. Later he went to Bengal and was associated with many sannyasins and nationalist leaders. But he could not adjust with such environments. However, he could attend several meetings of great national leaders such as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Motilal Nehru.

After returning from his travels, Narayana Guru advised Bodheswaran to meet Chattambi Swamikal, who in

due course influenced him greatly. He believed that Shree Narayana Guru and Chattambi Swamikal were the two spiritual leaders who worked ceaselessly for the emancipation poor and downtrodden people. Recognising the services and referring to his character, Sree Narayana Guru used to address Bodheswaran as '*Vairagyaratnam*' many times. While continuing his association with Chattambi Swami, Bodheswaran worked for the nationalist movement as well. Influenced by Chattambi Swami he got involved in social reform

movements like Vaikom Satyagraha and the Temple Entry Movement. He was also associated with the ban on foreign textiles, untouchability and prohibition. A decade prior to the 'Vayalar-Punnappra' struggle, his speech at the Cherthala '*Viplava Samajam*' was a rededication for the eradication of untouchability and temple entry. It is to be noted that K.R. Narayani, elder sister of K.R. Gauri Amma sang the invocation song at the '*Viplava Samajam*'.

Bodheswaran's public speeches attracted huge crowds and he inspired the youngsters to join the freedom movement. After a brief spell, he favoured the Arya Samaj movement as well. He also became a worker for the Indian National Congress and changed his name once again to Bodheswaran. After independence Bodheswaran gradually withdrew from active politics, although he remained a Congressman till his end. He lectured and wrote on Chattambi Swami as an "an embodiment of perfect knowledge". He wrote poems which inspired a generation of people. '*Kerala Gaanam*', '*Arsha Gaanam*', '*Chenkoti*', '*Anthya Samarabheri*', '*Ammachiaplavu*', '*Swagata Gaanam*', '*Dhanageeta*', '*Adharsaramam*



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etc. These poems are later compiled and published in 'Swatanthra Keralam', *Rakta Rekhaka* and *Hridayankuram*.

In 1929, Natturajya Praja Sammelanam was held under the chairmanship of Sir M. Visweswarayya. At the meeting Bodheswaran sung the welcome song written by him. It was subsequently translated in many Indian languages. Though the second edition of 'Swatantra Keralam,' was printed, the owner of the press destroyed all the copies as the First Regulation of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer came into effect at that time. However, he managed to print it from Kochi.

Bodheswaran was married to Chellamma, a relative of him but the marriage lasted for only three years. He had a daughter-Swatantrakumari-by that marriage. Later he married Prof. V. K. Karthiyayini Amma, a well known researcher and instructor of Sanskrit. After obtaining the Master's Degree in Philosophy, she did research for three years on 'Near Study of the Concept of Moksha in Indian Schools of Philosophy'.

He has three daughters from her - Prof. B Hridayakumari, Sugathakumari and Prof. Sujatha Devi - who are teachers, writers and social activists. Prof. Hridayakumari, who made her



Hridayakumari



Sugathakumari

mark as an orator, critic and educational expert, served as a professor of English in various colleges across the state in a career spanning 38 years till she retired as the Principal. Prof. Sugathakumari is a poet and social activist and many of her poems reflect deep concern and anguish over the decline of values in

modern life and the harm caused by human greed on nature. It was Bodheswaran who took the efforts in installing the statue of Veluthampi Dalawa at the precincts of the Secretariat. Bodheswaran died on July 3, 1990.

K.R. Narayanan, former President of India inaugurated the Bodheswaran Foundation on December 11, 2002 set up on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of Bodheswaran in Thiruvananthapuram. He said that Bodheswaran's passionate and patriotic lyrics were more relevant even at the present juncture as his poems spread the message of secularism and national unity.

Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor while delivering the Bodheswaran memorial lecture organised by the Bodheswaran Foundation stated that Bodheswaran's works have contributed to the renaissance of Indian literature. M. A. Baby, former Education Minister of Kerala stated that Bodheswaran could be considered as a blend of both Vallathol Narayana Menon and Kumaran Asan. But it is sad that he could not contribute more to the world of literature, as he was more engaged in the Freedom struggle. ■

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# KEEPING ALIVE THE SPIRIT OF ONAM

Malayalees are blessed with a strong will and the ability to work hard. These qualities have helped them build a place for themselves where ever in the world they chose to make their home. Sherley Joseph Singh and Merliyn Joseph Karavalil are two such Mumbai Malayalee girls.

**T**he second generations of Mumbai Malayalees are from this stock of hardworking, disciplined lot of people. These are people who are otherwise 'Mumbaikars', who have lived their growing up and studying years in Mumbai and is an integral part of the Mumbai culture. However, scratch beneath the surface and what you will see are 'pucca Malayalees' You are sure to find another hard working and efficient offspring of the Malayalee spirit of Achievement..... though he / she may not speak Malayalam fluently.

Sherley Joseph Singh and Merliyn Joseph Karavalil are two such Mumbai Malayalee girls. Sisters, who own and manage a wonderful property in the Hospitality business - 'Hotel Samraj and

**Onam is a festival which is celebrated with great fervor and participation at the restaurant. The hotel serves the traditional Onasadya with 22 items.**

was started close to three decades back. Both our parents were hardworking young Malayalees armed with an education and desirous of a good future. This was built by my parents' vision who arduously saved a

Just Kerala Bar & Kitchen' When asked about the story of Hotel Samraj in Chakala, Sherley explained, "Our hotel

Starting capital and with the grace of God and belief in themselves set out to create a little empire for themselves and they called it Hotel Samraj. The hotel has grown to be a landmark in the area. Both our parents were instrumental in running and maintaining the business and it has withstood its share of calamities and down times. Our father was a self taught hospitality entrepreneur and this was his dream - To own his own hotel near the airport"

Early in their life, in the 90's, when they were in their early twenties, armed with their MBA degrees the sisters were inducted to work and trained at the hotel

**Sherley and Merliyn**





Rajan (Gabriel) and Thankamma Joseph (Raichel)

by their parents, the late Gabriel Joseph and Raichel Joseph. Besides their family business, both the sisters were also encouraged by their parents to create their own enterprise or business. Sherley ventured into the field of Children's Edutainment and has a brand called "kangabeat" in collaboration with Kangaroo Kids schools. Merliyn on the other hand is co creator of the very successful Cookery show " Khana Khazana' which created the Brand Sanjeev Kapoor.

Merliyn who worked in the Marketing and Sales arm for the Hotel explains the difference of the business then vis a vis today, " Given the business opportunity in those times, we had tie ups with Air India and Indian Airlines who were the largest consumers of room nights along with other Government establishments as ONGC , SAIL etc. There was no International airport in Kerala and most people going on to the Gulf / the USA had to transit through Mumbai. This was another big market.

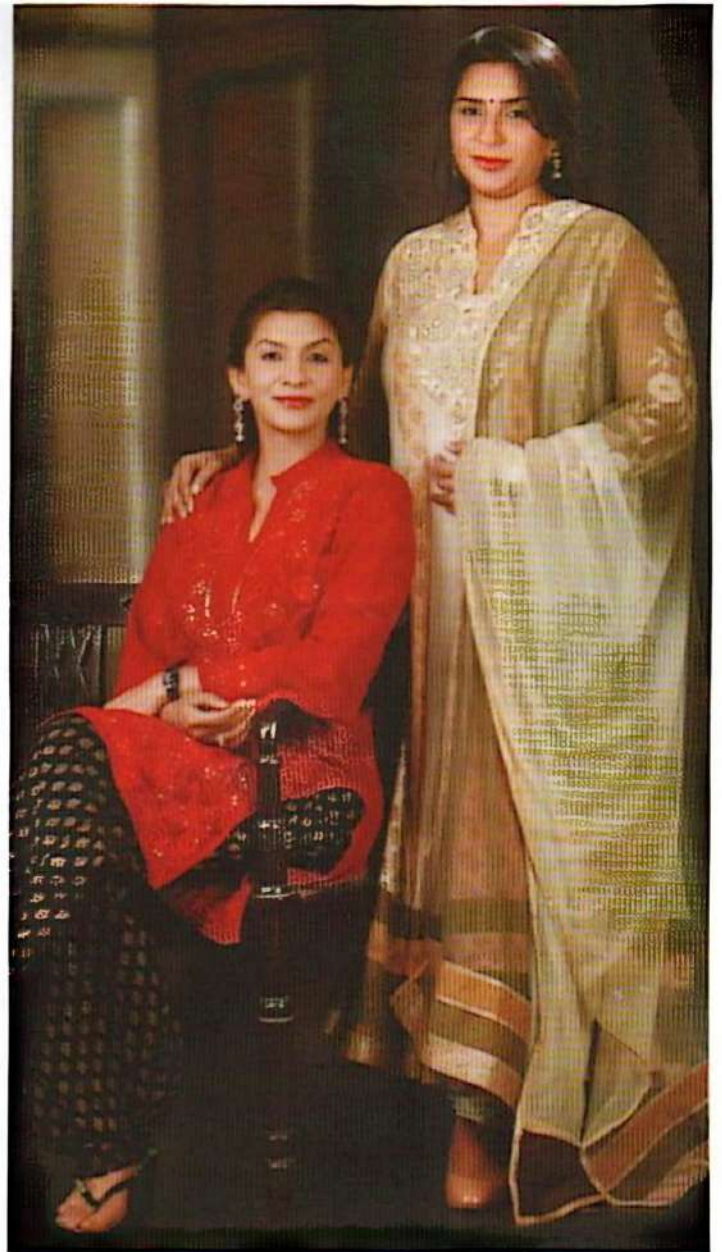
"Accordingly the business today in 2015 is completely different. Today we are ruled by the digital world. There are many more windows of distribution and purchase both for the hotel and its consumer/ guests. There are many more types of consumers rather than the 3 to 4 categories of the past. It is a highly competitive market and service differentiators are the key.

"Keeping with the times we have modernized our hotel but staying focused to add in a personal touch. We have built our relationships with the existing market place and now have a ready market force to handle our off line and on line business. We continually send our staff for training


programs to ensure they are motivated and deliver a satisfied experience to our guests," she says.

The girls take pride in their antecedents and push everyday to better the Hotel and are very passionate about their authentic Kerala restaurant Just Kerala .

"I can safely say that the only other passion besides hard work and



എല്ലാവർക്കും  
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 രാണാശ്രമങ്ങൾ



**Ravishankar, Hema Ravishankar, Janhvi and Kishore**

achievement for a Malayalee is Food and Drink.!!! I believe we Malayalees can eat copious amounts of food !!! and that is the truth and therefore Just Kerala is frequented by a lot of young Malayalees who work in the corporate suburb of Andheri East. We take pride in the wide array of Malayalee cuisine we serve quite to the satisfaction of our customers,” they add.

As they explain, “Onam is a festival which is celebrated with great fervor and participation at the restaurant. The hotel serves the traditional Onasadya with 22 items. Preparations start two weeks ahead with lists compiled for the scores of ingredients required. Orders are placed with the stalls we patronize at Matunga. Our Family and the staff participate in the decorations for the big day. The previous day to Onam is a late night affair. The kitchen is bustling with aromas and flavours and the courtyard with staff stringing flowers and our Kerala toran of mango leaves and marigold flowers.

The pookoolam is set up two days before Onam and is kept for two more days later. As is the tradition, this year also we will start with the inner circle and enlarge it everyday and replenish the flower petals till it grows into a vibrant pookalam. Nirapara and nilavilakku are placed by the side of the pookalam. The lighted bronze lamp and the nirapara filled with paddy and coconut flowers emanate a golden warmth while the concentric circle of



colourful flowers add that aesthetic touch, spreading good cheer and joy all around. They are symbols of prosperity and happiness. We make it a point to wear traditional Kerala sari on the day of Onam. Banana stem with leaves and bunches of the fruit (vazhakula) greet the guests at the entrance. Apart from many Malayalees who come here to enjoy our Onam fare, non Malayalees also come to the hotel for a typical Onam feast by celebrating it in the traditional way through our business of

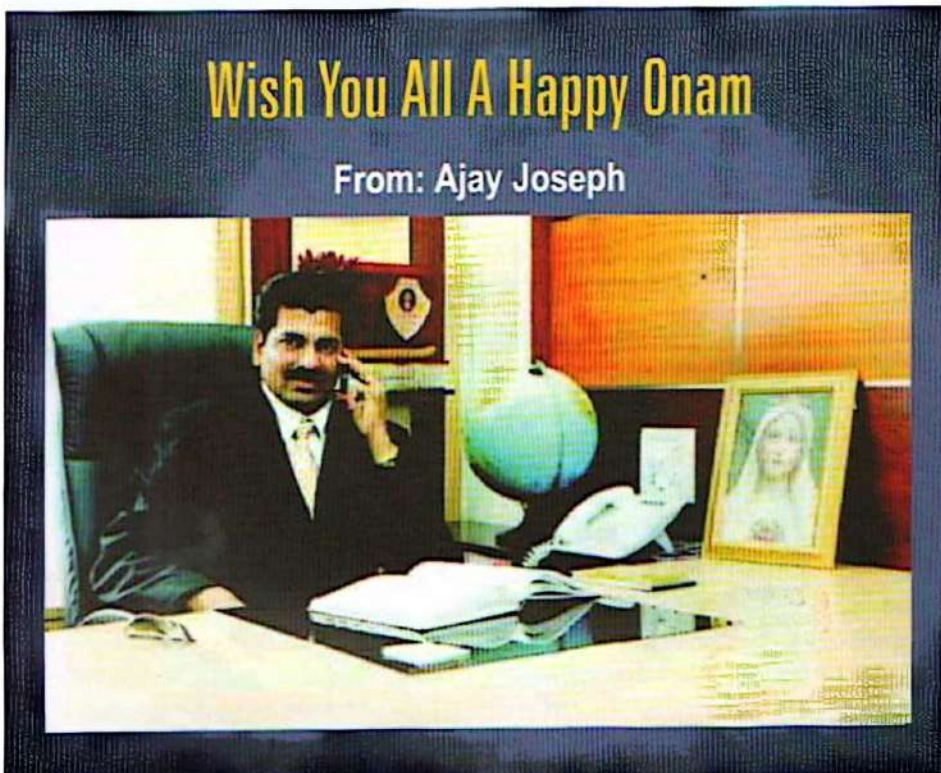
catering, and keeping alive the spirit of this festival, we pay our tribute to our parents who started Hotel Samraj in this metropolis.”

The sisters jointly take care of the property and have structured it so as to be a synergistic partnership while enjoying autonomy of decision making. Quite a contradictory stance but then we are Malayalees !!!!

With regards their future plans the girls are already paving their way, “we have opened another brand of food and have named it : Just Mumbai @ just Kerala. This extension of our food offering is a mélange of the popular cuisines frequented by Mumbaikars namely North Indian, Pan Asian and a mix of Grills and BBQ’s. Being in the heart of the commercial suburb of Andheri East, we have a large corporate clientele as our ready customers. The large number of Malayalees in the area frequent the restaurant and an equally large number are partial to Indian and Pan Asian food.

“By Mid August we also start the corporate lunch buffets along with Sunday Brunch Buffets. We also have a roof top terrace ideal for small parties and corporate get together. Luxury and Premium Outdoor catering for Malayalee cuisine is another area of focus and is in process.

We are very keen on taking our brand of Budget hotels further and hope to have a Samraj in a few identified cities in the next 5 years.” ■



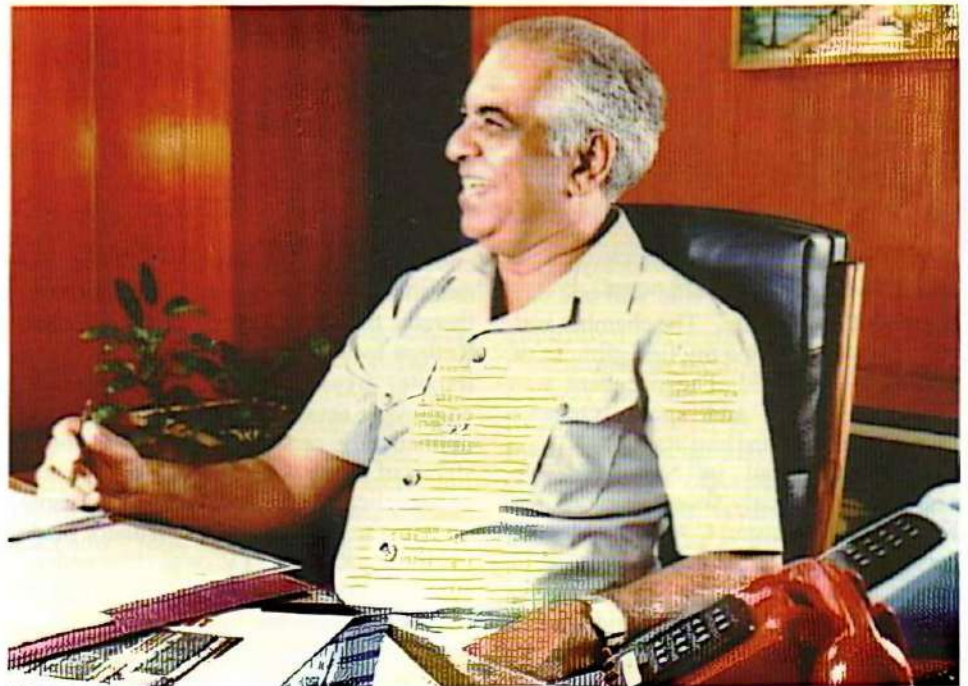
# The Phenomenon that was KPP Nambiar

- Pushpa Kurup

**K**PP Nambiar stepped on the toes of no less a person than the Queen of England. Ouch! And was that his claim to fame? Oh no! KPP Nambiar was the one-man army that ushered in an electronics revolution in Kerala and the rest of India in the seventies. He was the tireless crusader who drafted the blueprint for India's first IT Park at Trivandrum, a prolific creator of institutions, the likes of which this industrially backward State had never seen. His development model was innovative, village-centric and woman-friendly. He was the visionary who brought electronics to the masses and industry to the villages. Nambiar was the unsung torch bearer of the *Make in India* movement.

Born on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1928 in the tiny village of Kalliasseri in the Kannur district of north Kerala, Kunnathu Puthiyaveetil Padmanabhan Nambiar was the eldest son of PP Chindan Nambiar and KP Madhavi Amma. His maternal family was headed by the legendary freedom fighter KPR Gopalan, who had been sentenced to the gallows by the British and rescued by the timely intervention of Mahatma Gandhi. Nambiar's cousin Sharada Teacher who later married E K Nayanar, three-time Chief Minister of Kerala, was also a member of the clan.

Nambiar was a brilliant student. After completing the pre-University course at Brennen College, Thalassery, he enrolled in Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai for his



KPP Nambiar

graduation. Years later he would gleefully describe "the pokiris (rowdies) of Pachaiyappa's" and laugh in a typically explosive outpouring of mirth.

In the early fifties Nambiar set sail for London to pursue higher studies. For a farmer's son from a remote village in a backward district this was no mean achievement. After obtaining his masters' degree from the Imperial College of Science and Technology he went on to work for Texas Instruments, USA (producer of the world's first transistor radio and

integrated circuit), before heeding the call of the Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to return to India to join the Scientists' Pool in 1963. Nambiar had married a British woman and had two children, but his love for his motherland and a powerful urge to serve brought him back to India. He taught briefly at IIT, Delhi, worked with Philips India and Bharat Electronics and went on to join the TATA group as General Manager at NELCO, where he headed the newly constituted R&D unit. In 1967 NELCO installed at Flora Fountain the country's first electronic digital clock attracting a great deal of public attention. The following year NELCO introduced silicon transistor radios for the first time in India.

One day Dilip Mathai, an executive at the company and son of John Mathai (a former member of Nehru's cabinet) introduced to Nambiar the son of Naval Tata, a polished young Cornell-educated architect, Ratan. Very soon they were working together. Nambiar writes in his autobiography that the duo invariably went to the office in Ratan's car, but Nambiar's driver would follow closely behind, so that when an altercation between the two crossed permissible limits, Nambiar would travel the rest of the way in his own vehicle.

When I visited Mumbai as a diminutive 10 year old, uncle Nambiar did not take me to the beach or the cinema as would be expected of a traditional 'ammavan'. He took



The last journey of KPP Nambiar



KPP Nambiar (second from left) with PM Indira Gandhi



KPP Nambiar (in the centre) with PM Morarji Desai

me to Ratan Tata's office instead, saying, "I will show you the man who will one day inherit the Tata empire." The chamber was impressive, giving me my first glimpse of the corporate world. The occupant was elegantly attired and spoke Queen's English. Uncle called him 'Ratan'.

A turning point in Nambiar's life occurred in the early seventies when the Kerala Chief Minister, C Achutha Menon, persuaded him to return to his home state to set up an electronics firm in the public sector. V K Krishna Menon is said to have exhorted Nambiar to reject the offer, saying, "If a minister passes by, you won't bother to stand up. You'll be fired in no time!" Menon was right, Nambiar was fearless to the point of irreverence. And he thought protocol was pointless. I never saw him stand up to greet any minister.

The birth of Keltron in 1973 triggered an electronics revolution in Kerala and KPP Nambiar came to be known as KELTRON Nambiar from that day. Nambiar introduced for the first time in India the

concept of rural women's societies for manufacturing electronic components, thereby taking industries to the villages. Keltron located its manufacturing units in remote areas, directly and indirectly employing several thousand villagers and dramatically raising the socio-economic status of rural women. This model was soon replicated countrywide. Keltron came up with the first scientific calculator made in India. Keltron TV was tremendous success. Old-timers at Keltron recount that Nambiar made an illegal broadcast in public to announce the arrival of his new baby at a time when there was no other channel but Doordarshan. The rule-bound babus in the Government Secretariat were horrified but as always Nambiar got away with it.

When I visited Trivandrum for the first time I was a graduate student at Stella Maris College, Chennai. Instead of taking me to Kovalam beach, Uncle dragged me along to Keltron House and other factories of Keltron, showing me very nook and

corner, talking endlessly about his plans and priorities. When I mentioned Kovalam he coolly said, "Go with the driver." I did.

One evening around 9 p.m. as Nambiar was relaxing at home he suddenly asked me, "Have you seen Keltron Projectors?" I said 'No'.

"Come on. Let's go." He bundled me into the car, drove it recklessly, reached the building and ordered the security guard to open the door. The poor man was terrified. His hands trembled as he fumbled with the keys. The Chairman of the company arriving in the dead of night with a young girl! As he followed us inside and saw Nambiar eagerly explaining and describing every little gadget, his relief was palpable. Trivandrum was (and still is) a gossipy, conservative town. I wonder how many people got to know of our nocturnal visit the next morning.

Nambiar's management style was that of an inspirational leader. When he needed land to set up Keltron he called on the erstwhile Maharaja of Travancore, Sri ChithraThirunal, who readily gifted the prime property to the State Government (now the fabled Keltron House). When land was needed to set up Technopark, Nambiar made a presentation to the governing body of the Kerala University demanding that they hand over 50 acres for the purpose. "Look at Silicon Valley," he told the reluctant academicians. "It receives its impetus and life blood from Stanford and Berkeley. That's what universities are for to nurture industry and innovation and to ensure an unlimited supply of talent. That is what Kerala University should do." The members were convinced and the rest is history. Today Technopark is India's first and greenest IT Park. Dr. F C Kohli, the father of India's IT industry (founder of TCS) once said that the IT industry in the country would not have taken off without Nambiar's vision and leadership.

Nambiar was appointed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as a member of the first Scientific Advisory Committee to the Union Cabinet in 1983. Later she invited

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**KPP Nambiar with President KR Narayanan**



**KPP Nambiar with Queen Elizabeth at India Exhibition**

him to take charge of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, but Nambiar's overarching attachment to Keltron prompted him to decline the offer. Someone close to the Prime Minister warned him that Madam would never make him a second offer. But destiny intervened. After Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, and Rajiv Gandhi's elevation to the Prime Minister's office, the same post was offered once again as an entry was found in the late Indira's diary mentioning Nambiar's name as Chairman and Managing Director of ITI. This time Nambiar accepted the offer. By now he was rather unhappy in Kerala as he was persistently hounded by a few misguided politicians and a jealous IAS lobby. His do-or-die style had caused discomfort to many - and some of these individuals were covertly gunning for him.

Nambiar left Keltron with a heavy heart, and took the helm of ITI in 1985. Later he

served as Secretary, Dept. of Electronics, Government of India (1986-89). During this brief tenure he set up CDAC in Pune under Vijay Bhatkar to develop India's first fifth generation super computer. He established Electronic Research and Development centres in Trivandrum, Pune, Lucknow, Mohali, and Kolkata. VLSI laboratories were opened in 10 locations in India and STPI and CEDTI commenced operations.

Nambiar was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2006. Kannur University conferred on him an honorary D.Litt. in 2013. Awards and accolades that came his way included the London County Council Major Award for post graduate studies in 1955, Republic Day Award by the Invention Promotion Board of CSIR (1973), the ELCINA Electronics Man of the Year award (1995), and National Design Award by the Institution of Engineers (1985). Nambiar was the first non-IAS person to be

appointed Secretary to the Kerala Government in the Industries department. He was also the first Chairman of IIM, Kozhikode as well as Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IIITMK), Govt. of Kerala.

Nambiar spent years in Delhi and Bangalore but his heart remained firmly rooted in Kerala. In the late nineties his proposal to set up a mega power project in his home district hit a major roadblock when vested interests thwarted his plans. The Kannur Power Projects was to generate 513 MW of power and transform the industrial landscape of the backward Malabar region. But this was not to be. Nambiar also sought to develop the Azheekal port, but the project did not take off, as the necessary clearances were not forthcoming.

In October 2002 Nambiar suffered a massive stroke from which he never quite recovered. Unable to walk, he would lie in his bed talking about his dreams and visions for a better Kerala. One day, his nephew Sasidharan asked him, "What will you do if you receive the ultimate clearances for the power project *now*?" Nambiar's reply was stunning, "From my bed I will implement the project in two years. I will change the face of Malabar."

Nambiar breathed his last on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. He was laid to rest with full state honours at the premises of Keltron Component Complex in his native village. The draping of the tricolour and the gun salute had hitherto been a privilege accorded to military men and political bigwigs, but here was a technocrat being honoured by a State Government as no other bureaucrat or industrialist before him. Perhaps this was due to the late recognition that here lies a rare genius that Kerala had managed to attract but failed to keep. Nambiar is survived by his wife Uma Devi, son Kiran and daughter Sarojini. ■



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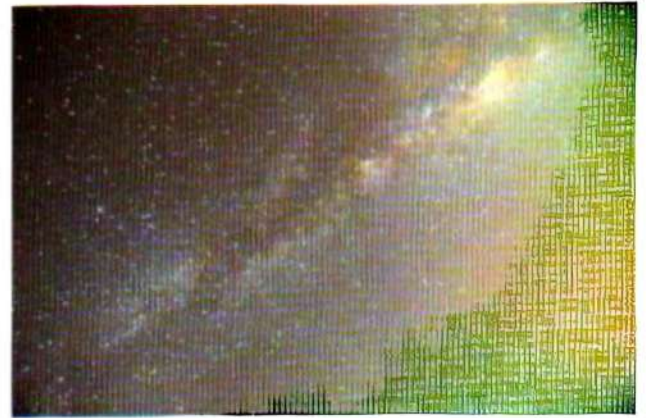


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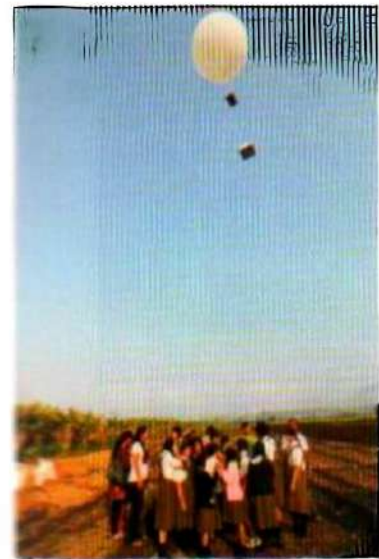
One of the major Astronomical events of 2014, "**THE LYRID METEOR SHOWER**" awestruck the students who witnessed it. It was followed by transit of the **Mikyway** across the zenith. **Actual pic of the Milkyway** clicked by **Sacred Heartians**.



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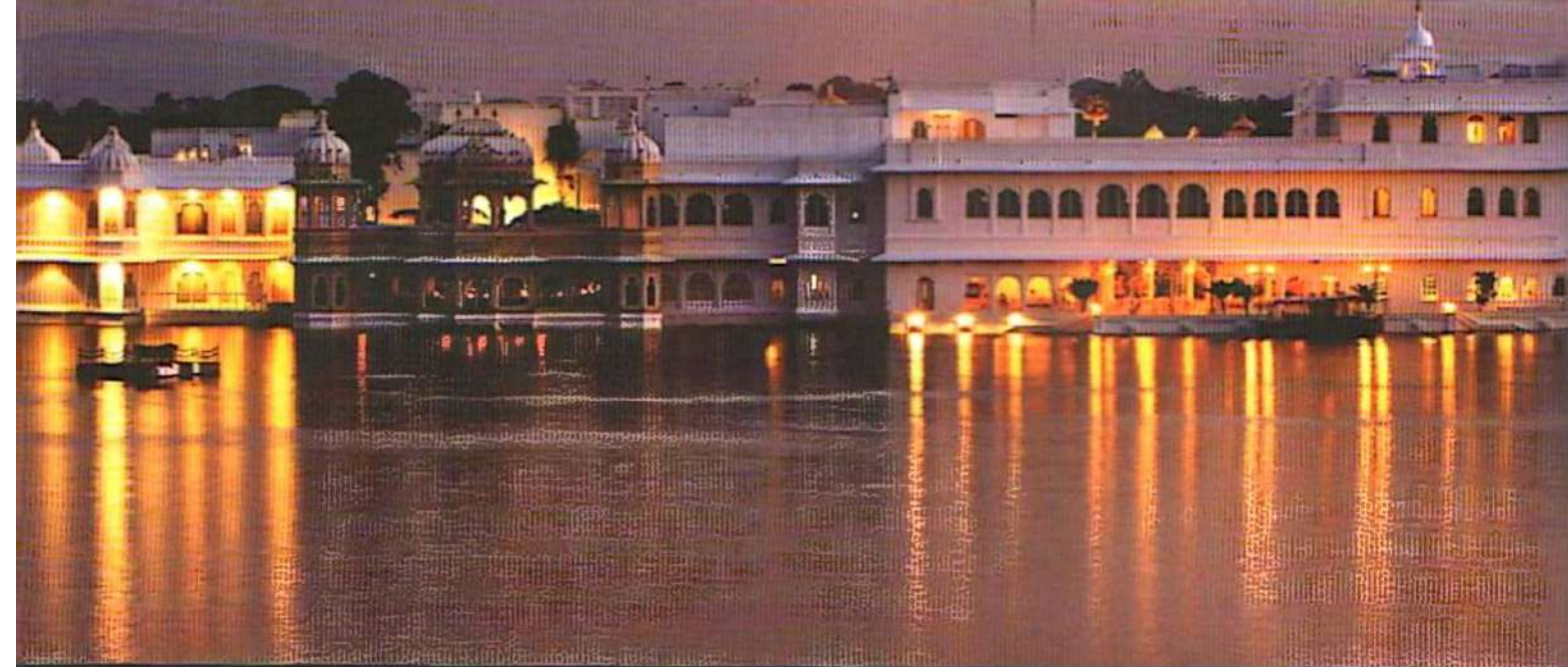
**Replanted Gulmohur Tree**



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# YOU ARE BORN TO BE RICH

Onam being a festival of prosperity, affluence, abundance and overall well-being ignites in us the sparks of desire for a rich and abundant life. Today wealth is an important cultural symbol. A sensible person cannot ignore its importance and potency. It is practical wisdom to make all the money one can by legitimate and honest means, for money can do many worthwhile things in this world, not merely for one's self but for others. It is a kind of spiritual snobbery that makes people think that they can be happy and peaceful without any money.



**Prof Dr John Mathews Vazhapilly**

■ Being rich facilitates independence and fosters a positive mental attitude. There is a certain Buddhist calm and serenity that comes from having money.

Money is a unique thing. It ranks with human love as man's greatest source of joy and happiness.

At the same time we should remember that we are incorrigible and unmitigated fools if we think that wealth is everything in life. Emerson said, "Without a rich heart, wealth is an ugly beggar". Our talents, our health, our friendship, the lasting love and respect of our dear and near ones, our care and concern for the well-being of others these things make up the real wealth that has enduring and endearing value.

## A Positive Blessing

Riches can be as beautiful and magnificent as roses. Dorothy Parker

says, "the two most beautiful words in the English language are 'cheque enclosed'. Riches can mean power, comfort, security, leisure and compassion. Riches properly used extend and enrich our personality. To have is to enhance our personalities. We do not contain within ourselves all the essentials for human living, therefore our 'being' must be completed by also 'having'. Existence implies the right to have sufficient food and clothing and a place to live; it does not, however, imply the right to have a seagoing yacht. Our rights to own property, to have things, decrease as the objects are further and further removed from personal necessities. Riches cease to be a blessing when our wants whimsically exceed our genuine needs.

New Age thought views riches in a positive way. It uses words such as prosperity and abundance. We are instructed to say affirmations about the 'richness' of life and having 'all' that we need. These affirmations are geared to soothe us around the issue of money

and, of course, to help us bring in the energy of abundance and prosperity.

Many rich people are proud of their wealth and consider it as a goldmine of blessings. Listen to what J. Paul Getty, one of the richest men of his time says about his wealth : I have no complex about wealth. I have worked hard for my money, producing things people need. I believe that the able industrial leader who creates wealth and employment is more worthy of historical notice than politicians or soldiers.

Many of the greatest creations of man have been inspired by the desire to make money. When George Frederick Handel was on his beam ends, he shut himself up for twenty - one days and emerged with the complete score of 'Messiah' and hit the jackpot. True prosperity adds to the richness of the whole world, such as that of the man who makes two trees grow where only one grew before. Henry George, one of the great social thinkers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, has something exquisite to say about the positive contribution of those who create wealth :

He who by an exertion of mind or body, adds to the aggregate of enjoyable wealth, increases the sum of human knowledge, or gives to human life higher elevation or greater fullness.

Wealth is not meant to be hoarded, it is to be used. A truly rich man enjoys his wealth. He spends reasonably well on himself and donates generously. Wealth, like the sun, which melts wax, but hardens clay, expands great souls and contracts small ones. Look at the word 'currency'. It is related to the word 'current' something that flows. There is a hidden philosophical wisdom in the word "currency". Money is supposed to flow. Abundance is created through an outflow. When your wealth, your talents, your blessings keep flowing, you create a life of abundance and affluence for yourself and for others. Now read these words of Shammi Kapoor from the glamorous Bollywood world:

"Have a passion for spending money. That's the best way of enjoying your money, instead of it lying and collecting dust in the bank. I spend on a lot of things. I spend on music a passion which has always been manifest in my movies. I splurge on DVDs, TV and stuff. Moreover, I never think twice before spending money on friends".

## A Source Of Spiritual Blessings

The power to make money and to use it creatively for the benefit of man is an

When we use our wealth as a basis for our moral independence, as a means of improving and refining our faculties of mind and heart and as a source of doing good to others, we are using our wealth the way God wanted us to use it. The rich man of wisdom uses his wealth to extend knowledge, enhance virtue and to enrich human values.

act of grace. No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he only had good intentions. He had money as well. I believe that the capacity to create wealth is also a gift from God. Like all gifts of God we can use them or abuse them. When we use our wealth as a basis for our moral independence, as a means of improving and refining our faculties of mind and heart and as a source of doing good to others, we are using our wealth the way God wanted us to use it. The rich man

of wisdom uses his wealth to extend knowledge, enhance virtue and to enrich human values. To use one's wealth with a sense of prudence, propriety, priority and philanthropy one needs a special divine grace. In this context the words of Prophet Mohammad are worth quoting :

When a man dies, the people ask, "what property has he left behind him?" But the angels, as they bend over his grave, inquire, "What good deeds has thou sent on before thee?"

## An Index Of Our Real Personality

The way a man earns his money and the manner in which he spends it reveals the depths of his true character. It is where a man spends his money that shows where his heart lies. Here you have a search light that illumines the inner most recesses of his heart, the concealed network of his ethical standards, psychological motives, his dominant desires, compelling urges, his real religion. There is an interesting Yiddish proverb : With money in your pocket, you are wise and you are handsome and you sing well too.

Great souls spend their wealth in constructive and creative ways. Dr. Eckermann in his biography of Goethe recounts how Goethe spent his vast fortune :

"Each bon-mot of mine has cost a purse of gold. Half a million of my own money, the fortune I inherited, my salary, and the large income derived from my writings for fifty years back, have been expended to instruct me in what I now know."

Free-spenders are healthier and happier than penny pinchers, and are generally more optimistic about economy. According to a survey of 20,000 readers of the magazine Psychology Today: "Tight-wads have lower self-esteem than the free-spenders and are more unhappy about their finances, personal growth, friends and jobs. People who described themselves as extravagant and who enjoyed spending money are healthier and happier than their tighter counterparts." The magazine added that more of the tight-wads say they have psychosomatic symptoms - constant worry and anxiety, headaches and a lack of interest in sex, and are more pessimistic about their own and the country's economic future.

Dr. Karl Menninger, the celebrated

## *Onasamsakal*



Vijay Nair & Family

INDU POWER TECH, Thane

psychologist, seems to corroborate the findings given by Psychology Today : Money-giving is a very good criterion, in a way, of a person's mental health. Generous people are rarely mentally ill people.

Too many people spend money they have not honestly earned, to buy things they don't really need, to impress people not worth impressing. If we are able to command our wealth and use it judiciously, we shall be free and happy. If our wealth commands and enslaves us, we shall be miserable, indeed. Emerson's insight, in this context, is profoundly penetrating : Some men are born to own; can animate all their possessions. Others cannot; their owning is not graceful; seem to be a compromise of their character; they seem to steal their own dividends.

The rich, the powerful, the bold and the beautiful delight in flaunting their wealth. We appreciate their success. But wealth - displays have often negative impact on society. Wealth - displays diminish human values like humility, simplicity, sensitivity and self-control. The shouts and applause raised by money dilute and dwarf the contribution made by doctors, teachers, social workers etc. They may not be affluent and powerful but they are far better role models for youngsters than many of the rich ones we encounter.

Fortunately there are exceptions to this senseless display of wealth. In Silicon valley many millionaires go to work in T. shirts and jeans. They don't flash their wealth. Vulgar display and crassness are not essential to affluence. Indian millionaires should know that there is something called grace.

### Philanthropic Dimensions

The rich mercantile class in India is known for its business acumen and entrepreneurial skills. However, it is also known that the mercantile communities of India have never been inclined to giving their money away. This truth is reinforced by Rajashree Birla :

In the Indian context we don't have the mindset to give away large amounts of money to charity. This trend of giving away large amounts to charity is happening only in the U.S. I think it calls for very large - heartedness. The donors leave just a little bit for their children so as to be able to live



JRD Tata



Azim Premji



Bill Gates

comfortably and at the same time not dependent on the wealth they have earned. I don't see this happening in the Indian context in the near future at least.

Bill Gates, Narayana Murthy, Warren Buffett etc. are men of exceptional qualities. Bill Gates has donated most of his acquired wealth to the many charitable foundations he is heading.

Warren Buffett lives in a simple three bedroom - apartment in Omaha. Narayana Murthy has given hundreds of crores of rupees for charity works.

Andrew Carnegie gave away a substantial portion of his fortune to various charities. He built thousands of libraries in the United States and elsewhere. The man behind the opening of thousands of libraries in India is not an Indian but an American, John Wood (of Room to Read). There are exceptional Indians too. Azim Premji has pledged 50,000 crores of rupees to various charities. He has been active in giving his money away, sending a thousand crore rupees toward the poor and the needy every year. Premji stands

like a Colossus his own man and distinct from the tradition. The Tatas have distinguished themselves in philanthropic pursuits. Azim Premji and the Tatas philanthropic giants could be a role model for the rich and prosperous in India. These generous souls could usher in a new philanthropic era in India.

Wealth is like a work of art, let us say, a giant piece of sculpture. You work on it, you build it step by step, you give it form, and you refine it endlessly. May be at some point in future, you reach the pinnacle of prosperity. You look at this beautiful sculpture of material affluence that you have sculpted by means of your diligence and intelligence with a sense pride, wonder and joy. You feel the time is ripe to move on to more fulfilling, philanthropic and creative pursuits by using the surplus wealth you have created over the years. Then your wealth becomes a means of self-actualization and an instrument for social amelioration. The right use of wealth is a "thing of joy forever" and it is an act of grace. ■

*Onasamsakal*



From

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# WHO WAS THAT MAN ....



**KD Skandan**

hedges of my little garden wearing my favourite not very old T-shirt with short pant. Suddenly, an old man appeared ...he was wearing only a half khaki pant and no other cloths, completely drenched and shivering. I had not seen him before... I wanted to give him some food but when I asked him, he just said " kapda kapda Tanddi lagtha hai ". Since the front door was opened, my wife could see what was happening by sitting in her cot....as you all know, she was immobile.

Somehow, I suddenly removed my favourite T-shirt and gave it to him...he was so happy, wore it and went away. Turning back, I could see my wife's putting up a long face ...apparently she was not happy with what I did. She asked me in Tamil : " if you wanted to give him

■ This actually happened to me !!

It was years back, when I was in my mid-30s, on a Saturday morning ( around 11,30 a.m.) it was July....pouring rain and I was cutting the

something to wear, you could have come inside and given two or three shirts instead of the one which was not that old first of all and secondly you like to wear it always since it is your favourite colour. I told her to keep quiet...At that moment, I only felt that I should give him something immediately. Obviously, she was not happy with my answer.

Then Sunday and Monday morning, as usual, I went to the office. At round 3 p.m.when I was having my Bombay House usual tea, got a call from one of my old friends whom I had once helped to get an NOC for his travel to Muscat. Since then, I lost touch with him. He told me over the telephone that he was sorry he was not able to stay in touch with me etc. etc. However, since he was leaving for Madras that night and told me that he will have no time to come my house but asked me whether he could to see me in the office since he was staying in a hotel in the Fort area. He came and we talked about out good old days and he left. ....meanwhile, before leaving he just left a plastic bag and told me "it is for you". After he left, out of curiosity, I

opened and saw on the top some blades, perfumes, cigarette packets, lighters etc. Came home in the evening as usual and I was going through the bag in detail and to my utter surprise I saw at the bottom of the bag exactly the same color T-shirt which I gave to that man!! I was really shocked and could not speak a word .. I was so emotional .... did not say anything to my wife. But she saw tears rolling down from my eyes and thought that there was something wrong with me. When asked by her many times, I told her what happened and showed her the T-shirt and told her 'you said I should not have given him the shirt.....and now look I have got it back.'

I still feel that the man was someone who had come to test me. Even now, whenever I feel low, I think of that incident and feel comfortable that there is someone at the top to take care of you. He will never let me down though He tests me many a times. This happened to me and I don't have to convince anyone nor have a scientific explanation to prove. In fact, I had also a couple of such other incidents in my life.

*Onasamsakal*



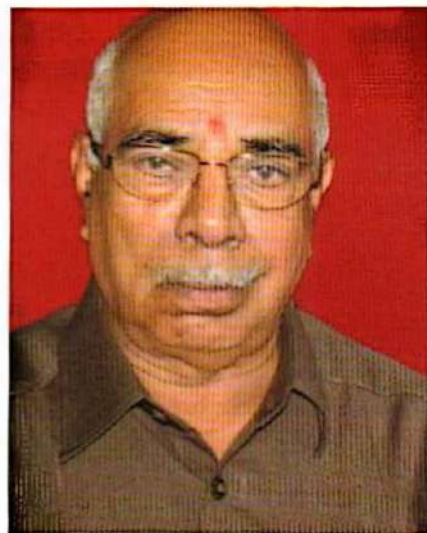
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# PR MENON

## ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

- Elve

Senior drama artiste P R Menon's acting career has spanned more than twenty two years in Mumbai Malayalam drama field.

**P**R Menon, (Puthanveetil Ramachandran Menon) is a veteran Mumbai Malayali drama actor who has portrayed both negative and positive shades of characters.

Perhaps it was his fascination as a young boy with the facial expressions of kathakali performers whose performances he loved to watch in his childhood at Koodalmanikyam temple at Irinjalakuda that fostered in him a love for drama and acting. Even while studying in school and college, Menon had participated in Malayalam plays and competitions and won prizes in them.

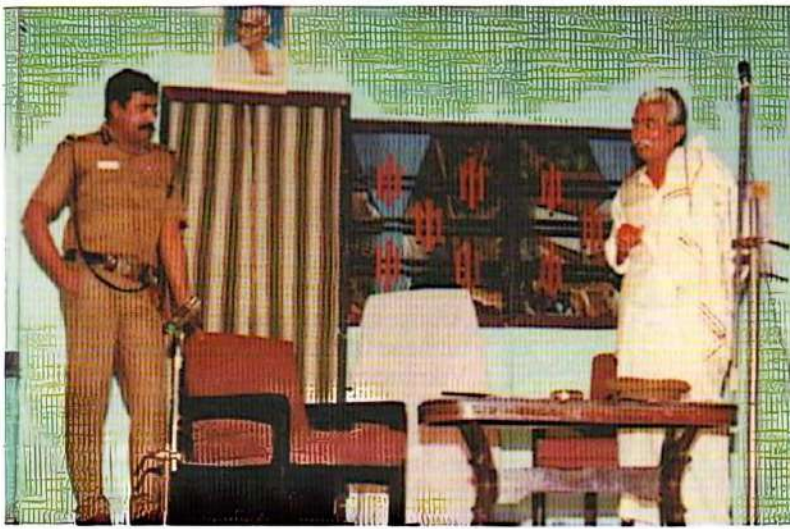
P R Menon has acted in about 22 Malayalam plays, mostly character roles



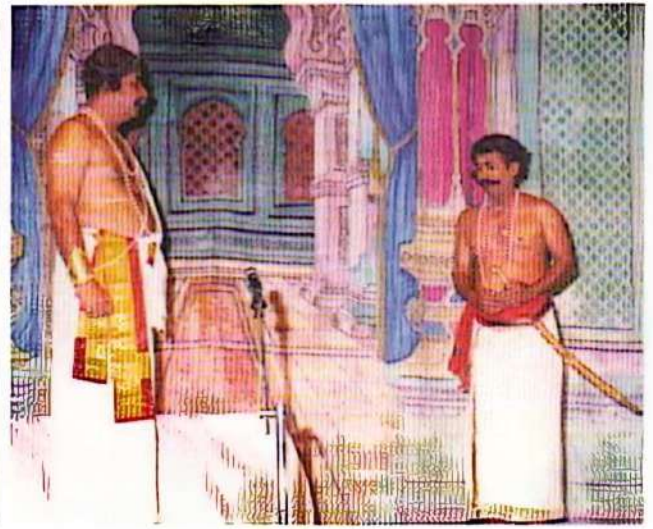
Indira and PR Menon

and they have been appreciated by the audience. Some of his recent plays include Kalanjali Theatres' 'Priyamanasam' and 'Gramayanam'.

Menon has won best actor award twice for the role in the play 'Chathu Ammante Cheruppu' and once for the role in the play 'Kosarukulli,' both were one act plays and directed by Unni Perayil. Several Malayalam plays where he acted have been awarded prizes, for instance, (a): 'Moodhevi Theyyam' which won prizes for best actor and presentation at an All Bombay level Drama Competition held in Vile Parle, (b): Rangabhoomi's 'Puthiya Velicham' directed by the late Rajan Kadannappally and staged at the



Menon (right) in 'Arthasasthram'



Menon (right) in 'Raja Sabha'

Keraleeya Kendra Sanghatana Competition which was awarded the First prizes for presentation, direction and acting.

P R Menon remembers all his friends and supporters who have helped him to become what he is today

- a steady senior artiste. He thanks his wife Indira Menon for her constant support and encouragement. "Because of drama, I have been able to have some good friends in this field who are immensely talented," he says happily. Some

With the advent of TV there was a downward trend for Malayalam drama. But today the scenario looks brighter. Our dramas generally carry a social message apart from entertaining.



Menon (second from left) in 'Moodhevi Theyyam'



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Web : worldwarriors.org

plays where Menon has acted include 'Indulekha' (Pratibha Theatres), 'Samharam,' 'Anushtanam', 'Arthasasthram' 'Samavarthanam', 'Samasya', 'Sakshalkaram', all produced by Trombay Fine Arts Club, Anushakthinagar, 'Cross Belt', 'Amravati sub treasury' and 'Amarageetham' (Chembur Malayalee Samajam), 'Raja Sabha', 'Mumbe Paranna pakshi' (Bombay Keraleeya Samajam), 'Priyamanasam' and 'Gramayanam' (Kalanjali theatres, Chembur).

He had served for several terms in the Managing Committee of Trombay Fine Arts club at Anushakthi Nagar. Presently he is actively associated with Chembur Malayalee Samajam, Chembur. He is the Hon. secretary of the housing society where he resides.

### Native Roots

Hailing from Edakulam village in



work as much as he enjoyed acting. He was co author of a few scientific paper published in Indian and international scientific journals.

Menon's wife Indira hails from North Paravur in Ernakulam District and came to Mumbai in 1971 after her marriage to Menon. They have two daughters Nandita living in Dubai and Sumita in Mumbai. Nandita had done her Arangettam in Mohiniattam under the tutelage of Guru Udyogamandal Vikraman.

"When I came to Mumbai, Malayalam dramas were a source of entertainment and relaxation for us, Malayalees, who had left behind our homes to earn a living here. With the advent of TV there was a downward trend for Malayalam drama. But today the scenario looks brighter. Our dramas generally carry a social message apart from entertaining," Menon says.

Acting is his passion and even now he attends workshops on dramas when he gets time. Keenly interested in sports, Menon is a member of the 'Club 55' a tennis club, which is quite unique where the members include among others, doctors, engineers and other professionals, who are in the age group 55 to 80. He is a regular member of the tennis section of BARC's staff club at Anushakthinagar. ■

'Gramayanam' Menon with Madhu Nambiar (centre) and Baiju Salvin (right)

Irinjalakuda, Trissur District, Menon completed his schooling in Edakulam and Irinjalakkuda and Graduation in Chemistry from Christ College, Irinjalakuda. His parents are the late Parayil Sankunni Menon and the late Puthanveetil Saraswathy Amma.

Having passed with a first class in B.Sc Chemistry in Kerala, he came to

Mumbai in 1964 and joined Metallurgy Division BARC. While working with BARC he did his M.Sc from Mumbai University by research and retired as Sr Scientific Officer in 2003. He was working with research and development of metals and alloys useful to nuclear energy programmes and enjoyed his

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# Life came from the Heavens: Our Cosmic Ancestry

Despite all proud pronouncements made by modern scientists, there are many avenues in this universe demanding answers. Dr A P Jayaraman, a scientist by dedication and profession, throws some light in that direction.



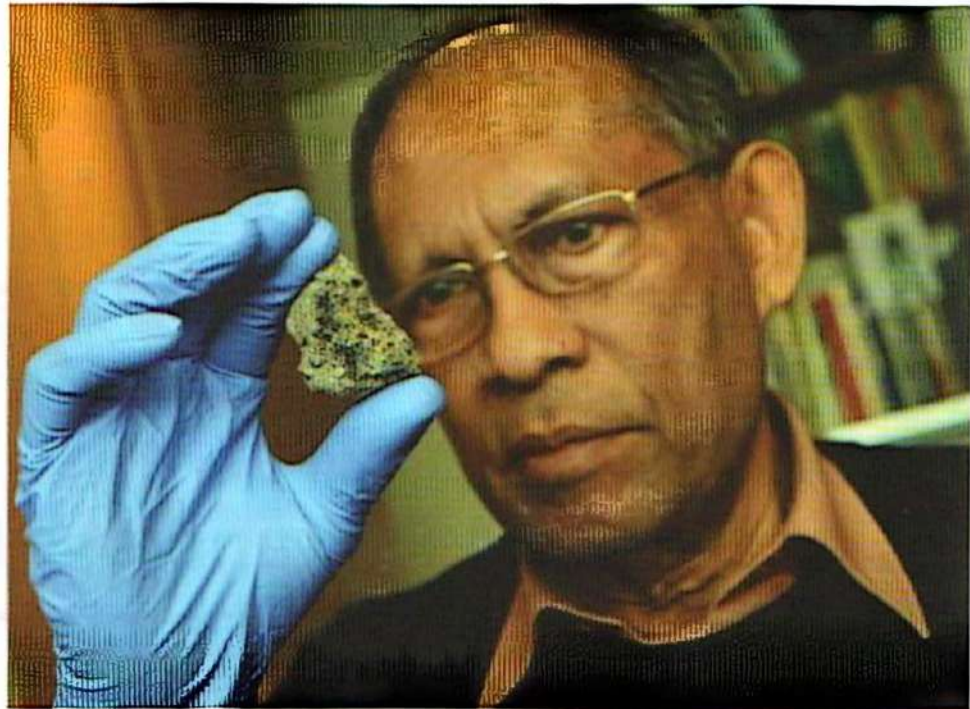
Dr A P Jayaraman

## Hoyle Connection

Nehru Centre, Mumbai organized a special astronomy lecture by Professor Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe in the Hall of Culture. It was special being celebratory of the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sir Fred Hoyle, the famed British astronomer noted for the theory of stellar nucleosynthesis and his rejection of the Big Bang. The Centre had earlier organized another equally special astronomy lecture titled 'Fred and Me' by Professor Jayant Narlikar. Both professors, Wickrama and Narlikar, were stellar students of Hoyle.

## Arvind on Wickrama

A short and insightful introduction to the academic stature and professional accomplishments of Wickrama was given by Arvind Paranjpye, the astronomer-Director of Nehru Planetarium. Wickrama is a Sri Lankan-



Professor Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe

born British mathematician, astronomer and astrobiologist. His research interests includes the interstellar medium, infrared astronomy, light

scattering theory, applications of solid-state physics to astronomy, the early Solar System, comets, astro-chemistry, the origin of life and astrobiology. The hall was full of enthusiastic student community.

Doctored and mentored by Hoyle in the sensitive elevations of astro-mathematics and astrobiology, Wickrama believes that life in its primordial form came from space to earth and this hypothesis is called panspermia. It assumes that viruses and genetic stuff can survive in unprotected space and small heavenly bodies like comets and asteroids can spread these seeds of life throughout the universe. Fascinating but debatable!

One prediction made from this hypothesis is that viruses and bacteria continue to enter our atmosphere from space. Hoyle and Wickrama had advanced the argument that outbreaks of illnesses on Earth are of extraterrestrial origins, including the 1918 flu pandemic and certain outbreaks of polio and mad cow disease. For the 1918 flu pandemic they hypothesized that cometary dust brought the virus to Earth simultaneously

## *Onasamsakal*



from: Chembur Balakrishnan & Family

at multiple locations. This view does not hold water with external experts on this pandemic. Later Wickrama added viruses like Ebola and those causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome to that alien list.

### The Little Poet

Wickrama (76) moved from the front row to the podium in brisk and bold steps and greeted the attendees with a disarming and confident smile promising a treat in public understanding of astrobiology. He stood there like a tireless and unyielding Atlas. Fifty seven years ago, the young poet in him had versified these lines.

Amongst a myriad stars  
I stand alone  
And wonder  
How much life and love  
Is there tonight.

He started the lecture with typical British accent and signature humour tracing the history of birth of life and passionately advocating his story of the cosmic origin of earthly life. He was largely reading his lucid text with its chiseled expressions often from his power point slides and thrice presented his master's voice to buttress his advocacy strung with cherry picked data

points from mathematics, astrophysics, cosmo-chemistry and exobiology.

### Utterly Insignificant

Wickrama began with the Aristotelian view that the earth was the great centre of the universe and described the overturning of this view by Copernicus, Galileo and Newton. Abandoning geocentricism was a struggle that lasted centuries, he reminded. From the beginning of twentieth century our physical position in the universe has diminished to the point of utter insignificance in a world of unimaginable proportions - he explained preparing the canvas for his school of thought. Despite this transformation the role of biology as an earth centric phenomenon has been maintained against all odds. He lamented and asserted that there was a rising tide to the contrary.

### Primordial Soup

A fair exposition of the milestones of the mainstream thoughts was presented with the views of Alexander Oparin and J.B.S. Haldane. They flagged of the concept of chemical evolution of life assaulting the logic of life from life. In a nut shell they argued that the first molecules constituting the earliest cells

were synthesized under natural conditions by a slow process of molecular evolution. These molecules then organized into the first molecular system with properties of biological orderliness. Life is a self-sustaining network of chemical reactions that started from primordial soup. Next leap was experimental support for the soup theory of Stanley Miller and Harold Urey in 1952. They demonstrated how organic molecules could have spontaneously formed from inorganic precursors. They used a mixture of gases methane, ammonia and hydrogen to form basic organic monomers, such as amino acids.

[In the mid-eighties Professor Raja Ramanna had invited another Sri Lankan astroscientist, Professor Cyril Poonamperuma to deliver a lecture at the Central Complex Auditorium of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Trombay where around one thousand scientists listened to the exposition of Miller experiments. A distinguished invitee to the lecture was rationalist crusader Dr Abraham Kovoor from Sri Lanka for whom I was the protocol officer. The Sri Lankan camaraderie enabled me to experience the warmth and flavor of chemical evolution from the scientist who artificially produced adenosine triphosphate, the source of energy for all



forms of life.]

## Functionality and sustainability

A living system produces its own components from basic food sources in such a way that these components maintain and regulate the very chemical network that produced them. This system is a *functionally closed* and *self-sustaining* chemical reaction network. When the components of the system are sufficient to manage its functionality, the system is considered functionally closed. In the many versions of Atom to Adam science stories, Wickrama holds the view that the chemical evolution to the stage of bacteria happened outside earth and the extra-terrestrial visitors were virus and bacteria transported by meteors and asteroids. He played a key role in establishing a connection between astronomy and biology. His work in the 1980's projected for the first time that cosmic dust had properties that resembled the properties of living material and their degradation products.

## Hyderabad Balloons

Wickrama referred to the discovery of living cells in the stratosphere and cited the Indian experiment conducted at

Hyderabad with balloon flights. He presented this as evidence of viable microorganisms at forty km above the surface. However this is not a necessary and sufficient condition for the assertion of cosmic origin of life as the microbes could have been carried from the surface. At best it validates the claim that the microbes can survive the harsh and hostile conditions at that height.

## Red Rain

Wickrama did not mention the red rain phenomenon of Kerala of which he was also an investigator. Was it an accidental lapse or deliberate design or studied silence? I wanted to ask this pointed question but the QA was run on sheer randomness. Red rain down pour occurred from 25 July to 23 September 2001, when heavy Two Kerala physicists, Santhosh Kumar and Godfrey Louis from the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam posted an article entitled "Cometary panspermia explains the red rain of Kerala" in a non-peer reviewed web site.

Twelve years ago Wickrama had gone on record that elementary living organisms like the lichen-forming alga spores present in the red rain in Kerala

were of extra-terrestrial origin. If these red cells came from a comet, then it would be conclusive proof of cometary panspermia. He further stated that a small injection of red rain cells from comets took place in July 2001, and this was amplified in the clouds of our atmosphere." This is the only way I can understand the intermittent showers over several weeks, and the localization around Kerala." He then posited a 5-year cycle of incident particles.

## Takeaway Thought

As I saw my friend, Planetarium Science Program Manager, Suhas B. Naik-Satam who not only listened to Wickrama's public discourse but also had long private chats with him, standing with his win-win smile at the exit inviting us for a sip and a bite, my eyes swiftly scanned for fellow professionals but was disappointed. A stunning but sobering thought of mathematician-philosopher Bertrand Russell lingered in my mind. "*Is man what he seems to the astronomer, a tiny lump of impure carbon and water impotently crawling on a small unimportant planet? Or is he what he appears to Hamlet? Is he perhaps both at once?*" ■

Wishing All Malayalees  
A Happy & Prosperous  
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to all Mumbai Malayalees



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General Manager: Peass Industrial Engineers Pvt. Ltd.

# BANGUR NAGAR AYYAPPA TEMPLE

The entrance to the Ayyappa temple at Bangur Nagar in Goregaon, reminds one of those in Kerala.

**S**tatuettes of Dwarapalakas and elephants on either side of the gate, of Lord Vishnu in Ananthasayanam pose (Sree Padmanabha), Lakshmi, Shivalingam, Guruvayurappan, Ganapathy, Ayyappan, Murugan and Bhagavathy atop the sloping tiles of the temple, greet our eyes at the entrance to the Ayyappa Temple in Bangur Nagar. The huge bronze *alilavilakku* in front with 1001 dents for lighting, radiates the ambience of a Kerala shrine. As one enters the temple gates there is another tiered vilakku in stone and a gold plated kodimaram. A few steps lead to a hall where idols of Radha and Krishna, photos of Guruvayurappan, Sree Rama Pattabhisekham and Shiva are placed on one's left and the navagrahas are installed on the right. A few steps more and we reach the inner precincts where there are shrines dedicated to Ganapathy, Ayyappan, Guruvayurappan, Durga Devi and Balamurugan.

## History

The history of the Ayyappa Temple in



Entrance to Ayyappa Temple

Bangur Nagar goes back to 1953 when devotees who were living in Goregaon West joined together and conducted an Ayyappa Puja in December under the banner of Dharma Sastha Pooja

Samithi. This function evoked tremendous enthusiasm and hence was conducted every year. In 1966 the organization was registered as branch of Akhila Bharata Ayyappa Seva Samgham Branch No 430. In June 1973, the organization was registered as Ayyappa Seva Samgham Bombay under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and also under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. The Samgham, is dedicated to promote human welfare and works for spiritual uplift of humanity. In due course the Samgham acquired in December 1973 a piece of land at Bangur Nagar, Goregaon (W).

## Temple Deities

The Construction of the temple was carried out under the supervision and guidance of Kanippayoor Krishnan Namboothiripad, an authority on temple architecture in Kerala. The consecration of the idols was performed by Brahmashri Kantaru Maheshwararu Thantri, the Supreme Priest of Sabarimala and installation was done

Wishing you all happy  
& Prosperous

*Onam*



Mrs. Janaki Balan  
& Mr. A.V. Balan





During the Prathista of Kirata Murti Shiva.



Murajapam



Kalamezhuthupattu

under the guidance of Kanippayur Krishnan Namboothiripad. In 1984, prathishta of Navagrahas was performed by Brahmashri Kantaru Maheshwarau Thantri. In May 2001 and 2002 all the idols except that of Navagrahas have been consecrated in Panchaloha. It is a unique feature of this temple that Lord Ayyappan and Lord Guruvayurappan have got equal importance and both have got separate kodimarams, parivara prathishtas and utsavams. All the priests of this temple are trained in tantric way of rituals and selected by Kantaru Maheshwarau Thantri. The Poojas and offerings and the terms of their observance that were laid down by the Thantri, are followed strictly even today.

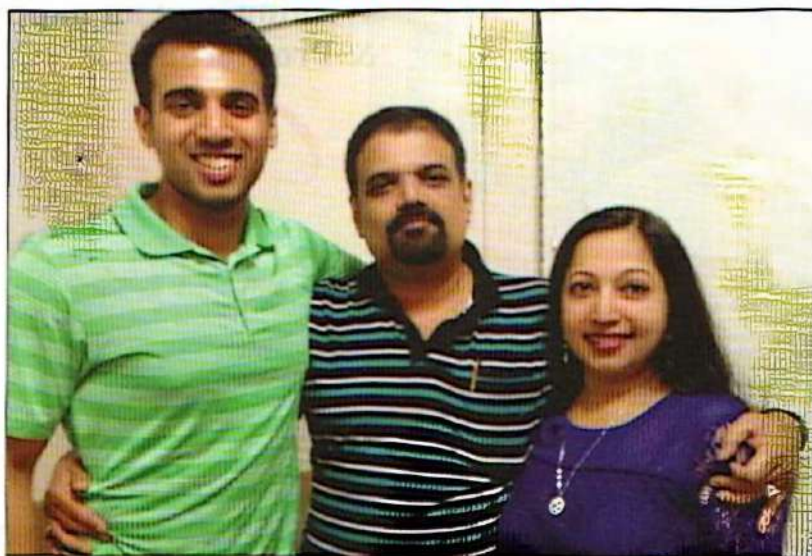
In response to the wishes of devotees, two more shrines were added to the temple complex in 2014. These are of Shiva as kirata Murti and Nagaraja and Nagayakshi. In the Mahabharata, Shiva in the disguise of a hunter gives a

powerful weapon 'Pasupata' to Arjuna. The episode is a turning-point in the epic. Naga worship is part of the ancient religious tradition of Kerala. These idols were consecrated on June 29, 2014 by Kantaru Maheshwararu. On June 29 this year kalamezhuthu (vettakkaran) was conducted at the temple premises. Ayilya puja is also conducted here.

### Religious Offerings

The temple has become a centre of devotional activities and religious programmes. Not a single day passes without a special programme in the temple like pre-dawn group Sahasranama Japams, Narayaneeyam group recital, full day Akhandanama bhajan, Laksharchana to different deities, Bhagavatha Parayanam, Navagraha Stuthikal, Geetha Chanting, Bhagavathi Seva, Bhagavatham and Ramayana Saphahams etc. Devotional and melodious bhajan singing is a

## Onasamsakal



From: Madhu Nambiar and Family



A few Managing Committee members and Office bearers

regular feature in the temple. Apart from celebrating Mandala Pooja during December and Utsavam during May each year, all the important religious functions are celebrated.

### Charitable Activities

As a Public charitable trust, charities through various channels are given due importance in this temple. Annadanams and poor feeding take place on a regular basis in the temple. Free distribution of books and educational aids to economically weaker students, free distribution of medicines in medical camps held in the complex etc., are a regular feature. The members conduct cataract operations and provide spectacles, pay for dialysis treatment in

deserving cases etc. Their educational assistance extends to poor students in several schools of the western suburbs. Separate medical aid and educational assistance fund are maintained by the Seva Sangham and medical and educational expenses are reimbursed in deserving cases.

### Silver Jubilee Celebrations

A permanent Dwajasthambham was erected in front of Lord Guruvayoorappan temple and gold plating of the existing Dwajasthambham in front of Lord Ayyappan temple was carried out in 2008 at the commencement of the Pratishtha cum Silver Jubilee Celebrations in May 2008. The gold

plating of the Dwajasthambham in front of Lord Ayyapan's temple was one of the dreams of the permanent founder life Trustee late V.A.D. Menon. During the Silver Jubilee celebrations, various poojas were conducted. Anugraha Prabhashanams by five famous octogenarian Bhagavatha Shreshthacharyas of Kerala were organized and they were felicitated during the function.

### Community Centre

In recognition of the good work done by the Ayyappa Seva Sangham, the road leading to the temple complex from the Linking Road was named as Shree Ayyappa Temple Road by the Municipality on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1993. A community welfare centre with spacious halls has been constructed. A library has been functioning actively since June 2013. Today the Community Centre has two Halls on the first and second floor aptly called Vaikuntam (non A/C) and Kailasam ( A/C) respectively. The huge ground floor is used for poor feeding, annadanam and pujas and the halls are given for functions like marriages etc. The Samgham has plans to construct a free medical aid centre, an old age home, a cultural and heritage centre and expand the existing library.

The Samgham office bearers remember with gratitude the pioneering patronage received from late Professor Krishna Kumar of Puthukad, Kerala who composed bhajans specially for the Seva Samgham and the divine patronage of Swami Guruvayoorappa Dasan who used to give discourses on a regular basis in the temple till he passed away in 2003. They also acknowledge the contribution of the earlier permanent life trustees the late V Anandan, late VAD Menon, and late K S Menon.

The present office bearers are S Jagannathan (President), K K Sudhakaran (Vice President), Unni Menon (Secretary), P Haridas and Chandrasekharan Unni (Jt Secretaries), Viswanathan Nambiar (Treasurer), K C Bhaskaran and C K Unnikrishnan ( Jt Treasurers), Murali Panicker (Permanent Life Trustee), V Balachandran and Janaki Goving (Life Trustees). Dr AVK Unni, Vijayan Nair, K Gangadharan Nair, Manikandan Nair, Sanjay Nair, Devdas Nair, Manikandan Ittaman, Ravi K Nair, Pradeep Kunnumal, Chandralekha Unni, Komalam Sudhakaran, and Thankamani Unni are trustees of the Ayyappa Seva Samgham. ■



## Onasamsakal

### P.C. NAMBIAR

DIRECTOR & SECRETARY - WORLD FREE ZONE ORGANIZATION  
CHAIRMAN - EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR EOUs & SEZs  
DIRECTOR - POONAWALLA GROUP.

# A History Sheet of some By-Elections in Kerala



P R Krishnan

■ After the re-organization of states on linguistic basis in 1956, Kerala has distinguished itself with largest number of by-elections in the state. Amongst the contestants were 3

chief ministers, 3 ministers and 3 woman candidates. The total number of by-elections held so far including the one held in Aruvikara assembly constituency on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was 53. Amongst the chief ministers one was twice in the field.

The verdict rendered by the enlightened voters of Aruvikara assembly constituency on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 has created shock waves in the opposition camp in the state. Though the Congress led United Democratic Front (UDF) has retained the seat, the worrisome situation in their camp has nevertheless not ended. At the most the victory can only be termed as an interim relief (bail) to the UDF. Though the UDF has won and the LDF lost, the biggest gain in the Aruvikara election is for the BJP.

The victorious candidate in this hotly contested election is K S Sabarinath, the youngest son of late G Karthikeyan, a former minister and speaker of Kerala. He has defeated M Vijaykumar, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate of the CPI (M) by 10,128 votes. Vijaykumar was a former speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly and a soft spoken leader of CPI (M). The BJP candidate O Rajagopal has polled a record figure of 34,145 votes. This is in place of 14,000 votes which that party got in the earlier election. The increase thus in the case of Bhartiya Janata Party is 19,945 votes. This has created astonishment in the LDF circles and ceaseless worries for the ruling Congress led UDF.

The by-election was necessitated due to the untimely death of G Karthikeyan in March 2015. Karthikeyan though a Congressman, was a respected leader by all sections of people in Kerala. He had nursed the constituency to the best of his ability while he was an MLA from this place. He was a five time MLA from this constituency uninterruptedly from 1991 onwards. This, plus the sympathy factor as result of his death, had created a favorable atmosphere for his son Sabarinath to score

a majority in the election. No doubt the opposition had predicted its victory. But the people's mandate turned out to be against it.

The present by-election in Aruvikara was the 53<sup>rd</sup> in the history of this state after its formation in 1956. Out of these 53, the score figure for the left as stated above is 38. Whereas the victory for UDF including the present one in Aruvikara was 15.

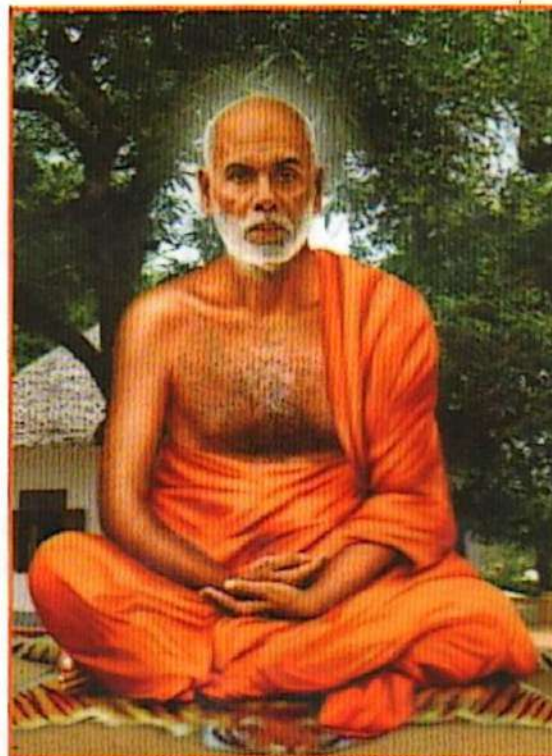
The first by-election which took place in Kerala was in the Devikulam assembly constituency. It was during the period of EMS ministry on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1958. That by-election was necessitated because the election commission invalidated Rosamma Punnoose victory in the two member constituency in 1957. In the by-election that followed, Rosamma Punnoose, the leader of Communist Party of India won the seat with more votes.

Paravoor assembly constituency requires special mention because that was the first in Kerala where the election took place with electronic election machine. In the election held in that constituency the CPI candidate N Sivan Pillai got elected. But his election was challenged by his opponent A C Jose of the Congress Party. In that case the Supreme Court ordered re-election in 50 booths. In the repoll held in

May 1984, Sivan Pillai lost and Congress candidate A C Jose won the seat. A year later in the by-election held in Uduma assembly constituency in 1985, M Kunhiraman Nambiar of the Congress was defeated by K Purushotham Menon of the CPI(M).

C Achutha Menon, A K Anthony and E K Nayanar got elected to the assembly through by-elections while they were chief ministers. The first chief minister in that list was C Achutha Menon. He contested from Kottarakara constituency in 1970 and won the seat. A K Anthony has the record of twice contesting by-elections while being chief minister. His first by-election was from Kazhakoottam in 1977 and the second contest was from Tirurangadi in 1995. Anthony won on both occasions. In Kazhakoottam he defeated Pirappankod Sreedharan Nair of CPI(M) and in Tirurangadi he defeated opposition supported independent candidate Dr N A Karim. E K Nayanar contested by-election from Thalassery constituency and won the seat in 1996 with thumping majority.

K Anirudhan of CPI(M) contested by-elections twice. The first was in the year 1963 from Trivandrum-2 constituency and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was in the year 1978 from Trivandrum East constituency.



എല്ലാ മലയാളികൾക്കും  
മുഖ്യത്വം ശ്രീനാരായണ  
മന്ദിര സമിതിയുടെ  
മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിമാർ

When the Anthony group broke away from Indira Congress and formed Socialist Congress they became coalition partners in the first Nayanar ministry in the year 1980. In that ministry Aryadan Mohamad of the Anthony group became the Minister for Labour though he was not an MLA. Aryadan then contested by-election from Nilambur constituency and won the seat by defeating Mullappally Ramachandran of Indira Congress. T K Ramakrishnan of the CPI(M) contested by-election from Kottayam while he was the Home minister. He won that election defeating his rival Thiruvanchiyoor Radhakrishnan. This was in 1987. When K Muraleedharan of the Congress was the electricity minister, he contested a by-election from Vadakaamchery constituency. But he lost the election. It was A C Moideen of the CPI(M) who won the seat. This was in 2004. P T Kunhimohammed was the LDF candidate who contested a by-election in Guruvayur constituency. In that election in 1994 he won the seat by defeating his rival Abdu Samad Samadani of Indian Union Muslim League.

The Kerala Congress nominee Smt Saraswathy Kunhi Krishnan contested a by-election from Aattingal constituency in 1985 but she lost the battle. The other woman candidate of the Kerala Congress who contested a by-election was Smt. Elizabeth Meman Mathai. This was from Tiruvalla in 2003 and she won the seat.

It is well known that in 1982 the Congress leader K Karunakaran contested elections from two constituencies, Nemam and Mala and won both the seats. But after becoming chief minister he vacated Nemam constituency and that resulted in a by-election in that constituency. In that



C Achutha Menon, A K Anthony and E K Nayanar

highly charged election, V J Thankappan of CPI(M) won the seat defeating Congress nominee E Ramesan Nair.

In the by-election held in Mala constituency following the death of CPI minister V K Rajan in 1998 it was U S Sasy of CPI who won the seat. The death of Mathai Chacko of the CPI(M) necessitated a by-election in Thiruvambadi constituency in the year 2006. Here it was the CPI(M) nominee George M Thomas who won the seat with a huge margin of 64,112 votes defeating Muslim League rival N M Ummar. P Jayarajan of CPI(M) had won election to Koothuparamba assembly constituency in 2001. But his election was invalidated by the Election Commission. But following Supreme Court order a by-election took place in that constituency on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2005. In that, Jayarajan won the seat with a record margin of 45,865 votes. In the two by-elections of the recent period held in Piravam and Neyyattinkara constituencies, UDF candidates won both the seats. Aruvikara by-election was the last one and the 53<sup>rd</sup> in this series.

There is no surprise in the latest Aruvikara by-election case because

Sabarinath's father G. Karthikeyan won uninterruptedly winning this seat with comfortable majority from 1991 onward. For example, in the year 1991 Karthikeyan's victory margin was 3,48 votes. In the year 1996, this margin rose to 8,617. On the third occasion in 2001 his majority swelled to 12,071 figure. However in the election held in 2006, there was a fall in his votes. But still he polled 2,198 votes more than his opponent in that year. This is not an insignificant figure in election battles. The last election Karthikeyan contested was in 2011 and in that he had commendable victory margin of 10,67 votes to his credit. The percentage of vote Karthikeyan scored on these five occasions were 77.3%, 72.4%, 70.1%, 67.9%, 67.1% and 70.3%. Whereas in the present election on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015, out of the total number of 1,42,496 votes polled, Sabarinath got 56,448 votes while the share of his nearest rival M Vijayakumar was 46,320. In terms of percentage, Sabarinath got 70.3% of the votes polled. All the other 13 candidates forfeited their deposits. However it is significant to note that NOTA had the seal of 1,430 voters. The BJP's performance has exceeded all expectations. This has happened because there was erosion in the vote base of LDF and UDF.

This victory for UDF cannot be termed as flowing from money and liquor as propagated in the LDF camp. Money power, muscle power, rigging, flow of liquor, booth capturing, prevention of voters and terrorism are not new in the election scenarios in India. Therefore, the argument that it was the money and liquor which prevented an LDF victory will not be accepted by the people. The further statement that it was the chief minister Oommen Chandi, who was instrumental in fielding BJP candidate O Rajagopal in the election field, will also be not accepted by the people. The voters in Kerala are politically conscious and they have cast their votes on the basis of their assessment. Whether the opposition should have won the seat or not is altogether a different matter. The LDF needs concrete introspection and rectification of its methods. ■



From  
Biju Kumar & Family  
Antop Hill



# Drishyam and Bahubali pinnacle of cinematic excellence

The present time for Malayalam cinema is the most happening, with several new faces and young film makers poised to do something extraordinary.



Sriprakash Menon

■ Malayalam movies have always fascinated viewers across the country with its realistic storyline, simple depiction and flawless technical perfection. Yet

somewhere during the last ten years Malayalam cinema was going through a turmoil, when three films Drishyam, Bangalore Days and Valli Moonga changed the scenario for this regional film industry. Now the latest flick Premam is again creating excitement at the box office.

No doubt, even Malayalam cinema was star dominated to a great extent yet they had wonderful scripts and the production costs were low unlike their counterparts in Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh. Satyan, Prem Nazir, Madhu, Sheela, Sharada,

**Bahubali is a great cinema epic that has become a runaway box office hit in all Southern languages and Hindi**



A scene from 'Drishyam'

Srividya, Jayabharati, Seema, Lakshmi, Jayan, Kamal Haasan, Sukumaran, Soman, Mohanlal, Mammotty, Shobhana, Manju Warrier, Suresh Gopi, Dilip and Jayaram and

several others dominated the movie world during the last six decades. The sad part of Malayalam moviedom was that films were hero oriented with a very few exceptions.

The rise of neo realism in cinema with Ramu Kariat's Chemeen, Adoor Gopalakrishnan's Swayamwaram, G.



### 'Premam' a love story

Aravindan's Kanchana Seeta was just the beginning of a new era for Malayalam cinema. Films of M T Vasudevan Nair, K G George, Sethumadhavan, John Abraham, Padmarajan, Bharatan, P N Menon, Hariharan, Shaji Karun and many more talented film makers made Indian cinema proud internationally as well. Much before Iranian cinema dominated the international film festivals for its simplicity and interesting stories, Malayalam cinema had carved a niche for itself.

Malayalees were much luckier as the mainstream Malayalam cinema was equally engrossing and innovative. The audience always had best of cinemas from both the worlds of avant garde and mainstream, which to a great extent existed only in Hindi cinema. Technically and story rich Malayalam films gave non resident Malayalees the much needed cultural roots, nostalgia and a sense of belonging. In fact the cultural and social organisations outside Kerala were not as much successful as Malayalam cinema to connect Malayalees and its younger generations to the state and Malayalam language. Yesudas, P Leela, Janaki and others had already become household names through film music programmes of Radio Ceylon then hosted by Sarojini Shivalingam.

Those were the days, elders and seniors would say. But the present time for Malayalam cinema is the most happening, with several new faces and young film makers poised to do something extraordinary. The men dominated Malayalam film world for a

change had the highly talented Anjali Menon and her memorable Bangalore Days which went on to become a blockbuster like Drishyam (a family thriller) and Valli Moonga ( a light political satire). Of course, Bangalore Days is being made in Tamil, Dhriyram is made in Tamil, Hindi and Valli Moonga in Marathi. Malayalam cinema is now reinventing in other languages.

Though original Drishyam in Malayalam was a trend setter with Jeethu Joseph's deft direction and Mohanlal's thrilling performance, its Tamil version Papanasam with Kamal Haasan in the lead role was equally

engrossing. In Papanasam the film story matured a bit more and in Hindi with Ajay Devgn the film will reach another level. The story format and the plot of Drishyam can still be a huge Hollywood movie as well.

Valli Moonga is now being made in Marathi, this is a welcome trend. Similarly, Malayalam film makers can learn a lot from the recent crop of Marathi films like Elizabeth Ekadasi, Lokmanya, Dr Prakash Amte, Court, Ek Hazarchi Note, Killa and others. Some of these stories can be easily set in the Kerala milieu. Last year's award winning Hindi film Rajat Kapur's Ankho Dekhi is another brilliant work which can be a good Malayalam film as its main protagonist is a universally interesting character. It is not true that remakes will always work sometimes it may fall flat like many in the past

Despite a highly cinematic culture and technological advancement in Kerala, Malayalam cinema is yet to create a global blockbuster like their counterparts in TN or AP. The recent spectacular cinema epic Bahubali by Rajamouli is a great cinema experience which has become a huge hit in almost all the southern languages besides Hindi. Hariharan and MT combine did a stupendous effort with Pazzashi Raja , somehow despite grandeur and sterling performances the film failed to create a widespread impact. Let's hope their next venture based on a Mahabharata tale would be a movie epic. ■

**Wishing you all happy  
& Prosperous**

*Cnam*



**Biju V. Nair  
& Family  
Panvel**

# Epic in compact form

**H**indus around the globe have three prime epics Ramayana, Mahabharat and Srimad Bhagavat. However, the last mentioned could not find much favour with the followers. It was stated that after completing Mahabharat, its author Krishna Dwaipayana alias Vedavyasa found himself not completely satisfied with his work and dwelling upon the issue. He found that he had not done total justice to all the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, since the ideals of Vedas were not fully conveyed to the people in a way that was easy to comprehend. Vedas were considered as a treasure house of knowledge and wisdom much ahead of their times. Vyasa then got himself immersed in scripting of Srimad Bhagavat.

Vyasa did not start his work like Valmiki did with Ramayana or he himself did with Mahabharat. He started this book as authors of twentieth century did, as a 'flashback.' Mahabharat ends with the coronation of Parikshit, son of Abhimanyu and Uttara. Following a curse by Shringi, son of sage Shamika,

Parikshit was surrendering to his fate and was preparing himself to submit to death. He was not afraid of death but wanted to clarify certain puzzles tormenting him. He made his son Janamejaya the king and moved to the southern bank of River Ganga. He asked sixteen year old Sage Shuka, who called on him, to clarify those doubts. His questions were: (1) what one about to die should do? (2) what should he hear? (3) what should he recite? (4) What should he remember and recite and (5) what exactly he should not do? The answers to these questions gradually spread to all spheres of life and form the backbone of Srimad Bhagavat.

Mahabharat is said to have more than 5,000 independent tales besides the story of Kuru dynasty and Sri Krishna. Bhagavat is no different. All these tales are used to emphasise certain value based points so that it would be easier for the reader to link to his memory.

The entire Bhagavat is divided into twelve sections called 'skandha,' besides an introductory section called 'Mahatmyam' (greatness). The latter part itself has 504 quatrains. Each skandha is further divided into chapters. The first skandha has 19 chapters stretching to 790 quatrains. There are a total of 355 chapters

in the main text. The story of Sri Krishna as we know now is coming from the tenth and eleventh skandhas and the twelfth skandha deals with the Kaliyuga. The incarnations prior to Sri Krishna are not in that order as we perceive but in a random order. This is because of the narration of the entire story moves forward and backward, as in a 'stream of consciousness.'

Bhagavat is not the mere story telling but it deals with the various aspects of life and after as well before. Though it was written many centuries ago, it deals with many aspects of science that came to our knowledge only during last century. In a chapter, for example, it deals with the growth of an embryo in the womb of mother, in terms of weeks and months. We may wonder how the ancient rishis gathered these informations when there were no x-rays and scanning.

For an ordinary devotee, Sri Krishna cannot be seen without Radha and their salacious engagements. Though Bhagavat talks about the 'gopika's as his playmates, the name Radha is interestingly missing. It is to be noted that Sri Krishna left Vrindavan for Mathura when he was about eleven years old, and he never returned. The concept of Radha came through Geetagoindam of Jayadeva and popularized by Sri Narayaneeyam of Melpathur Bhattathiripad.

The original Bhagavat is a great work running to about 1300 pages in normal book printing, without any explanations and references. Besides the main story line, it deals with hundreds of independent stories.

The author of the work under our consideration, Sridharan Valavara has enormous pain to condense the story of Bhagavat into this concise form, without leaving aside the important tales and spiritual aspects, without which no epic is worth its name, and provided essential explanations as and when he felt necessary. It is indeed a task of great value and devotion and thus he deserves kudos of those who like to traverse the path of spirituality. Going through this book certainly motivate the devotees to step into the higher echelons and thus to greater heights. A few typographical errors could have been avoided though generally the printing and presentation are done well. ■

[Srimad Bhagavatham Condensed by Sridharan Valavara, printed and published by Pambungal Publications, Mumbai. Pages 215 and priced Rs.180. Author can be contacted on mobile 09867123650 or 022-28798184.]



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# AN EXHILIRATING PLEA FOR REPARATIONS

**C**ongress MP and member of the Opposition, former under - Secretary General at the United Nations organization and author of several books, Shashi Tharoor has drawn a lot of praise for his spirited argument at Oxford Union debate, demanding reparation payments by Britain to India for its 200-year colonial rule, which, he said, led to the crumbling of India's economy. Elected as MP to the Legislative Assembly from Thiruvananthapuram constituency, Tharoor had critically analysed with data and facts, and explained in an easy and interesting manner how colonialists ruined and exploited undivided India.

Tharoor's speech had gone viral on



video sharing website YouTube and social media platforms like Facebook and also prompted a vigorous debate.

Even the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Shashi Tharoor for articulating India's view point at the

Oxford debate, at a workshop on Sustainable Development Goals at a Speaker's Research Initiative programme held in New Delhi. Tharoor, who was sitting in the front row, reciprocated with a smile when Modi praised him. The Congress MP was among the few non-BJP MPs present in the gathering that included veteran Parliamentarian L K Advani, ministers and MPs belonging to BJP and its allies.

In his fiery speech Shashi Tharoor declared that India's share of the world economy when Britain arrived on its shores was 23 per cent, by the time the British left it was down to below 4 per cent the reason being that India had been governed for the benefit of Britain.

"Britain's rise for 200 years was

## Onasamsakal



**Pradeep Kumar and Family**  
Peddar Road



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all happy  
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## Onam



### **KERALEEYA SAMAJAM, ANDHERI (W)**

(Reg. No. under Public Trust Act. F-31141 (Mum.) dt.04.12.2006)

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financed by its depredations in India. In fact Britain's industrial revolution was actually premised upon the de-industrialisation of India," he said.

He recalled that before the British set foot on India, the country was an exporter of fine muslin but the British "smashed their thumbs, broke their looms, imposed tariffs and duties on their cloth and products and started, of course, taking their raw material from India and shipping back manufactured cloth flooding the world's markets with what became the products of the dark and satanic mills of the Victorian England." With the result that Indian weavers became beggars and from being an exporter of finished cloth with 27% of the world trade, India came down to be an importer having a world trade of less than 2%."

By the end of 19th century, India was already Britain's 'biggest cash cow', the world's biggest purchaser of British goods and exports and the source for highly paid employment for British civil servants.

"We literally paid for our own oppression. Between 15-29 million Indians died of starvation in British induced famines, the most famous example was, of course, was the great Bengal famine during the World War II when 4 million people died because of Winston Churchill's callous actions and statements like 'the starvation of anyway underfed Bengalis' does not matter.

Statements of colonial enterprise and benefits was a myth and eyewash. Violence and racism were the reality of the colonial experience and "the sun never set on the British empire because even god couldn't trust the English in the dark," he remarked.

The Congress MP then pointed out the statistics of India's role in the First and Second World War. Tharoor recalled that 1.3 million Indian personnel served in this war, one-sixth of all the British forces. Out of this, 54 000 Indians actually lost their lives in that war, 65 000 were wounded and another 4000 remained missing or in prison.

According to Tharoor out of Britain's total war debt of 3 billion pounds in 1945 money, 1.25 billion was owed to India and never actually paid.

He also emphasized that railways and roads were built to serve British interests, to carry raw materials from the hinterland into the ports to be shipped to Britain.

"In fact the Indian railways were built with massive incentives offered by

Britain to British investors, guaranteed out of Indian taxes paid by Indians with the result that you actually had one mile of Indian railway costing twice what it cost to built the same mile in Canada or Australia because there was so much money being paid in extravagant returns."

Shashi Tharoor spoke of the moral debt that Britain owed India ... undermining their social traditions, customs etc and creating racial, ethnic and religious tensions among Indians that are still not fully eradicated.

"We were denied democracy so we had to snatch it, seize it from you with the greatest of reluctance. It was considered in India's case after 150 years of British rule and that too with limited franchise," he stated.

Regarding whether Britain owes reparations for the grave wrongs Britain has committed Shashi declared that reparations was not a tool to empower

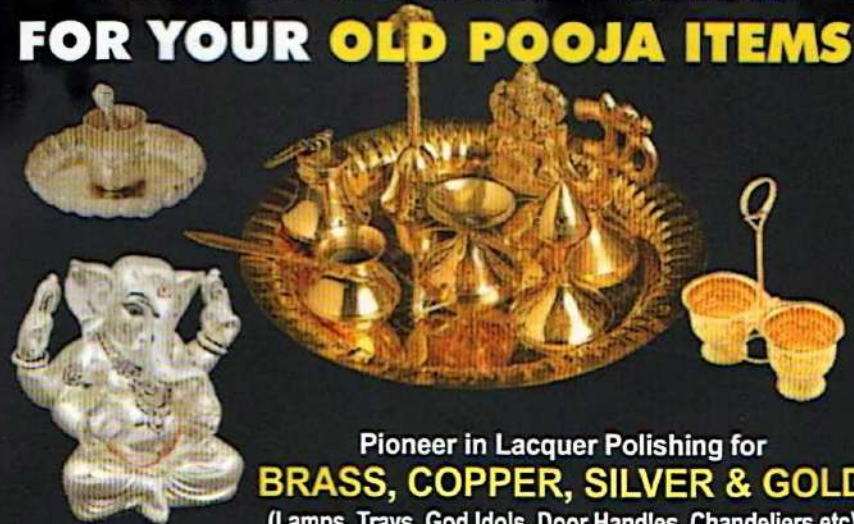
anybody, "they are a tool for you to atone, for the wrongs that have been done". No amount of money can compensate the loss of a loved one but the principle of owing reparations mattered.

"The truth is that we are not arguing specifically that vast some of money needs to be paid. The proposition before this house is the principle of owing reparations. The question is, is there a debt, does Britain owe reparations?"

According to Shashi Tharoor, "the ability to acknowledge your wrong that has been done, to simply say sorry will go a far longer way than some percentage of GDP in the form of aid and accepting the principle that reparations are owed."

"Personally, I will be quiet happy if it was one pound a year for the next 200 years after the last 200 years of Britain in India," he quipped as he concluded his speech. ■

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# SWATHI AND SWETHA SINGING STARS

Twin sisters Swathi and Swetha belong to a family where all the members are associated with music. Currently they are popular singers taking part in music shows of several orchestra troupes in Mumbai. They were part of the orchestra team for Raagalaya Music Award 2015 during which lyricist K Jayakumar was felicitated.

Swathi and Swetha's musical career started very early in life. They started learning music under Guru Rajalakshmi Iyer (Maami) and now for the past 13 years they are learning Carnatic music under Smt Prasanna Warriar. Under the latter's guidance they performed their Carnatic recital at the age of 13. They give Carnatic programmes with their teacher at various programmes in Mumbai and also participate every year at the Thyagaraja Aradhana Festival along with her.

Swathi and Swetha have performed in several music shows on stage both in

Mumbai and other cities. Their first orchestra was at the age of five at Bassein Kerala Samajam. They have performed for orchestras at Vasai, Goregaon, Kalina, Santa Cruz, Thane, Mulund, Virar, Borivli, Kandivli Kalamboli and at several places in Mumbai.

Swathi and Swetha have also performed for devotional orchestra in Mumbai and its suburbs, including one at Goa during Mandala masam. They have recorded for the devotional album 'Padmatheertham' at the age of thirteen with well known singer Biju Narayanan. They also recorded songs

for the Malayalam and Tamil dub of Hindi movie 'Bhootnath' and recorded for ad films with Sai Balan of Idea Star Singer fame.

## Awards and prizes

Swathi and Swetha have been recipients of several awards and prizes. They have participated and won at the annual Raagalaya Music competitions several times, and at Keralaeya Kendra Sanghatana competitions held at Chembur many times. They won prizes in Malayalotsavam for light music and film music competitions and at Kerala Marar Kshema Sabha state level

competitions for light music and Carnatic music. From the age of four they have won several gold, silver and bronze medals at Vasai Taluka level competitions for Marathi Sugam Sangeet. They have also won prizes for singing and dancing competitions during their school and college days held in their institutions and in inter school college and state level competitions.

Regarding TV Appearance this duo has participated in 'Mumbai Masala' show on Asianet Channel which showcased young talents of Mumbai and in 'Paattarangu' on Surya TV Mumbai episode. "Music is our life" the sisters say.

Swathi did her schooling from Carmelite Convent English High School Vasai, her Secondary Schooling from HR College of Commerce and graduation B Com, from Vidyavardhini Vartak College. She is currently doing her C Articleship.

Swetha also completed her schooling from Carmelite Convent English High School Vasai, her Secondary Schooling Vidya Varthini Vartak Nagar College in Science and did her graduation in B.Tech in Electronics and Communication from Usha Mittal Institute of Technology, S.N.D.T University. She is presently working with Tata Teleservices Pvt Ltd. Though they hail from Thrissur they are born and brought in Mumbai.

Their father, T S Viswanathan Marar works as a manager at modern paints and chemical at Jogeshwari and mother Mrs. Geetha Viswanathan is a home maker. They have an elder sister, Mrs Vidhuna Sai, married to Sai Balan who is Idea Star Singer reality fame and is settled in Dubai. She is a Mechanical Engineer and works with Sobha Group of Companies. She is also a classical dancer. Sai Balan is also a Musician and Sound engineer and works with a reputed firm in Dubai.

"We wish to continue our passion for music for many more years and also

wish to make a mark in the music field by performing for various shows. Our greatest support is our family and friends and our Music teacher Smt Prasanna Warriar," the sisters say. ■

**"We wish to continue our passion for music for many more years and also wish to make a mark in the music field by performing for various shows".**



Swetha

Swathi

# Dhon Special

**T**o return homeward to Vasai and not notice passive wheels caught on rain-washed roads and just be with the characters one saw enacted on stage is to endorse the strength of the Actors, the sinuous binding of acts through skilful direction, to gather the subtle, unimposing yet realistic props and to be awakened to the didactic folds through created characters.

All the way back home from Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium, Vile Parle to Vasai I re-played the dimensions created by mature actors and marvelled at the inspiring theatre of life and that greater theatre of Art, which, as Kant says, is twice removed from reality and the lump in my heart gave vent to cathartic rivulets blessing each character for the pristine sieving of emotions that had me gathering them in my mind's eye again and again!

Atharva theatre and Mishri theatre-presented the Marathi play 'Dhon Special' -written and directed by Kshithij Patwardhan based on the story by A.H. M. Marathe

An appraisal of the same:-  
Two journalists who loved one another and separated by the flux of circumstances meet in the same office ten years later. They meet in the office that cradled the stirrings and awakenings of their love but this time they are both married to someone else. The audience



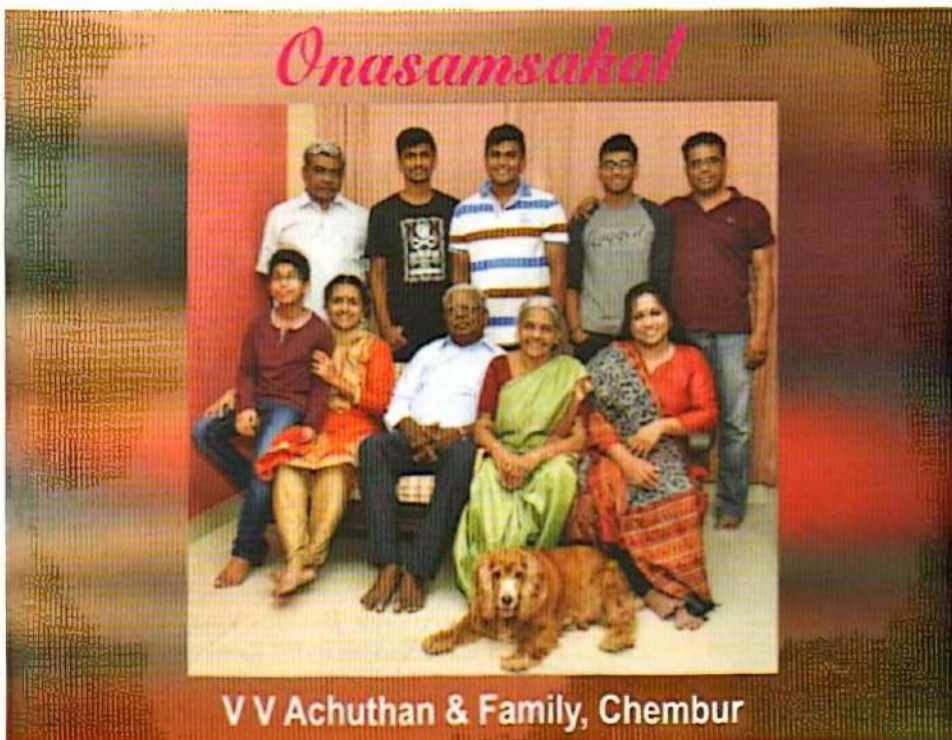
Lata Surendra meeting with Girija Oak Godbole, Suri Menon and producers of Colours Marathi Cookery show.

from then on is taken in an emotional safari so to speak. Set against the 1998 journalistic pattern in the first act through subtly flavored punch-lines the play seem to gather the biting tragic-comic situations of life with the human psyche being jostled through emotions and circumstances in diverse roads! Jitendra Joshi and Girija Oak-Godbole both mirror their experience and complement each other. It may be

difficult for today's viewers to align with a plot set 25years back but all art is a presentation of thought, or a presentation of feeling by a statement of events in human action or objects in the external world. Although externally they seem different yet basically they remain the same. The essential is not, of course, that drama should be written as per the age but that it is a precise statement of life which is at the same time a point of view, a world a world which the author's mind has subjected to a complete process of simplification through his presentation. One leaves the auditorium and walks into one's own waiting life objective enough to cynically laugh at the waiting compromises one is constantly forced to make in this corporate world when cornered by manipulators in spite of all good intentions!

Girija Oak is a well-known actor from Marathi as well as Hindi movie industry. She worked in many Marathi movies like 'Manini', 'Man Pakhru Pakhru', 'Gulmohor', 'Chingi', 'Huppa Huiya', 'Goshta Choti Dongaraevdhi' etc. and also in the Hindi film 'Taare Zameen Par'. She also presents the cookery show running in Colors Marathi-Mejwani Paripoorna Kitchen. Incidentally Girija Oak Godbole was among the first batch of my students at Anjali Bharatanatyam Research Trust at Vasai, 25years back.

-Kalashri Lata Surendra



# Gour Hari Dastaan

## A Freedom Fighter's fight for recognition

**S**iddhivinayak Cinevision Pvt Ltd and award winning filmmaker Ananth Narayan Mahadevan released the trailer of the film 'Gour Hari Dastaan' at Cinemax in Andheri on July 7 in the presence of dignitaries and the media. Gour Hari Dastaan releases on August 14 and portrays the thought provoking and touching story of freedom fighter Gour Hari Das.

Besides playing several roles in Bollywood and regional cinema, Ananth Narayan Mahadevan is a film maker and director with a social commitment and has won several awards for his productions. His film 'Sindhutai Sakpal' spoke about the woman who emerged victorious against adversity that won him rare critical acclaim.

The role of the protagonist is played by acclaimed comedian Vinay Pathak. Speaking on the occasion Ananth said "He was always there on my mind for the role and with this performance



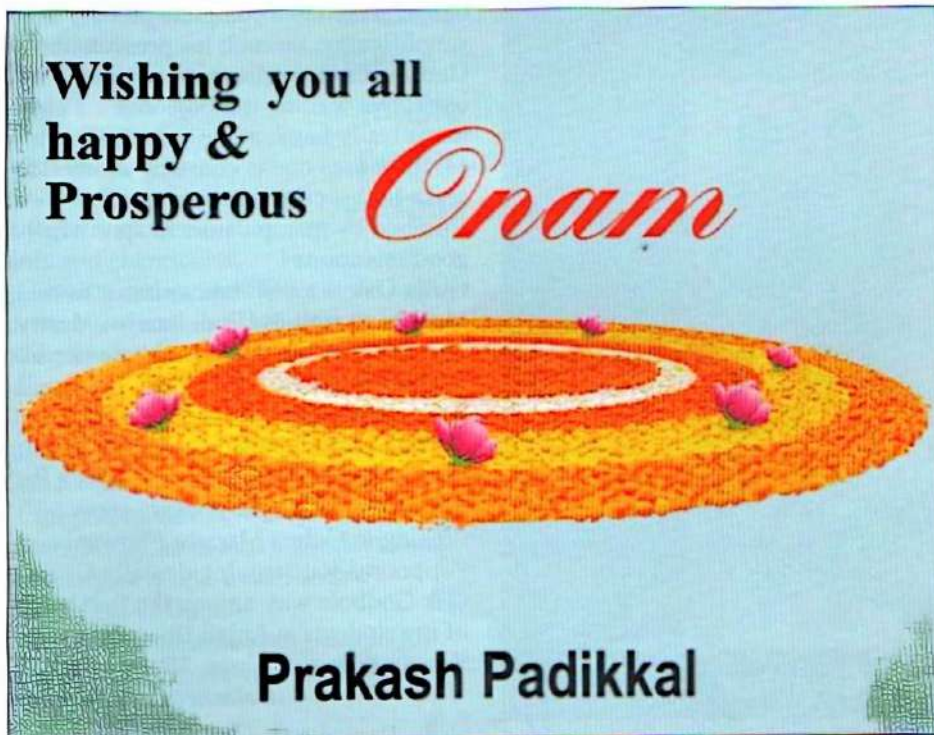
he will break all perception and stereotypes. When you do a bio-pic, obvious names crop up in your head, I needed a vulnerability,

tolerance and temperament in the role of a man who can bend but has the mental ability to carry on with the fight for 32 years. Vinay did absolute justice to it"

Gour Hari Das's son was unable to get college admission for the lack of a freedom fighter certificate. Hari Das had fought for 32 long years to prove his identity as a freedom fighter. After reading a newspaper article on Gour Hari Das, Ananth Mahadevan was shaken and decided to do a film on this unique freedom fighter. When Ananth met Hari he asked "Why Me" and Ananth replied "Why Not" and that's how it all began.

Produced by Bindiya Khanolkar and Sachin Khanolkar, Gour Hari Dastaan will be released through Girish Wankhede Entity One. The music is by the renowned violinist Dr L Subramaniam and sound track by Oscar winning director Resul Pookutty, script by senior journalist and writer C P Surendran. Besides Vinay Pathak, the cast also includes Konkana Sen Sharma and Ranvir Shorey.

by GURU VIJAY SHANKI



# Keraleeya Samajam Andheri (West)

**K**eraleeya Samajam Andheri (West) was registered under Society Act and Public Trust in 2006. Today it has its own office in Four Bungalows Andheri (W).

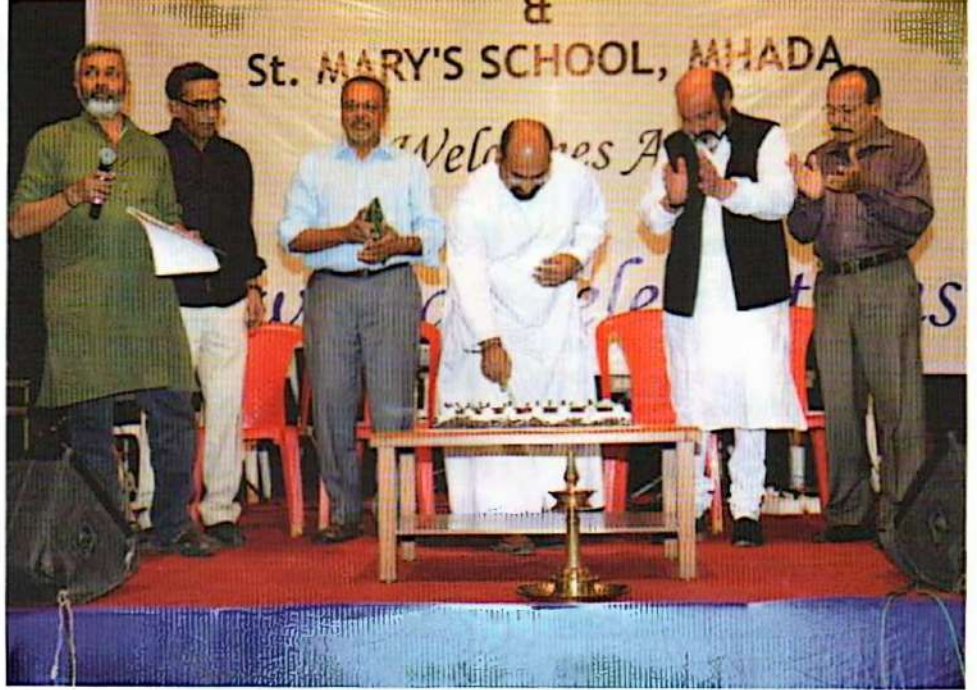
The beginnings were modest. Several Malayalees living in the area decided to form an Association and started celebrating Onam with an Onasadya from 2004.

The founder President was P M Sethumadhavan, present President is P Ramachandran and the Secretary since inception is Unni Menon.

On September 6, 2015 the Samajam will be celebrating its twelfth year of Onam celebrations. There will be variety entertainment programmes of dance, saree dance, music, Kaikottikali, and a Malayalam Drama conducted by Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Samgham, Mumbai 'NATTAKAM NAMUDE NATTU PACHHA,' The Programme will start with Lighting of Lamp at 9.30 a.m. followed by Onam feast which will start at 12.00 noon.

## Activities

The Samajam has been doing a lot of



New year Celebration and inauguration of Samajam office.

charity work since it was established.

It has been conducting Balawadi Classes for economically weak students at Municipal School at Gilbert Hill, Andheri (West) since its inception in 2006. Every year an average of 50

students are taught in these classes. A teacher and a Helper (Aaya) take care of the kids. It provides uniform, shoes and study materials to them every year.

Every year, the Samajam pays fees for one student each who is economically weak but best in studies at St. Mary's School, Mhada, Four Bungalows and at St. Anthony's School, Yari Road. The students' names are always recommended by the School authorities. Both these two schools support them a lot.

The Samajam conducts Malayalam Classes free of cost for the last few years at St. Mary's School, Mhada, Four Bungalows on all Sunday's and the timing is between 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Its members who underwent training are conducting the classes.

Medical help to economically weak irrespective of the caste and creed is also being done by the Samajam. It arranges blood to those who approach the Samajam for the same. More over, the Samajam does the humane task of providing help to conduct the final rites of those who expired irrespective of the caste and creed.



Subhash Menon

9820117560  
Goregaon (West)



**Onam celebration**

Every year Onam is celebrated on a grand scale by the Samajam members mostly at St. Anthony's School, Yari Road since the last few years. During this time students who have scored good marks in SSC, HSC from various Schools of the area are felicitated.

Keraleeya Samajam Andheri has close ties with Vimala Dermatology Centre at Yari Road and extend their assistance to the inmates there. Apart from monetary help, the Samajam members collect second hand clothes from among themselves and distribute it to the inmates there. Their charitable activities towards the Centre is done at least six to eight times a year.

Recently the members took the initiative of providing medicine and



**Samajam Secretary Unni Menon addressing the gathering during onam celebration**

എല്ലാവർക്കും ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ  
**ഓണാശംസകൾ**



**Upendra Menon**  
 Former President: ATMA, Kairali Samaj Kalwa,  
 SABS Kalwa  
 Chairman Maharashtra Malayalee Chamber  
 of Commerce and Industry  
 Central Committee Member Giants International



food to the physically challenged children at their Centre at Yari Raod. According to the office bearers, they have disbursed medicines worth about Rs. 15K and Pulses etc. to the tune of Rs. 5K.

During Ganesha festival, the member provide butter milk, water, juice etc. on the last day of Ganapathy Visarjan to the devotees who visit Versova for Ganapathy Visarjan.

At times of need the Keraleeya Samajam Andheri is always ready to help Malayalees of Mumbai in whatever way it can.

The Current Office bearers are P Ramachandran (President), Unni Menon, ( Secretary), Sethumadhavan, Aravindakshan Nair, Anil Nair, K K Raja, Antony M O, EP Chacko, TPK Nambiar, Madhusudan N K, Iyer Sundaresan and C Ravi.

# TRADITIONAL ONAM FEAST RECIPES



K S Narayanaswamy

## KICHADI

### Ingredients:

- Lady's finger 15 to 20 nos.
- Coconut 1 no.
- Green Chillies 15 gms
- Mustard ½ tsp
- Curry leaves 2 springs
- Coconut oil 2 tsp to fry
- Red Chilly 2 to 3
- Salt to taste
- Curd/Yoghurt ½ Lit.

### Preparation

Grate the coconut, Cut 2 or 3 green chillies into small pieces. Slice the lady's finger in small round pieces. Fry it along with few sliced green chillies in oil till crisp. Grind grated coconut, together with green chillies and little mustard. Mix together the mixture with curd and salt. Heat the mix on a low flame and keep stirring. Add fried lady's finger. Remove from fire when it boils.

Heat oil in a pan, add mustard; when it breaks add, dried red chillies and curry leaves in it and fry till golden brown colour. Add this to this to the Kichadi.



## PACHADI

### Ingredients:

- Banana (Plantain)/Pumpkin/  
Cucumber/Raw mango/  
Pineapple. 750 gms
- Coconut 2 Nos
- Green Chillies 25 gms
- Mustard seeds ½ tsp
- Turmeric powder ¼ tsp
- Curd/Yoghurt ½ lits
- Red Chilly 2 or 3 Nos
- Coconut oil To fry
- Salt To taste
- Curry leaves 2 springs
- Sugar/Jaggery if required as required

### Preparation

Grate the Coconut, Cook the vegetable in water by adding turmeric and salt. Grind together the grated coconut, and green chillies. Add this paste to the cooked vegetables and cook again. Add Sugar/Jaggery if so required and let it to boil thoroughly well, stirring until well blended. Remove from fire. Allow the mixture to cool. Heat oil in a pan, add mustard; when it breaks add, dried red chillies and curry leaves in it and fry till golden brown colour. Add this to this to the Pachadi and mix well.

## OLAN

Olan is the simplest watery dish with no spice at all. No feast is complete without olan on the menu.

### Ingredients:

- Pumpkin Red/Green 1 kg.
- Ash gourd 1kg.
- Coconut 1No.
- Coconut Oil 3tsp.
- Curry leaves few
- Green Chillies 2 or 3  
(spit into half of each)



### Preparation

Grate/blend the coconut in a blender. Squeeze and strain the milk. Wash the vegetables and slice both to very thin square pieces. Cook the vegetables in enough water adding green chillies and salt. Remove from fire add curry leaves and coconut oil. Pour coconut milk. Olan is ready to be served.

**We guide our readers to prepare the traditional Onam dishes within the confines of your home and have a sumptuous Onasadya on Thiruvonam day. Recipes for 20-25 people**

## KOOTTUCURRY

### Ingredients:

• Channa Dal	250 gms
• Yam (Suran)	500 gms
• Ash gourd	500 gms
• Coconut	3 Nos
• Turmeric Powder	½ Spoon
• Red chilly Powder	2 tbsps
• Coconut Oil	¼ cup
• Urud dal	50 gms
• Cumin (Zira)	1tbsp
• Mustard	1 tbsp
• Dried Red chillies	3 Nos
• Curry leaves	2 springs
• Salt	to taste

### Preparation

\* Grate two coconuts together and one separately and keep aside.

\* Soak split bengal gram for about 30 minutes before cooking.

\* Grind grated 2 coconuts with cumin (zera)

Cook the bengal gram dal par boil with salt and water to thick gravy. Clean and cut the vegetables into small square pieces. Cook the vegetable adding turmeric powder and chilly powder in conventional manner or with pressure cooker. Drain excess water. Add cooked split Bengal gram into the vegetable. Stir and mix thoroughly well. Add the grinded coconut paste stirring, until well blended. Add salt to taste and let it boil for 5 to 10 minutes and remove from fire.

Heat oil in a pan, add mustard; when it breaks adds urad dal, dried red chillies, curry leaves and 1 grated coconut in it and fry till golden brown colour. Add this to the koottucurry and mix well.



## AVIAL

### Ingredients

• Raw green plantain	2 nos
• Yams	150 gms
• Snake gourd	100 gms
• Ash gourd	150 gms
• Pumpkin	150 gms
• Carrot	150 gms
• Fresh green Cow peas (Payar)	1 no
• Drumsticks	00 gms
• Coconut	3 nos
• Turmeric Powder	1 tsp
• Green chillies	15 gms
• Curd	½ Lit
• Coconut	25 ml
• Curry leaves	2 springs
• Salt	to taste

### Preparation

\* Grate the coconut.

\* Wash and cut all the Vegetables lengthwise like sticks of about 1 ½" size

Boil all the sliced vegetables with salt and turmeric powder. Drain the water completely. Grind the grated coconut with green chillies without using water. Beat the curd into a thick paste. Add the coconut mixture and beaten curds to the cooked vegetables. Keep the mixtures on a low flame gently stir until mixed thoroughly and allow to boil. Remove from fire add fresh curry leaves and coconut oil.

## KURUKKU KALAN

### Ingredients

• Raw banana (plantain)	500 gms
• Yams (Chena) (Suran)	500 gms
• Curd (Thick and sour)	1 Lit
• Coconut	1½ Nos
• Turmeric Powder	1 tsp
• Pepper	1 tsp
• Pepper Powder	1½ tsp
• Cumin	1 tsp
• Cumin Powder	1 ½ tsp
• Mustard Seeds	1 tsp
• Curry leaves	2 springs
• Coconut Oil	2 tsp
• Salt	to taste
• Red Chilly	2 or 3 sliced into 3 pcs



### Preparation

\*Grate the coconut and grind with cumin and pepper.

Wash and cut plantain and yams in to square pieces of about 1 ½" size. Cook the vegetables in enough water adding turmeric powder and salt. After well cooked, drain excess water. Add pepper powder and cumin powder and pepper powder. Beat thick sour curd into a thick paste and add to the cooked vegetable. Allow to boil stirring occasionally, until the gravy is thickened to a semi solid constituency. Add the ground coconut paste and remove from fire. Heat oil in a pan, add mustard; when it breaks add, dried red chillies and curry leaves in it and fry till golden brown colour.

*Note: KurukkuKalan prepared at the stage before adding coconut paste can be stored at room temperature for weeks. Whenever required, the desired quantity can be made by just adding ground coconut.*

**We guide our readers to prepare the traditional Onam dishes within the confines of your home and have a sumptuous Onasadya on Thiruvonam day. Recipes for 20-25 people**



## PALADAPRADHAMAN

### Ingredients

- Milk:..... 3 Ltrs
- Sugar:..... 750 gms
- Raw Rice:..... 250 gms

To make Ada (Rice flakes)

### Preparation of Ada

Soak the raw rice in warm water for an hour and strain the water completely. Grind the rice to a fine powder and sieve. Add water little by little to the rice powder and mix smoothly like fine paste. Add ghee and mix it well till it reaches pouring consistency. Cut the plantain leaves to the size of a handkerchief and wilt it over boiling water to become soft. Pour little batter into each leaf, spread and rollup. Place altogether all rolled leaves on boiling water or steam in a cooker. When cooked removed the plantain leaves and cut into very small square pieces. Wash in water thoroughly well and strain. Ada is ready for your Payasam.

Now at market in consumer stores readymade ada is available and can be used instead of making ada at home. Buy 1 packet of Ada.

### Preparation of Pal Adapradhaman

Melt the Sugar with a little water and strain to remove impurities. Boil the milk in a wide bottomed non-stick pan and add the cooked ada pieces in it. Keep on boiling and stirring well. Add the sugar syrup stir well and continue boiling till it reaches sandal colour. Remove from fire. Your Pal Adapradhaman is fully ready to serve either hot or cold.

## PARIPPUPRADHAMAN

### Ingredients:

- Moong Dal:..... 400 gms.
- Jaggery:..... 1.200 kgs.
- Coconut:..... Nos.
- Coconut pieces:..... few
- Cardamon Powder:..... Spoon
- Ghee:..... 25 gms.
- Cashew nuts:..... 50 gms.



### Preparation

Grate the coconut and extract the milk 3 times. The procedure though looks a bit tedious tastes better than the readymade coconut milk available in the market. Roast the moong dal to light pink colour. Wash the moong dal and cook in the third milk.

Melt the jaggery with a little water and strain to remove impurities. Boil the jaggery syrup in a wide bottomed non-stick pan and add the cooked moong dal. Boil until the mixture is thick. Add the second coconut milk and boil again to reduce the water content. Stir well, until well blended. Remove from heat. Add the first milk and stir constantly. After adding the first milk, the pradhaman should not be boiled. Cut coconut pieces into small pieces roast the same along with cashew nuts on ghee to light brown colour and pour the same on Pradhaman. Parippu Pradhaman is ready to be served.

# LIFE OF P1

Pappadam (P1) Pazham (P2) and payasam (P3) form the trinity in the pantheon of Kerala's cuisine. Of this trinity P1 holds an important position.



Adv. A. Viswanathan

■ P1 (pappadam) has its counterparts all over India, nay, the world. In North India roasted pappad is more popular while in Mexico it is the taco that rules the roast. But

Kerala's pappadam is a class by itself. Over the ages spanning centuries, legend and lore grew around P1 which becomes very tasty when fried and causes high intake of cholesterol and sodium chloride when consumed. Since P1 pampers to the palate, unfavourable medical opinion matters little and receive little attention to the harmful effects if any.

When the dining hall is filled with the crushing sounds of crispy pappadams and more and more P1 arrive at the tables in response to the guests' requests and requisitions, it is evident that it is P1 that prevails over sage advice. Events in the past, remote or recent amply prove that P1's pole position remains unchallenged and its

supremacy unimpeached. Aficionados point out, in support of the P1's pre-eminence, that as a rule it is the size of P1 that determines the number of items to be served at a feast.

Our mother whose stories were our Aesop's fables in our childhood, many of



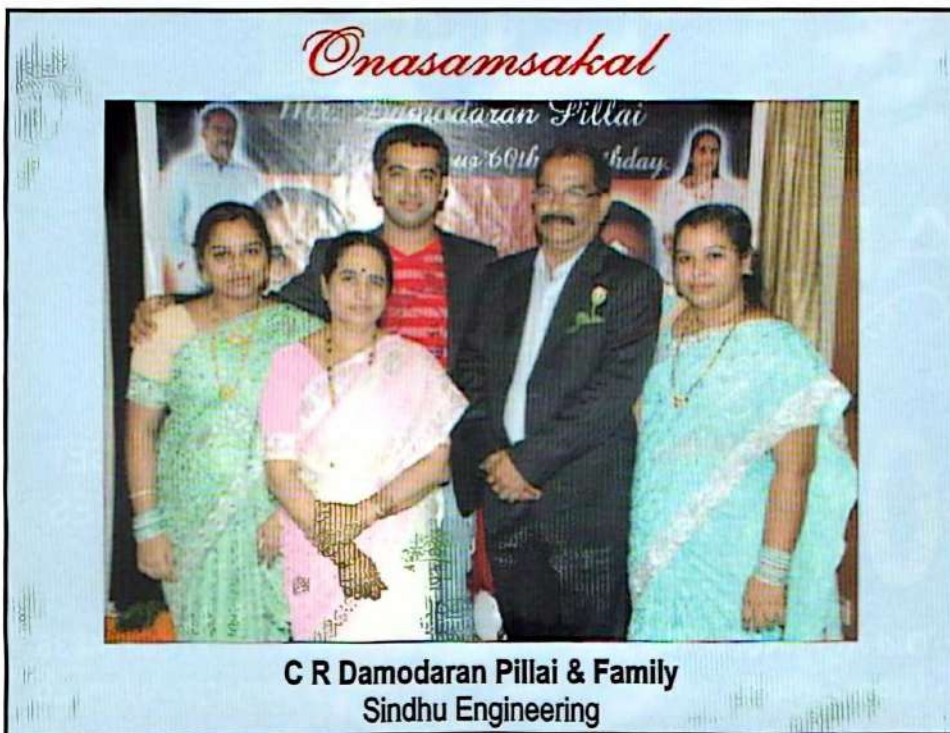
which related to her father or grandfather had one story relating to P1. Her grandfather who owned acres of land was very fond of P1. Ayyappan regularly supplied P1 to our family. Almost all of

his family members were engaged in making P1 and the skill and know-how were passed on from generation to generation. When her grandfather felt that Ayyappan's successors might not be as loyal or regular as was Ayyappan, he summoned Ayyappan to our house. To

Ayyappan's great surprise, he got a parcel of land on perpetual lease in consideration of perpetual supply of P1. His ploy to secure perpetual supply of P1 was of a piece with that often used by our rulers of yesteryears to secure the loyalty of their satraps by doling out parcels of land. Shanker Swami was another character in the lore of P1. Long and partially matted hair, flowing beard, forehead profusely smeared with ashes all provided a simulacrum of an archetypal sadhu. This appearance was deceptive. It

was rumoured that he was more "spiritual" in the evenings. As he moved from temple to temple, he never forgot to visit houses situated in the neighbourhood for a free lunch. Our house, situated opposite to the temple, was his port of call whenever he visited our village. Pappan, our servant, never forgot or failed to serve P1 as Shanku Swami's penchant for P1 was known to him. And Homer nods. Once, Shanku Swami's sumptuous lunch was marred by the absence of his favourite item P1. Pleas and promises by our grandmother failed to placate an angry Shankuswami. Fearing that Shankuswami would transform himself into a Durvasa ever willing to curse but never to bless, Pappan vanished into thin air, though nothing of the sort happened. Shanku Swami's anger found expression in a different manner. He never turned up for a long time. After years he visited our house again forgetting the unpleasant episode and forgiving Pappan's delinquency.

Another incident in a PSU which nearly shook the very foundation of peaceful industrial relation confirms the extent of P1's influence on Malayalees. A



C R Damodaran Pillai & Family  
Sindhu Engineering


tripartite agreement between the unions, the management and labour authorities included a provision for subsidized lunch at a nominal cost of 25 paise leaving the menu to be decided by a committee. P1 was regularly served and things went smoothly as far as subsidized lunch was concerned. But one day the diners found that their favourite pappadam was missing. The diners verbalized their protests as slogans and shibboleths filled the hall. True to their Marxian mind set, they condemned capitalism, capitalist management and the capitalist supplier among others. The slogan "Workers unite, you have nothing to lose" echoed and re-echoed in the corridors of the factory. Unite they did and their unity found expression in a flash strike. The P.O. had to use all his persuasive skills to make the leaders condescend to come to the negotiating table. Parleys, long and lingering, did not yield the expected result. The HRD Chief from Mumbai was flown in, when it dawned upon the management that the situation was getting out of control. Workers left for their homes, and the leaders disappeared into a five star hotel for further negotiation as the management thought of trying dinner diplomacy. And it did

culminate in an amicable settlement after the management agreed to serve king sized pappadams failing which, liquidated damages will be paid to the diners.

A recent incident that took place at a wedding is another milestone in the life of P1. Ceremonies over, the guests sprinted off to the dining hall, expecting a culinary treat, typical of Kerala. They were not wrong. When they took their seats, plantain leaves were spread and the staff of a well known caterer started serving items like pickles, chips and bananas in perfect pecking order. The guests were patiently waiting for their favourite P1, to appear little realizing that they were hoping against hope. The absence of crispy pappadams on that fateful day angered the guests no end who cried in unison - "where is our pappadam?" a la Shakespeare's Othello. Hosts pleaded that it was a mistake. But the guests insisted that it was not a mistake but mischief of the first order. Wordy duels followed when conciliatory efforts of apologetic hosts came a cropper. Tempers ran high and the battle lines were drawn. The conciliatory attitude of the hosts soon gave way to retaliating approach. Age and gender proved to be no bar for the feuding


crowd which started swelling in no time transforming the venue into a theatre of war which witnessed the strange phenomenon of friends becoming foes. Ladle-wielding ladies soon formed the phalanx while the children brought up the rear taking care of logistics by supplying arms and ammunitions. The foolish who climbed upon the tables to get a better view of the fracas, were soon dislodged from their vantage positions by flying bananas, while the wise who took shelter under the tables to escape from such missiles were no better as they lost their cover when the tables were removed to safety by the contractor. Some of the combatants who lost their shirts soldiered on while those who lost their dhotis to impish youngsters, ran for cover to escape from the shame of sartorial lack. Pandemonium prevailed till policemen arrived and peace restored. The videographer commissioned by the hosts knowing that discretion was the better part of his profession, elected to stay away from the scene, while, some onlookers, though observed strict neutrality, elected to capture the scene as faithfully as they could on their mobiles. So friends, the message of PI is loud and clear "Pappadam a day saves you from peril and purgatory". ■

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# PRIYOM AIMING HIGH IN THE FOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR

**P**riyom - a brand which has been a major player in Kerala's Food production and Distribution industry for the past 27 years is getting relaunched. PRIYoM was started in the year 1987 with own facility at Pallikkara near Kakkanad, Kochi. The brand was taken over by Abu Dhabi based KRC International as a part of their expansion plans in Kerala in 2014.

PRIYoM is in to a wide variety of categories like Rice flours, Masalas, Curry powders, Ready to cook products including Instant Payasam Mixes, Roasted Vermicelli, Macaroni, Soya chunks, etc. PRIYoM brand also handles the importing and marketing part of the recently launched JALBA Dates which has been well received in the market.

The production unit is at Pallikkara. Work is under way to augment Rice powder production in its Kodanadu facility. The entire packing of PRIYoM skus is under a makeover. With this Relaunch, PRIYoM will reach out to the consumers in an entirely new avatar.

PRIYoM is in the process of rolling out more & more Food products in the months to come. The intention is to become a leader in Kerala's and India's Food industry in the next two years time.

PRIYoM has unveiled a new product, 'Instant Pal Payasam Mix'. Palpayasam as we know is Kerala's very own sweet Delicacy. Pal payasam as a custom is prepared only in Kerala and its original preparation started in Kerala's temples. Very few households prepare it now due to lack of time and other reasons. Through this launch, PRIYoM is attempting to reach out this sku to the masses. It was launched well in time before this Onam.

The product was unveiled by P Muhammed Sameer, Executive Director KRC International by handing over the product to Ms. Anusree Nair, a reputed film actress at the function held at Marriot Hotel, Kochi. Sunil P Krishnan, Business Head, PRIYoM Condiments attended the function.

This sku will be available in 200 gm DC Pack with an MRP of Rs. 43 in Kerala and Rs. 49 outside Kerala.

PRIYoM has a wide network of Distributors in Central and South Kerala. Early next year, the brand will be targeting Malabar area as well. Currently the company has distributors in various



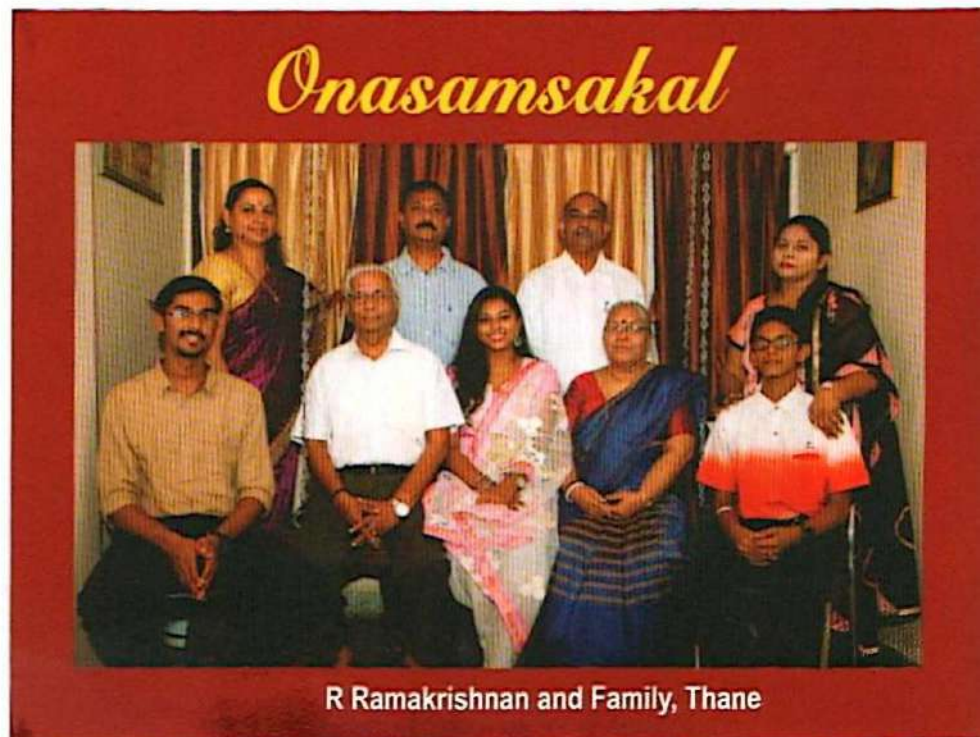
**Priyom Pal Payasm mix launch unveiled by P Muhammed Sameer, Executive Director KRC International by handing over the product to film actress Ms. Anusree Nair. Sunil P Krishnan, Business Head, PRIYoM Condiments attended the function.**

parts of TN, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Delhi. The company plans to focus on Export sales from next year onwards.

KRC International is headquartered at Abu Dhabi, and owns prominent FMCG brands like PRIYoM, KAULA, KOKOS and EDIMATE. The group is also engaged in Hospitality, Safety Products, Printing, Retail, Real estate and other sectors. The group plans to start several new ventures in India's food production

Industry. The group employs over 3000 people from 14 countries. The group owns spice and rice processing units in Kakkanad, Perumbavoor and Kothamangalam as well as Edible oil Facilities in Ankamaly and Kizhakkambalam.

(For More Information Media Contact: Minu Alias @9037092249, Accurate Media)



**R Ramakrishnan and Family, Thane**



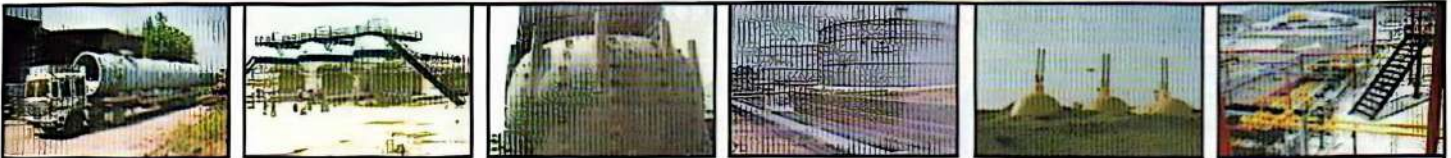
## POEM



Mandakini  
Nampoothiri

# Solitude

It is solitude, when there is no noise.  
It is solitude, when your attention is drawn away from noise.  
It can be solitude when people around you are calm.  
It makes your mind calm and peaceful.  
I don't feel lonely when I am alone, while I may feel lonely in a crowd.  
What food is to the body solitude is to the mind.  
It can also be solitude when your attention is diverted by divine thoughts.  
O! God, let me have divine thoughts and let me have solitude at times.



*Onasamsakal*

**V. VIJAYAN NAIR**

Managing Director

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# BUKAY'S WOES

The Sun is about to set  
The horizon painted red  
The breeze has slowed down  
The river aside parched up.

Through the gaps of the bars  
Can see a lot of commotion  
Interesting, they talk about me  
While I sit a little away silent.

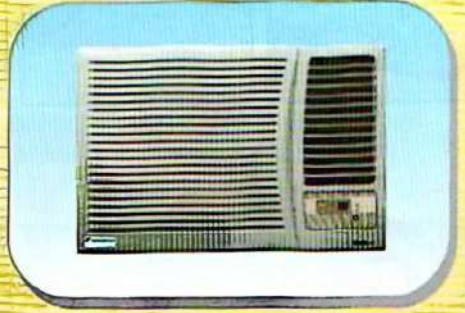
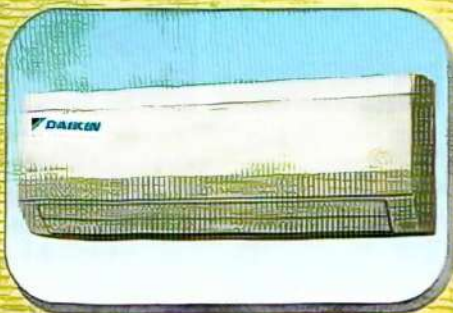
Some say I butchered hundreds  
Others say I'm innocent  
But none asked me for facts  
Nor I opened up for years.

Some say I deserve gallows  
Others say I need to be free  
I'm perpetuator of fanaticism  
They say, nay, its victim, the other.

Folks, the sun is about to rise  
Time to bid good bye!  
What one sows one reaps  
I'm no exemption, let me go!

-Rohini

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# Vivek Vidyalaya receives International School Award

■ Vivek Education Society's Vivek Vidyalaya and Junior College has won the prestigious ISA (International School Award), an initiative by the British Council on July 8.

The principal of Vivek Vidyalaya & Jr. College, Dr. Suresh Nair and the ISA Coordinator, Mrs. Sheeja Jayan Menon represented the institution at the award ceremony held at Hotel Kempinski Ambience, New Delhi. The two day event witnessed an array of activities basically in the form of workshops and conference. The panel of speakers included Y Sreekanth, Director, NCERT, Alisher Umarov, Chief of Education, UNESCO (South Asia), Mrs. Susan Douglas, Special Advisor to the Schools (British Council). Among others, Guest of honor for the conference was Nandkumar IAS, Education Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra. He highlighted the



Dr Suresh Nair (right) at the ISA Award function

importance of integrating the core skills into our existing curriculum.

The ISA provides global benchmarking standards for integrating global issues and international dimension in the school curriculum and accredits schools that achieve the standards. In India it was introduced in the year 2004. The award consists of a trophy, Citation, Certificate for the school head teacher, the ISA coordinator and teachers in charge of various projects.

The year 2014-2015 has been an eventful year for the Vivekians as they registered for the ISA. On getting the approval of action plans, they embarked on a long journey beginning from the month of June. This year witnessed a wide range of activities. (from the pre-primary to the secondary section). Mock parliament as an activity was conducted for the first time whereby the students enacted the role of parliamentarians. They thoroughly enjoyed the session and pleaded that such activities be conducted on a regular basis. For the first time, the students were able to relate local and regional issues to international events.

This year-long journey is not just the end but the beginning. Commenting on the award, the elated Principal Dr. Suresh Nair says "With the world becoming a global village, it has become imperative for us to become global citizens and getting our school accredited with ISA Certificate is one step in that direction".

## Study Materials Distribution

■ Nanma Charitable Foundation based in Kalyan distributed study materials to about 200 students of school and anganwadi in Dandhwalgaoon of Morchandi village of Mokada Taluk, 145 km away from Kalyan. They are also given nutritious meal everyday.

General Secretary Sunilraj, Saktidharan Nair, Mrudul

Prabhakaran, Shaji Alex, Manoj Pillai, Sudhir Nair, Santosh Balachandran, E U Unnikrishnan, Dattatray Hamare, Varun Nair and Srijesh Nair supervised the event. Soon they would issue furniture, uniforms, toys etc to the schools and hold free medical camps. About 500 families will benefit from these activities.



Nanma Secretary Sunilraj giving study materials to a school girl

# Medical and Eye Check Up



At the inaugural function of the Medical Check up Camp

■ World Confederation of Warriors (WCW), has recently entered into an arrangement with Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd (RCF), (A Government of India Undertaking) for conducting a series of Health Check-up and Eye Check-up Camps for school children, on account of RCF, which will be part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations, as per Government regulations.

The first such camp was inaugurated by R C Rajan, Chairman and Managing director of RCF on July 26

at Sree Narayana Guru High School, Chembur. Other distinguished persons who participated in the inaugural function included, two other Directors and senior officials of RCF, the Trustees of the school where the programme was conducted, the President and senior functionaries of WCW, the Principal and Staff of the school, and also Doctors, Opticians and Volunteers who participated as part of WCW's team, in the Camp.

As part of the Camp proceedings, students of higher secondary classes



Distribution of medicines

(Stds VIII to X) were first examined for vision deficiency and suitable spectacles were prescribed for those who were found to have vision problems by the opticians. WCW will arrange to get the spectacles made especially for the students and they will be distributed free to them, in a few days.

The health Check-up on the students carried out by a team of 13 Doctors and 2 dentists consisted of checking general health, system examinations and general hygiene including oral hygiene etc. For many students who could be given certain immediate medication, required medicines (excluding antibiotics) were also distributed free.

The pattern of conducting various medical examinations was appreciated by RCF senior staff who were observing the proceedings. Overall, 634 candidates were examined during the first camp on July 26.

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# Tatvamasi Literary Group

■ 'Tatvamasi' is a small literary group in facebook headed by T G Vijayakumar a well-known online writer and connoisseur of Malayalam writing. His collection of writings 'Mazha Peythu Thorumpol' had a Foreword written by Late Sukumar Azhikode . There are many well known members from Mumbai in his group including Suresh Varma, C P Krishna kumar, Devan Tharappil, Govindan Unni, Muralidharan Valiaveetil, Vikraman, Mini Mohanan, Sushila Desai, Girija Munnoorkode and G Viswanathan.



Members of Tatvamasi.

Apart from T G Vijayakumar from Kerala, Hari Vadassery from UAE and Sanjay Kumar from New Delhi, were in

Mumbai for a small get together along with Mumbai Members that was organized in Vile Parle on July 12.



President Adv Padma Divakar and other members of Bombay Keraleeya Samiti, Malad, organized a free distribution of school books to poor school children in the area.

## Readers Week

■ "Ambathonnaksharaalee", a programme introduced by Keraleeya Kendra Sanghatana, Mumbai as a part of the 'Readers week' is being conducted at their Dombivili/Thakurli region on August 9 at Model English School, Dombivili(E), Mumbai from 9.00 am onwards. Quiz and reading competition for the age group of 5 to 10 and 10 to 18, share the experience of reading for the age group 18 and above are being planned. For more details contact on +919819271046, +919820923503.

## Punaprathishta

■ Ayyappa Seva Samgham Bangur Nagar is performing Naveekarana Kalasam and Puna Prathishta Mahotsavam from August 28 to September 2 under the leadership of Mahesh Mohan Thantri who is the Sabarimala Thantri and grandson of Kantararu Maheshwararu as per a devaprashnam conducted on May 1 and 2, 2015. Along with the above pujas, Maha Ganapathy Homam, Parihara Homam, Sayyojya Homam will also be performed.

## Book Release

■ Flames from Battle Fronts, an English book authored by P R Krishnan, Secretary of Maharashtra Unit of CITU was released in a function held in Janshakti Hall, Worli. General Secretary of All India CITU Tapan Sen , Secretary of Maharashtra CPI(M) Narsaiah Adam and CITU General Secretary of Maharashtra state D L Cardin received the copies of the book.

*Onasamsakal*



From: SNMS YUVA Members

## IAS Coaching Orientation

■ Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti (SNMS) is starting coaching facility for the Civil Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year for selection of candidates for the prestigious civil services such as IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS and other central services.

It will be one year long coaching program covering all the three stages of the 2016-17 civil service examination of the UPSC (prelims, mains and interview) to guide the young aspirants who cannot afford a regular coaching center. The coaching will include lecture sessions with the help of reputed professionals in the field and service officers. Guidance and counseling sessions, mock tests and mock interviews will also be conducted on a regular basis to prepare the candidates well for the UPSC examinations.

An orientation session will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> August (10 AM onwards) in the SNMS educational complex at P L Lokhande Marg, Chembur. It will be interactive session to sensitize the civil service aspirants. Dr. Renu Raj, the national second rank winner of the recently announced IAS results, will brief the participants and clarify doubts or apprehensions. Senior officers of various services also will share their experience. The orientation session will be followed by an aptitude test (90 minutes duration) to select suitable candidates for the first batch of detailed coaching program starting from September 2015. Registration has already started. Eligibility: Minimum University degree and age group 21-32 years as on 31 August 2016. Age relaxation available for reserved candidates (OBC 35 years; SC/ ST- 37 years). The registration form can be downloaded from SNMS website: [www.snms.co.in](http://www.snms.co.in). For further details, email your query to: [sngcsacademy@gmail.com](mailto:sngcsacademy@gmail.com) or call: Landline: 25255337/ 25256104 - Mob: 9820179065.

## Onam celebration

■ Malayali Welfare Association of Ketkippada will celebrate Onam on September 13 in Dahisar Sports Foundation Hall, opposite to Vidyamandir School, Dahisar East. K S Nair will inaugurate the celebration and President Achuthan Nair will preside. PVK Nambiar, Ajoy S. Adv Padma Divakar, Rajan Nair and Rajendran Padiyoor will attend as chief guests and speakers.

■ Kannur Friends Cultural Associations (Khandeswar, Panvel) will conduct a Pookkalam Contest on August 23 in homes. The three participants coming on top will receive cash awards and trophies and all participants will have consolation prizes. Registration can be done by contacting on 9167212010 or 9324361277.

## ■ One day set aside for NRK

In the forthcoming Onam celebrations by the State Government, one day is set aside for pravasis. August 27 is specifically set aside for this purpose. Interested artistes can apply for participation through the office of zonal committee of the Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi. Classical music and instrumental music will be held at Kanakakkunnu Palace and Vailoppilli Auditorium will be the venue for classical dances and Kathakali. Interested organizations and individuals should apply with with the photos of participants. For details contact Shrikant Nair on 9833063751 or Priya Varghese on 98207 24613.

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## New Managing Committee

■ Annual General Body Meeting of New Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, Nerul, was held on 19<sup>th</sup> July at NBKS Complex, Sector-5, Nerul, Navi Mumbai. A new working committee has been elected to take care of the activities of the Samajam for the year 2015-2016.

K T NAIR (President), Varghese George, Manju Sonar (Vice Presidents), Prakash Kattakada (Gen.Secretary), Mukundan K.V., Anil Kumar T.K,

Letha Shibu (Jt. Secretaries) Mohanasundaran.S (Treasurer), N.Unnikrishnan (Jt.Treasurer) are the office bearers. The Committee Members: K.A.Kurup, Mathew Thomas, Haridas Nair, J.Joseph, K.G.Vijayan Nair, Unni Nair, A.Venugopalan, Jayaprakash P.D., S.Kumar, Ravindran Nair, P.K.Mohandas Alapad, Anil Prakash R.Nair, Adv.V.A.Mathew, Rateesh Babu, M.G.Devaraja Kurup, Shailesh

Kumar V.P., Ranjit R.K., Shabu Bhargavan, Santhosh T.A., Leelamma S. Kumar and Prasanna R. Pillai. Internal Auditors, Shri Abraham George & Shri Alexander M.T



**K.T.Nair**  
President,



**Prakash Kattakada**  
Gen.Secretary



**Mohanasundaran.S**  
Treasurer

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Gateway Lit Fest

The second edition of Gateway Litfest will be held on February 2 - 21, 2016 at NCPA Nariman Point. The Lit fest has been conceived to celebrate regional writings and promote vernacular writers as most of the literary events were dominated by Indo-Anglian literature. The first edition that was held a few months earlier was a thumping success with the participation of around 50 leading authors and film-makers from nine languages.

## Inauguration of Universal Centre

■ The inaugural function of the Universal Centre for Individual Integration of Warriar Foundation is scheduled to take place on on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August at Thirunavaya, Kerala. Many prominent people will be attending the function like Chowallur Krishnankutty, Padmashri Krishnakumar, Dr. Raman, M P Samdani, MLA, Dr. K. T. Jaleel, MLA, Rajesh Joshi, Dy. World Chairman of Giants International, Swami Sunil Das, Lalit Johanputra etc. according to the Chairman Emeritus A S Madhavan of Warriar Foundation.

## Karkitaka Vavu Bali

- Arrangements for karkitaka vavu bali by Borivali Nair Welfare Association are made at Rani Laxmibai Garden, Borivli(W), on August 14 from 6.00 am onwards. For details contact on +919821306822, +919892217668.
- Arrangements are being made for 'Pitru tarpanam' a ritual connected with karkitaka vavu on August 14 at Sakinaka Guru Sree Maheshwara Temple, Mumbai from 5.30am till 11.30am according to the secretary S.Devarajan. Ph: +919768980487, +912228509047.
- Bali Tarpanam will be performed from 5.30am onwards on August 14 at Kurar Guru Sharada Maheshwara Temple, Malad, under the guidance of Vishnu Narayanan Namboodiri. For details contact on +919819984818.

## Obituary



Smt Parukutty Amma (91) wife of late V Parameswaran Menon (Vakeel Veetil) passed away. She was a resident of Hindukush CHS in Dombvli West. A native of Chittur, Palakkad, she is survived by her sons Sudarshan and Giresan and daughters in law Vatsala and Manjula. Last rites took place in Dombivili.

## Onasamsakal



**Rajan Nair & Family, Mulund**

## USA FOMAA Award to Roy John Mathew



Roy John Mathew of Charms group receiving "Best Businessman Award" of FOMAA from Oommen Chandy, Chief Minister of Kerala. Monse Joseph MLA, Raju Abraham MLA and Adv. Varghese Mammen, Managing Committee Members of FOMAA can also be seen in the picture.

■ Federation of Malayalee Associations of America, (FOMAA) has announced the Business Excellence Award of this year to Roy John Mathew, Chairman of Elixir Group for his contribution to the business in Dubai,

Mumbai and Kerala along with the charitable work done by him. The Award consisting of a trophy along with a cash prize of Rs. 50, 001 was handed over to Roy John Mathew during the FOMAA Kerala Convention event held

on August 1st in Trivandrum, Kerala. In Mumbai felicitated Roy John Mathew during its Anniversary celebrations in February 2015.

## Malayalotsavam 2015

■ Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Sangham will be celebrating its fourth Malayalotsavam from 4pm onwards at Adarsha Vidyalaya Chembur on August 15. Dr E K Govindavarma Raja (Calicut University Folklore Department Head) will inaugurate the function. The inauguration will be followed by folk programmes of music and dance, and felicitation of successful students who had taken Malayalam language as their Second language in their SSC Board examination and their guardians as well, according to the Pracharana Sangham President Bindu Jayan, Secretary R D Harikumar and General Convenor Ramachandran Manjarambath.



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Prosperous *Onam*

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# M S Viswanathan Music maestro is no more

**M**anayankath Subramanian Viswanathan, known as MSV in the music circles died on July 14 at Chennai. He was 87. He was ailing for some time and was admitted to the hospital.

He strode into the film music world like colossus and had no competition during his days. He composed music for more than 1200 films made in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi.

Before rising in the Tamil films as a leading music composer in Tamil, Viswanathan scored music for a Malayalam film 'Jenovah' (1953) in which M G Ramachandran was the hero, his only Malayalam film. After establishing himself as the leading music director in South India, he re-entered Malayalam film industry in 1971 to score music for 'Lankadahanam' produced by K P Kottarakkara, the story writer for many a Tamil film such as Pasamalar, Paasam, Andavan Kattalai etc.

Viswanathan was born to Subramanian and Narayani Kutty in Elappully in Palakkad on June 24, 1928. When he was four, his father died and to eke out a living, he sold tea in local cinema hall. Unable to pull on, Narayani Kutty planned to commit suicide along with her son Viswanathan but the timely intervention of her father saved them. Soon they moved to Kannur where his grandfather was working as a jail warden. While studying in a nearby primary school, he used to listen to the music lessons



imparted by Neelakanta Bhagavathar in the neighbouring temple premises and he became Ekalavya to the latter. When he was caught red-handed, Bhagavathar made him to attend his classes and thus his formal education came to an end. Later his uncle took him to Tamilnadu and worked for music director Subbaiah Naidu to carry his harmonium. One day Naidu found him singing a particular song that he himself failed to compose to the satisfaction of the producer Somu of Jupiter Studios. This made him Naidu's music assistant without due credit.

When Jupiter moved to Madras, MSV moved along and became assistant to C R Subbaraman, then a leading music composer. Then he met Ramamoorthy, a violinist of Subbaraman. When Subbaraman fell ill during the making of

superhit bilingual 'Devadas' with A Nageswara Rao and Savithri, Viswanathan and Ramamoorthy composed its music. His composition of 'Ulage maayam vaazhve maayam' became a superhit and soon Viswanathan and Ramamoorthy became a music duo and scored music to several movies including Panam, Paagappirivina, Paavamannippu, Paasamalar, Paalum Pazhavum, Karnan, Puthiya Parhavai, Nenchil or alayam, Nencham Marhappathillai, Aalayamani, Kaathalikka neramillai, Enga veettu pillai etc. In 1965, the duo got separated and each went on his own way.

MSV scored music for more than 1200 films and sang for more than 500 songs besides singing more than 200 for other music directors. He scored music for 341 Malayalam films. Though Yesudas rendered much more songs of MSV than others, Jayachandran acknowledges that MSV's compositions helped him to rise to the top. Further it was MSV who brought Jayachandran to Tamil.

MSV married Janaki and the couple had four sons and three daughters. Wife Janaki died on May 14, 2012.

Though a Padma award eluded him, MSV cited Naushad's rating of him above himself was much more valuable than any award.

Raagalaya Academy for Music and Arts felicitated him and its award for 2014 for life time achievement was bestowed on him in February 2014. ■

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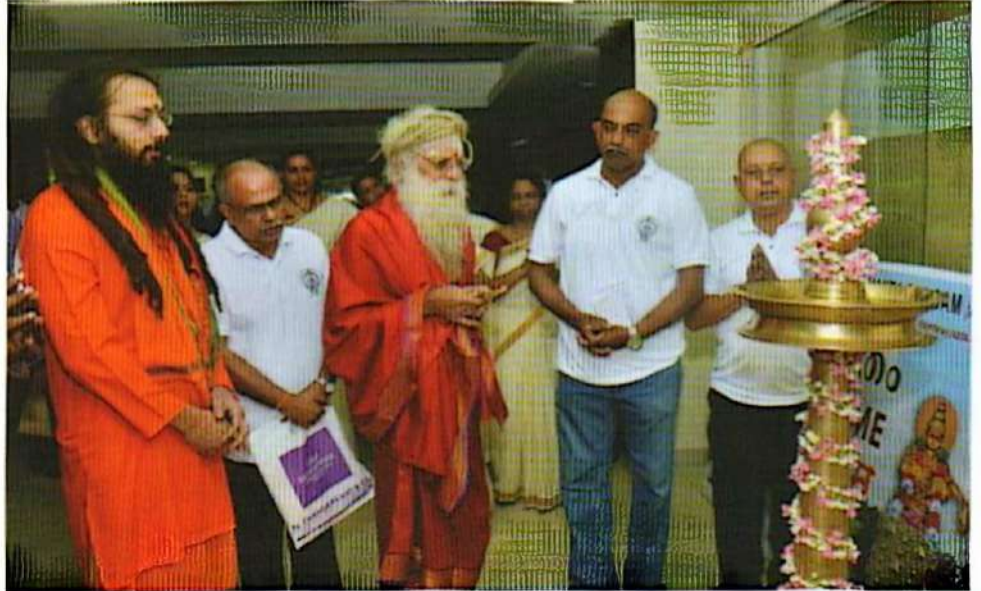
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# Malayalam Play Organised by HGABS

**H**ill Garden Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham (HGABS) Thane organized Mumbai Sarathy Theatres' Malayalam play 'Kururamma' on July 26 at Dr Kashinath Ghanekar Auditorium, Thane on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, to raise funds for its charitable activities and to conduct the 20th annual Mandala Puja celebrations on December 5, 2015.

Though 'Kururamma' is a historical and religious play, it has a tremendous social message to convey in today's world. It brings home the message that more than society's out dated dogmas, God advocates us to love one another and treat everyone equally. God resides where there is unflinching love to the unfortunate. Like the Krishna devotee Kururamma in whose house Lord Krishna lived and played as Unni, an orphan who was brought up by her as her own child and who treated her as his own mother. The play is very popular and has received a great deal of appreciation.

The play was performed to a packed auditorium and all the players did full justice to their roles, be it the gentle Kururama (Usha Nair) with absolute faith in her Lord Krishna or the villainous Mahadevan (Baiju Salvin)



Lighting of the lamp by Swami Krishnananda Saraswathi

with his uproarious laughter and loud words. Arundhati Thamburatti and Manga (Jyotsana Gokuldas) Vilvamangala Swami (Kumar Cochin) all the characters played their part with feeling. Shruti Suresh as the dependent of Ashramam, Vijayan Pullad as Mitran, Mabin as the Yachaka (Beggar), Rajan as Maheshwaran acted well. Nityanada Yogi and Hareendran by Santosh Kumar needs special mention as the 'bhrashtan'

and 'bhranthan'. Prasad Shornur as Lord Krishna (Kannan), was divinity personified. Over all the Sunday morning was well spent in watching this drama.

The music score by Mohan Sithara was pleasing to the ears and one of the main reasons for the success of the drama. The melodious waft of the flute evoked soothingly the devoted faith of the protagonist Kururamma. Similarly the bond between Unni and Kururamma balanced delicately the love between a mother and son and worship of a devotee to a God without reaching levels of over-acting.

Kururamma may be rated as a play that brings about a revival of the Mumbai Malayalam Stage. It is on par with several of the current Marathi or Gujarati plays that are being staged in Mumbai.

Swami Krishnananda Saraswathi of Shree Ramadasa Mission Universal Society Medical Mission (Ramagiri Ashram Badlapur) was the chief guest at the function. He gave a valuable speech on how to help others and lead a noble life. Produced by Mumbai Sarathy and directed by M K Devarajan, screenplay was by Dinesh Pallath, music by Mohan Sithara, and stage management by artiste Sujathan.

The event began with a recital of poet Sugathakumari's poem on saving plants and protecting our environment. The

*Onasamsakal*

Varghese John



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**Participants of the Eco poem on saving trees and plants**

song was rendered by Siddija Nair and Vishnu Vinod Nair and Karan Ranjiv Pillai on Key board and members of HGABS with all of them holding sapling in their hands. Siddija is a partially visually impaired girl who has passed the SSC examination this year with 81% while Vishnu Vinod is an NRI boy who has come to India during his school holidays.

The event began with the chief guest and office bearers of HGABS lighting the auspicious lamp. Sashikumar Nair Secretary of HGABS welcomed the audience. President K G Kutty addressed the gathering and explained about the purpose of the programme. All the sponsors were felicitated by the Chief guest. Social activist and Chairman of Railway Passengers Foun Shrikant Nair was felicitated for being appointed as Member of Divisional Users Consultative Committee under Indian Railways and for being



**A scene from the play 'Kururamma'**

nominated as the Chairman of Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi West Zone. Treasurer K Sivan anchored the programme.

HGABS has always been in the forefront in extending its helping hands to those affected during times of need and distress, natural disaster and calamities and giving educational aid and medical assistance to the poor and deserving students in and around Thane. It also gives free meals to bystanders of civil hospitals and meets the daily needs of inmates of old age homes, organizes medical camps, free eye check ups and cataract surgeries and is a platform for cultural activities apart from celebrating Ayyappa Puja during Mandala Masam. This is the first time they have organized a drama for fund raising purposes, according to the President K G Kutty, Secretary Sashikumar Nair and Treasurer K Sivan of HGABS. Sashikumar Nair proposed a vote of thanks. ■

## Wish You All A Happy Onam



**From: C N Kutty & Family, Marol**



# ഓണം ചിരി പിന്നെ ചില വേദനകൾ: രമേഷ് പിഷാരടി

ഓരോ മിനുട്ടിനും ഓരോ മണിക്കൂറിനും ഓരോ ദിവസത്തിനും വലിയ വിലയുള്ള മനുഷ്യനാണ് രമേഷ് പിഷാരടി. ടി വിയിലും കാണാം, സ്റ്റേജിലും കാണാം, സിനിമയിലും കാണാം. മിമിക്രി കലാകാരനാണ്, അഭിനേതാവാണ്, സർവ്വോപരി സുന്ദരനാണ്. ഇതൊക്കെ നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്ന കാര്യം. എന്നാൽ ഇതിനെല്ലാം അപ്പുറത്ത്, ദിവസവും ഒരു നേരമെങ്കിലും, സ്വന്തം കാര്യത്തിനൊന്നുമല്ലാതെ സ്വന്തം വേദനയെ ഓർത്തല്ലാതെ കരയുന്ന ഒരു രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഒരു കോമഡിയെങ്കിലും കണ്ട്, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കേട്ട്, അതുമല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഓർത്തെടുത്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു ദിവസം ഒരു നേരമെങ്കിലും നമ്മൾ ചിരിക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് നമ്മളെ ചിരിപ്പിച്ചു ചിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ആ കലാകാരൻ കരയുന്നത്. രമേഷുമായി സംസാരിക്കാനിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതല്ല സീരിയസ്സാക്കിക്കളയാം എന്ന് തീരുമാനിച്ചു ഉറപ്പിച്ചാണ് ഞാനിരുന്നത്. പക്ഷെ ഞാനറിയുന്നതിനും നമ്മളറിയുന്നതിനും അപ്പുറത്താണ് രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയുടെ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകൾ. സീരിയസ്സായി തുടങ്ങി പതിയെ പതിവു തമാശകളിലേക്ക് പടർന്നു കയറുന്നതാണ് രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയുടെ സംസാരശൈലി.

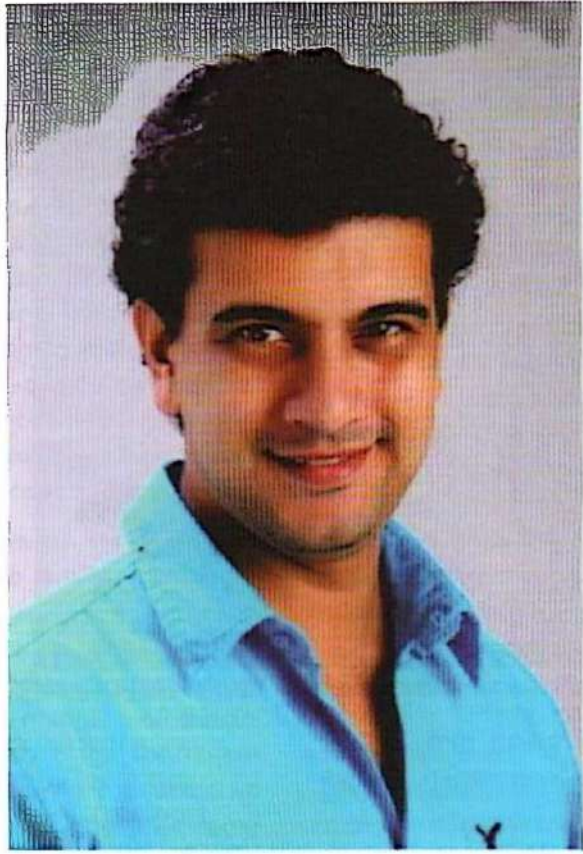
ചോദ്യം: രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയുടെ ധാരാളം അഭിമുഖങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ വായിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എല്ലാത്തിലും മുഴച്ചു നിൽക്കുന്നത്

തമാശകളും ചിരി പടർത്തുന്ന അബദ്ധങ്ങളുമാണ്. എല്ലാവരെയും ചിരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന രമേഷ് ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതലായി കരഞ്ഞതെപ്പോഴാണ്?

ഉത്തരം: ഒരു പത്രത്തിൽ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മാഗസിനിൽ ഒരു ഫലിതം വായിച്ചാൽ നമ്മൾ ചിരിക്കും, ചിരി പോലെ തന്നെ കരച്ചിലും ഒരു സാധാരണ മനുഷ്യന്റെ വികാരപ്രകടനമാണ്. എന്നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം ദിവസം ഒരു പ്രാവശ്യമെങ്കിലും ഞാൻ കരയും. അതിന് പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് വലിയ കാരണമൊന്നും വേണ്ട. ഒരു വാഹന അപകടവാർത്ത വായിച്ചാൽ, ടിവിയിലോ സിനിമയിലോ വികാരനിർഭരമായ ഒരു രംഗം കണ്ടാൽ ഞാൻ കരയും. ഈയടുത്ത് കേരളത്തിൽ ആദ്യമായി ഒരു ഹൃദയം മാറ്റിവെയ്ക്കൽ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ നടന്നുവല്ലോ. ആ വാർത്ത പത്രത്തിൽ വായിച്ച ഞാൻ കുറച്ചുനേരം കണ്ണുകളടച്ചിരുന്ന് കരയുകയായിരുന്നു. അതുപോലെ പല സംഭവങ്ങളും. ചിരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അതേ അളവിൽത്തന്നെ മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെ വേദന മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാനും എനിക്ക് കഴിയും. അപ്പോഴും കരയുന്നത് ഒരു ലോലഹൃദയനായതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രമല്ല അതിലുപരി അതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് ചിന്തിക്കുന്നു എന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. വേദനപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു സംഭവം വായിച്ചാൽ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കണ്ടാൽ ഞാൻ അതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് ചിന്തിക്കും. ആ ചിന്തയിൽനിന്നാണ് എന്റെ കണ്ണുകൾ

നിറയുന്നത്. വ്യക്തിപരമായി പറഞ്ഞാൽ പലരേയും പൊട്ടിച്ചിരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ ഞാൻ പലപ്പോഴും പൊട്ടിക്കരഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് എടുത്തു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എന്റെ പ്രിയസുഹൃത്ത് ലിന്റൂവിന്റെ മരണം. ആലുവാക്കാരനായ ലിന്റൂവും ഞാനും ഒരുമിച്ച് സ്ട്രേജ് പ്രോഗ്രാം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു സ്ട്രേജ് പ്രോഗ്രാം അവതരിപ്പിച്ച് പിരിയുമ്പോൾ - "ഒരു ചെറിയ പനിയുണ്ടോ. നാളെയൊന്ന് ഡോക്ടറെ കാണണം" എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ് പിരിഞ്ഞതാണ്. മൂന്നാം ദിവസം ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത് അവന്റെ മരണവാർത്തയാണ്. ഇതിനിടക്ക് ഒരു ദിവസം തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് ഒരു ഷോ കഴിഞ്ഞ് രാത്രി ഞാൻ ബസ്സിൽ എറണാകുളത്തേക്ക് വരികയായിരുന്നു. എറണാകുളം സ്റ്റാന്റിൽ ഇറങ്ങിയപ്പോഴാണ് എന്റെ പേഴ്സ് നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട കാര്യം ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. ബസ്സിലിരുന്ന് ഉറങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ താഴെവിണതാകാം എന്നു കരുതി, അടുത്ത സ്റ്റോപ്പ് ആലുവയായതുകൊണ്ട് തൊനവന്റെ വീട്ടിൽ വിളിച്ച് വിവരം പറഞ്ഞു. അവൻ ആലുവ സ്റ്റാന്റിൽ പോയി ബസ് അവിടെ എത്തുന്ന സമയത്ത് പരിശോധിക്കാമെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു. അന്ന് പത്തു മണിക്ക് അവൻ ഹോസ്പിറ്റലിൽ അഡ്മിറ്റ് ആകുന്നു. ഉടൻതന്നെ മരണവും സംഭവിച്ചു. ന്യൂമോണിയ ആയിരുന്നു. എന്തിനാണ് ദൈവം അപ്പോഴവനെ വിളിച്ചതെന്ന് എത്ര ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടും എനിക്ക് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. എപ്പോഴവനെ കുറിച്ച് ഓർത്താലും ഞാൻ കരയും. അത്രയും പാവമായിരുന്നു, നല്ലവനായിരുന്നു.

എനിക്ക് പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് വേഷമൊന്നും ഉണ്ടാവില്ല. ചിലപ്പോൾ ഒരു സ്ട്രേജ് ഷോ കാണാൻ ചെന്നിരുന്നതാവാം. എങ്കിലും അവിടെ പെട്ടെന്ന് അവരുടെ സിഡി ഒന്നു നിന്നുപോയാൽ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറ്റൊന്നെങ്കിലും സാങ്കേതികപ്രശ്നം ഉണ്ടായാൽ,



അതുമതി എനിക്ക് സമ്മർദ്ദമുണ്ടാവാൻ. അവരുടെ പ്രശ്നം എന്റേതും കൂടിയായി മാറും.

ചോദ്യം: എന്നാലൊരു ചിരിപ്പിച്ച സംഭവം കൂടിയായാലോ?

ഉത്തരം: അത് എടുത്ത് പറയാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടാകും. ചിരിപ്പിച്ച സംഭവങ്ങൾ എത്രയോ ഉണ്ട്. ഓർത്തോർത്ത് ചിരിക്കുന്നതും നിരവധിയാണ്. ഞങ്ങളിവിടെ തൃപ്പൂണിത്തുറയിൽ നല്ലൊരു സൗഹൃദകൂട്ടായ്മയുണ്ട്. എല്ലാവരും ഫലിതപ്രിയരാണ്. ഞങ്ങളിങ്ങിനെ ഒരുമിച്ചുകൂടുമ്പോൾ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ചർച്ചാവിഷയമാകുന്നത് സിനിമകളിൽനിന്നുള്ള കോമഡി സീനുകളാകും. അതും ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ശ്രീനിവാസന്റെ തിരക്കഥയിൽ പിറന്ന കോമഡി സീനുകൾ. അതിൽ പലതും ജീവിതവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടു

കിടക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാകും...

ചോദ്യം: 'കപ്പൽമുതലാളി' എന്ന സിനിമയിൽ നായകൻ, പിന്നീട് ഇമ്മാനുവൽ, സെല്ലുലോയ്ഡ് പോലുള്ള നല്ല സിനിമകളിൽ നല്ല കഥാപാത്രങ്ങൾ. എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണ് സിനിമയിൽ അത്ര സജീവമാകാത്തത്? സിനിമ രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയെ ഒഴിവാക്കുന്നതോ അതോ സിനിമയെ രമേഷ് പിഷാരടി ഒഴിവാക്കുന്നതോ?

ഉത്തരം: നല്ല സിനിമകൾ രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയെ ഒഴിവാക്കുന്നതും, മോശം സിനിമകൾ രമേഷ് പിഷാരടി ഒഴിവാക്കുന്നതുമാണ്. (ചിരിക്കുന്നു)

സിനിമയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുടത്തോളം എന്താ വിഷമമെന്നറിയാമോ? എനിക്കൊരു മിനിമം മുപ്പതു ദിവസമെങ്കിലും ഒരു സിനിമക്കായി മാറ്റി വെക്കേണ്ടിവരും. രമേഷ് പിഷാരടിയെ നായകനാക്കി ചെയ്യുന്ന

**JK Cement LTD.**

J.K. SUPER CEMENT | JK WALL PUTTY | JK WHITE CEMENT | JK WATER PROOF

J.K. Cement Ltd. : Aman Chambers, 5th Floor, 483 Veer Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025.

സിനിമയാകുമ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ ബിസിനസ് ആകിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് നോക്കണം. നിർമ്മിതാവിന് ആദ്യമേ വലിയ ഗ്യാരണ്ടിയൊന്നും ഉണ്ടാവില്ല. അപ്പോൾ ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയുന്നത് എന്റെ പ്രതിഫലത്തിൽ വിട്ടുവീഴ്ച ചെയ്യുക എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഞാൻ ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞ മുപ്പതു ദിവസം സിനിമയായി മാറ്റി വെക്കുകയും വേണം. ആവശ്യത്തിന് പ്രതിഫലം കിട്ടുകയുമില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കണ്ടിഷനിൽ എനിക്ക് വളരെ വിലപ്പെട്ടതാണ് ടി വി ഷോകൾ, സ്റ്റേജ് പ്രോഗ്രാമുകൾ തുടങ്ങിയവ. പിന്നെ നല്ല സിനിമകളിലെ ചെറിയ വേഷങ്ങളിലേക്ക് വിളി വരുമ്പോൾ ഞാനി പഠിക്കാൻ പോലെ പല പ്രോഗ്രാമുകളുമായിട്ട് തിരക്കിലാകും. അപ്പോൾ അതും കിട്ടില്ല. സ്റ്റേജ് പ്രോഗ്രാമുകൾ എന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻതന്നെ എനിക്കായി എഴുതി തയ്യാറാക്കുന്ന വേഷങ്ങളാണ്. സിനിമയിൽ, ഒരാൾ എഴുതി, മറ്റൊരാൾ സംവിധാനം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ അവർ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന കഥാപാത്രമാക്കി എന്നെ മാറ്റിയെടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുവരും. നല്ല കഥ.. നല്ല സംവിധായകൻ ഒക്കെ ഒത്തുവരികയാണെങ്കിൽ പെർഫോമ ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയുമെന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ എനിക്കു വിശ്വാസമുണ്ട്.

ചോദ്യം: ഇപ്പോൾ ഓണക്കാലമാണ്. കേരള ഇൻ മുവൈയുടെ ഓണപ്പതിപ്പാണ്. ഈ ഓണത്തിന് നമ്മുടെ വായനക്കാർക്കായി ഒരു ഓണച്ചിരി...?

ഉത്തരം: ഈ മാഗസിൻ മുൻപായിൽ മാത്രം പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും നാട്ടിൽ അധികം പ്രചാരം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും മാത്രം ഞാൻ പറയാം. വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് നടന്ന ഒരു സംഭവം. വെള്ളൂർ പേപ്പർകമ്പനിക്കടുത്താണ് അന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾ താമസിക്കുന്നത്. അവിടെത്തെ ഒരു ക്ലബ്ബ് സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച ഓണാഘോഷം. ആനയും മുത്തുകൂടയും പത്തു കിലോമീറ്ററോളം നീളുന്ന ഘോഷയാത്രയും. നല്ല ജനക്കൂട്ടം വരുന്ന പരിപാടിയാണ്. ആത് കാണാനായാണ് ഞാൻ അവിടെ എത്തിയത്. ക്ലബ്ബ് ഭാരവാഹികളിൽ ഒരാൾ ക്ലബ്ബിന്റെ ബാനറും പിടിച്ച് ആനപ്പുറത്തിരിക്കണം. കയറാൻ വന്ന ക്ലബ്ബ് ഭാരവാഹിയാകട്ടെ നന്നായി മദ്യപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടുതാനും. പാപ്പാൻ അയാളെ ആനപ്പുറത്ത് കയറ്റാൻ തയ്യാറായില്ല. അന്ന് ആ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ മുണ്ട് ഉടുത്ത് വന്നിരുന്ന ഒരേ ഒരാൾ ഞാൻ മാത്രമാണ്.

എന്നോട് അവർ ചോദിച്ചു, ആനപ്പുറത്ത് കയറാമോ? നാട്ടുകാരുടെ മുന്നിൽ ഷൈൻ ചെയ്യാൻ കിട്ടുന്ന അവസരം ആരെങ്കിലും കളയുമോ? രണ്ടുവട്ടം തയ്യാർ, എന്റെ മറുപടി. മറ്റൊന്നും ആലോചിച്ചില്ല. ചാടിപ്പിടിച്ചു കയറി. നാല് പരിനഞ്ചിന് ആനപ്പുറത്തു കയറുന്നു. നാല് നാലുത്തഞ്ചിന് ഘോഷയാത്ര തുടങ്ങും. നാല് മുപ്പത് ആയപ്പോഴേക്കും എനിക്കൊരു മുത്രശങ്ക. എന്നുചെയ്യും? അപ്പോഴേക്കും അത്യാവശ്യം നാട്ടുകാരൊക്കെ കുടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. ആനപ്പുറത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ആളെ എല്ലാവരും കാണുമല്ലോ. സഹിച്ചിരിക്കേണ്ടതല്ല. അല്ലാതെത്തു ചെയ്യാനാണ്? അന്നത്തെ ആ പത്തു കിലോമീറ്റർ നടത്തം എനിക്ക് പത്തു ദിവസത്തെ നടത്തമായി തോന്നിത്തുടങ്ങി. ശങ്ക കുടിക്കൂടി

വരുന്നു. എന്തു ചെയ്യും? സഹനത്തിന്റെ വേലിക്കെട്ടുകൾ തകർന്നു തുടങ്ങുന്നു. ഭാഗ്യത്തിന് കുറച്ചുദൂരം ആന നടന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ആനപ്പുറത്തിരിക്കുന്ന എനിക്ക് കുടിക്കാനൊരു സോഡ കിട്ടി. എന്റെ മനസ്സിൽ എട്ടു പത്തു ലഡ്ഡു പൊട്ടി. സോഡ കുടിക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം അതു മെല്ലെ ആനയുടെ പുറത്തേക്കു കമിഴ്ത്തി. ഒപ്പം അവിടിരുന്നുതന്നെ മുത്രവും ഒഴിച്ചു. ആരെങ്കിലും ചോദിച്ചാൽ പറയാലോ സോഡ കമിഴ്ന്നുകളഞ്ഞതാണെന്ന്. ഭാഗ്യത്തിന് അത് വേണ്ടിവന്നില്ല. കാരണം ആനപ്പുറത്ത് ചാക്കുകൾ നാലഞ്ചുമടക്കുകളായി ഇട്ടിരുന്നു. അത് കടന്ന് സംഭവം താഴോട്ടു പോയില്ല. അങ്ങനെ ലോകത്ത് ആദ്യമായും അവസാനമായും ആനപ്പുറത്ത് മുത്രമൊഴിച്ച ഏക വ്യക്തി ഈ ഞാനായിരിക്കും. ഇത് ഞാൻ ഇതുവരെയും ആരോടും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല, കേട്ടോ...

ചോദ്യം: ഈ വർഷത്തെ ഓണം? ഉത്തരം: കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുമൂന്നു വർഷമായി ഞാൻ കുടുംബത്തോടൊപ്പം ഓണം ആഘോഷിക്കാറുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ അതിനു മുമ്പ് ഒരു പത്തു വർഷത്തോളം എനിക്കോണമേ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു. എല്ലാവരും പ്രോഗ്രാമുകൾ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതേ കലണ്ടറിലെ ചുവന്ന അക്ഷരം നോക്കിട്ടാണ്. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ എല്ലാ ഓണത്തിനും എവിടെയെങ്കിലും പ്രോഗ്രാമുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകും. ഓണത്തിന് പൂവും സദ്യയും ഊഞ്ഞാലുമൊക്കെ അവശ്യം വേണ്ടതുതന്നെയാണ് എന്നെപ്പോലെയുള്ള കലാകാരന്മാരും. നാട്ടുകാർക്ക് ഓണം നന്നായി ആഘോഷിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ അവർക്ക് എന്നെപ്പോലെയുള്ള കലാകാരന്മാർ വേണം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി എന്റെ ആഘോഷങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ വേണ്ടെന്നു വെച്ചു. പക്ഷെ ഇപ്പോൾ അങ്ങനെയല്ല. തിരുവോണത്തിന് കഴിവതും ഞാൻ പ്രോഗ്രാം എടുക്കാറില്ല. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ എറണാകുളത്തോ പരിസരപ്രദേശത്തേവിടെയെങ്കിലും. അതും ഉച്ച കഴിഞ്ഞ്. ഓണം മാത്രമല്ല, നവവർഷവും അങ്ങനെയല്ല. പന്ത്രണ്ട് മണിക്ക് എല്ലാവരും ആഘോഷിക്കുമ്പോഴും ഞങ്ങൾ സ്റ്റേജിലായിരിക്കും. അത് കഴിഞ്ഞ് പിന്നെന്ത് ആഘോഷം? ഒരിക്കൽ കോഴിക്കോട് ഒരു ഓണപ്രോഗ്രാം. തിരുവോണം ആയതുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു

*Onasamsakal*

**Prof. Shibu Nair**

**CARMEL CLASSES**

**Vasai (W)**

ഹോട്ടലും തുറന്നിട്ടില്ല. അവസാനം തൃശൂർ റെയിൽവെ സ്റ്റേഷനിലെത്തി അവിടത്തെ കാന്റീനിൽ നിന്നാണ് ആഹാരം കഴിച്ചത്. ഈ വർഷം ആഗസ്റ്റ് മുപ്പത്തിനൊന്നിന് അമേരിക്കയിൽ ഷോവിന് പോകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇയറാം, നാദിർഷാ, പ്രിയ മണി, അങ്ങനെ ഒരു താരനിര. ഇവിടെ അതിനുമുമ്പേ ഓണം കഴിയും. അമേരിക്കയിൽ പക്ഷെ ഞങ്ങൾ ചെല്ലുമ്പോഴായിരിക്കും ഓണാഘോഷം. അതുകഴിഞ്ഞ് ഒക്ടോബറിൽ ഓസ് ട്രേലിയ, അവിടേയും ഈ പറഞ്ഞപോലെ ഞങ്ങൾ ചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ ഒരു ഓണാഘോഷം ഉണ്ടാകും. അപ്പോൾ വർഷത്തിൽ പലവട്ടം ഞാൻ ഓണം ആഘോഷിക്കാറുണ്ടെന്ന് ചുരുക്കം.



Raagalaya President Vijaykumar with Ramesh Pisharody

ചോദ്യം: സ്റ്റേജിൽ നന്നായി പെർഫോമ ചെയ്ത് ആൾക്കാരെയൊക്കെ ചിരിപ്പിച്ചശേഷം പുറത്തേക്കിറങ്ങുമ്പോൾ ആരെങ്കിലും വന്ന് 'ഇതൊന്നു നിർത്തിക്കൂടെ ഇനിയെങ്കിലും?' എന്ന് ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?  
 ഉത്തരം: പലതവണ പലരും ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവർ പക്ഷെ എന്റെ ഒരുവിധപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാ പ്രോഗ്രാമും കാണുന്നവരാകും. നമ്മൾ ആദ്യമായി ഒരു സ്ക്രിപ്റ്റ് എഴുതി സ്റ്റേജിൽ നല്ല ചിരി കിട്ടിയാൽ സ്വാഭാവികമായും അടുത്ത സ്റ്റേജിലും അവതരിപ്പിക്കും. പക്ഷെ അപ്പോഴേക്കും ഈ സംഭവം ചാനൽ, കേബിൾ, യു ട്യൂബ്, ഫേസ്ബുക്ക് വഴിയൊക്കെ കണ്ടുകഴിയുകയും ചെയ്യും. അങ്ങനെ കാണുന്നവർ പിന്നീട് സ്റ്റേജിൽ കാണുമ്പോൾ 'ഇതൊക്കെ പഴയ സംഭവമല്ലേ!' എന്നു പറയും. നമുക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ഓരോ സ്റ്റേജിലും ഓരോ പുതിയ സംഭവം അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ കഴിയില്ലല്ലോ. കഴിയും, ഒന്ന്.. അതിനുള്ള സാമ്പത്തികം ലഭിക്കണം. പിന്നെ സമയവും. സ്റ്റേജിൽ പെർഫോമ ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഷൂട്ട് ചെയ്ത് കേബിൾ ടിവിയിൽ കൊടുക്കരുതെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഒന്നുകിൽ അടി കിട്ടും അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പറയും അവൻ അഹങ്കാരിയായിപ്പോയെന്ന്.

ചോദ്യം: രമേഷ് പിഷാരദിയുടെ പെർഫോമൻസ് കണ്ട് ഉള്ളു തുറന്ന് അഭിനന്ദിച്ച സെലിബ്രിറ്റികൾ?  
 ഉത്തരം: ഒരുപാട് ഉണ്ട്. മമ്മൂക്ക (മമ്മൂട്ടി) പലപ്പോഴും നേരിട്ട് കാണുമ്പോഴും അല്ലാത്തപ്പോഴും പറയാറുണ്ട്, 'കൊള്ളാം, നീ നന്നായി പെർഫോമ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട് കേട്ടോ.' പിന്നെ ലാലേട്ടൻ. എങ്കിലും ആദ്യമായി എന്റെ ഫോൺനമ്പർ തപ്പി പിടിച്ചെടുത്ത് അഭിനന്ദിച്ചയാൾ ഷമ്മി തിലകനാണ്. എന്നിക്ക് ആദ്യമായി കിട്ടിയ ഒരു സെലിബ്രിറ്റി അഭിനന്ദനം എന്നതിനെ പറയാം.

ചോദ്യം: ആദ്യം സ്റ്റേജിൽ കയറിയത്? ആദ്യ പെർഫോമൻസ്

ഓർക്കാനാകുമോ?  
 ഉത്തരം: പിന്നെന്താ? രണ്ടാംക്ലാസ്സുവരെ ഞാനൊരു സെൻട്രൽ സ്കൂളിലാണ് പഠിച്ചത്. അവിടത്തെ വാർഷികത്തിന് ആദ്യം ഗ്രൂപ്പ് ഡാൻസിന് എന്നെ പിടിച്ച് നിർത്തും. അപ്പോഴേക്കും ഞാൻ പറയും, മറ്റു കുട്ടികൾക്കൊന്നും കളിക്കാനറിയില്ലെന്ന്. പിന്നെ ഗ്രൂപ്പ് സോങ്ങിന് ചേരും. എന്നിട്ട് പറയും, മറ്റു കുട്ടികൾക്ക് എന്റെയൊപ്പം പാടാനുള്ള കഴിവില്ലെന്ന്. ഒരിക്കൽ... അന്നാണ് ഞാൻ എന്റെ കഴിവ്, അല്ല, എന്റെ ഫീൽഡ് തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞത്. മുയലായും പുച്ചായും കളിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഡാൻസ്. അതിനിടക്ക് ഒരു നായ കുരക്കുന്ന ശബ്ദം വേണം. മൈക്കും തന്ന് എന്നെ സ്റ്റേജിന്റെ പിന്നിൽ പിടിച്ചു നിർത്തി. കുരക്കേണ്ട സമയമായപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ അത്യാവശ്യം നന്നായി കുരച്ചു. ആകെയൊന്നു കിടക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ. പ്രോഗ്രാം കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾതന്നെ എല്ലാവരും അനേക്ഷിക്കാൻ

**Wish You All A Happy Onam**

**From: Sasidharan Nair and Family**

തുടങ്ങി, ആരാ കുറച്ചത്? ഞാനെന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ എല്ലാവർക്കും അത്ഭുതം.. നല്ല അഭിനന്ദനവും കിട്ടി. അന്നു മുതൽ ഞാൻ മിമിക്രിയിലോട്ട് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങി. അന്നൊന്നും ഈ മിമിക്രി അത്ര ജനകീയമായിരുന്നില്ല. ഒരു മത്സരവിഷയംപോലുമല്ലായിരുന്നു. പിന്നീട് ഞാൻ മലയാളം മീഡിയത്തിലേക്ക് മാറി. അവിടെ സ്കൂൾ കലോത്സവത്തിന് മിമിക്രി ഒരു മത്സരവിഷയമാണ്. അതിന് ആദ്യം ഞാൻ മത്സരിക്കാൻ പേരു കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ മത്സരിക്കാൻ മറ്റാരും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് സമ്മാനം എനിക്കുതന്നെ കിട്ടി. അടുത്ത വർഷം എന്നോട് മത്സരിക്കാൻ ഒരാളുണ്ടായി. എന്നിട്ടും എനിക്കുതന്നെ ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം. അതിന്റെ അടുത്ത വർഷം ആളു കൂടി. എന്നിട്ടും എനിക്കുതന്നെ ഒന്നാംസമ്മാനം... അതങ്ങനെ ഡിഗ്രിക്ലാസ്സവരെ തുടർന്നു.

ചോദ്യം: ഒരുപാട് വിദേശരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പരിപാടികൾ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. എന്തെങ്കിലും വിശേഷപ്പെട്ട ഗിഫ്റ്റ്? ഉത്തരം: ഒരാളെ ആദ്യം പരിചയപ്പെടുമ്പോൾതന്നെ അയാൾ എന്തു ഗിഫ്റ്റ് തന്നാലും ഞാൻ സ്വീകരിക്കില്ല. പരിചയം നല്ല സൗഹൃദമായാൽ മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ ഗിഫ്റ്റുകൾ സ്വീകരിക്കാറുള്ളൂ. ശരിക്കും പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഗിഫ്റ്റ് വാങ്ങുന്നത് ഒരു ബാധ്യതയാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. പിന്നെ ഗിഫ്റ്റ് തരുന്ന ആൾക്ക് അതിനുള്ള ആസ്തി ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ സ്വീകരിക്കാറുണ്ട്. നല്ല തിളക്കമുള്ള മിനുങ്ങുന്ന പുതപ്പ് എനിക്കിഷ്ടമാണ്. ദുബായിലുള്ള രാജ എന്ന പേരുള്ളയാൾ അതെനിക്ക് സമ്മാനിച്ചു. ഒരിക്കൽ ആഫ്രിക്കയിൽ പോയപ്പോൾ ഒട്ടകപക്ഷിയുടെ മുട്ട എനിക്ക് സമ്മാനമായി കിട്ടി. അതിപ്പോഴും എന്റെ കൈവശമുണ്ട്. ദുബായിൽനിന്നുള്ള അഷറഫ് എന്ന സുഹൃത്ത്, ഒരു ഗിഫ്റ്റ് തന്നാൽ വാങ്ങുമോ എന്നു ചോദിച്ചു. ഞാൻ NO പറയാൻ പോയില്ല. വല്ല ചോക്ലേറ്റ് ആയിരിക്കുമെന്ന് കരുതി. ഗിഫ്റ്റ് കണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഞെട്ടി. iPhone 6. എനിക്കു മാത്രമല്ല,

എന്നോടൊപ്പം വന്ന എല്ലാവർക്കും കിട്ടി. ഞാൻ ചോദി. ഇത് എത്ര ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ സാധനമാണ്? അപ്പോൾ അയാളുടെ മറുപടി, 'ഇതൊക്കെ തരാനുള്ള ശേഷി എനിക്കുണ്ട്.'

ചോദ്യം: മുംബൈയെക്കുറിച്ച്.. അവിടത്തെ മലയാളികളെ കുറിച്ച്... ഉത്തരം: പലതവണ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഷൺമുഖാനന്ദ ഹാൾ ഉൾപ്പെടെ പല സ്റ്റേജിലും ഞാൻ പരിപാടി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്റെ സഹോദരി നിർമ്മല അവിടെ മീരാറോഡിലാണ് താമസം. അവളെ കാണാനാണ് ഞാനാദ്യമായി ബോംബെയ്ക്ക് വരുന്നത്, അതും ഒറ്റയ്ക്ക് അന്ന് കൊങ്കൺ റെയിൽവെ തുടങ്ങിയ സമയം. അതിന്റെ വർണ്ണനകൾ പത്രത്തിൽ വായിച്ച് വലിയ ആവേശത്തോടെ കൊങ്കൺ വഴിയുള്ള മുംബൈ ട്രെയിനിൽ കയറി. നല്ല മഴക്കാലമായിരുന്നു. വഴിയിൽ മണ്ണിടിഞ്ഞു. ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് മുമ്പെ പോയ ട്രെയിൻ അതിൽ പെട്ടു. ഞാൻ യാത്ര ചെയ്തിരുന്ന ട്രെയിനിന്റെ എഞ്ചിൻ അപകടത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ട്രെയിൻ മാറ്റാനായി കൊണ്ടുപോയി. നോക്കെത്താദുരന്തോളം വിജനമായ ഒരിടത്തായിരുന്നു ഞങ്ങളുടെ ട്രെയിൻ കിടന്നിരുന്നത്. വെള്ളമില്ല, വെളിച്ചമില്ല, ഭക്ഷണമില്ല, കൂടാതെ നല്ല മഴയും. മറ്റു യാത്രക്കാർ ആദ്യമായി മഴകാണുന്നതുപോലെ പുറത്തിറങ്ങി മഴയത്ത് കുളിയും നനയും ആയിരുന്നു. പത്തു മണിക്കൂറോളം അങ്ങനെ അവിടെ കിടന്നു. അങ്ങനെ എന്റെ ആദ്യ ബോംബെയത്ര ദുർഘടം പിടിച്ചതായി. പക്ഷെ പിന്നീട് എത്രയോ തവണ ആ തിരക്കേറിയ നഗരത്തിൽ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. എനിക്ക് ഇഷ്ടമാണ് ആ നഗരവും അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളും. എല്ലാവരും ഒത്തൊരുമയോടെ, സ്നേഹത്തോടെ ഈ ഓണം ആഘോഷിക്കണം.. എല്ലാവർക്കും എന്റെയും എന്റെ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളുടേയും ഓണാശംസകൾ! ■



## ഓണസന്ദേശം

“എത്രനാളായ് മരുന്നാട്ടിലിങ്ങനെ ചത്തുജീവിച്ചലയുന്നു ചേതന മുറ്റിനിന്നുവിരിഞ്ഞു വിദൂരമാ, പ്പെറ്റനാട്ടിൻ പവിത്രസ്ഥരണകൾ അന്തരാത്മാവുവെമ്പുന്നു പാൽക്കണം ചിന്നുമോണനിലാവിലലിയുവാൻ, വെമ്പുകയാണു കണ്ണുകൾ പൊന്നോണ- പ്പുംപുലിരി വിളക്കൊളി കാണുവാൻ”

പഴയ ഒർമ്മകളുമായി  
വി. ബാലചന്ദ്രൻ

# എന്റെ ഓണസ്മരണകൾ



കലാശ്രീ

പരമേശ്വരൻ നമ്പീശൻ

**എ**ന്റെ കുട്ടിക്കാലത്തെ ഓണം ഇപ്പോഴും മനസ്സിൽനിന്ന് മായാനില്ല. അത്രക്കും രസകരമായിരുന്നു അന്നത്തെ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ. ഓണക്കാലം തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ കോടിമുണ്ട് വാങ്ങാനായി തുണിക്കടയിലേക്ക് അച്ഛൻ കുട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകും. ഒരു കലാകുടുംബത്തിൽ ജനിച്ച എന്റെ കലയിലുള്ള താല്പര്യം ആശാരിമാർ വന്ന് അച്ഛനോടു ചോദിക്കും. ഉണ്ണിക്ക് വില്ല് ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ട എന്ന്. തൊട്ടടുത്തുള്ള എന്റെ സുഹൃത്തുക്കളും ഞാനും മറ്റും ചേർന്ന് വില്ല് കൊട്ടുക ഒരു രസമായിരുന്നു. വില്ല് ഉണ്ടാക്കാനായി അച്ഛൻ കവുങ്ങിന്റെ പാത്തിയും ഞാൻ ഉണ്ടാക്കാനായി മുളക്കണ്ണുവും കൊടുക്കുമായിരുന്നു. സ്കൂളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന കാലത്ത് വില്ലിന്മേൽ തായമ്പക അവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുക പതിവായിരുന്നു, ഒരു വിനോദവും. പിന്നെ ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് വിഭവസമൃദ്ധമായ സദ്യ കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ എല്ലാവരും ക്ഷേത്രത്തിന്റെ പടിഞ്ഞാറെ നടയിൽ ഒത്തുചേരും. തുടങ്ങുകയായി പന്തുകളി, പന്തുകൊണ്ട് ഏറുകളി, ചോട്ടയും മണിയും അങ്ങനെ പല കായികവിനോദങ്ങളും. കൂടാതെ അത്തം നാൾ വന്നാൽ കുട്ടുകാരൊന്നിച്ച് പാടത്തും മറ്റുമായി മുക്കുറ്റിപ്പുവ്, തുമ്പപ്പുവ്, ചെമ്പരത്തിപ്പുവ്, കുങ്കുമപ്പുവ് എന്നിങ്ങനെ പലയിനം പൂക്കൾ ശേഖരിച്ചു വരുമ്പോഴേക്കും വീട്ടിലെ പണിക്കാരി മുറുത്ത് ചാണകം മെഴുകി വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടാവും. അന്ന് ഞാനും സഹോദരിയുംകൂടി പൂക്കളും ഒരുക്കും. തലേദിവസം ചുകന്ന മണ്ണിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിവെച്ച തൃക്കാരുപ്പന്തേയും അതിനുമുമ്പിൽ വെക്കും. പിന്നെ തുടങ്ങുകയായി വില്ലുകൊട്ടൽ. ഇന്ന് അതൊന്നും കേൾക്കുന്നില്ലല്ലോ എന്നോർത്ത് വിഷമം തോന്നാറുണ്ട്. തിരുവോണത്തിന് പത്തു ദിവസം മുമ്പുതന്നെ അമ്മ നേത്രക്കായ വട്ടത്തിലും നാലാക്കിയും മുരിച്ചു വരുത്ത് ഒരു കറുത്ത വലിയ കുടത്തിൽ ഇട്ടു വെക്കും. കൂടാതെ മുത്ത നേത്രക്കുല പഴുപ്പിക്കാനായി പുകയ്ക്കു വെക്കും. (ഇന്ന് അതിന്റെ ആവശ്യം ഇല്ല. കാരണം പഴുത്ത കുല തന്നെ

വാങ്ങാം). ഈ സമയത്ത് അമ്മയുടെ കണ്ണ് വെട്ടിച്ച് പലപ്പോഴും ഞാൻ ഉപ്പേരി കട്ടെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടുതാനും. അത്തംമുതൽ “കാണം വിറ്റും ഓണം ഉണ്ണണം” എന്ന വാക്യത്തോടെ താഴ്ന്ന ജാതിക്കാർ ഓരോ വീടുകളിലും കാണിക്കയായി കുട്ടിസഞ്ചി, കൂട, നേത്രക്കുല, കൊട്ട തുടങ്ങിയ സാധനങ്ങൾ കാഴ്ച വെക്കും. അതിന് അവർക്ക് പ്രതിഫലവും കിട്ടുന്നു. ഈ പത്തുദിവസവും കാലത്ത് നേരത്തെ എഴുന്നേറ്റ് കൂളി കഴിഞ്ഞ് അമ്പലത്തിൽ പോയി തൊഴുതു വന്നാൽ അടുക്കളയിൽനിന്നുള്ള ആ മണം, പപ്പടത്തിന്റെയും പഴന്തൂറുക്കിന്റെയും, ഹാ എന്തൊരു രുചി! നാട് വിട്ടതിൽപ്പിന്നെ എല്ലാ ഓണക്കാലത്തും ബോംബെയിൽനിന്ന് നാട്ടിൽ ലീവിൽ എത്തുമായിരുന്നു. “മാവേലി നാട് വാണിടും കാലം മാനുഷരെല്ലാരുമൊന്നുപോലെ” എന്ന വരികൾ എത്ര അർത്ഥവത്തായിരുന്നു എന്ന് ഓർത്ത് പോകാറുണ്ട്. പഴമക്കാർ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഇന്നത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ ആ പഴയകാല ഓണം അയവിറക്കാൻ മാത്രമെ കഴിയുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഒരു പാടു കാര്യങ്ങൾ എഴുതാനായി മനസ്സിൽ തിങ്ങി നിറഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുകയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയോ? തൃക്കാരുപ്പൻ, വില്ല്, പന്തുകളി, പൂക്കളും എന്തിനു പറയുന്നു സദ്യ! എല്ലാം ഇല്ലാതായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. സദ്യക്കുള്ള എല്ലാ വിഭവങ്ങളും ഓണ കാലത്ത് പ്രത്യേക സജ്ജീകരണത്തോടെ കേരളത്തിലെ കടകളിൽ ലഭ്യമാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പുതിയ സമൂഹത്തിന് എന്തു ഓണം? എന്റെ 45 വർഷത്തെ പ്രവാസിജീവിതത്തിൽ ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ അതിശയോക്തിയില്ലതാനും. പഴയ പാരമ്പര്യത്തെ മുഴുവനായും നില നിർത്താത്ത ഈ പുതിയ കാലഘട്ടം കുറച്ചുകൂടി പിന്നോട്ട് തിരിഞ്ഞുനോക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ■

**Wish You All A Happy Onam**

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ഓണവരവേൽപ്പിന്റെ ആഹ്ലാദത്തിമിർപ്പിൽ രഞ്ജനീ നമ്പീശന്റെയും സിദ്ധാർത്ഥിന്റെയും മകളും കലാശ്രീ ലളിത കലാലയം നമ്പീശന്റെയും പേരക്കുട്ടിയുമായ ബേബി പരിണി

# സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ അന്ത്യം

-രാമചന്ദ്രൻ

റാവിലെ ഷേവ് ചെയ്തശേഷം മീശയുടെ രോമങ്ങൾ കടുകുകൊണ്ട് വെട്ടി അവയുടെ നീളം ശരിയാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ് ഭാര്യ ലിവിങ്റുമിൽ ആരോടോ ഹോണിൽ സംസാരിച്ചശേഷം ഉൽക്കണ്ഠ നിറഞ്ഞ ശബ്ദത്തിൽ ചോദിച്ചത്, "ഹോമാവതിയമ്മ മരിച്ചുവത്രേ! അറിഞ്ഞോ?"

"പത്തനാഭൻ നായരുടെ ഭാര്യ ഹോമാവതിയമ്മയുടെ കാര്യമാണോ നീ പറയുന്നത്?"

"അല്ലാതെയാതെ ഇവിടെയൊരു ഹോമാവതിയമ്മ? ഉറക്കത്തിലാണത്രെ മരണം. രാവിലെ ഏഴുമണിയായിട്ടും അവരെഴുന്നേൽക്കാതെ കിടക്കുന്നതു കണ്ട് പത്തനാഭൻ നായർ പോയി വിളിച്ചുവത്രേ! വിളി കേൾക്കാതെ കണ്ണു മിഴിക്കാതെ കിടക്കുന്ന കണ്ടപ്പോ കുലുക്കി വിളിക്കും ചെയ്തു. ഹൃദയം മിടിക്കുന്ന ശബ്ദം കേൾക്കാതെ വന്നപ്പോഴാണത്രെ മരിച്ചെന്ന് മനസ്സിലായത്. അവരുടെ നെയ്ബർ ഗൃഹ്തയുടെ ഭാര്യയാ ഇപ്പോൾ വിളിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞത്." ഭാര്യ വിശദീകരിച്ചു.

എനിക്ക് ആ വാർത്ത വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. ഹോമാവതിക്ക് അസുഖമാണെന്നും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ലല്ലോ. അസുഖം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നത് പത്തനാഭൻ നായർക്കല്ലേ?

മീശ ശരിയാക്കുന്നത് ഞാൻ പെട്ടെന്ന് അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചു. ഞാൻ ലിവിങ്റുമിലേക്ക് മടങ്ങിയെത്തി. ഭാര്യയുടെ കയ്യിൽ അപ്പോഴും ടെലഫോൺ റിസീവർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

"നിനക്കുറപ്പാണോ മരിച്ചത് ഹോമാവതിതന്നെയാണെന്ന്?"

ഭാര്യയുടെ മുഖത്ത് പരിഭവത്തിന്റെ നിഴൽ. "എനിക്കേയ് ചെവി പൊട്ടിയിട്ടൊന്നുമില്ല. ഗൃഹ്ത രണ്ടു തവണ ആവർത്തിച്ചു."

"നീ പുറപ്പെട്ടോ. ഞാനിപ്പോ കുളിച്ചിട്ട് വരാം. നമുക്ക് അവിടെവരെയൊന്നു പോകാം." ഞാൻ ബാത്ത് ടവൽ കയ്യിലെടുത്തു.

"മരണവിട്ടിൽ പോവാതെനിനാ കുളിക്കുന്നത്? മടങ്ങി വന്നിട്ട് ഏതായാലും കുളിക്കേണ്ടതല്ലേ?"

"ഭാര്യേ, കുളിക്കാതെ അവിടെ ചെല്ലുന്നത് പരതാത്ഥാവിനെ അപമാനിക്കലാവും. വന്നാൽ ഒന്നു കുളിക്കണം. അത്രയല്ലേയുള്ളൂ? നിനക്ക് കുളിക്കുകയും മറ്റും വേണ്ടല്ലോ, അതുകൊണ്ട് നീ ഒതുങ്ങി. ഞാനിപ്പോ കുളിച്ചിട്ട് വരാം." ഞാൻ കുളിമുറിയിലേക്ക് നീങ്ങി. ഗീസറിന്റെ ടാപ്പ് തുറന്ന് വെള്ളം ഒഴുകിവരാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ സ്വീച്ച് ഓൺ ചെയ്തു.

ഞങ്ങളുടെ സൊസൈറ്റിയിൽ മൂന്ന് കെട്ടിടങ്ങളാണുള്ളത്. നാല് മലയാളി കുടുംബങ്ങളാണ് ഈ സൊസൈറ്റിയിൽ ഉള്ളതെങ്കിലും അവർ മൂന്നു കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലായി ചിതറി കിടക്കുകയാണ്. എന്തെക്കാൾ നാലഞ്ചു വയസ്സിന് മുത്തയാളാണ് പത്തനാഭൻ നായർ. പക്ഷെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പത്നി ഹോമാവതി എന്തെക്കാൾ ഇളയതാണ്. കോളേജ് അദ്ധ്യാപകനായിരുന്നു പത്തനാഭൻ നായർ. കോളേജ് ജോലി കിട്ടിയ വർഷം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മൂന്നാംവർഷ ഡിഗ്രിക്ലാസിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനിയായിരുന്നു ഹോമാവതി. പരീക്ഷ കഴിഞ്ഞ് മൂന്നു നാലു മാസങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോഴേക്കും വിവാഹാലോചനയുമായി പത്തനാഭൻ നായരുടെ ബന്ധുക്കൾ ഹോമാവതിയുടെ ഗൃഹത്തിലെത്തി.

സുമുഖനും സുഭാഷിതനുമായിരുന്ന പത്തനാഭൻ നായരെ കോളേജിലെ പെൺകുട്ടികൾക്കെല്ലാം വളരെ ഇഷ്ടമായിരുന്നത് ഹോമാവതിതന്നെയാണ് പറഞ്ഞത്. സന്തോഷജനകമായ വൈവാഹികജീവിതമായിരുന്നു അവരുടേത്. സന്താനമില്ലെന്ന ഒരു സങ്കടം അവർക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾ തമ്മിൽ അടുപ്പമുണ്ടായിട്ട് ഏഴെട്ടു വർഷങ്ങളേ ആയിട്ടുള്ളൂവെങ്കിലും, സന്താനം മനോവ്യാപാരങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾ അന്യോന്യം പങ്കുവെക്കാറു

ണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഒരിക്കൽ അദ്ദേഹം പറയുകയുണ്ടായി, ഭാര്യയെ അറിയിക്കാതെ ഏകനായി ഒരു ഫെർട്ടിലിറ്റി എക്സ്പെർട്ടിനെ കാണുകയുണ്ടായെന്നും പരിശോധനകൾക്കും ചില ടെസ്റ്റുകൾക്കും ശേഷം കുഴപ്പം ഭാര്യയ്ക്കാകാനാണ് സാധ്യത എന്നും. ദമ്പതികളിലാർക്കും കുഴപ്പം ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും ചില ദമ്പതികൾക്ക് സന്താനമില്ലാതിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഡോക്ടർ കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു. ഇതെല്ലാം ദൈവഹിതം. ഹോമയും ഒരു ഡോക്ടറെ കാണണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോഴൊക്കെ അവൾ അവഗണിക്കുകയായിരുന്നുവത്രെ.

ഏതാണ്ടൊരു വർഷം മൂന്നുവരെയും ആ മദ്ധ്യവയസ്കർ നവദമ്പതികളെപ്പോലെയാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞത്. 'ഏ ബുഡാപ്പേമേടി ഐസാ കോയി ബാഹർ ദിലായേഗാ ക്യാ?' അസുയാലു ക്കളായ ചില അയൽപക്കക്കാർ പറയാറുണ്ടെന്ന് ചിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ അടുത്ത കാലത്ത് ഒരു വലിയ മാറ്റം അദ്ദേഹത്തിൽ കാണാനായിരുന്നു. കാണുന്നവരിൽപ്പോലും ഉന്മേഷം ഉണർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ആ മുഖത്തെ ഉത്തേജിത പ്രസാദം അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായിരുന്നു. ഉയർന്നുനിന്നിരുന്ന ശിരസ്സ് എപ്പോഴും ഭൂമിയെന്നോക്കി നടന്നു. പക്ഷെ ഈ മാറ്റം ഹോമയിൽ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായിരുന്നില്ല. ഒരു സായാഹ്നത്തിൽ സൊസൈറ്റിയുടെ ഉദ്യാനത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ കാണാനിടയായി. ഏതാണ്ട് ഒന്നര മണിക്കൂർ സംസാരിച്ചപ്പോൾ പുറത്തു ദൃശ്യമായപോലെയല്ല അകത്തെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ എന്നു വ്യക്തമായി. മുഖൊരിക്കലും

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പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ എന്തു ചെയ്താലും ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിലും കുറ്റം, പെരുമാറ്റത്തിൽ കുറ്റം, സംസാരത്തിൽ കുറ്റം, കുറ്റമല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊന്നുമില്ല. എന്താണ് ഹേമയ്ക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു മാറ്റത്തിനു കാരണം എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന് പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അവൾക്കെപ്പോഴും ദേഷ്യമാണത്രെ. ഒരു ദിവസം ഹേമ ചോദിച്ചുവത്രെ നിങ്ങൾക്കു മരിച്ചുവെന്ന് എന്ന്. "ഒരിത്താവിനെ എത്ര അനിഷ്ടമായാലും ഏതെങ്കിലും ഭാര്യ അങ്ങനെ ചോദിക്കുമോ, പറയിൻ, " പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ മനോവേദനയോടെ മറ്റൊരു ദിവസം ചോദിച്ചു. "എന്നെ ഇത്രയും കാലം അതിയായ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട അവൾക്ക് ഞാൻ ഉടൻ മരിച്ചുകാണാൻ എന്താണിത്ര താല്പര്യം?"

"എന്താണവിടെ ചെയ്യുന്നത്? വേഗം കുളിച്ചുവരാമെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞ് കുളിമുറിയിൽ കയറിയിട്ട് നേരമെത്രയായി?" ഭാര്യ പുറത്തുനിന്നു ചോദിക്കുന്നത് കേട്ടു. ആലോചനയിൽനിന്ന് ഉണർന്ന് ഞാൻ വേഗം കുളി കഴിച്ചെന്നു വരുത്തി പുറത്തു വന്നു.

പത്മനാഭൻ നായരുടെ ഫ്ലാറ്റിലേക്ക് കയറിയെത്താൻ ഏറെ പണിപ്പെട്ടു. സൊസൈറ്റിയിലെ മുതിർന്ന ആൾക്കാരെല്ലാം അവിടെ എത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. സ്ത്രീകളാണ് കൂടുതൽ. സൊസൈറ്റിയ്ക്കു പുറത്തുള്ള ചില മലയാളികളും എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്.

"നിങ്ങളെന്താ എന്താൻ വൈകിയത്? പത്മനാഭൻ നായരുടെ ക്ലോസ്ഡ്രൂമായ നിങ്ങളല്ലെ ആദ്യം എത്തേണ്ടത്?" അവിടെ

നിന്നിരുന്ന ഒരു മലയാളി ചോദിച്ചു. അതാരാണെന്നുപോലും ഞാൻ നോക്കിയില്ല.

മൃതദേഹത്തെ നിലത്തേറക്കി കിടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചുറ്റും അരികൊണ്ട് വരച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശിരസ്സിനും പാദങ്ങൾക്കും സമീപത്ത് തേങ്ങ ഉടച്ച് മലർത്തിവെച്ച് അതിൽ തിരിയിട്ട് കത്തിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു മുലയ്ക്ക് നിലവിലുണ്ട് എരിയുന്നു.

മൃതദേഹത്തിന്റെ അടുത്ത് പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ വിഷാദമഗ്നനായി നിലത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. കവിളിൽ ഉണങ്ങിയ കണ്ണിരിന്റെ പാടുകൾ. മരണം അന്വേഷിച്ചു വരുന്നവരെ ഗൗനിക്കുന്നേയില്ല. അടുത്തുചെന്ന് തോളിൽ കൈ വെച്ചപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം മേല്പാട്ടു നോക്കി. കണ്ടതും എഴുന്നേറ്റു. മുഖത്ത് വിഷാദം കലർന്ന ഒരു ചിരി. പിന്നെ എന്റെ തോളത്ത് മുഖം അമർത്തി. ഒരു നിമിഷം കഴിഞ്ഞ് ഒരു പൊട്ടിക്കരച്ചിൽ. ഞാൻ വല്ലാതെയായി.

"രാമപന്ദ്രാ! എനിക്ക് ഇനി ആരാണുള്ളത്? ഹേമ എന്നെ വിട്ടു പോയല്ലോ."

എന്തു പറഞ്ഞ് ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ആശ്വസിപ്പിക്കും? ഒരു കണക്കിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഹേമയുടെ മരണം പത്മനാഭൻ നായർക്ക് ഒരു ആശ്വാസമായിരിക്കുമല്ലോ. ഹേമയുടെ ദുഷ്പെരുമാറ്റത്തിൽനിന്ന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് മോചനമല്ലെ സിദ്ധിച്ചത്?

"ഇപ്പോൾ ഒന്നും പറയേണ്ട. എന്തു ചെയ്യണം എന്നുമാത്രം പറയൂ."

പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ തോളിൽനിന്നു മുഖമുയർത്തി. ഷർട്ടിന്റെ കീഴറ്റംകൊണ്ട് മുഖം തുടച്ചു. മുക്ക് ഒരു തവണ ചീറ്റി. "സംസ്കാരത്തിനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യണം."

"ഡത്ത് സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റിനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്യേണ്ടേ?"

ആരുടെയും മുഖത്തുനോക്കാതെ അദ്ദേഹം അകത്തേക്ക് പോയി. അലമാരി തുറക്കുന്നതിന്റെയും അല്പനേരം കഴിഞ്ഞ് അടക്കുന്നതിന്റെയും ശബ്ദം കേൾക്കാറായി. അദ്ദേഹം മടങ്ങിയെത്തി. നാലായി മടക്കിയ ഒരു പേപ്പർ എന്റെ കയ്യിലേല്പിച്ചു. ഞാനത് നിവർത്തി മൗനമായി വായിച്ചശേഷം മുഖത്തേക്ക് നോക്കി. 'അതെ' എന്നർത്ഥത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം എന്നെ നോക്കി തല കുലുക്കി.

"ഹേമയെ നോക്കിയിരുന്നത് ടാടാ ഹോസ്പിറ്റലിലെ പ്രമോദ്



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റാക്കുറാണ്. അടുത്ത സൊസൈറ്റിയിലാണ് താമസം. കുറച്ചു മുമ്പ് ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ പേപ്പറും കൊണ്ടുചെന്നാൽ ഡത്തർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റിനുവേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്യാം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു.” എനിക്ക് മാത്രം കേൾക്കാവുന്ന ശബ്ദത്തിലാണ് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞത്.

പേപ്പറുമായി ഞാൻ പുറത്തേക്ക് കിറങ്ങി, ഭാര്യയുടെ മൗനസമ്മതം വാങ്ങിയശേഷം.

സംസ്കാരം കഴിഞ്ഞ് മടങ്ങിയെത്തിയശേഷം ഞാൻ പത്മനാഭൻ നായരോട് പറഞ്ഞു, “കുളി കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷം വീട്ടിലേക്കു വരു. ഭക്ഷണം അവിടെ കഴിക്കാം.”

അദ്ദേഹം തല കുലുക്കി. ഉച്ച തിരിഞ്ഞ് രണ്ടരമണി കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുമ്പോൾ. ഭക്ഷണം കഴിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേ, ഭാര്യ ചോദിച്ചു, “ഹേമാവതിയമ്മയുടെ മരണത്തിനു എന്താണ് കാരണം? ആൾക്കാർ അതുമിതും പറയുന്നതു കേട്ടു.”

കയ്യിലുള്ള ഉരുള പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ പിഞ്ഞാണത്തിലേക്കു തന്നെയിട്ടു. കുറച്ചുനേരം ഒന്നു മിണ്ടാതെ നിലത്തേക്കു നോക്കിയിരുന്നു. പിന്നെ ശിരസ്സ് ഉയർത്താതെത്തന്നെ നിറുത്തി നിറുത്തി പറഞ്ഞു, “സ്നേഹം, എന്നോടുള്ള സ്നേഹവും അതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ആധിയും. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അവൾ മരിച്ചത്.”

ഇതൊന്നൊന്നു ഉത്തരം എന്ന അർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഭാര്യ എന്റെ മുഖത്തേക്ക് നോക്കി. ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെയും.

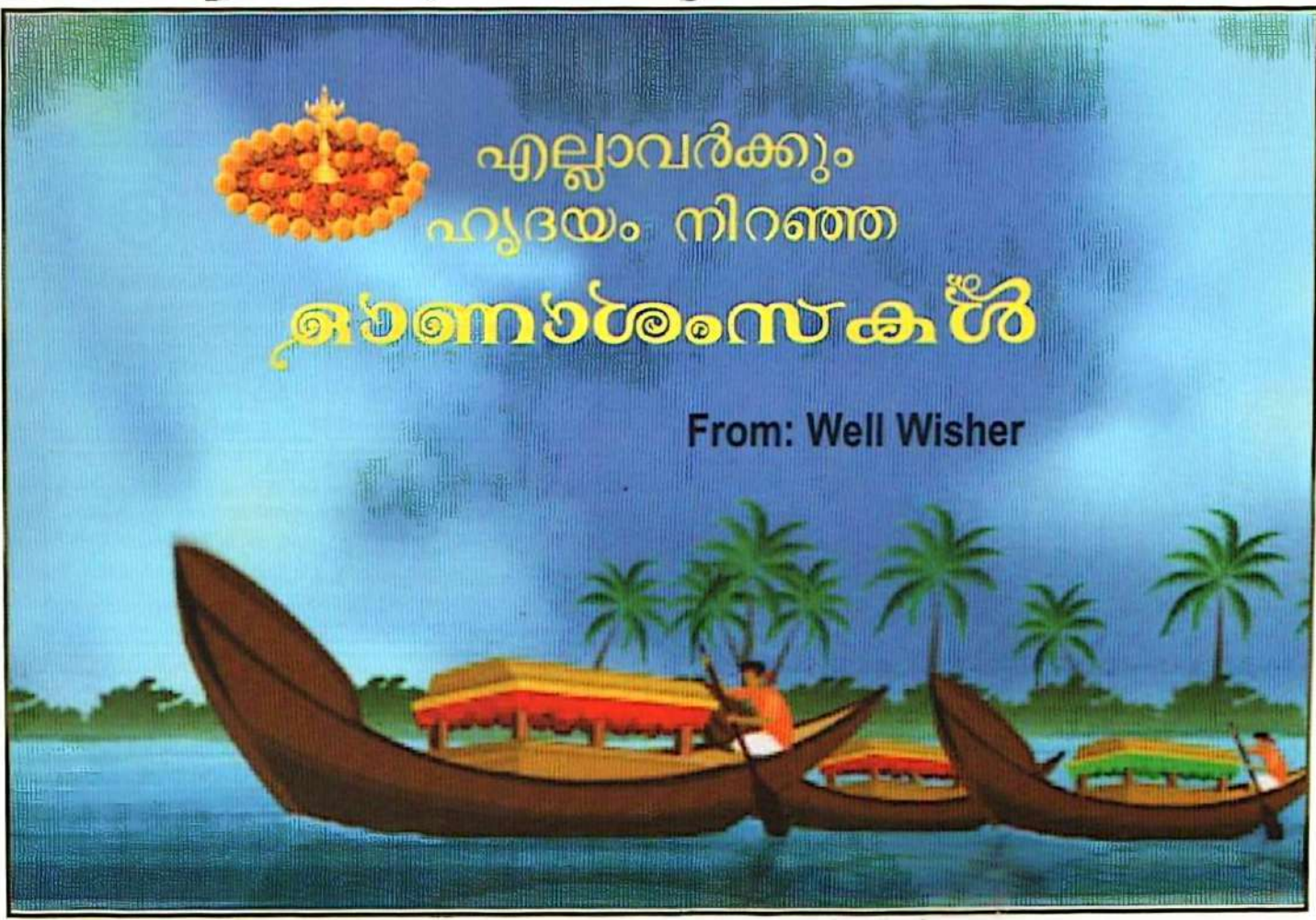
“ഹേമയ്ക്കു ക്യാൻസറായിരുന്നു, വയറിനകത്ത്. പക്ഷെ ഞാൻ ഇന്നലെയാണ് അറിഞ്ഞത്. ഒരിക്കൽ ഒരു വിവാഹത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാനായി ഞാൻ ഭോപ്പാൽവരെ പോയി. ഹേമ വരുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ ഞാനൊറ്റക്കാണ് പോയത്. ആ തഞ്ചത്തിൽ അവൾ അടുത്തുള്ളൊരു ഡോക്ടറെ കണ്ടു. അദ്ദേഹം അവളെ ടാടയിലേക്ക് കയച്ചു. ക്യാൻസർ അവസാനഘട്ടത്തിലായിരുന്നു, ചികിത്സിച്ചിട്ടൊന്നും ഇനി കാര്യമില്ലെന്ന് അവർ പറഞ്ഞു. അവർ കൊടുത്തത് വെറും പെയിൻ കില്ലർമാത്രം. ഇക്കാര്യം അവൾ എന്നിൽനിന്ന് മറച്ചുവെച്ചു. അവൾക്കന്തെങ്കിലും

സംഭവിച്ചാൽ ഞാനെങ്ങനെ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടും എന്നതായിരുന്നു അവളുടെ ആധി. അവളെക്കുറിച്ച് എന്നിൽ വെറുപ്പ് ഉളവാക്കുക. അങ്ങനെ ഞാൻ അവളിൽനിന്ന് അകലണം. അതാണ് ഹേമയ്ക്ക് വേണ്ടിയിരുന്നത്. അതിനുള്ള എല്ലാ അടവുകളും അവൾ പയറ്റി. ഞാൻ ദുഃഖിതനായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ എനിക്കവളെ വെറുക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല.

“ഇന്നലെ അവൾ എല്ലാം തുറന്നുപറഞ്ഞു. ഇനി അധികതാളില്ലെന്ന് ഒരുപക്ഷെ അവൾക്ക് മനസ്സിലായിരിക്കണം. ഒളിപ്പിച്ചുവെച്ച മെഡിക്കൽ പേപ്പേഴ്സെല്ലാം എനിക്കു കാണിച്ചുതന്നു. എന്നിട്ട് അവൾ പറഞ്ഞു, അവൾ പരാജിതയായെന്നും ഇനി അവൾക്ക് അധികദിവസങ്ങളില്ലെന്നും. അവൾ വിചാരിച്ചത്രെ, എനിക്ക് ബന്ധുക്കളൊന്നു മില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അവളുടെ മരണശേഷം കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുക വിഷമമായിരിക്കുമെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ട് അവൾക്കുമുമ്പ് ഞാൻ മരിക്കണമെന്നും. ഏതാനും മാസങ്ങളായി അവൾ എന്തെല്ലാം പറഞ്ഞു, പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു, എന്നെ അകറ്റാൻ. എന്റെ മരണശേഷം അവൾക്ക് ചേച്ചിയുടെ അടുത്തേക്ക് പോകാമെന്ന് അവൾ കരുതിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. എന്റെ ദുഃഖം അതല്ല; കഠിനവേദനയുണ്ടായിട്ടും രോഗവിവരം എന്നെ അറിയിക്കാതെ അവൾ കഴിച്ചുവെല്ലോ. ഞാൻ വേദനിക്കുന്നത് കാണാനുള്ള കെൽപ്പ് ഹേമയ്ക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. അതായിരിക്കാം അവളുടെ പെരുമാറ്റം മാറിയിട്ട്. എന്നോടുള്ള സ്നേഹമാണ് അവളെ കൊന്നത്. അല്ലാതെ, ക്യാൻസറല്ല.”

നിമിഷങ്ങൾ നിശ്ശബ്ദമായി കടന്നുപോയി. ആഹാരം മുഴുവനാക്കാതെത്തന്നെ പത്മനാഭൻ നായർ എഴുന്നേറ്റു. അല്പം കഴിഞ്ഞ് ഞാനും. ഭാര്യ മരവിച്ചപ്പോലെ അടുക്കളവാതിലും ചാരി നിന്നു.

“രാമചന്ദ്രാ, എനിക്കവളുടെ അടുത്തത്താൻ തിടുക്കമായി.” ഇടതുകൈകൊണ്ട് കണ്ണുനീർ തുടച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഒച്ച താഴ്ത്തി അദ്ദേഹം കുട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു, “എന്നാണ് എനിക്കതിനു കഴിയുക എന്നുമാത്രമാണ് എനിയ്ക്ക് ഇനി അറിയേണ്ടത്.” ■



# അവസ്ഥാന്തരം



രവി തൊടുപുഴ

തൃടർച്ചയായുള്ള മൊബൈൽഫോണിന്റെ ശബ്ദം ഉറക്കത്തെ അലസോരപ്പെടുത്തുന്നണ്ടെങ്കിലും കേട്ടില്ലെന്നു നടിച്ചു. ഞായറാഴ്ചയായതുകൊണ്ട് വിസ്മയമുള്ളൊരു ഉറക്കം പതിവാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ആരും ശല്യപ്പെടുത്താറില്ല. യന്ത്രവൽക്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ട് ഈ നഗരത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായിട്ട് എത്രയോ വർഷങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞു. ദിനചര്യയിൽ മാറ്റമില്ലാതെ അതങ്ങനെ തുടരുന്നു. ഫോൺ വിണ്ടും വിണ്ടും നിർത്താതെ ചിലച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ഹേ മനുഷ്യാ.. ആ ഫോണോട്നടുക്ക് കേട്ട് തല പെരുക്കുന്നു. ഭാര്യയുടെ അമർഷത്തിനു മുന്നിൽ പിടിച്ചുനിൽക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. പുതപ്പിനുള്ളിൽനിന്നും നീണ്ടുവന്ന കൈ മൊബൈൽഫോണിൽ അമർന്നു. അങ്ങേതലക്കൽ പഴയ ചങ്ങാതി ജോയി. എന്താ ജോയി, രാവിലെ ഒന്നൊന്നും സമ്മതിക്കില്ലേ? ചോദ്യം തീരുന്നതിനുമുമ്പെ ജോയിയുടെ വാക്കുകൾ മസ്തിഷ്കത്തിൽ സ്ഫോടനം നടത്തി. നമ്മുടെ ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടൻ ആത്മഹത്യ ചെയ്തു. ഏതു ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടൻ? മലയാളിക്കട നടത്തിയിരുന്ന... അതെ, അയാളു് തന്നെ. ദൈവമേ... ഒരു നിശ്വാസം അറിയാതെ ഊർന്നിറങ്ങി. അയാൾ ഉള്ളതെല്ലാം വിറ്റുപെറുക്കി കഴിഞ്ഞമാസം നാട്ടിലേക്ക് പോയതാണല്ലോ! പിന്നെ നീയെങ്ങനെയാണ് ഈ വിവരം അറിഞ്ഞത്? നീ പറഞ്ഞത് ശരിയാണ്. പക്ഷെ... രണ്ടുമൂന്ന് ദിവസംമുമ്പ് തിരിച്ചെത്തിയിരുന്നു. ഇന്നലെ ഞാൻ കണ്ടതാ... പാർക്കിലെ വാകമരച്ചോട്ടിലു്, മഴയിൽ കുതിർന്ന് വിളി വെളുത്ത മുഖവുമായി നിസ്സംഗഭാവത്തിൽ... ആദ്യം എനിക്ക് ആളെ തിരിച്ചറിയാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. ഒരു മാസംകൊണ്ട് അത്രക്ക് മാറിയിരുന്നു.

ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടൻ ആത്മഹത്യ ചെയ്ത വാർത്ത കാട്ടുതീ പോലെ പരന്നു. ആർക്കും വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ പറ്റാത്ത ഒരു വാർത്തയായിരുന്നു അത്. കേട്ടവർ കേട്ടവർ അതിന്റെ

നിജസ്ഥിതി അറിയാൻ മറ്റുള്ളവരുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടു. മറ്റു ചിലർ അതറിയാത്തവരെ അറിയിക്കാനുള്ള തിടുക്കത്തിലും. വാകമരക്കൊമ്പിൽ തുങ്ങിക്കിടന്ന മൃതദേഹത്തിന്റെ ചിത്രം മേമ്പാടിയായി ഫെയിസ്ബുക്കിലും വാട്സ് ആപ്പിലും നിറഞ്ഞുനിന്നു.

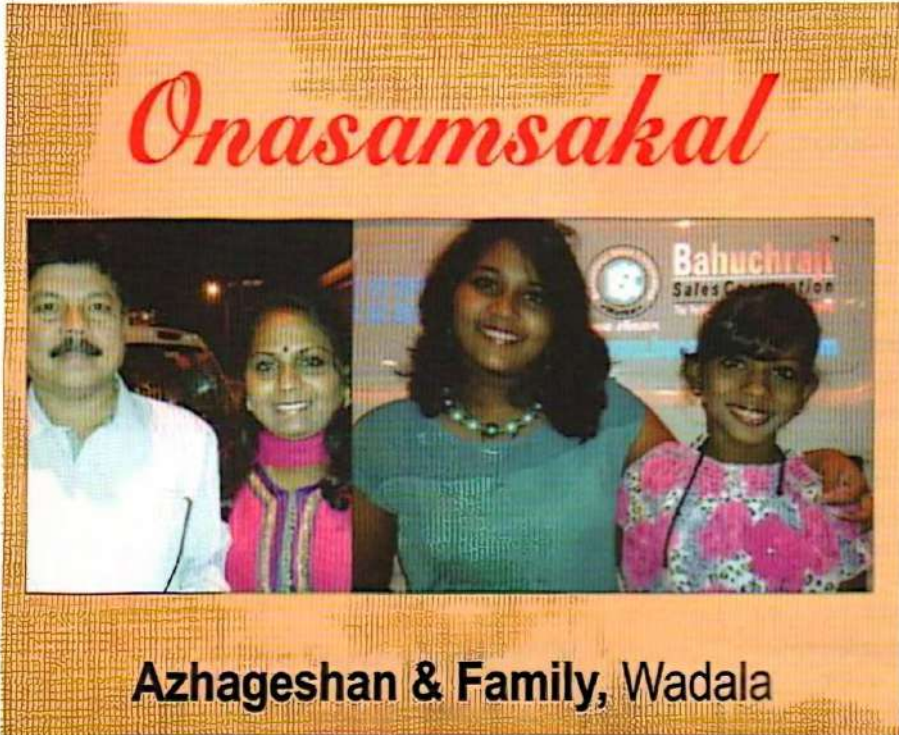
ഒരു പ്രവാസിയുടെ ദാരുണമായ അന്ത്യം മനസ്സിനെ വല്ലാതെ ഉലച്ചു. ചിന്തകൾക്ക് തീ കൊളുത്തി. വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് ഞാൻ മുൻബെയിൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ താമസിക്കാൻ ഒരിടം തന്നതും ജോലി തരപ്പെടുത്തി തന്നതും നഗരത്തിന്റെ ചതിക്കുഴിയിൽ പെട്ട് ജീവിതം ഹോമിക്കാതെ ഉയരങ്ങൾ കീഴടക്കി മുന്നോട്ട് നയിച്ചതും ഈ ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടനായിരുന്നു. എന്തെല്ലാമെ എത്രയോ പേർക്ക് വഴികാട്ടിയും സഹായിയുമായിരുന്നു.

ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ കച്ചവടം നടന്നിരുന്ന മലയാളിക്കട ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടന്റെതായിരുന്നു. നന്നെ ചെറുപ്പത്തിലേ ഇവിടെ യെത്തി. അധ്വാനംകൊണ്ട് നല്ലൊരു നിലയിലും. എപ്പോഴും ചിരിക്കുന്ന മുഖവും സൗമ്യമായ പെരുമാറ്റവും. എല്ലാവരുടേയും പ്രിയങ്കരനായി. അനാഥാലയത്തിലെ മാറി പെൺകുട്ടിയെ ജീവിതസഖിയായിക്കി. അതോടെ നാടുമായുള്ള ബന്ധം അറ്റു. ഒരേയൊരു മകൾ, ജിൻസി. അവൾ ഡിഗ്രിക്ക് പഠിക്കുന്ന സമയം. അന്നാണ് ആ അത്യാഹിതം സംഭവിച്ചത്. ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടന്റെ താങ്ങും തണലുമായിരുന്ന ഭാര്യ ഒരു അപകടത്തിൽ മരണപ്പെട്ടു. സമനില വീണ്ടെടുക്കാൻ മാസങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടിവന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രസരിപ്പ് എങ്ങോ മറഞ്ഞു. എങ്കിലും മകൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ജീവിച്ചു. മകൾക്കുവേണ്ടിമാത്രം.

രണ്ടുമാസങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് ജോലിക്കുപോയ ജിൻസി മോൾ തിരിച്ചെത്തിയില്ല. അന്വേഷണം പലവഴിക്ക് പോയി. നിരാശയായിരുന്നു ഫലം. പോലീസിൽ പരാതി കൊടുക്കാൻ മോളുടെ ഫോട്ടോവിനായി അവളുടെ അലമാര തുറന്നു.

സർക്കാർമുദ്ര പതിഞ്ഞ മുദ്രപത്രം കയ്യിൽ തടഞ്ഞു; കൂടെ ഒരു തുണ്ടു പേപ്പറും. കണ്ണുകൾ അക്ഷരങ്ങളിൽ തടഞ്ഞുനിന്നു. മോളുടെ വിവാഹം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഒരു വർഷം കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇനി അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടെന്ന്. ഒരു അലർച്ചയോടെ ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടൻ തറയിൽ വീണു. അധികനേരം വേണ്ടിവന്നില്ല. നിലവിളി പൊട്ടിച്ചിരിയായി മാറി. പൊട്ടിച്ചിരി തേങ്ങലായും. ... കണ്ടുനിന്നവരുടെ കണ്ണ് നനഞ്ഞു.

ഒരാഴ്ച കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടൻ സമനില വീണ്ടെടുത്തു. പിന്നീടൊരിക്കലും കട തുറന്നിട്ടില്ല. കിട്ടിയ വിലയ്ക്ക് ഫ്ലാറ്റും കടയും വിറ്റു. എല്ലാവരോടും യാത്ര പറഞ്ഞ് നാട്ടിലേക്ക്, അറ്റുപോയ ബന്ധങ്ങളുടെ വറ്റാത്ത ഉറവ തേടി. വാനോളം വളർത്തി വലുതാക്കിയ ഈ മണ്ണ് എല്ലാം കവർന്നെടുത്തു. നഷ്ടബോധത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗ്യവും പേറി വിതുമ്പുന്ന ഹൃദയവുമായി ഇനി ഒരിക്കലും ഈ മണ്ണിലേക്കില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞ ജോസഫ് ചേട്ടൻ എന്തിനാണ് തിരിച്ചു വന്നത്? ആ ചോദ്യം ഉത്തരം കിട്ടാതെ മനസ്സിൽ വിങ്ങലായി ശേഷിച്ചു. ■



Azhageshan & Family, Wadala

# റൊട്ടി, കപ്പഡ, മക്കാൻ

എൻ തമ്പാൻ

**ലോക**തൊഴിലാളികളെ, സംഘടിക്കുവിൻ, സംഘടിച്ചാൽ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് നഷ്ടപ്പെടുവാൻ ഒന്നുമില്ല, നിങ്ങളുടെ വിലങ്ങൾ മാത്രം എന്ന് ലോകതൊഴിലാളികളോട് ആദ്യമായി ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടത് അമേരിക്കയിലാണ്. “ഭൂലോകത്താദ്യമായി ചിക്കാഗോ നഗരത്തിൽ ചുടുചോര തളംകെട്ടി വാർന്നൊഴുകി.”

അതിനുശേഷം അമേരിക്കയിലുണ്ടായ പരിവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ലോകതൊഴിലാളിവർഗത്തിന് മാതൃകയായി മാറി. അതിന്റെ പ്രത്യാഘാതങ്ങൾ മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളിലും അലയടിച്ചു.

വ്യവസായവിപ്ലവത്തിനുശേഷം നാട് നന്നാക്കാൻ മനുഷ്യൻ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങി.

ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ടെക്സ്റ്റൈൽ മിൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾ എസ് എ ഡാക്കെയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ശക്തമായ സംഘടനകളുണ്ടാക്കി തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവന്നു.

ഇന്ത്യൻ കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് പാർട്ടിയുടെ മുദ്രാവാക്യങ്ങളായിരുന്നു ‘റൊട്ടി, കപ്പഡ, മക്കാൻ.’ അത് വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അവരുടെ അനുഭവമായി മാറി. മിൽത്തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് അവരുടെ മില്ലിനു ചുറ്റുമായി കുടിലുകൾ കെട്ടി കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. എല്ലാ മില്ലുകളിലും റേഷൻകട ഉണ്ടാക്കി. റേഷൻ വിതരണം തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് ഒരു സൗകര്യമായി. ലോകമഹായുദ്ധകാലത്ത് റേഷൻവിതരണം ഒരു അനിവാര്യ ഘടകമായി. റൊക്കെ പണം കൊടുക്കേണ്ട, ശമ്പളത്തിൽനിന്നും റേഷന്റെ വില പിടിക്കും. കയ്യിൽ പൈസയില്ലെങ്കിലും ജീവിക്കുവാൻ ഇതവരെ സഹായിച്ചു.


ആവശ്യത്തിനുള്ള വസ്ത്രം, തുണി അവരുടെ റേഷൻകാർഡിൽ പതിച്ച് കടം കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. ചുരുക്കി പറഞ്ഞാൽ ‘റൊട്ടി, കപ്പഡ, മക്കാൻ’ പ്രായോഗികവശത്തുകൂടി തൊഴിലാളി കൾക്ക് ലഭ്യമായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ടെക്സ്റ്റൈൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾ സുരക്ഷിതരായിരുന്നു. ദീപാവലി വരുമ്പോൾ ബോണസ് കിട്ടുമായിരുന്നതിനാൽ ആ അധികവരുമാനം ആഘോഷങ്ങളെ ആർഭാടമാക്കാൻ അവരെ സഹായിച്ചു. അങ്ങനെ വർഷങ്ങൾ നീണ്ടുപോയി. അക്ഷരാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ശാന്തസുന്ദരമായ ഒരു ബോംബെ നഗരം പ്രകൃതിരമണീയമായി കെട്ടിപ്പടുത്തു. ആശ്രയിച്ചു വരുന്നവർക്കെല്ലാം ആശ്വാസം നൽകുന്ന നഗരം. അനുനിമിഷം നഗരമദ്ധ്യത്തിലൂടെ അതിവേഗത്തിൽ കൂതിച്ചുപായുന്ന വൈദ്യുതവണ്ടികൾ യാത്രക്കാരുടെ സേവനാർത്ഥം രാപകൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ച ജനകോടികൾക്ക് ആവേശവും ആശ്വാസവും നൽകുന്നില്ലേ?

അയ്യായിരം രൂപ മുതൽ അമ്പതിനായിരം രൂപ വരെ കൊടുത്താൽ ബോംബെയിൽ ഒരു ഫ്ളാറ്റ് വാങ്ങാമായിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് അമ്പത് ലക്ഷം മുതൽ ഒരു കോടിവരെ രൂപ വേണം ആ സ്ഥാനത്ത്. അതും അർദ്ധവികസിതമേഖലയിൽ. സാധാരണക്കാരനായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഇത്രയും പണം

എങ്ങനെ ഉണ്ടാക്കും? ഇന്ന് കുറഞ്ഞ പലിശ നിരക്കിൽ ബാങ്കിൽനിന്ന് കടം ലഭ്യമായിട്ടും അതെടുക്കാൻ ആളില്ല. കടമെടുത്താൽ തിരിച്ചടക്കാൻ കഴിവുള്ളവർ എത്ര ശതമാനം കാണും? ബഹുഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളും ചെറിയ ജോലിയുമായി കഴിയുന്നതിനാൽ തിരിച്ചടപ്പ് അവർക്ക് ആലോചിക്കാനാവില്ല. കുറഞ്ഞ വിലയ്ക്ക് സർക്കാർ താമസസ്ഥലം നൽകിയിരുന്ന ഒരു കാലമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെല്ലാം കെട്ടിടനിർമ്മിതാക്കൾക്ക് വിറ്റ് സർക്കാർ പണമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നു. ദാരിദ്ര്യരേഖക്കു താഴെയുള്ളവർക്ക് നഗരത്തിൽ വീട് വാങ്ങാൻ കഴിയാത്ത കാലമായി. പക്ഷെ ഈ നഗരത്തെ ഷാംഗായ് ആക്കാനുള്ള തിടുക്കത്തിലാണ് അധികാരികൾ. അതിന്റെ ആദ്യപടിയായി മെട്രോ റെയിൽ സർവീസ് തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

മണ്ണിന്റെ മക്കളുടെ ആവിർഭാവത്തോടെ ഇതിനൊരു മാറും

എല്ലാവർക്കും ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ കൃണാർശംസകൾ



Rajendran Padiyur

വന്നു തുടങ്ങി. മിൽ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ 80 ശതമാനം ആൾക്കാർ മഹാരാഷ്ട്രീയരായിരുന്നിട്ടും മറാഠി എന്ന ഉദ്ബോധനം അവരിൽ കുത്തിവെച്ചുതുടങ്ങി. അവരുടെ ഇടയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഐക്യത അവരിൽനിന്നും വിട്ടുതുടങ്ങി ചരിന്നടിഞ്ഞമായി.

ഒന്നിന്റെ വളർച്ച മറ്റൊന്നിന്റെ തകർച്ചയായി. കാലക്രമേണ അതൊരു രാഷ്ട്രീയപാർട്ടിയായി മാറി. എന്നിട്ട് അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്നതല്ലാതെ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ പ്രശ്നം പരിഹരിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. മിൽ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ സമരം രൂക്ഷമായതോടെ മില്ലുകൾ പ്രവർത്തനരഹിതമായി. മുതലാളികൾ മില്ലുകൾ അടച്ചുപൂട്ടി, തൊഴിലാളികൾ പട്ടിണിയിലായി. അവരുടെ കുട്ടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം മുടങ്ങി. ഫീസ് കൊടുക്കാൻ പറ്റാത്തവർ നാട് വിടേണ്ടിവന്നു. പിടിച്ചു നിന്നവർ ഉചിതമായ ജോലി കിട്ടാതെ നഗരത്തിൽ ചെറിയ ചെറിയ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്ത് കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ പാവങ്ങളുടെ പട്ടിണി ദുരീകരിക്കാൻ ഇതുവരെ ഒതു നടപടിയും നമ്മുടെ ജനകീയ ഭരണാധികാരികൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ലാൽബാഗ് മുതൽ പരേൽവരെയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വ്യാപിച്ചുകിടക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ദുരവസ്ഥ ദയാശീലരായ നാഗരികരെ വളരെയധികം വേദനിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നതിൽ സംശയമില്ല.

മണ്ണിന്റെ മക്കൾ എന്ന ആശയം ബലപ്പെടുത്തിയവർ അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്നിട്ടും മിൽ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ പ്രശ്നം പരിഹരിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. മിൽ ഉടമകൾ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളും അവക്കു ചുറ്റുമുള്ള വിശാലമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും കെട്ടിടനിർമ്മിതാക്കൾക്ക് കൈമാറി വളരെയേറെ ധനം സമ്പാദിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു. നിർമ്മിതാക്കളോ, ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ അംബരചുംബികളായ അനേകം കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ നിർമ്മിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയും തന്മൂലം കണക്കില്ലാത്ത ലാഭം

കൊള്ളുകയും ചെയ്തു വരികയാണ്. ബോംബെ നഗരത്തിൽ ഉയർന്നുനിന്നിരുന്ന ചിമ്മിനികൾക്കു പകരം ഉയർന്നുവരുന്ന സൗധങ്ങളാണ് ഇന്ന് കാണാനുള്ളത്. അതും എത്ര മനോഹരം.

പണ്ട് തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ വാസസ്ഥലമായ ചാലുകൾ ഇന്നും അതേപോലെ നിലകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതിനൊരു മാറ്റം വരുത്താൻ ജനകീയ സർക്കാരിനോ മില്ലുമുതലാളിമാർക്കോ കെട്ടിടനിർമ്മിതാക്കൾക്കോ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. എങ്ങോട്ടാണ് ഈ പോക്ക്? റൊട്ടി, കപ്പഡ, മക്കാൻ എന്ന മുദ്രാവാക്യം ഇപ്പോൾ ഓർമ്മയിൽമാത്രം. ആചി മുംബൈ എന്ന തോന്നലുണ്ടാക്കിയതല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊന്നുമായി?

പണ്ട് മിൽതൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് കിട്ടിയിരുന്ന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ഇന്ന് ഒരു ദിവസപ്നമായി മാത്രം അവശേഷിക്കുന്നു. കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് പാർട്ടികളുടെ 'റൊട്ടി, കപ്പഡ, മക്കാൻ' എന്ന മുദ്രാവാക്യം ഇന്ന് സ്വപ്നത്തിൽ മാത്രം അവശേഷിക്കുന്നു. എന്തുകൊണ്ട് യാഥാർത്ഥ്യത്തെ നില നിർത്താൻ പറ്റിയില്ല? ഉത്തരം കിട്ടാത്ത ചോദ്യമാണിത്.

മെട്രോ റെയിൽവെയുടെ ആവിർഭാവം തുടങ്ങുമ്പോൾ നഗരത്തിലെ ഭൂവില 100 മുതൽ 200 ശതമാനംവരെ കുടുന്നതിന്റെ കാരണമെന്താണ്? ഇത് കൃത്രിമമായ വളർച്ചയല്ലേ? ഇത് ഇങ്ങനെ പോയാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികഭദ്രത എങ്ങനെ നില നിർത്തും? ദാരിദ്ര്യരേഖക്കു താഴെ ജീവിക്കുന്ന സാധാരണക്കാർ എങ്ങനെ ജീവിതം നിലനിർത്തും? വളർച്ചക്കു മത്സരം ആവശ്യമാണ്. ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഉണർപ്പ് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. ഇതിനെല്ലാം പോംവഴി കണ്ടേതീരു. "മാറ്റുവിൻ ചട്ടങ്ങളെ, സ്വയമല്ലെങ്കിൽ മാറ്റും അതുകൾ നിങ്ങളെത്താൻ" എന്ന് കുമാരനാശാൻ പാടിയത് എത്ര അർത്ഥവത്താണ്! ■







ബിന്ദു മനോജ്

# 'നീ'യൊരു 'കടൽ'

കടലിനെ അറിഞ്ഞവൾ ഞാൻ  
കൂടെ ചിരിച്ചും കരഞ്ഞും  
നിറഞ്ഞൊഴുകും കണ്ണുകളെ  
മറച്ചും, പിന്നെ  
കണ്ണിരു വറ്റിപ്പുകിൽ  
വീണ്ടും നനച്ചും  
ഒപ്പം നടന്നും  
കാലു കൂഴയുമ്പോൾ  
തിരമാലകളായ് വന്നു തലോടിയും  
തളരാത്ത മനസ്സുള്ള  
നീ, ഒരു കടൽ.  
ഒടുവിൽ നിന്റെയാ തിരമാലകളിൽ  
അലിഞ്ഞലിഞ്ഞില്ലാതെയൊവാൻ  
കൊതിച്ചവൾ ഞാൻ.....

ഉദയാസ്തമയസൂര്യനെ  
നീയെന്നിൽനിന്നും മറച്ചപ്പോഴും  
കാലം അയവിറക്കി  
കാത്തിരുന്നു കിട്ടിയ  
ജന്മങ്ങൾ കൂടെയുണ്ടായതും  
ജീവിതത്തിന് രക്തമുണ്ടായതും  
നിന്റെ മടിത്തട്ടിലാണെന്നു  
തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞവൾ ഞാൻ....  
തീരമണഞ്ഞിടുന്ന  
ഓരോ തിരമാലകളിലും  
ജനനമറിഞ്ഞീടുന്നു.  
തിരികെ പോകുമ്പോളിൽ  
മരണമെന്ന പൊരുളും ബാക്കി.  
ആഴങ്ങളിലിടഞ്ഞാലും  
ശംഖിലൊതുങ്ങിയ നിൽ മനസ്സിൽ  
പുനർജന്മസത്യവും  
അനുഭവിച്ചവൾ ഞാൻ.....



*Onasamsakal*

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# YUVA SUPER LEAGUE 2015

**S**ree Narayana Mandira Samiti YUVA (Youth Wing) in association with SNMS Powai Unit successfully hosted its inaugural YUVA SUPER LEAGUE 2015 at Powai's Dribble Rooftop Football turf, Heera Panna Mall on July 26. The event started at 8:30 am with a kick off ceremony. 12 teams from across Mumbai participated in the event. Those were SNMS Powai Unit, SNMS Ghatkopar Unit, SNMS College, SNMS Chembur Unit, Sunday Pub Boys, SNMS Mulund Unit, SNMS Airoli Unit, SNMS Belapur Unit, SNMS Virar Unit, My Chemical Romance, Urban Sports Belapur, SNMS Mira Rd Unit.

12 League stage matches were played amongst these teams. Powai, SNMS College, Chembur, Sunday Pub Boys, Airoli, Belapur, My Chemical Romance and Urban sports Belapur advanced to the knock out stages. A wonderful exhibition of soccer meant Powai, Sunday Pub Boys, Urban Sports Belapur and My Chemical Romance advancing to the semifinals. Eventually couple of exhilarating Semi final matches gave us the first finalists of YSL 2015 SNMS Powai Unit and Urban Sports Belapur.

The two finalist began the battle for the YSL 2015 cup. Some glittering and dazzling football was on display under the flood lights. The crowd who were in huge numbers enjoyed and seemed very animated.

It was Urban Sports Belapur who beat Powai in the finals to clinch a victory



Inauguration of YUVA Sports and Arts Club (YSAC) by SNMS President N Sasidharan.

and thus emerged YSL 2015 champions.

Another photography competition named JUST KLICK too happened simultaneously. All the participants of JUST KLICK captured some gem of images throughout the day. Their clicks instilled life into every photo. This event surely took the art form of photography to the next level.

YSL 2015 ended at 8 pm with the presentation ceremony graced by many senior officials of SNMS led by President N Shashidharan and Gen. Secretary N S Salimkumar. Golden Boot Award that is player with

maximum goals was awarded to Siddhart Bagal of Urban Sports Belapur. Ashish Nayak of SNMS Powai Unit was felicitated with the Golden Glove award for being the best goal keeper of the day. MVP Hot star of the day was awarded to Ivin Tomy from Urban Sports Belapur. Cash prize of Rs 5000, Certificate, Medal and Trophy was presented to the runners up team SNMS Powai Unit. Cash prize of 10,000 INR, Certificate, Medal and Trophy was presented to the Winning team Urban Sports Belapur.

All participants were provided a participation certificate for their presence and contribution towards this hugely successful event.

Inauguration of YSAC (YUVA SPORTS AND ARTS CLUB) followed this event at Gogala Party Hall at the same mall from 8 to 10 pm. YSAC, the premier header for all SNMS YUVA Arts & Sports initiatives was inaugurated by SNMS President N Shashidharan by unveiling the YSAC Logo. Star performers from renowned Orchestra Raagalaya performed at the event. They were joined by some charming performers from YUVA.

SNMS YUVA utilized this opportunity to felicitate one of its YUVA members Arun Nair who made one and all proud by cracking the elite UPSC examinations and getting placed by the Government of India in one of its most coveted ranks as an IAS officer. ■

- Team YUVA

എല്ലാ  
മലയാളികൾക്കും  
ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ  
**ശ്രദ്ധാർപ്പങ്ങൾ**

**Lalitha Vasan**  
Chembur



# Team Work Saves a Heart

**I**t looked like the reel story of the Malayalam film 'Traffic' was played out in real life. On July 25, medical history was etched when the heart of a brain-dead lawyer in Thiruvananthapuram was flown to Kochi and successfully transplanted on a patient from Chalakkudy, by using not car but air ambulance service. 46 year old Advocate S Neelakanda Sharma is no more but his heart beats within Mathew Achadan, an auto driver from Chalakkudy.



Adv. S Neelakanda Sharma



Mathew Achadan

Sharma a leading lawyer in Thiruvananthapuram, was admitted to the hospital after he collapsed in the bathroom on July 6. Sharma could not be saved as there was a bleeding inside the brain, doctors informed his relatives. He was declared brain dead on July 24 and his wife Latha and sons Subramania and Gautham gave their consent to donate his heart.

Meanwhile 47 year old auto driver Mathew Achadan was diagnosed with dilated cardio myopathy which weakens the heart muscles, six months ago. Experts at Lisie Hospital, Kochi had said a heart transplant costing at least 2.5 million Rupees, was the only remedy. Mathew's friends went about trying to mobilize money for the same and also on the look out for a suitable donor. They approached the Chief Minister for help under the Government's Mrithasanjeevani (organ donation) Project. Their prayers were answered when Sharma's blood group matched Achadan's and there was a possibility of a heart transplantation.

But there was a problem of transporting the brain dead patient's heart from Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi. The journey by road would take at least four to five hours by which time the beating of the heart may stop. The team of doctors led by Dr Jose Chacko Periyapuram and Mathew's family decided to approach the Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and seek his help in transporting the heart to Kochi. The Chief Minister approached the Navy to consider airlifting the heart from Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi.

The Navy offered its Dronier aircraft and its full co operation in transportation of the precious 'heart'. The police assured its support in regulating traffic on the way of the heart and the public was also in total agreement to save the heart.

Dr Jose Chacko and his team of doctors landed at Sree Chithira Tirunala Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology Thiruvananthapuram and after 'harvesting' the heart by 6.20 pm, took off to Kochi at 6.51 pm in the Navy's Dronier aircraft. The doctors

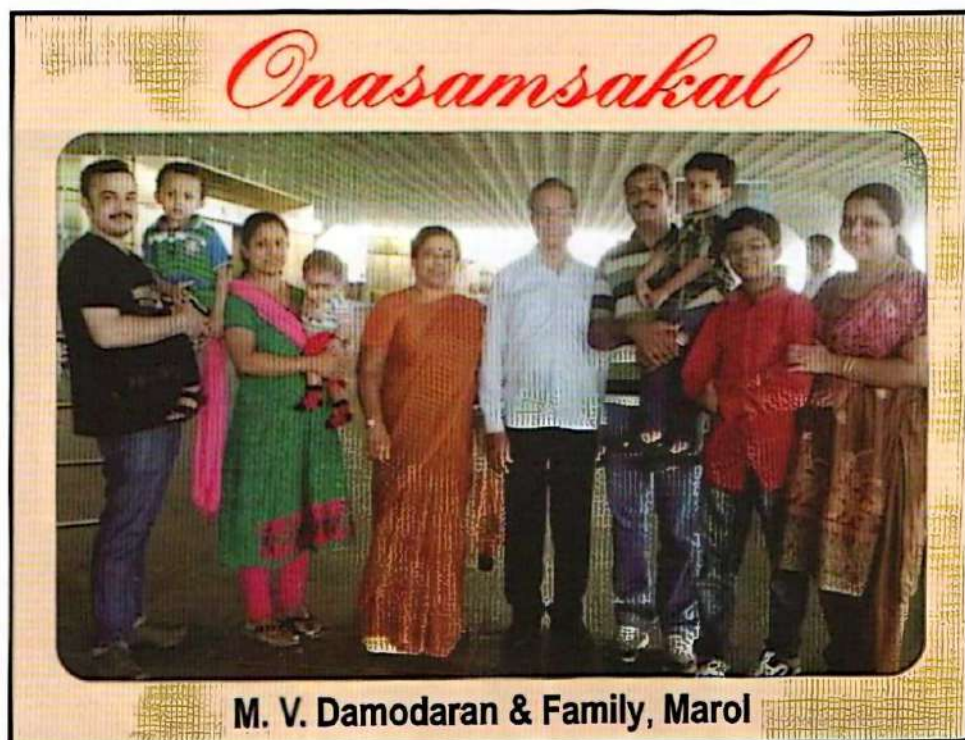
reached Kochi with the heart at 7:35 p.m. and immediately started the transplant at Lisie Hospital. The hospital authorities and the medical team led by Dr Jose Periyapuram that conducted a six-and-a-half-hour surgery termed it a success. The surgery was conducted by a 20-member medical team that included five surgeons.

What is significant here is the efficiency and co-ordination of the Government agencies, police department,

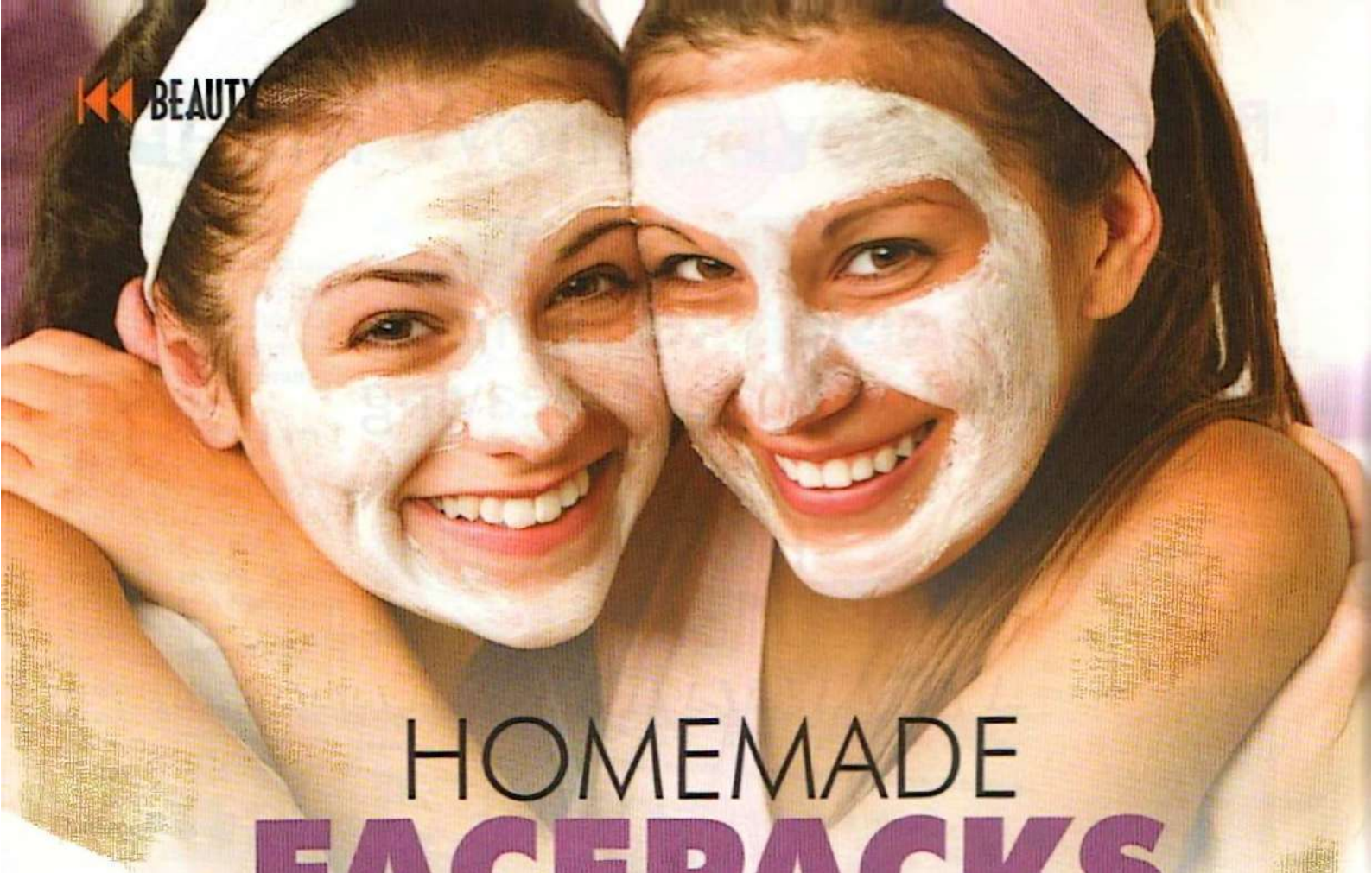
medical team and navy personnel who worked to make a success of the transplant. This is the state's first air-lifted heart transplant and the chief Minister Oommen Chandy has thanked all those who worked behind the operation. He has also emphasized that his Government would soon take steps to introduce an air ambulance in Kerala

Mathew Achadan is now recovering and off the venitator, according to Dr Jose Chacko.

Sharma's kidneys and eyes were also donated. His kidneys will save two patients in the KIMS Hospital and the Medical College Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. ■



M. V. Damodaran & Family, Marol



# HOMEMADE FACEPACKS FOR GLOWING SKIN

Many women dream of possessing a healthy, glowing, flawless and beautiful skin. Excessive exposure to pollution and harmful sunrays, unhealthy diet, improper skin-care all these factors contribute in making our skin dull and lifeless prone to patches pimples, wrinkles and pigmentation. There are so many beauty products (Creams, lotions and face packs) promising to give an instant fairless and glow to the skin. But the chemicals and artificial colours in them may gradually damage your skin.



Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

■ Homemade face packs are made using the basic ingredients from our kitchen. They are cheaper and have very less or no side effects. Let me share with you some of the homemade face packs

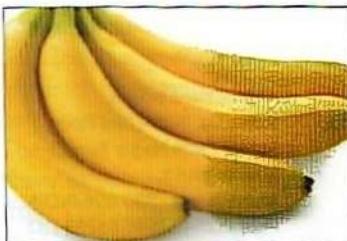
which I came across. Most of them are handed down by grandmothers from older generation.

There are 3 types of skin- dry, oily and normal. Use a face pack suiting to your skin type. Face pack should be applied to a clean face only. Use a cleanser (milk or lotion type of cleanser for dry skin and gel cleanser for oil

skin) to clean your face. Then exfoliate with a mild scrub. After that apply the face pack.

## DRY SKIN

For those having dry skin, it is better to wash your face with lukewarm water. Don't use soap on face. While making face packs, add rose water instead of water.





### Banana Face Pack

Mash ½ Banana. Add 1 tablespoon honey and 2 tbsp cream or curd. Apply to face. Let it set for 10 mts. Gently wipe off with a damp soft cloth or wash it with lukewarm water.

### Almond oil and powdered milk Face pack

Mix 1 tbsp milk powder, ½ tbsp almond oil, 1 tbsp lemon juice and 1 tbsp honey. Apply on face. Let it dry. Then wash it off with lukewarm water.

### Papaya Face Pack

Mash a slice of Papaya and apply it on face (Papaya can be mixed with honey). Leave it for 15 mts and wash it off.

### Wheat flour Face Pack:

Take wheat flour, add 1 tbsp milk cream and mix well. Add few drops of rosewater and apply it on face. Wash it off after drying.

### OILY SKIN

It is better to wash your face first with lukewarm water and then with cold water. Don't use soap.

### Cucumber Face Pack

Take a tbsp of cucumber juice and 1 tbsp of mint juice. Mix well and apply on face. Wash it off after drying.

### Sandalwood powder Face Pack

Mix Sandal wood powder (Chandan) with water. Apply on face. Let it dry. Wash it off.

### FACE PACKS FOR ALL SKIN TYPES

### Turmeric Face Pack:

Turmeric is widely used in South India as face pack. Take 2 tbsp milk, add ½ tbsp lemon juice, ½ tbsp turmeric powder and 2 tbsp gram flour (Besan) (optional). Mix well and apply on face. Leave it for 10-15 mts. Wash it off.

### Milk and Honey Face Pack

Add 1 tbsp milk or milk powder with 1 tbsp honey. Mix well and apply on face. Leave it for 15 mts and then wash it off.

### Carrot Face Pack

Grind 1 or 2 fresh carrots. Mix it with ½ tbsp honey and apply on face. Let it dry for 15 mts. Wash it off.



### Avocado Face Pack:

Mix ¼ cup Avocado extract (mixed with water) along with 1 egg white and 1 tbsp honey. Apply to face. Let it dry for 15 mts. Wash it off with cold water.

### Potato Face Pack

Mix 1 tbsp mashed potato paste with ½ tbsp curd and juice of 1 lemon. Apply it to face and wash with water after 15 mts.

### Banana and Almond oil Face Pack

Mash one banana. Add almond oil to it and mix well. Apply on face. Keep it for 15 mts and wash off with water.

### Apple Face Pack

Mash ½ Apple (ripe) Add 1 tbsp Oatmeal and 1 tbsp honey. Mix well and apply on face. Let it dry. Wash it off.

### Tomato Face Pack

Mix one mashed tomato with 2 tbsp honey. Add 1 teaspoon lemon juice and mix well. Apply on face. Wash it off after drying.

### Oatmeal and Yoghurt

### Face Pack

Mix 1 tbsp yoghurt, 1 tbsp Tomato juice and 1 tbsp Oatmeal. Apply on face. Allow it to dry for 15-20 mts. Wash it off. Oat meal also helps to remove dead skin when you rub on the face.

You may try these homemade face packs for a glowing and beautiful skin. ■

എല്ലാവർക്കും  
ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ  
ഉറപ്പും സൗകര്യം

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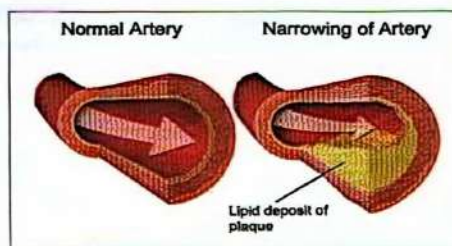
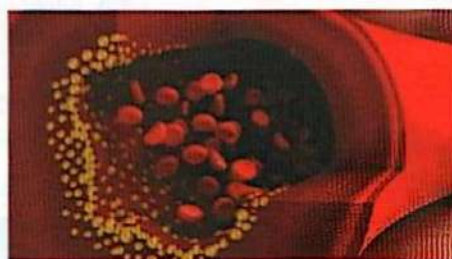
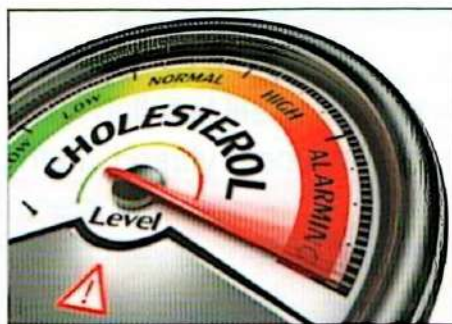
# CHOLESTEROL GOOD OR BAD?

Recently lot of information and discussions are given in media about cholesterol. We know that high level of cholesterol is not good for heart. There are 'good' and 'bad' cholesterol also. Let us know in detail about the cholesterol and healthy eating.

- Dr (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

**C**holesterol is a lipid. Lipid means a fatty substance that can't dissolve in blood. Large molecular called Lipoproteins transport lipids in blood. When you go for health checkups doctor prescribes 'Lipid Profile' which contains LDL ('bad') cholesterol, HDL ('good') cholesterol, triglycerides and total cholesterol. By assessing this doctor advised you about probable risks to your heart and importance of healthy eating.

Cholesterol is required for constructing and maintaining cells and cell membranes. Cholesterol also helps in converting sunlight into Vit D inside our body. There are 2 sources of cholesterol- 1) our body where cholesterol is made in liver and circulated to other parts through blood 2) from food- more in food from animal sources like meat, poultry and full fat dairy products. Egg yolks, Chicken liver and fish contain maximum cholesterol. Liver produces more cholesterol when you eat a diet high in saturated fats and trans fats.



Excess cholesterol can form a thick and hard deposit (Plaque) between the layers of walls of blood vessels (arteries). This will reduce the size of blood vessels, narrowing them making it harder for heart to pump and circulate blood. This condition is called as 'Atherosclerosis' which can lead to Coronary Heart Disease.

The plaques can break open and cause blood clots. If the blood clot blocks an artery giving blood supply to heart (coronary artery), a part of heart muscle dies which is known as heart attack. If it blocks an artery supplying blood to brain it can lead to stroke. So Cholesterol as a risk factor for heart disease, heart attack and stroke. If the clot blocks arteries supplying blood to legs it can lead to Peripheral Artery Disease and Gangrene (death of tissues in legs). If you have other risk factors like smoking, high B.P, Diabetes and Obesity your overall risk is more. Your age, gender, family health history and diet also affect your cholesterol level.

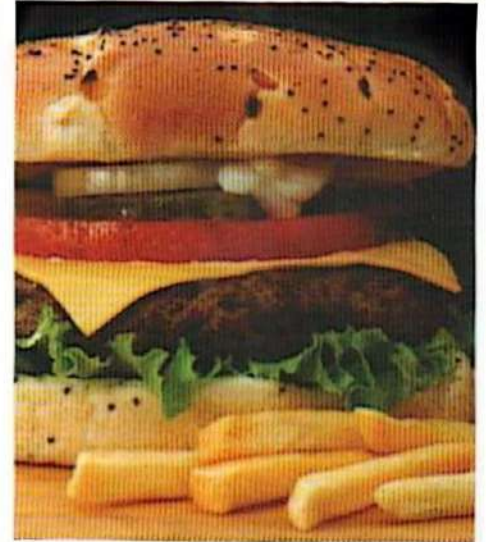
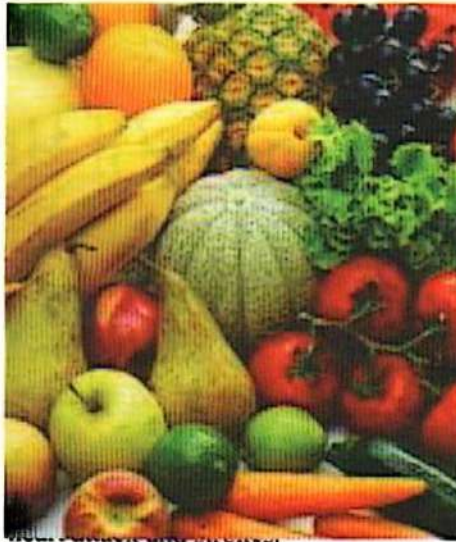
## Women and Cholesterol

Usually heart attacks are less in

women during the reproductive years. The reason is the female sex hormone called oestrogen helps to raise HDL (good cholesterol). Oestrogen production is more during child bearing years thus protecting women from heart attacks. Since oestrogen production decreases after menopause, older women are more likely to get heart attacks.

### Bad Cholesterol (LDL Cholesterol)

LDL cholesterol is associated with heart attacks and strokes as it leads to plaque formation in blood vessels. A diet high in saturated fats and transfats



### Good Cholesterol (HDL Cholesterol)

HDL cholesterol helps to remove LDL cholesterol from arteries and take it back to liver where it is broken down and passed from body. Increased levels of HDL cholesterol protect from heart attacks and decreased level is associated with increased risk of heart disease. HDL cholesterol is reduced in certain genetic diseases, smoking, Type 2 Diabetes, smoking, Obesity, sedentary person and those taking drugs like steroids and beta blockers.

### Triglycerides

These are another type of dangerous fat in our blood. Increased levels of triglycerides are seen in Obesity, physical inactivity, smoking, excess alcohol consumption, those taking diet very high in carbohydrates, certain genetic disorders and diseases, Diabetes and Heart diseases. Increased levels of triglycerides is associated with heart disease.

Now let us know about the different types of fats which we take in food. ■

**To be continued**

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# Nurturing The Goodness Of Human Beings.

**W**alk Of Hope from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, aims to promote peace and harmony, and covers a distance of 7500 km through 11 states over a period of 500 days.

This novel padayatra undertaken by Sri M, the spiritual leader and founder of Satsang Foundation & Manav Ekta Mission, is presently in Maharashtra from July 17 to August 7 and moving towards Gujarat from Shirdi/Nashik. The Walk of Hope was flagged off on January 12, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda the great prophet of inter faith harmony. Having commenced from Kanyakumari, the walk will conclude in Srinagar Jammu and reach out to 10 million Indians throughout the country. Manav Ekta Mission, a wing of Satsang Foundation powers the Walk of hope. As their leader Sri M says, "We walk together not as members of groups or parties or advocates of ideology. We walk to free society from fear and insecurity, thus igniting the formation of an inclusive and participative society, where opportunity is given to all, where talent and effort are rewarded, regardless of caste religion, language region or gender."

Sri M is a spiritual leader and reformer born in Thiruvananthapuram, who travelled to the Himalayas at the age of 19, meeting saints and sages, eventually gaining his spiritual fulfillment under the guidance of Maheswarnath Babaji. He is presently settled in Andhra Pradesh, leading a simple life with his wife and two children and guiding and teaching at Satsang Foundation and Manav Ekta Foundation. His autobiography, 'Apprenticed to a Himalayan Master - A Yogi's Autobiography' is a best seller. ■



Spiritual leader Sri M walking with other participants.



The 'Walk of Hope' in Shirdi.

എല്ലാവർക്കും  
ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ  
മൗനസംസാരങ്ങൾ

**S S Nair**  
Andheri

# World Population Day

**T**oday the world is on the threshold of population explosion. With the increasing population, the rate of consumption of the resources too will increase in leaps and bounds. Hence to make the students aware of the menace of over population, Mahatma International School organized an awareness programme on World Population Day, i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. On this occasion, students of Std IX & X presented a humorous skit with a message to control population explosion. It focused on the need for family planning and emphasized the benefits of small family. Devika Nair of Std X, delivered a mind-alerting speech, highlighting the rocketing Indian populace, advantages and disadvantages of population and the necessity to curtail population growth. The Principal, Mrs. Beena K. Thambi, expressed her deep concern on the increasing population. She quoted Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, "A large population becomes an asset only when the people become a resource." She added saying that population is increasing geometrically which may cause chaos



and starvation in future. She heartily congratulated the class teachers of Std IX & X, Mrs. Deepa Jayaroy and Mrs. Meena Khalil for organizing the programme successfully. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks conveyed by Smriti Iyer of Std.

IX. The programme was highly appreciated by all the teachers and students alike as it sensitized all towards the peril of over population.

*Deepa Jayaroy  
English Faculty  
Mahatma International School*



ഓണപ്പുവേ ഓമൽപ്പുവേ

Movie: Ee Gānam Marhakkumō (Year: 1978)

Lyrics: ONV Kurup  
Singer: K J Yesudas

Music: Salil Chowdhary



hika



ONV Kurup

ഓണപ്പുവേ! - പുവേ!- പുവേ!  
ഓമൽപ്പുവേ! - പുവേ!- പുവേ!  
നീ തേടും മനോഹരതീരം - ദൂരെ  
മാടിവിളിപ്പു - ഇതാ' - ഇതാ!

അന്തർഭാഹസംഗീതമായ്  
സന്ധ്യാപുഷ്പസൗരഭമായ് (2)  
അനുഭൂതികൾ പൊന്നിതളിതളായ്  
അഴകിൽ വിരിയും തീരമിതാ! (ഓണപ്പുവേ!)

വിണ്ണിൽ ദിവ്യശംഖൊലികൾ  
മണ്ണിൽ സ്വപ്നമഞ്ജരികൾ (2)  
കവിതൻ ശാരിക കളമൊഴിയാൽ  
നറുത്തേൻ ചൊരിയും തീരമിതാ! (ഓണപ്പുവേ!)



Salil Chowdhary

വില്ലും, വീണ, പൊൻതുടിയും  
പുള്ളൊപ്പെണ്ണിൻ മൺകുടവും (2)  
സ്വരരാഗങ്ങളിലുരുകിവരും  
അമൃതം പകരും തീരമിതാ! (ഓണപ്പുവേ!)

Õṇappūvē! - pūvē! - pūvē!  
Õmalppūvē! - pūvē! - pūvē!  
Nī tētum manōharaṭīram dūre  
Mātivilippū iṭā! iṭā!

Anṭardāha saṅgītamāi  
Sandhyāpushpasourabhamāi (2)  
Anubhūṭikal ponnaṭalīṭalāi  
Azhakil viriyum ṭīramiṭā! (Õṇappūvē!)



K. J. Yesudas

Viṇṇilswapna divya śankholikal  
Maṇṇil swapna manjarikal (2)  
Kaviṭan śārika kālamozhiyāl  
Narhuṭēn coriyum ṭīramiṭā! (Õṇappūvē!)

Villum, vīṇa, poṇṭutiyum  
Poḷḷōppeṇṇin maṅkutavum (2)  
Swararāṅgāḷilurukivarum  
Amṛtam pakarum ṭīramiṭā! (Õṇappūvē!)

In this film directed by N. Sankaran Nair based on the story written by Venu Nagavally and Aniyam Alancheri, there were five songs sung by K J Yesudas, S Janaki, Sabita Chowdhary and Vani Jayaram. The main actors were Prem Nazir, Rugmini Roy, K P Ummar, Adoor Bhasi, Bahadur, Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair, Jose Prakash, Jagathi Sreekumar, Lulu Alex, Meena, Sukumari, Sreelatha etc.

Namita Pramod:

# “ONAM FESTIVAL OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY”

There was a time when Malayalam movies and film media used to lament about the lack of Malayalam actresses to be heroines in act in our films and had to import heroines from other languages like Telugu and Hindi. Except that our dubbing artistes gained employment, the move did not fetch much for our movies. Today there is a change in the scenario. We have a number of actresses with the perfect Malayalee look, well versed in the language and also knowing the nuances of fine acting. They are not just after the glare, glamour and glue of the movies but are well educated and professional. Among them Namita Pramod occupies an important place. Most of her films are box office hits and is fortunate to have shared space with most of the present young heroes. She is now very busy shooting for 'Amar Akbar Anthony' and still found some time to spend with *Kerala In Mumbai*.



I like Mumbai city very much. I had been here on two three occasions. To attend some events organized by Malayalee organizations. When Malayalees here tell me about my films, characters and acting, I feel very happy.

**KIM:** Let's start with Onam.

**Namita:** Yes. Onam is always a festival for me. Most of my time was spent in Thiruvananthapuram and for the last two years I am in Kochi with my family. Wherever we are, we always celebrate Onam with pomp and show. No religion or caste comes among us during this event. Here in Kochi, everyone comes forward to jointly decorate our courtyard, prepare the Onam feast and merry making. There is no segregation among us in this regard. Onam belongs to all Malayalees. However, I feel it has a greater impact on the Malayalees outside Kerala than in Kerala. Here in Kochi we have not many relatives but have a large number of friends. Like in the past, this time also we will prepare the idol of Thrikkakarappan and worship him before joining the feast. We shall make it a memorable event.

**KIM:** Any film releases for Onam?

**Namita:** No. But immediately after, 'Amar Akbar Anthony'

**KIM:** It is a multi starrer.

**Namita:** Yes. With Indrajit, Prithviraj and Jayasurya. It is a first opportunity for me to share space with them in one film. Though I am not heroine to all of them, I am heroine in their film. It is also special as it is the first film directed by Nadirsha, a very experienced person. It will be a very good entertaining film.

**KIM:** You have acted with most of the young heroes.

**Namita:** You may say so. Dileepettan, Kunchacko Boban, Vineet Srinivasan, Nivin Pauli, Dulkhara Salmaan, Urmila Mukundan, and now with Indrajit, Prithviraj and Jayasurya.

**KIM:** You acted more with...

**Namita:** With Dileepettan. Three films.

**KIM:** All three hits!

**Namita:** That's my luck. I wish all films should be superhits. Fortunately, there is no flop till now. Whoever is my hero, all my characters should be appreciated by the audience. That's my wish.

**KIM:** Any movie with Mammootty, Mohanlal or Suresh Gopi?

**Namita:** (Laughs) No use of dreaming. Who is there not inclined to act with them? When everything falls in place, it would also happen.

**KIM:** What was your first film?

**Namita:** That was a bumper hit, 'Traffic.' I was daughter to Rahman Uncle. Though I didn't have a longer role in it, it was pivotal to the story. My first heroine role was in 'Puthiya theeram,' of Sathyan Anthikad.

**KIM:** You were heroine to Nivin?

**Namita:** Yes. It was producer Anto Joseph who introduced me to Sathyan Uncle. Nivin was then doing 'Thattathil Marhayathu.' Even now we are good friends. When I saw 'Premam', I called him to compliment him.

**KIM:** Who is your closest friend in the movie circle?

**Namita:** I am keen to keep up good friendship with all. However I like to mention my friendship with Dileepettan. I am friendly with director Lal Jose and Kavya Madhavan.

**KIM:** Any artistes in the family circle?

**Namita:** Kummarekann Raghunath is my father's elder brother. He is still active in films and serials. During my studies, I used to write and I believe they were good stories.

**KIM:** Can we expect you to do it in movies also?

**Namita:** Oh, No. Never. Now I'm out of touch.

**KIM:** Other language films?

**Namita:** I am getting a lot of offers from Tamil. If story and banner are good, I'm game. Now, I'm comfortable with Malayalam. If better roles are offered, then I would see.

**KIM:** How do you choose your films?

**Namita:** First we all together hear story. If the story and the character are good, then we look for the director, banner, hero et al. I am very careful in choosing the film and it has helped me a lot in my career.

**KIM:** Anybody accompany you at the location?

**Namita:** My daddy will always be with me. I have a younger sister and she is now in IX standard.

**KIM:** Your favoured character? Location?

**Namita:** As I said earlier, all my characters are selected with care and so, all of them are dear to me. Then location. My liking is irrelevant there. It should suit the story. Wherever it is, I'm comfortable. So far I was never picturised in any risky location.

**KIM:** Now about Mumbai...

**Namita:** I like Mumbai city very much. I had been here on two three occasions. To attend some events organized by Malayalee organizations. When Malayalees here tell me about my films, characters and acting, I feel very happy. Then I have several friends from Mumbai on Face Book. I should thank you for choosing me for this interview, to be included in your Onam Special. My Onam greetings to all. Also from the members of my family.

# Who gets the Onam bumper

Mammootty, Mohanlal, Dileep, Prithviraj or Kunchacko Boban?

**G**overnment of Kerala is known to issue seasonal bumper lottery tickets, besides the ordinary daily lotteries, during Pooja, Vishu, Christmas and Onam seasons. Kerala has now more labourers from Bihar, Bengal, Andhra, Tamilnadu etc, than from Kerala. Perumbavoor in Ernakulam district is their capital. In a survey conducted by a newspaper, Perumbavoor sells more than five lakhs of Porothas. It means that the Malayalee's favourite

likely to favour not Malayalees but non-Malayalees.

Mammootty's *Accha Din*, Dileep's *Love 24x7*, Unni Mukundan's *KL-10-Pathu* and Kunchacko Boban-Bindu Menon team's *Madhuranaranga* were released during Ramzan and the last mentioned scored better than the earlier mentioned. The first three films disappeared from the theatres immediately after first week. Assessment

prime theatres.

Most probably, *Loham* of Ranjit-Mohanlal team would score over other movies released during the Onam season. Unlike his earlier films, Ranjit comes out with a typical commercial film. This Ashirvad Cinemas' film boasts of a long list of stars. Shot in Kochi and Goa, it is being released over a hundred theatres.

Kamal who raised his voice against Premam, comes with *Utopiayile Rajavu*



edible item has become their favourite too. But this trend is not true for films and the reverse holds good. Like bumper offer, several Malayalam films were released during Ramzan but the Malayalees favoured *Bahubali* and *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, over Malayalam films. So, the Onam bumper would also

of the film takes little time these days. By the time of first interval, the judgement is passed through WhatsApp and Facebook. Even on the holidays like Saturday and Sunday Mammootty-Dileep films could not fetch a houseful. Despite the sabotages planned by the distributors, *Bahubali* continues to attract audience in

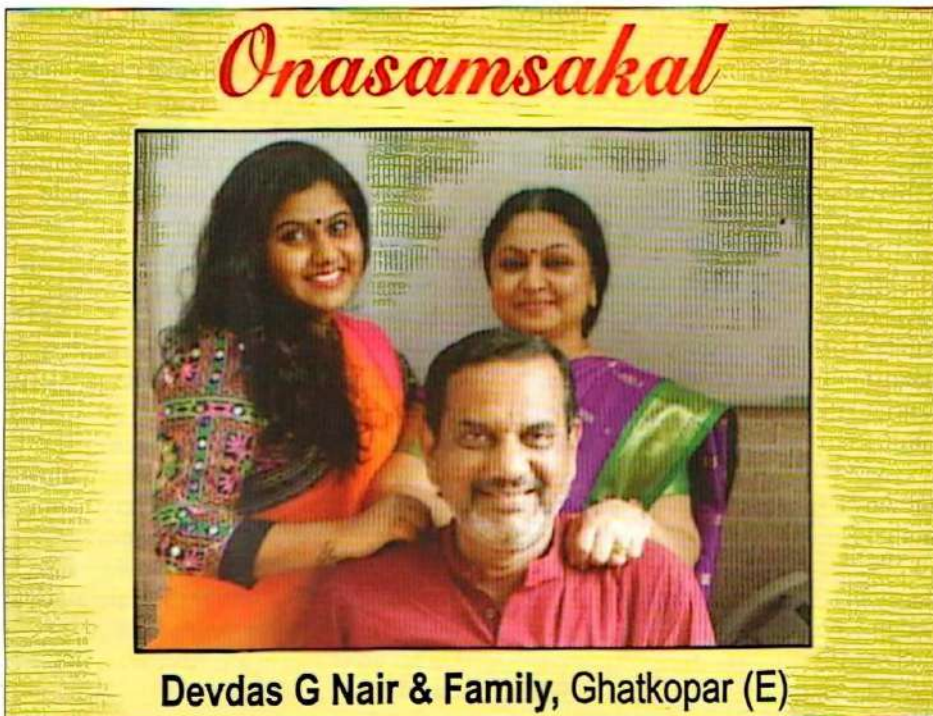
(*King of Utopia*). In this satirical film, Mammootty comes as 'C P Swathantran'. It is being planned to be released in around 80 theatres.

After *Drishyam*, Jithu Joseph joins Dileep who found success in *My Boss* and the combine brings *Life of Josutty*. The extra ordinary incidents in the life of an ordinary person make this film different. This suspense film was shot in Newsland and Thodupuzha and being released in seventy theatres.

*Double Barrel* is a comedy cum action film, directed by Lijo Jose Pallisseri who earlier directed *Aamen*. Prithviraj, Indrajit, Sunny Wayne and Tamil actor Arya share the important characters. This film is being released in India and Gulf Countries via internet and if so, this would be the first Malayalam film to achieve that score.

Kunchacko Boban is testing waters to see if he could carry a film on his own shoulders through *Jamnappyaari*, directed by Thomas Sebastian whose earlier film *Mayabazar* was a dud. Chackochan is an auto driver in this film and Gayathri Suresh is the heroine.

Chances are there that a few more join the race. Tamil, Hindi and English films may also give Malayalees value for their money. Let's wait and watch who walks to the bank, Malayalee or non-Malayalee?



Devdas G Nair & Family, Ghatkopar (E)



# Kerala in Mumbai

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