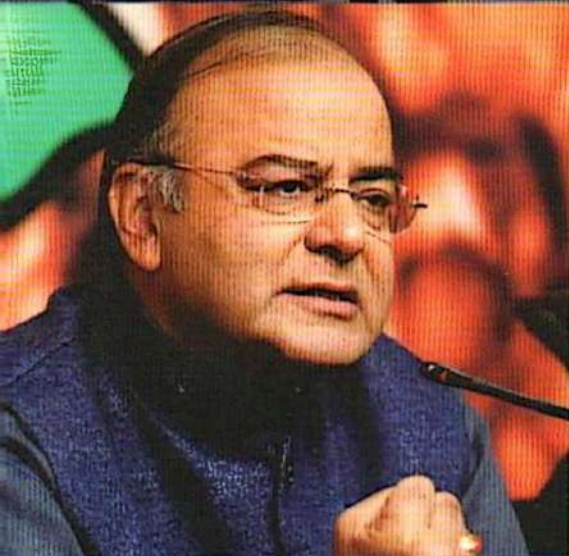
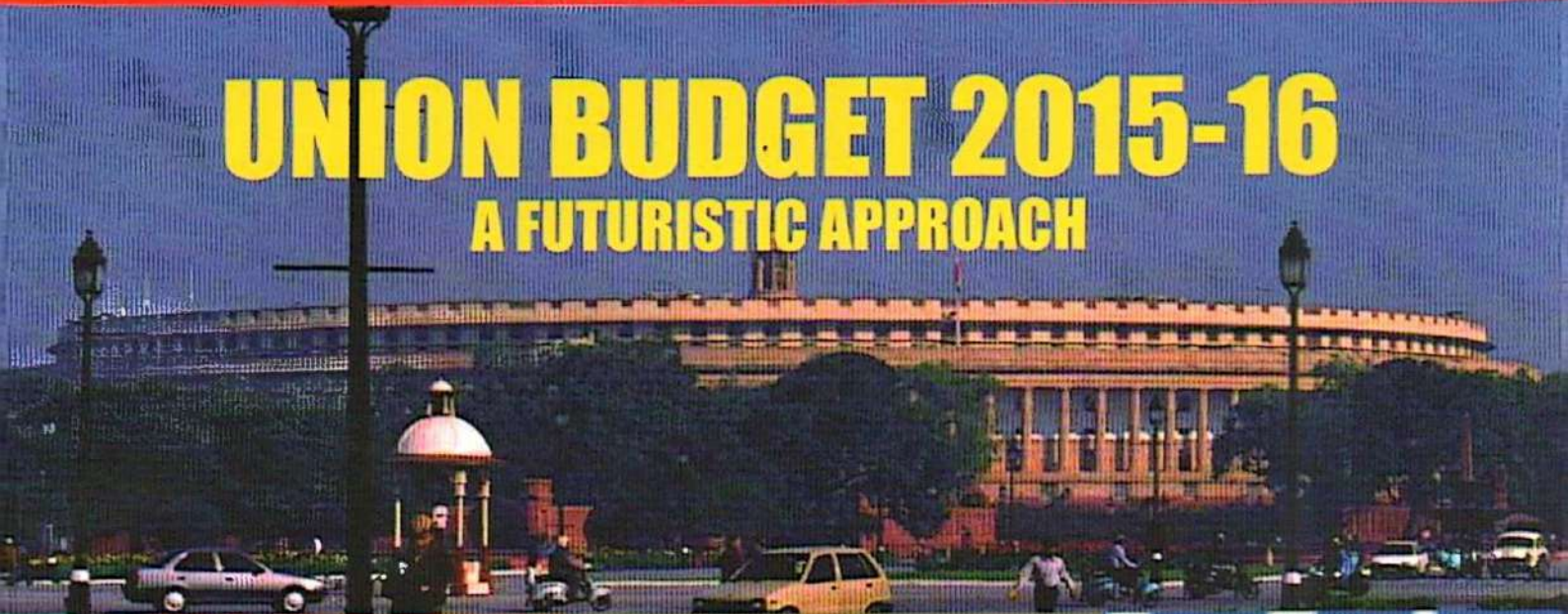


# Kerala in Mumbai

The Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

■ Vol. 5 No. 12 ■ Price Rs. 70 ■ March 2015

## UNION BUDGET 2015-16 A FUTURISTIC APPROACH



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Music Award**



**Literary  
Icon**



**Untiring  
Social Activist**



**Passionate  
Dancer**



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

**Executive Editor**  
K V Satyanath

**Feature Editor**  
Lakshmi Venkatachalam

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

**Marketing Manager**  
Ms Asha Soman  
Mob: 08108771247

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

**Consulting Creative Director**  
Shankar S Bhogwekar

**Designer**  
Sudhakaran K M

**Photographer**  
Mangesh U Borade  
Mob: 08691902124

**Advertisement & Marketing**  
T R Raghunandan  
(Kochi - 09847169725)

**Production & Logistics**  
K V Prabhakaran

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

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Printing & Publishing Pvt Ltd

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

# Teach them fishing

**W**hom would you blame if you are not a resident of the city state of Delhi? There are sufficient reasons for raising this issue.

All these years we thought the residents of Delhi were a privileged lot as that city happened to be the capital of our country. What would the tourists from abroad think if everything, such as the pulses, sugar, grains etc, is costlier compared to the prices at other parts of the country, we reasoned. The tourists might think if despite not being a non-productive city, things are cheaper at Delhi, how much easier for the people of other parts of the country to live on. We derived a false pride then. Now we feel cheated as the news of per capita expenses for the residents of that city is much lower thanks to the new government installed there.

Now that Kejriwal made his election promise good, the Delhites must be more than happy to continue with him. Earlier, only *roti*, *kapda* and *Makkan* were considered essential items for man to live. Now items like water and power also are added to that list. *Makkan* was considered inclusive of water and power but not anymore. Hence the announcement that Delhi residents would get 20,000 litres of water free while they have to pay only 50% of the fuel charges if power consumed in a month is within 400 units. Had it been in Mumbai, it would have cost every dwelling unit more than Rs. 2,400/-. Indeed a mighty bonanza! When Kejriwal assumed power for the first time, this scheme benefitted 13 lakh families but when he resigned, the L-G cancelled the scheme. Now he has brought the scheme back with a vengeance to benefit more than 36 lakh families at a cost of Rs.1,700 crore annually to the exchequer.

We may not be off the track if we assume that it is like the subsidised LPG pegged at 12 cylinders per annum, thanks to the crown prince Rahul Gandhi of INC. Now no political party in India would dare to reduce the number of cylinders and the ditto goes with the 400 units of power also for Delhites. In India we have the most magnanimous tradition of 'no retraction of generosity once offered'. It started with the reservation policy of the backward classes at the instance of the makers of our constitution. It was originally meant for ten years and now we are in its seventh decade and also the net grew wider. Though the Apex Court has capped the reservation at 50%, in one or two states it grew beyond that cap by dubious means. Now who would dare to reduce the subsidised power from 400 watts (the average power consumption of Mumbai is less than 300 units per family) or reduce the free water from 20,000 litres?

It is not a secret that no state in this federal country is having a surplus budget nor without debt to the Union Government. Whenever there is a change in government in the state, the new party or coalition blames the previous government for the mismanagement of its fiscal state. Recently Mamata Banerjee was in the news for seeking an appointment from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a complete waiver of the past debts of her state. Once her demand is conceded, there would a plethora of similar demands from other states. There are some states in India, such as Bihar, ever bound firmly to backwardness despite all the assistance. Recently some economist pointed out that in India backwardness was rewarding.

United States has learnt in the hard way that subsidy never brings prosperity and when it tells other nations to cut down on subsidies, it is accused of anti-poor. When the Modi government is intending to increase the state's share and to tell them to carry out their own plan and projects, the states get opportunity to pilfer their additional capital to feed their subsidies in the name of social welfare. Subsidies could be defended in an emergency to meet the essential needs and not having time to build infra structure but in our country, these emergencies are perennial.

Our national polity is seen as inescapably corrupt, inefficient, dishonest and incapable. When will this rich country of poor people emerge truly magnificent?

## Letter Of Appreciation

Kerala In Mumbai what a befitting and bewitching title for a magazine which caters to the Keralites who chose to settle in Mumbai and kindles their emotions and sentimental feelings by its intimate, interesting and informative writings.

Kerala In Mumbai takes the readers on a nostalgic journey homeward, on reading the well written articles word by word. You are undoubtedly doing marvellous things. Please keep it up and God will shower his choicest blessings on you.

Krishnan S Aiyer  
Dombivli

## V V Achuthan's Autobiography In KIM

I have been thinking of writing to the editor of KERALA IN MUMBAI for the past couple of months but kept on postponing for something or the other reason. I am an ardent reader of KIM. I would like to congratulate its publisher especially the printer firstly for the use of international standard quality paper and secondly its printing.

My enthusiasm in reading this magazine has increased ever since Mr V V Achuthan's autobiography - "Vipareethadisa" started being published. The moment I receive the magazine, I directly go to this page to know more about his life story.

Even during those struggling days of his career, he found time to act in drama and now he is a renowned actor. In one of the articles, among his other friends, he also referred the name of my father Mancheri Narayanan Nair who also struggled equally to survive in those days. My uncle Narayanan Poduval also acted with him those days.

I sincerely request KIM to continue publishing his autobiography, as readers like me are eager to know more about him and such people in Bombay (Mumbai).

## Tickle your Taste Buds

Dear Readers,

Got a tasty recipe to share with our readers? It could be either one from the storehouse of your grandmother's /mother's kitchen in Kerala or a traditional one included in Malayalee festivals, or even a typical Kerala dish. However, if you so desire, you can pitch in any recipe of your choice. We will publish it in our Recipe column, if suitable.

You may mail your recipe along with its photo as well as your photo to: [keralainmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:keralainmumbai@gmail.com)

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

## Attention Subscribers

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

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Incidentally, we hail from the same village i.e. Ramantha Kannur District.

Once again congratulations to KIM and its team.

Dinesh Podu  
Ba.

## Platform for singing

Recently, I attended the Raagalaya Music Competition held at Marol Education Academy. I was surprised to see the talent in singing among the younger generation and their clarity singing Malayalam songs, (even children in the age group 7-8 years.) Raagalaya Academy of Music is indeed doing wonderful job by hosting these competitions and giving a platform to sing for these budding singers.

Jayasree Me  
Andi

## Regarding Features in KIM

We enjoy reading your Mumbai News Digest. Please include more news about Mumbai Malayalees who are a source of inspiration to us. I look forward to read about the various Malayalee Samajams and their Samajam activities.

At the same time, I request you to include more features of general interest in your esteemed magazine.

G V Vasudeva  
Charl

## Corrigendum

In our February 2015 issue, where we had written about the personalities on whom we bestowed of Kerala In Mumbai Excellence Awards, we inadvertently mentioned that one of our awardees of excellence, classical Bharatanatyam dance exponent Lata Surendra is 'former Vice President International Dance Council, UNESCO'. We regret the error.

"Lata Surendra is currently the Vice - President in the Executive Committee the of UNESCO International Dance Council for the period 2014 to 2017."

Also we would like to add: "Lata Surendra has been in the field of Bharatanatyam for more than four and a half decades. Her desire is to inculcate into her disciples, the love and reverence, she holds and cherishes for the rich art form of Bharatanatyam through her "Anjali Bharata Nyam Research Institute."

Editor

# MAIDEN BUDGET OF NaMo era



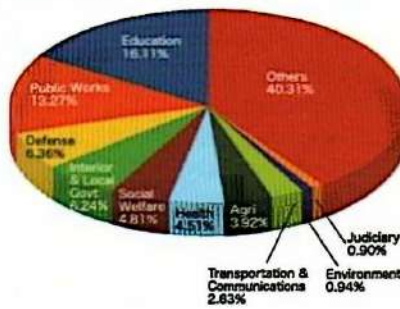
Arun Jaitley, the Union Minister for Finance presented his budget inviting compliments and criticisms from the leaders of political parties, businessmen and common men. Nevertheless, certain television channels credited it with 8-9.5 out of 10.

- Sathyan

**I**n a budget that had several firsts, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his budget speech announced a slew of tax measures and personal savings schemes aimed at benefiting the taxpayer and common man. While tax exemption limits for various schemes were hiked, new methods to monetise gold were also announced. We take a look at the major takeaways for the common man from Budget 2015. The following are the highlights of the Budget for the year 2015:

1. To start with, he presumed that every rupee of state expenditure will help in the betterment of the people.
2. The credibility of the Indian Economy has been re-established according to the minister, as their government had taken several steps

Proposed 2015 National Budget Allocation by department



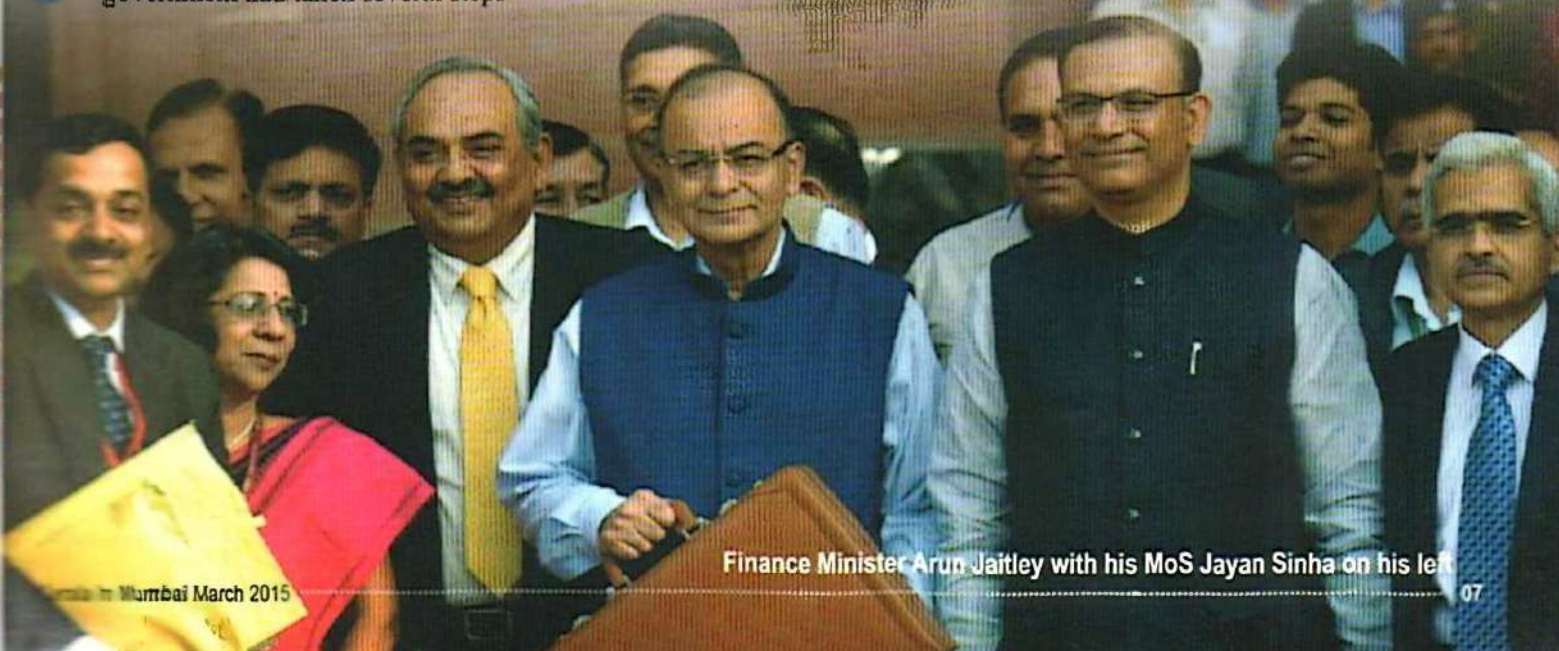
3. Real GDP growth is expected to be 7.4% making India the fastest growing economy in the world, as ours is the second-best performing stock market in developing economies.
4. The rupee has become stronger by 6.4%

## Defence



Minister declared 'make in India' policy for defence equipment and allocated Rs.2,46,727 crore for defence (an increase of 9.87 per cent over last year).

5. State governments are deemed partners in economic growth.
6. He assured to build 6 crore toilets of which 50 lakh are already been done.
7. Objective is to keep inflation below 6 per cent and the growth in 2015-'16 is expected to be 8-8.5%.
8. Each house in the country should have basic facilities.



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley with his MoS Jayan Sinha on his left

## Taxation

■ Basic rate of corporate tax in India is now 30 per cent. But rate of collection is 23 per cent. A regime of exemptions has led to loss of revenue. Corporate tax rate will be reduced to 25% cent over the next four years.

1. Abolition of Wealth Tax.
2. Additional 2% surcharge for the super rich with income of over Rs. 1 crore.
3. Rate of corporate tax to be reduced to 25% over next four years.
4. Total exemption of up to Rs. 4,44,200 can be achieved.
5. 100% exemption for contribution to Swachh Bharat, apart from CSR.
6. Service tax increased to 14 per cent.



## Agriculture

In the agricultural sector the minister allocated Rs.25,000 crore for rural infrastructural development bank, Rs.5,300 crore for micro irrigation programme and Rs.8.5 lakh crore towards farmer credit.



## Infrastructure

1. Investment in Infrastructure will go up by Rs 70,000 crore in 2015-16. Annual inflow of Rs. 20,000 crore by way of a trust, to use this extra equity to leverage investment in infrastructure. PPP model is to be revisited and revitalised. Atal Innovation Mission - for entrepreneurs and researchers to foster a culture of innovation and Rs 150 crore for this purpose is set aside.
2. Tax-free bonds for projects in rail road and irrigation.
3. PPP model for infrastructure development to be revitalised and govt. to bear majority of the risk.
4. Atal Innovation Mission to be established to draw on expertise of entrepreneurs, and researchers to foster scientific innovations; allocation of Rs. 150 crore is made.
5. Govt. proposes to set up 5 ultra mega power projects, each of 4000 MW.

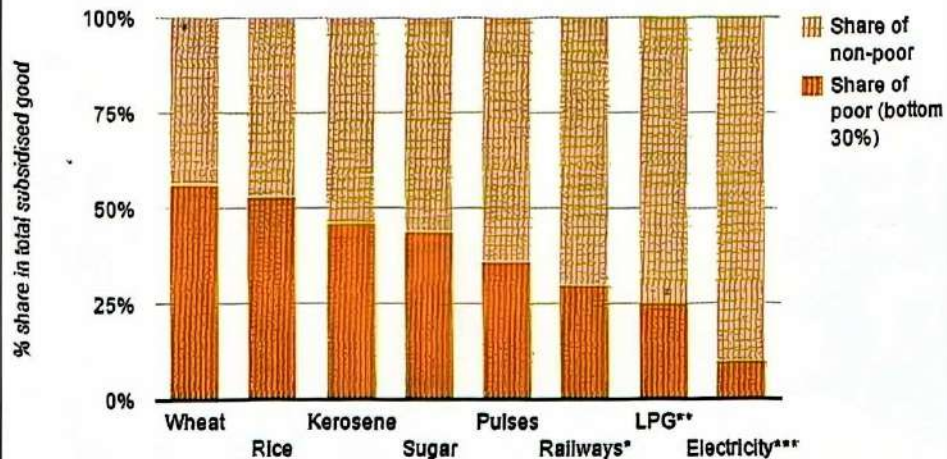


## Welfare schemes

1. GST and JAM trinity (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhar and Mobile) to improve quality of life and to pass benefits to common man.
2. Six crore toilets across the country under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
3. MUDRA bank will refinance micro finance organisations to encourage first generation SC/ST entrepreneurs.
4. For the Atal Pension Yojna, govt. will contribute 50% of the premium limited to Rs. 1000 a year.
5. New scheme for physical aids and assisted living devices for people aged over 80.
6. Govt to use Rs. 9000 crore unclaimed funds in PPF/EPF for Senior Citizens Fund.
7. Rs.5,000 crore additional allocation for MGNREGA.
8. Govt. to create universal social security system for all Indians.

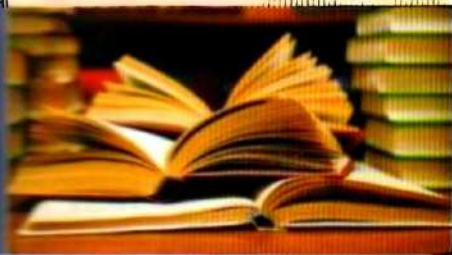


## Subsidies and the poor



## Education

1. AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Assam.
2. IIT in Karnataka; Indian Institute of Mines in Dhanbad to be upgraded to IIT.
3. PG institute of Horticulture in Amritsar.
4. Kerala to have University of Disability Studies
5. Centre of film production, animation and gaming to come up in Arunachal Pradesh.
6. IIM for Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh.

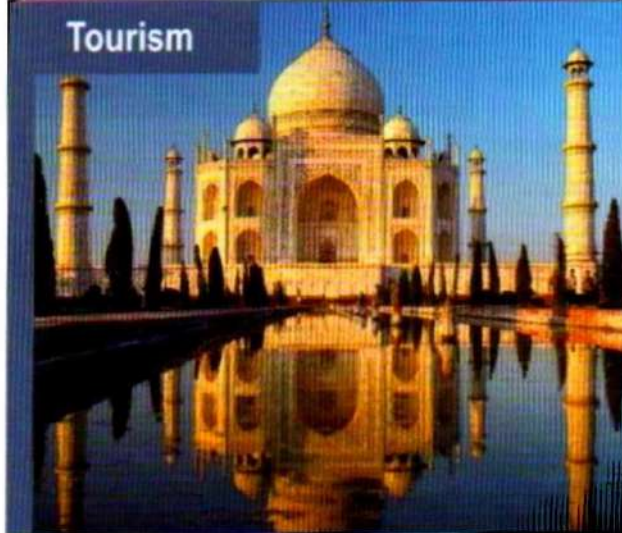


## Renewable energy

The allocation made for this sector was Rs. 75 crore electric cars production, 100 MW solar power by 2022, 60 MW of wind power, 10 MW from bio-gas and 5 MW from Small hydro-projects.



## Tourism



Development schemes for churches and convents in old Goa; Hampi, Elephanta caves, Forests of Rajasthan, Leh palace, Varanasi, Jallianwala Bagh, Qutb Shahi tombs at Hyderabad to be under the new tourism scheme. To boost tourism, he proposed to raise visa on arrival facilities to 150 countries from the current 43.

## Other features

1. Net impact of tax proposals is of Rs. 15,068 crore.
2. Yoga - included under charitable activities.
3. Individual taxpayer can get benefits up to Rs. 4,44,200.
4. Transport allowance exemption to be increased to Rs. 1,600 per month.
5. Rs. 50,000 contribution to new pension scheme. "To make India a pensioned society."
6. Additional deduction of Rs. 25,000 for differently-abled persons.
7. Increase in limit of deduction of health insurance premium of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000. For senior citizens, limit will be Rs. 30,000. Very senior citizens - Rs. 30,000 deduction on expenses incurred.
8. 2 per cent cess on services for Swachh Bharat.
9. 100 per cent deduction for contribution to Swachh Bharat and Clean Ganga schemes.
10. Service Tax rate increased to 14 per cent.
11. Educational cess and higher educational cess to be subsumed as a part of GST.
12. Wealth tax - Rs. 1,008 crore in 2013-14. Wealth tax to be abolished and replaced with a super-rich tax for those with income of over Rs. 1 crore.
13. Basic custom duty rate reduced for 22 items.
14. GAAR - applicability to be deferred by two years.
15. First proposal is to deal with black money. In the past 9 months, a major breakthrough was achieved when a delegation of the Revenue Department visited Switzerland.
16. Exemption to individual taxpayers will continue.

## Following is a list of what will be costlier:

- Cigarettes and other tobacco products
- Completely built imported commercial vehicles
- Cement
- Aerated, flavoured drinks and packaged water
- Plastic bags and sacks
- Business and executive class air travel
- Visit to amusement and theme park
- Music concerts
- Liquor
- Chit fund and lottery
- Gold and gold jewellery

## Following is a list of what is cheaper:

- Leather footwear priced above Rs 1,000 per pair
- Locally made mobile phones
- LED/LCD panels, LED lights and LED lamps
- Solar water heater
- Pacemakers, ambulance and ambulance services
- Computer tablets
- Incense sticks
- Microwave ovens
- Refrigerator compressors
- Peanut butter
- Packaged fruits and vegetables
- Visit to museum, zoo and national park.
- With fresh incentives for individuals announced in the Union Budget, the overall deduction limit under personal income tax has gone up to Rs 4,44,200 a year.
- Rise in the tax deduction limit by Rs 10,000 for payment towards health insurance premium.
- At the same time, exemption of transport allowance has been doubled to Rs 19,200 per year.

## Budget estimates

1. Non-plan expenditure - Rs. 13,12,200 crore.
2. Plan expenditure - Rs. 4,65,277 crore.
3. Fiscal deficit - 3.9% of GDP.
4. Rs. 68,968 crore for education sector.
5. Fully IT based student financial aid scheme for higher education.
6. National Skills Mission for skill development and entrepreneurship - Rs. 1,500 crore.
7. Rs. 75 crore for electric cars production.
8. Rs. 1,000 crore additional allocation to the Nirbhaya fund.
9. The govt. is establishing a mechanism for techn-financial incubation and facilitation programme - Rs. 1,000 crore set aside for this.
10. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana - Rs. 1 per day premium, Rs. 2 lakh coverage.
11. Accident death risk - Rs 2 lakhs for a premium of Rs. 12 per year. Atal Pension Yojana - defined pension depending on contribution. Govt. will contribute 50 per cent of the amount.
12. NBFCs registered with RBI above Rs. 5,000 crore to be considered financial institutions.
13. MGNREGA - Rs. 34,699 crore. Rs. 8.5 lakh crore of rural credit for the year.
14. Gross disinvestment in loss-making units will be undertaken. DBT will be further expanded from 1 crore to 10.3 crore.
15. Total public investment will be Rs 1.25 lakh crore.
16. Housing for all by 2022 announced 2 crore in rural areas, 5 crore in urban areas.

The FM was concerned with current state of Agriculture income, Increasing investment in Infrastructure, Decline in Manufacturing and stagnant exports and fiscal deficit. The fiscal target is 4.1% of GDP and proposed to achieve 3% in the next two years. The leakage in subsidies is alarming and it needed to be rationalised. As of now, 6335 crore has been so far transferred directly as LPG subsidies to consumers, he said and hoped that those who are better off and in top tax brackets would give up LPG subsidy voluntarily.



# A DIVERSION FROM THE PAST

There is all round freshness in the railway budget presented by Suresh Prabhu, Minister for Railways to the Indian Parliament on February 26. His was the first reform-oriented rail budget in decades. The minister was very certain about what he wanted to achieve by his maiden budget. Unlike his predecessors, he did not announce new trains in the state of his origin nor medical colleges, schools, recreation halls for the hardly working railway staff and so on. We have the precedence of Abdul Ghani Khan Chowdhary, Nitish Kumar, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Ram Vilas Paswan, Mamata Banerjee and Mukul Roy who substituted his senior Dinesh Trivedi's already presented budget with amendments that changed the character of the original and so on. When they were railway ministers, they could see only trains speeding up through their state and constituency. The vision of Suresh Prabhu was to be appreciated. He did not announce any new trains, new projects or rise in passenger fare but a token increase in the freight rates. His emphasis was on reformation in implementation of projects announced in the past and still on work, improve passenger amenities,

faster trains to reduce the travel time faster availability of tickets, safety of women passengers, accentuation of high speed bullet trains between Mumbai Ahmedabad, booking of meals while buying tickets, and totally desisting announcing new trains and projects

which are populist measures.

## New measures

1. Electrification: the current fiscal year Railways would take in right earnest electrification of 6 route kilometres which would entail a whopping 1330% increase over last year's. Along with electrification, Railways would also take up of doubling/tripling/ quadrupling of 9,400 kms in 70 past projects at a cost

of Rs.96,182 crore.

2. Modernization: Railways being the prime mover of Indian economy, emphasising will be on modernisation passenger amenities and safety, decongestion and speeding up of train. These will need an outlay of Rs.8,68 crore.

## Funding

Since there is no rise in passenger fare the funds are to be found by participating with states for state specific projects. operation with the PSUs to transport products with increased capacity work



Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu

be sought. Tie-up with multilateral and other governments to get hold of long term finance as well as overseas technology is the third option. Lastly public private participation to address connectivity, modernisation and expansion of existing fleet and assets will be explored.

All these could be achieved over a period of five years and would fetch Rs.8,56,020 crore. Decongestion and traffic facilities would get Rs.1,99,320 crore, connectivity of J&K and North East states would entail Rs.39,000 crore, safety through track renewal and construction bridges would cost Rs.1,27,000 crore, IT/Research would get Rs.5,000 crore, rolling stock Rs.1,02,000 crore, passenger amenities Rs.12,500 crore, high speed corridor Rs.65,000 crore, station redevelopment Rs.1,00,000 crore.

### For Mumbai

1. His budget has given a boost to projects and infrastructure upgradation for the ongoing MUTP II project by providing Rs.511 crore.
2. He provided Rs.11,441 crore for MUTP III.

3. Introduction of AC trains in the city.
4. Installation of CCTV cameras in women's compartments.

### For Kerala

1. Rs.403 crore for doubling tracks.
2. Rs.10 lakh for Kanjikode Coach factory.
3. Rs.51.7 crore for modernisation of tracks.
4. Rs.7.85 crore for second terminal at Kollam.
5. Funds allotted for about 100 over bridges and subways.

### For common man

1. CCTV cover for woman safety.
2. Wi-Fi connectivity in 400 B category stations.
3. SMS alert to passengers about changes in timing like delay etc.
4. Gauge conversion for 800 kms this year.
5. Buttons, coin vending machines for railway tickets.
6. E-catering to select meals.
7. 24x7 helpline for passengers.
8. More general coaches to be added.
9. On board entertainments on Shatabdi trains.

10. Hike in passenger capacity from 21 mn to 30mn daily by increasing the number of coaches to 26 in certain trains.

11. A new department to keep the stations and trains clean.
  12. Newly designed better quality bed linen in AC trains.
  13. Disposable bed rolls.
  14. Mobile phone charging even in general class compartments.
  15. Ten satellite railway terminals in important cities.
  16. Setting aside the lower berths for senior citizens and pregnant women.
  17. Round the clock help line 138.
  18. Toll free number 182 for security related issues.
  19. 17,000 bio-toilets in coaches.
  20. Disposable bags to keep waste in all bogies.
  21. Foldable ladders to climb to upper berths.
  22. Wider doors in all bogies.
- This railway budget is probably the first of its type as an apolitical budget. Many leaders from the opposition parties could not find fault with the vision but they are apprehensive about its implementation.

## MUMBAIKARS ON BUDGETS



### Harikumar Menon Powai

■ First full budgets of both Railway and Union budgets were presented in Parliament by Shri

Suresh Prabhu, Railway Minister and Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister respectively. In one sentence I can say both are pragmatic and growth oriented. What I like about the railway budget is that the minister has taken some bold steps. He had deviated from the "conventional" route and taken "a different route in his attempt to reach the final destination". In the past, railway ministers used to adopt populist measures whereby they took Indian Railway many years backwards, whereas Suresh Prabhu makes a sound beginning by shunning populism and improving passenger amenities. He tries to put railway finances back on track. There is no declaration about new trains or any unproductive expenses. Instead, he has focused on the "growth" and "safety" aspects. There is an attempt to

depoliticise railways which is a good sign. For many years during UPA rule, there has not been any hike in fares. This led to severe cash crunch for Indian Railways. Last year the government was therefore forced to hike the fares substantially. This along with the oil prices crash in international market helped the government to maintain the status quo that is no increase in fares this time. Some of the other major features highlighted in the budget are cleaner stations and trains, technology for better travel experience, easy ticketing, women's safety, travel with entertainment, easy ticketing etc .Overall it is a good budget. As for union budget 2015-2016, in one line I can say it is a budget which covers all sections of society. It is a budget for growth and global competitiveness. The primary aim is economic growth in the country. The finance minister has taken a commendable step in cutting the corporate tax rate from 30 % to 25 % within four years. This can help corporates in ploughing back the profits to fund their existing business or to

start new ventures which in turn will help to create more employment opportunities. Big thrust is given to alleviate unemployment in our country. The finance minister has promised to slash red tape and create a tax friendly administration. The budget aims to reach a GDP growth of 8-8.5 %.The budget took a baby step towards removing anomalies in tax laws. Wealth tax has been abolished. Gold Monetisation Scheme has been introduced which will allow citizens to earn more interest on their gold holdings. The finance minister has reaffirmed the government's intention to implement GST from April 2016. This will replace multiple central and state taxes. The finance minister proposes to work towards creating a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor and the under-privileged. Another salient feature is to cover accidental death risk of Rs.2 lakhs for a premium of just Rs.12 per year. The finance minister proposes direct transfer of subsidy which again is a pragmatic step. This will help in subsidy reaching the deserved. Special fund for start-ups has been created thereby encouraging

youth turn from being job-seekers to job-creators. Adequate funding has been provided for agriculture sector as well. There are measures to control the menace of black money as well. There are big opportunities in infra and manufacturing as government spend rises and 'Make in India' gets a tax boost. The General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) has been deferred for two more years thereby increasing confidence of global investors. To cut it short a blueprint for real change at multiple level has begun with a bang. All in all it is a good budget.



**Pratap Nair Andheri (E)**

■ I am not going to compare this budget with any of the previous ones. To me as an Indian, both the railway and national

budgets were big disappointments. We expected some bold statements coming from the Government who was given an absolute majority by the people of India. One cannot keep telling that there are two more state elections round the corner. We wanted to see a vision statement from the government at least for the remaining four years. Where do you want to take the Indian Railways or the Indian economy? I see that the government has confirmed the company taxation for the next four years. I would have liked the government to say that it will be brought down by 5% every year for the next four years, taking it to 10%, but collecting more taxes by ensuring tax compliance and more productivity. This is just an example of making a statement.

In the Railway budget, I would have expected a way forward to take it to international levels. I hope this government stops taking Indian people for granted like the other old governments did for years. I am not talking about the congress or Janata Party or any of the previous governments, but all of them.



**Upendra Menon Thane**

■ Much expectations were there on the 1st budget of the popular Modified Government especially in view of

the aam aadmi party Government of Delhi started delivering fantasy packages to the common man. Immediate reaction was on the hike of petrol and diesel prices. A hit below the belt of the common man!

Nation's progress should be the prime agenda of the budget. Government should generate funds for developments. Yet it should be friendly with commerce and industry while being a major source of income. It should sustain the existing and encouraging to the beginners. Let us give them time to take the Nation forward. Vision and Strict adherence to effective innovations befitting to the changing times, economic and technological advances are the need of the hour.

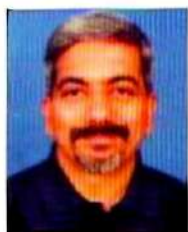
Give a hook not a fish so that he won't have to beg you for a fish again.



**Adv. Prema Menon Thane**

■ This budget too does not support common people.

While the international crude oil prices are decreasing day by day why it can't be controlled in India? The hike in price of commodities affects common people and the hope that this govt will be able to control the price is in the air.



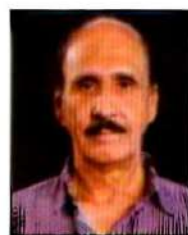
**Sriprakash Menon Andheri (E)**

■ Union budget is no doubt growth oriented and a positive push to boost our economy. Individually, I think the latest budget has

nothing for supporting or encouraging independent film makers, writers, radio announcers, VJs, free lance journalists and others. A large number of creative people are not employed by any single organization hence they form a huge unorganized work force both in the media and film industry without any health, travel, bank loans for their projects or pension benefits.

Leave apart any incentive for independent creative people, the budget now or in the past have not even recognized the existence and survival of this 'class of people' on the fringes of both media and film & TV industry. No banks lend loan to independent documentary or feature film makers for

new projects nor their unreleased work serve as collateral despite this segment of people (who are not associated with any media or corporate production houses) struggling and contributing to the media and entertainment economy. Will the finance and the I & B ministries take note of the growing unemployed creative work force which is going to triple in the coming years with thousands of graduates being churned out by the media and film schools within and outside the country without any creative avenue for revenue and livelihood.



**V. Balachandran Goregaon (W)**

■ The Central Government of India unveiled the much awaited first full-year budget on Saturday stating the expected

income and expenditure of the government from April of the current year. Instead of cutting the coat accordingly to the cloth as it is done by individuals, the government estimates the probable expenditure during the budget year and the income expected to be garnered to meet the estimated expenditure.

Continuous increase in the fiscal deficits has been a marked feature of the Indian budget since the time India embarked a path to planned development. This deficit has been increasing until 2013-14 when it touched the alarming rate of 4% of Gross Domestic Product. Budget deficits invariably after a stage fuel inflation; which means high prices of goods and services implying devaluation of currency. In other words, decline in the value of the purchasing power of the money one possesses. Thanks to the favourable signs of decline in the consumer and wholesale prices indices, the finance minister has envisaged a decline in deficit financing from 4% to 3.1% over a period of 3 years, say by 2017-18. This is a welcome assurance as any further decline in value of our money will not only cause misery to the people but upset all expectations of economic development.

If fiscal consolidation, is the need of the hour, curbing of the generation of black money within India and its flight outside the country is equally important. Black money is not only a product of

illegal transactions and as such unethical, but it represents a waste of vital resource much required for development and promoting of social welfare activates.

In the current scenario, largely because of the legal restrictions, the government finds it difficult to take action against the black money hoarded and recover the money stashed abroad. Two ways has been proposed by the Finance Minister to tackle the problem of black money namely,

1. By discouraging transactions in cash
2. Punishing the guilty with 10 years of imprisonment

These are the steps in the right direction. The governments all over the world have come a long way from the time 30' of the last century they believed in limiting the public expenditure to the maintenance of law and order. Public investment for economic growth and employment besides provision for social security and welfare has come to be accepted as fundamental objective of the government especially in democracies. In India, these duties have been decreed constitutionally. Hence, even after the

abandonment of socialism and inauguration of social reforms in 1991, political parties compete with one another in promoting social welfare schemes.

The present government have a series of schemes aimed at the removal of poverty and improving the living conditions of the people. "I believe", the Finance Minister has said, "every rupee of public expenditure, whether undertaken by the centre or state, will contribute to the betterment of peoples' lives through job creation, poverty elimination and economic growth". In presence of this objective, the Finance Minister has listed a number of schemes, some already in operation and other measures to be undertaken.

These include, 'Jan Dhar Yojana' a scheme that promotes financial inclusiveness. Coal auctions; Micro Units Development Refinance Agency (MUDRA); Swachh Bharat; Atal Pension Yajana; Jivan Jyoti Bhima Yojana; Physical aids and associated living devices for senior citizen; National Investment and Infrastructure Funds (NIIF); Atal Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

Innovation Mission; Monetization of Gold through Gold Modernisation Scheme; Nirbhaya Fund (an addition of INR. 1000 crore); provision for Green India, Skill India, Digital India etc.

While indirect taxations is being rationalized by Good and Services Tax Act, a unified direct taxation system without exemption limits, deductions, concessions etc. is sought to be evolved. An individual tax payer will now get tax benefit of INR. 4,44,200. Incentives are provided for private sector investment through reduction of corporate taxation rate from 30% to 25% over the next four years. While tourism is encouraged, steps will be taken to preserve heritage sites.

Apparently, the budget spells not many changes except with some marginal concessions and consideration to senior citizens. On analysing, one can say that it has a wider implication.

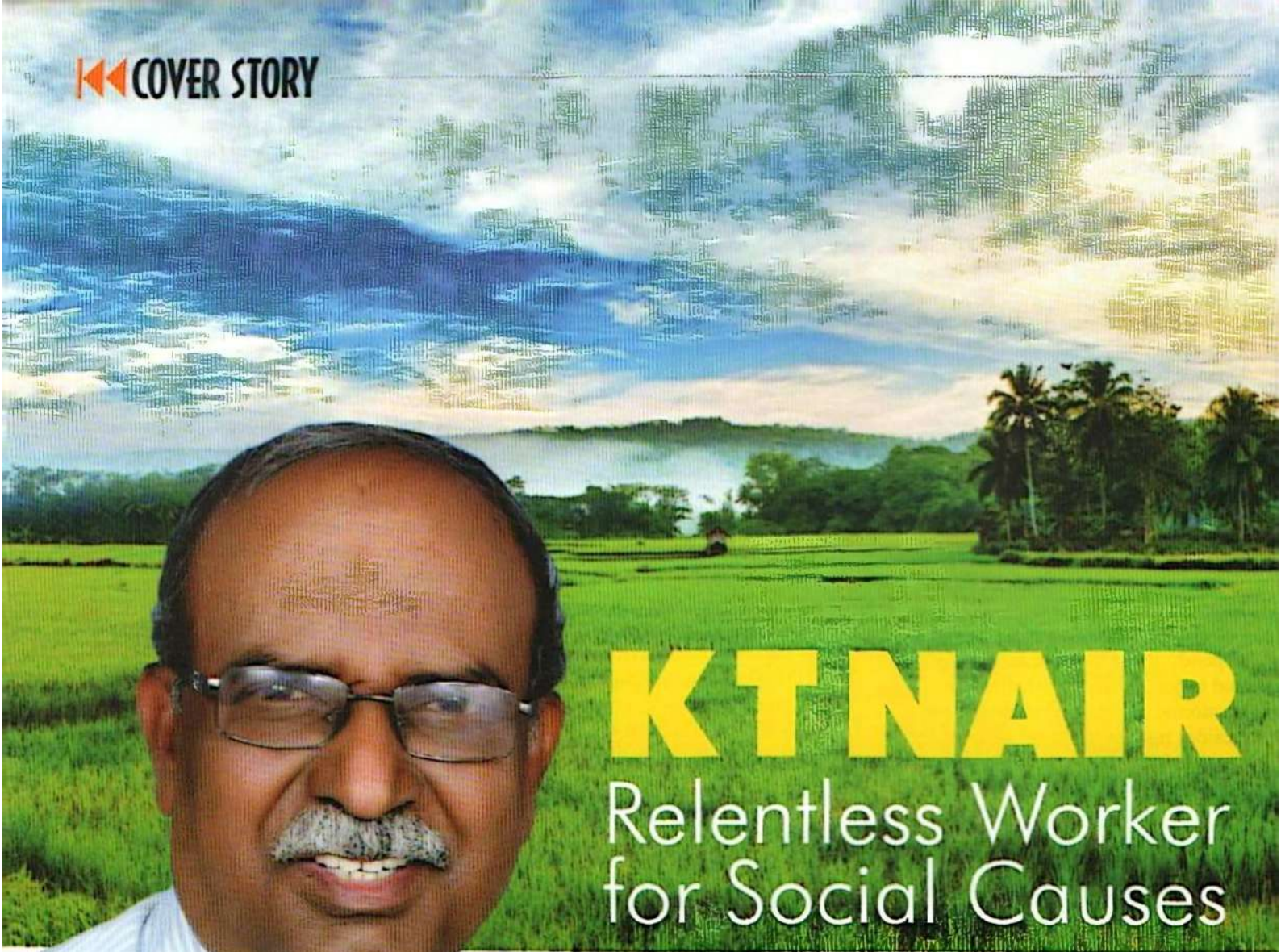
With better governance and corruption minimised to the extent possible, there is every reason to hope for an India economically sound and politically stable. The budget of 2015-16 urges well for the future. In total, a good and progressive budget!

## Salient features of this year's budget

1. GDP expected growth at 7.4 %
  2. Rupee strengthen by 6.4%
  3. GST will be from 1st April 2016.
  4. Total revenue Transfer to state will be 62%.
  5. 25000 cr allocation for Rurar development program.
  6. proposed 20000 cr for mudra finance (micro finance)
  7. Pradhan mantri surakshya ajona -2 Lakh rs insurance for Rs 12 per yr for all poors
  8. banking work will be link to Post office
  9. Tax free infra bond in Rail- Road
  10. E-bill portal -single window
  11. Additional 5000 cr allocation in MENREGA
  12. EPF/ESIE-NPS-state insurance optional.
  13. Gold Bond with fixed rate interest
  14. Gold monitation scheme
  15. Dis incentive on cash transaction.
  16. Nirbhaya fund 1000 cr allocation for women safety
  17. Allocation of 150 cr for atal innovation.
  18. New AIIMS -Jammu punjab, T.N, H.P& assam
  19. New IIT proposed in Karnataka and Dhanbad.
  20. Horticulture university in Amritsar.
  21. New IIM in j&k & A.P
  22. New Pharmaceutical Research institutes in Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
  23. New film production centres in north east.
  24. New GOLD COIN with ashok chakra.
  25. Defence allocation 2.46 Lakh crore
  26. corporate Tax will be reduced from prrsent 30 % to 25% in next 4 yrs
  27. New Law for Black money-even 10 yrs imprisonment and 10 times penalty for tax evasion.
  28. Pan card no mandatory above 1 lakh transaction
  29. Indirect Tax- customs duty reduced on 22 items
  30. Wealth tax -will be cancelled in future.
  31. Income above 1 cr - 2% surcharge
  32. Service tax increase from 12.36 to 14 %
  33. Swachh Bharat fund donation 100% deduction
  34. Medical insurance up from Rs.15000 to Rs.25000
  35. Senior citizen medical insurance up from 10000 to 30000
  36. Central excise duty 12.5%
  37. Transport allowance from 800 to 1600
  38. 80 CC D -additional 50000 deduction in pension scheme.
  39. Income tax slab not changed
- F.M. says -individual will not have to pay any tax upto Rs.4,44,200 considering all deduction allowed. There is nothing much given to agriculture sector. India being a agrarian economy, Much has to be done for this sector. Public health and education are other sectors which were not given required Importance. Otherwise it is a balanced and growth oriented budget.



Compiled by:  
Prakash Padikkal.



# KT NAIR

## Relentless Worker for Social Causes

K T Nair is one of those human beings who have made it their life's mission to help others in whatever way they can.

**L**ike several other Malayalees K Thirilochanan Nair popularly known as K T Nair belonging to Vilavancode Taluk, Kuzhithurai in erstwhile Travancore, did his schooling in native place and came to Mumbai in 1979 in search of a job. He continued his further studies in Mumbai and was also employed.

But social service was always uppermost in his mind. He stayed at Anushakti Nagar during his early days in Mumbai. In the early eighties he shifted to Navi Mumbai. Since 1988, K T Nair has been actively associated with New Bombay Keraleeya Samajam (NBKS) Nerul,



Lakshmi Venkatachalam



**K T Nair with former Minister Ganesh Naik and others during NBKS Silver Jubilee function doing continuous honorary service as its President/ Secretary etc.**

The New Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, a socio cultural organization based in Nerul, was established in 1985 with the aim of promoting and encouraging the arts and cultural talents of Navi Mumbai residents and developing a feeling of brotherhood among them. Today the organization has extended its helping hands to provide educational, medical and financial help to the less privileged and during times of natural disasters and accidents and works for community development. In addition to the above, it conducts music and dance classes, Violin Classes, Malayalam Mission class and its members celebrate community festivals.

Under Nair's tenureship as President/Secretary, The NBKS has done commendable service to the Malayalee community without any

**We have to explore possibilities to make the younger generation interested in our organizations, give them full freedom to conduct programmes in the way they would like to, thus making them interested in the running of the Samajams.**

distinction of caste, religion or language. Nair recalls that the area from Nerul Bus Depot to Sector 10 (before the overbridge construction) was cleaned by a team of 20 volunteers who removed all the bushes in the area to prevent chain snatching and assaults by anti social elements that was rampant there. Also during his tenure the Govt. of India, Department of Culture, New Delhi, sanctioned a Grant of Rs.14,24,000/- to construct the NBKS Socio-complex, under the scheme of 'Building Grant' to Voluntary Cultural Organisations.

Seminars on LPG conservation, Malaria and safety awareness classes for housewives, medical check - up and cancer detection camp etc were organized. Nair has submitted memorandums for better facilities for Navi Mumbai like setting up a fire station at Nerul Township, additional railway booking window in Nerul, etc. Under his co ordination, food items, provisions and clothes, were distributed during the 2006 Mumbai floods in the Kalamboli/ Panvel area, contributions to the Tsunami Relief Fund to the Kerala Chief Minister Fund and Gujarat Chief Minister Relief Fund were carried out.

"If I have been able to do so much work during my tenure at NBKS it was only because of the co operation of my fellow members who bestowed on me their unwavering faith" he says.

### **Awards and recognitions**

In October 2013 K T Nair received Gaurav Puraskar Navi Mumbai from the hands of Padmashri Dr D Y Patil, Bihar Governor and Smt.Mandatai Mhatre, Ex.MLC, Minister For Excise And Non Conventional Energy And Thane Guardian Minister Ganesh Naik at Vashi



**KT Nair being awarded Gaurav Puraskar Navi Mumbai**

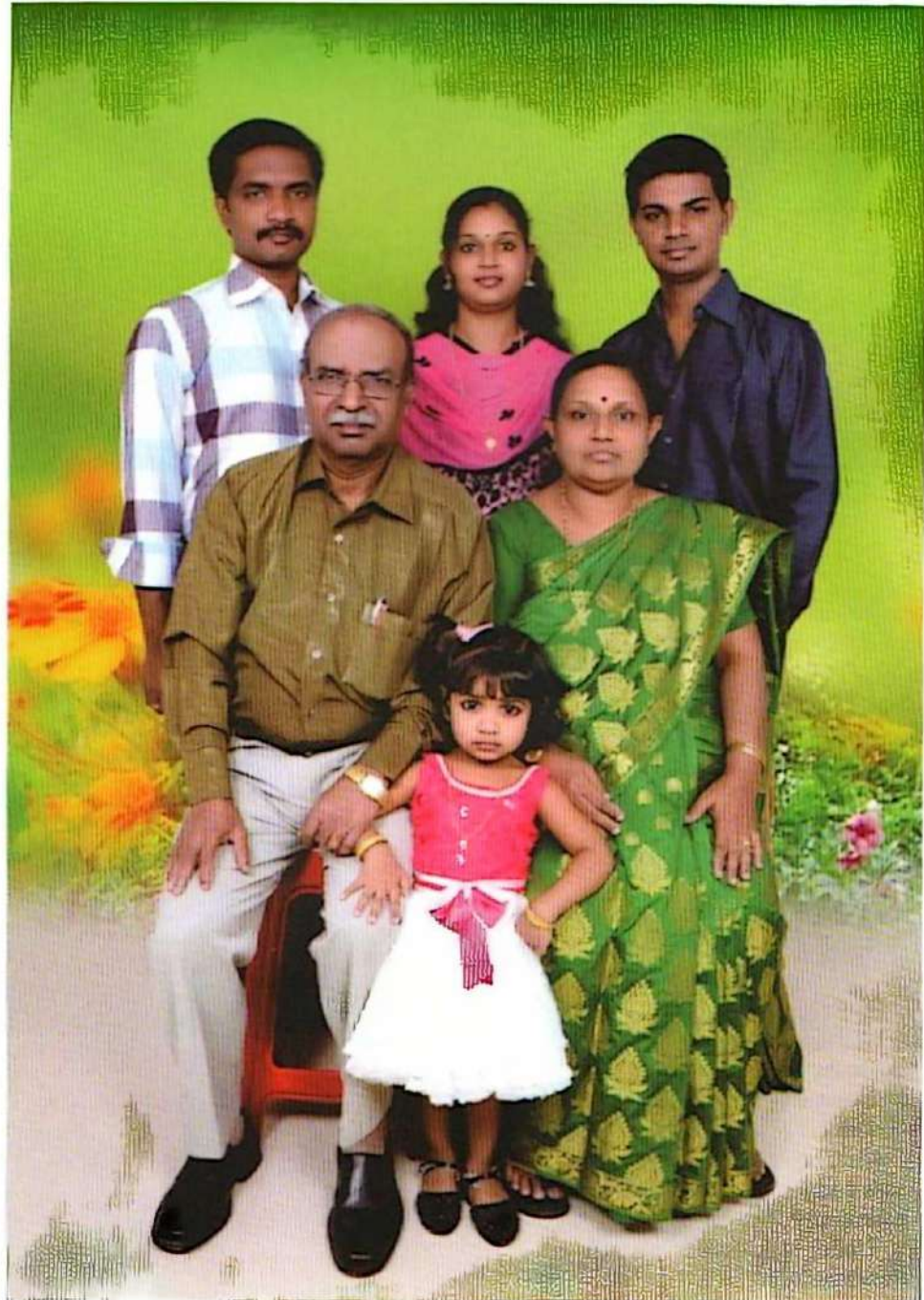
Vishnu Bhave Natyagrah Auditorium. Nair says modestly that the merit for this award goes to NBKS under whose banner he was able to carry out his social work with the whole hearted support of the members.

"I am grateful to all NBKS members who had faith in me," he says.

K T Nair is actively involved with several other associations of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. He is Jt Secretary of All India Malayalee Association (AIMA) Maharashtra Chapter, and Asst General Secretary of All India Malayalee Association Central Committee, Chennai. He was Convener of Navi Mumbai Ekopana Samiti consisting of 14 Malayalee Associations from Panvel to Airoli. He was Secretary of Vashi Kerala House Action Committee and during his period he had submitted several Memorandum to the Kerala Chief Minister and other concerned Ministers about Kerala House, NORKA Office and a ten member delegation including himself, Sabu Daniel and others, met former Chief Minister Achutanandan, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy etc. He has been member of Bye Law amendment Committee for Navi Mumbai Keraleeya Samajam, Nerul Sri Ayyappa Seva Samiti, Navi Mumbai Nair Seva Samajam and life member of various other organizations of Navi Mumbai.

"I will continue with my dedicated service for mankind as long as I can. There are many good hearted people with me who are always willing to support me for any genuine and noble cause," he says.

Nair's first employment when he came to Mumbai in 1979 was with



K T Nair and his family



K T Nair addressing the gathering during an AIMA event

M/s.Mulla & Mulla, Advocates & Solicitors in Fountain area. In 1981 he joined Bombay Marine Engineering, in Nariman Point. Since 1982 he is employed with Savita Oil Technologies Ltd., a Petroleum Refinery and currently he is Executive Secretary there.

K T Nair's parents are the late Kumaran Nair and Bhasurangi Amma. He has two brothers and three sisters all of them living in Trivandrum, Kerala.

His wife Sudha originally hailing from Mavelikkara, was born and brought up in Arumana near Kuzhithurai and her parents are the late Chandrasekharan Nair and Saraswathy Amma. She came to Mumbai after her marriage to Nair in 1985. Sudha and Nair have a daughter Divya married to Mijunath and they have a three year old daughter Drishya. Both

of them are working in private companies. Nair and Sudha's son Deepu is a Mechanical engineer and currently working offshore.

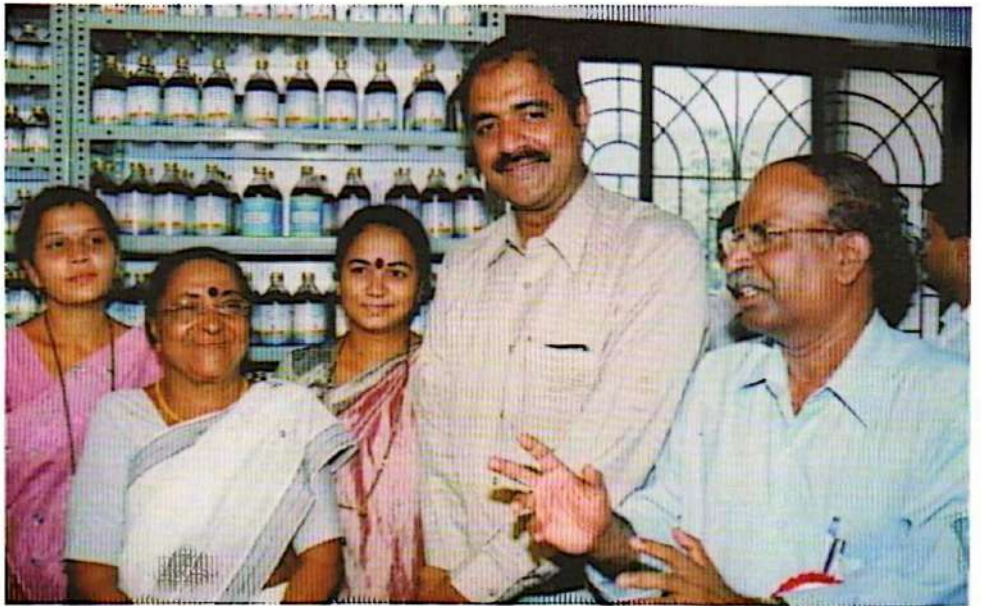
Having been so much involved in the welfare of Malayalee Samajams of Mumbai, today Nair is worried about the future of Mumbai Malayalee Samajams.

He wants the younger generation to get more involved with Samajam activities.

“Being born and brought up in Mumbai today's Malayalee youth are very reluctant to attend or participate in the Samajam activities. I am afraid of who will take care of these organizations that we, the earlier generations, established and developed. Some of them are rich with property worth a lot of money and all that should not go waste. As elders we have to seriously think of this issue. We have to explore possibilities to make the younger generation interested in our organizations, give them full freedom to conduct programmes in the way they would like to, thus making them interested in the running of the Samajams. We should make our associations a strong platform for our youngsters to showcase their talents, identify and hone their talents, nurture their leadership qualities etc. In this manner, the younger generation will get interested in actively involving themselves with our organizations and the future of these organizations is assured,” he says. There are positive signs nowadays with the Malayalam classes, youth wings etc, he adds. ■



**K T Nair lighting the lamp at NBKS Silver Jubilee function**



**During inauguration of Oushadhi Ayurvedic Clinic at NBKS**

## WEDDING



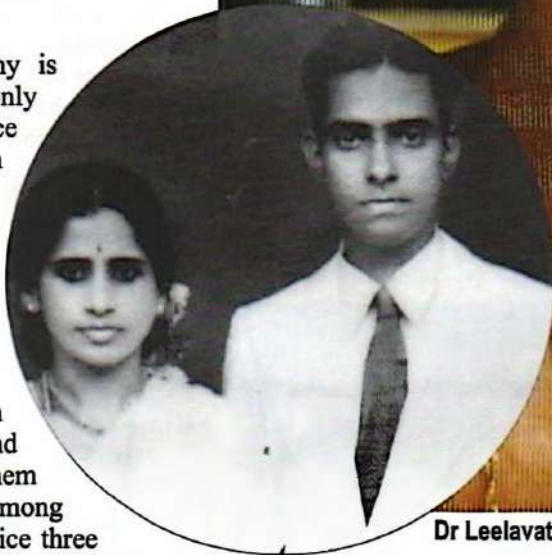
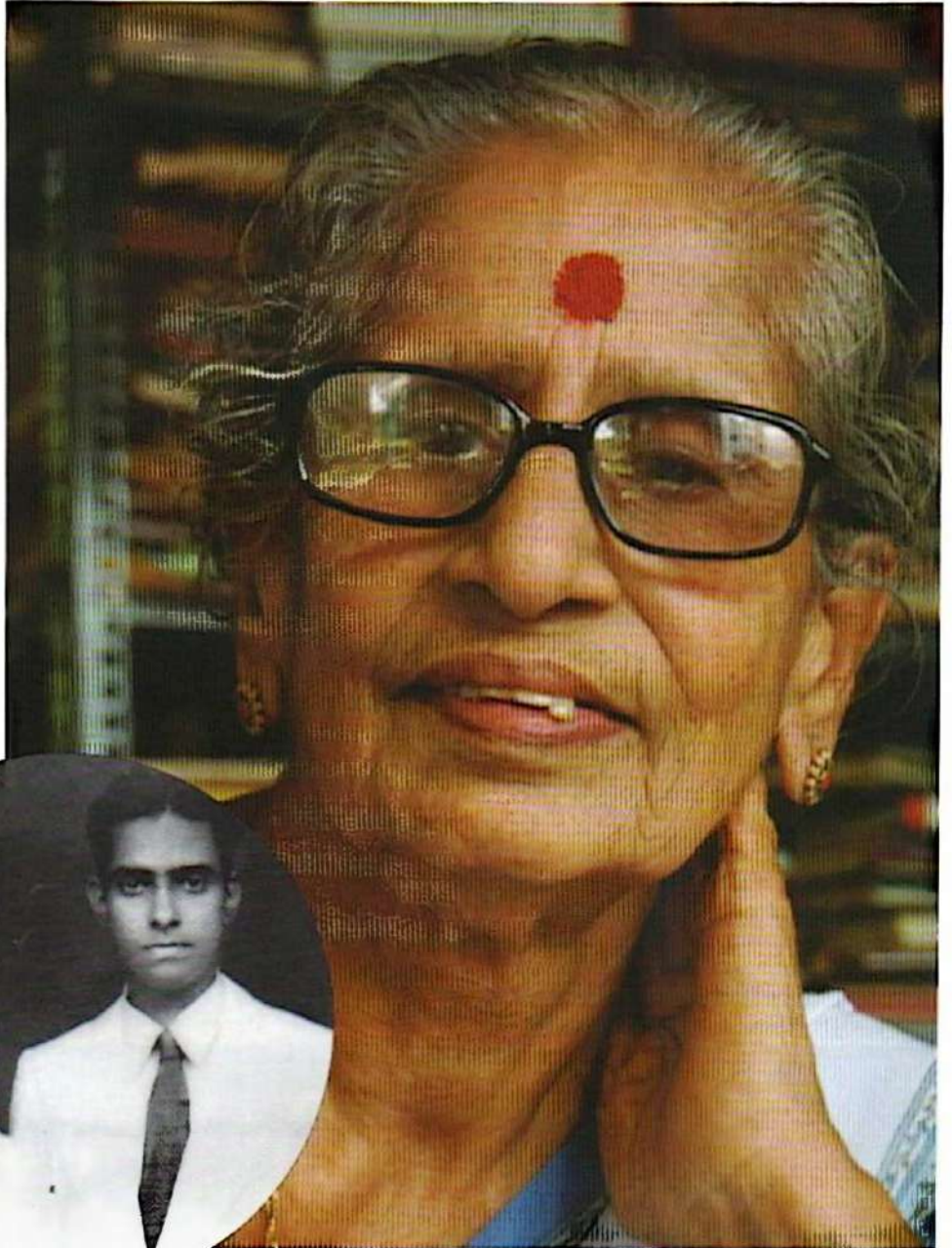
**Vivek Raj** son of Smt Vanaja Rajan and Rajan Nair Vrindavan Society Thane, and grandson of late Kandamkumarath Sethumadhavan Nair and late Smt Vellarakat Lakshmikutty and late Nambulli Ramankutty Nair and Attancherri Ammukutty Amma married **Nirmala** daughter of Smt Mini and Narayananunni Kodunthirapully, Palakkad, and grand daughter of Menakath Damodara Menon and Vadakeveetil Sarojini Amma and late Attancherri Aravindakshan Nair and Poshnath Thankam Amma on Sunday January 25 at KRK Kalyanamandapam, Palakkad. The Reception at Mumbai was held on January 31 at Shree Kutch Vagad Leva Patidar Samaj Hall, Airoli, Navi Mumbai.

# DR M LEELAVATHY

## Creative Writer and Literary Critic

- Satyanath

Dr M Leelavathy, teacher to her past students and admirers, is a livewire in the literary criticism. She avers being labelled as a feminine presence in the Malayalam literary arena but her dominance in that field is quite undisputable. A voracious reader of periodicals and books in Malayalam and English, she still finds time to analyse the current crops of works being done in the literary field and points out the good aspects to the discerning readers. A few years ago, she was honoured by the Government of India by bestowing the prestigious Padma Award on her.



Dr Leelavathy (inset) with husband Dr C P Menon

**D**r M Leelavathy is perhaps the only female presence in the Malayalam literary arena. Among the past and present writers, she is credited with around sixty books, an awesome feature for a writer of serious nature, covering Malayalam literature of all hues and colours and many of them had several editions. Among them you may also notice three books of poems, *Ashrupooja* (2002), *Nirhanja Kannu* (2003) and *Nammute Paithrukam* (2007), her own creative contributions in the classic mould. She does not just peruse the books but delve into them and comes out with new revelations that clearly avoided other critics. There is hardly any literary piece that she has not pursued, from epics to modern writings covering all aspects of human life.

Literary criticism takes a lot of time unlike fiction. Every sentence is analysed

for the direct and indirect attributes, for ideas both covert and overt. She does not classify her work as criticism but studies. She does not point out the short comings but only of the positive aspects. Someone recently compared her to the proverbial swan that looks for that drop of milk in the water.

### Her life

Leelavathy came to this world on September 16, 1929 when the matrilineal system was very powerful. Her father,

Kazhunkampilli Kunjunni Nambidi, was a strong apostle of that system. He married Mundanat Nangayya Maandal when he was forty six and she a mere eighteen. The couple had eight children but three children died quite early during their infancy itself. According to her father, the bringing up of his children was not his responsibility. He thought his responsibility was towards his sister's children and hence rarely spent any money on his own children. Leelavathy Teacher, being the eldest of all, had motherly

affections to her four younger brothers and undertook the responsibility of bringing up her brothers. When she was on the verge of sitting at home idling her time after the X standard examinations, she came to know that she was eligible to get the scholarship for the girl securing first positions in the Cochin state. In fact she was having the second position but the topper in the state was a girl and as such could not demand that scholarship too. Her teachers from Kunnamkulam High School persuaded her mother to send Leelavathy for higher studies and the latter obliged. In the Intermediate examination, Leelavathy secured the first position in the science subjects and thus became eligible for the Lady Wellington Scholarship of University of Madras (Cochin colleges were under the purview of Madras University). Though she wished to join for the medical examination, the financial constraints forced her to opt for B Sc Chemistry in Maharaja's College of Ernakulum. When the college Principal Prof P Sankaran Nambiar accidentally came to know about her talent in Malayalam language and also about her first rank in Malayalam subject in Intermediate examination, he advised her to go for



Sitting from left: Mohanan (fourth), Sreedharan (third), Radhakrishnan(second), Vinayan (elder son). First brother Raman Nambidi, now deceased, not in the picture. Standing from left: Sreedevi Thampatty w/o Radhakrishnan, Sreedevi W/o Mohanan Geetha Nambidi W/o Sreedharan, Balamani W/o Vinayan

Malayalam B A and later by a note transferred her from B Sc Chemistry to Malayalam B A. He also promised her that he would help secure a job of teacher for her as soon as she passed the examination. He kept his word and gave a recommendatory letter to St Mary's College, Trichur. Later she passed MA in Malayalam privately from the University of Madras. When she applied for a job as

a Malayalam Lecturer in government service, she was first taken as a tutor in English because she had a first class in English for B A. Later she was promoted to the post of Malayalam Lecturer and posted in Government Victoria College, Palghat. Soon she brought her brothers to Palghat and made them stay with her. Leelavathy Teacher attributes her long tenure in the literary criticism to her late husband Dr C Purushothama Menon, a physicist by work and a writer by nature. His in-depth knowledge of varied subjects helped her to move forward when doubts arose about the sustenance in the literary world. He helped her to expand her knowledge into other branches of science and until his untimely death she never published any article without his approval. His constant presence helped her to sustain in a world that was mainly occupied by men. Though she did not follow any particular model in her literary evaluation, many personalities like N V Krishna Variar, S Guptan Nair, Dr K Bhaskaran Nair, Dr Raghavan Pillai, M P Sankunni Nair, Dr K N Ezhuthachhan et al inspired her.

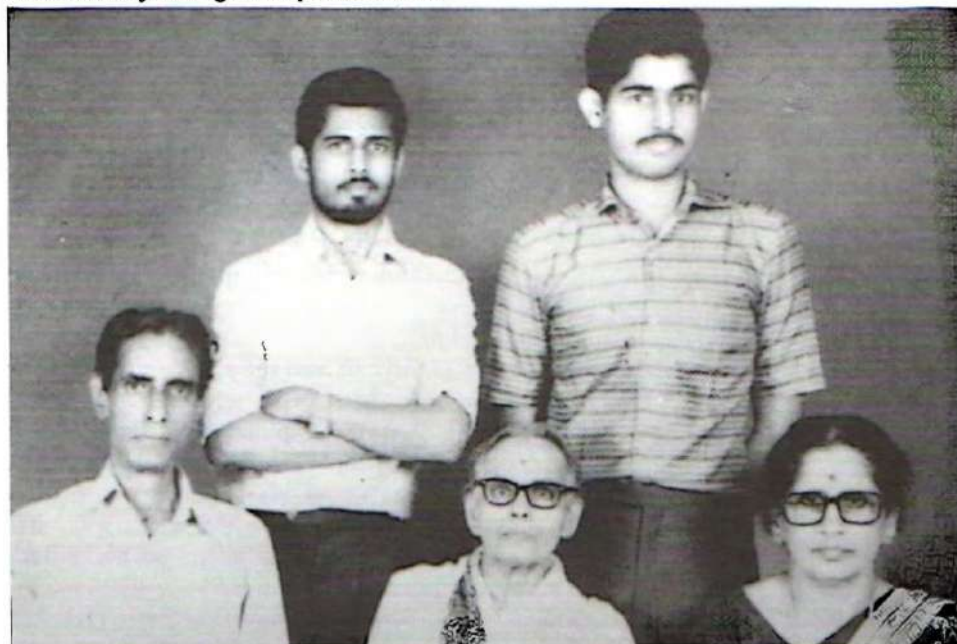
Leelavathy was transferred to Maharaja's College in 1964 and later to Government Brennen College, Thalasseri as its Principal. Meanwhile, she received her Ph D from the University of Kerala. After retirement, she was visiting professor to University of Calicut for some years. She was on the panel of the University for Ph D. She was in the governing Council of Kerala Sahithya Akademi as well as Editor of Bhakthapriya, the monthly published by Guruvayur Devaswom Board.

### Books by Leelavathy

Leelavathy Teacher did not write



Dr Leelavathy through four phases of life



From left: Dr C P Menon, Vijayakumar, Cheriamma, Jayakumar and Dr Leelavathy



During Kerala Sahitya Akademi days: (from left) C P Sreedharan, Dr M Leelavathy, Prof G Kumara Pillai, Prof S Guptan Nair, Dr K M George (Vice President), Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, C H Damodaran Nambiar (District Collector), Prof O N V Kurup, Pavanan, Prof K M Tharakan



Sitting (L to R) P V Krishnan Nair, Prof. A Chandrasahsan, Mahakavi Vallathol, Ikkanda Warriar, Principal V R Narayana Iyer, E. Raghava Warriar, Mahakavi G Sankara Kurup. Standing (L to R) Kunjappan (Principal's Peon), 2. O K Vasudeva Panikkar, Arabic Professor (Do not remember name), Prof. Mallayya, Prof. I Velayudhan, Prof. C L Antony, M Leelavathy, Ammini (Class Rep).

anything for publicity or out of pressure from others. Many of her writings were the results of the pressure from within. As a serious and devoted teacher, she needed to delve into the depth of many books and she always came out with some new insight that escaped other critics. Until she let those thoughts out, she felt a kind of

uneasiness. This nature led her to undertake several severe studies and the result, a number of enlightening books. Vishwotharamaya *Viplavethihasam* (world renowned revolutionary epic) based on Michael Sholokhov's works, *Geeyude Kavyajeevitham* (The poetic life of G), *Shringarachithranam CV-yude novelukalil* (Illustration of romance in novels of C V), *Cherukatinte Novelukalile Sthree Kathapathrangal* (The female characters in the novels by Cherukad), *God of Small Things* (based on Arundhati Roy's novel of the same title), *Appuvinte Anveshanam* (based on nine novels of C Radhakrishnan), *Asuravithu-Oru Pathanam* (Study) based on the well known novel by M T Vasudevan Nair, *Akkithathinte Kavitha*,



Laying foundation stone for Kanakadhara Smruti. P K Ravindranath is seen behind.



Inaugurating Dhyana Kendra at Kanakadhara Smruti in 2013

*Balamani Ammayude Kavithalokangal, Sathya-Dharma Darsanam Ithihasangalil* (exposition of Truth and Virtue in Epics) etc are some of them. She has also written two English books on the lives and works of G Sankara Kurup and Edasseri Govindan Nair. Needless to say, many of them won her reputed awards such as Soviet Land Nehru Award, C V Raman Pillai Award, Odakkuzhal Award, Kendra Sahithya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahithya Akademi Award, Nalappadan Award, N V Krishna Variar Award, Padmaprabha Award, Vallathol Award, Vilasini Award, Basheer Puraskaram, Balamani Amma Puraskaram etc. It is not known if any other writer besides Dr Leelavathy in Kerala won more than fifty prestigious awards.

Nangayya Maandal, Teacher's mother was very fond of books but was unable to buy them for want of money. She therefore used to copy them into notebooks and these note books became handy for Teacher to satiate her thirst for books. Thus she read *Bandhanasthanaya Aniruddan, Sahithyakauthukam* etc. The passion for reading was thus ignited her and still it engulfs her. Gradually reading paved the way to writing also. Her first writing on *Keraleeya Sthreekalute Pandithyam* was published while she was doing her college studies and afterwards there was no turning back.

Teacher always acknowledged the support she received from her late husband Dr C P Menon. Both of them were simultaneously pursuing their studies though in different streams. Menon had his post graduation from Banaras Hindu University and after passing M Sc in Physics continued there as a lecturer while pursuing part-time research. Later he left BHU and joined as lecturer in Kerala Varma College, Trichur in 1956. After waiting for about five years, Menon and Teacher got married at Palani Temple on June 8, 1958. The couple has

two sons Vinayakumar and Jayakumar, both of them are well settled. On September 20, 1999 Dr Menon left this world after a small illness, following a legal betrayal by his counsel. Dr Menon has also published a few books on

scientific subjects. He too received two well known awards for his publications.

### Devotion to God

Leelavathy Teacher is an ardent devotee of Lord Guruvayurappan. During her hard times, the Lord always helped her to tide over, she believes. When her Cheriyaamma (mother's younger sister) fell sick because of wrong drugs, and also when she fell on the floor injuring her, she was admitted to Hospital and Teacher prayed to the Lord with all her devotion. Cheriyaamma returned home with perfect health. She also believes that Guruvayurappan is the force behind her marriage. When C P Menon proposed, she mentally accepted the proposal but was afraid if the parents would agree. She wanted confirmation and so she went to the Guruvayur Temple seeking a divine answer. When she prayed, she overheard the recitation of Srimad Bhagavatham by Anjam Thirumeni. The first quatrain she heard was:

സംസാരസിന്ധുമതി  
 ദുസ്തരമുത്തിതീർഷോർ  
 നാനൃപ്തവോദഗവതഃ  
 പുരുഷോത്തമസ്യലീലാ  
 കഥാരസനിഷേപണ  
 മതരണ പുംസോ ഭവേദ്  
 വിവിധ ദുഃഖവോർഗിതസ്യ

The quatrain contained Menon's name Purushothaman and her name one after the other. She was relieved and was sure that she got the requisite divine consent. Though Bhagwan Vyasa did not anticipate this context, it still gave her happiness and confirmation. Despite all the tests she underwent in her life, she came out contented and gratified. She never felt anyone was against her and did all her duties with devotion and sincerity.

When this writer went to her seeking her association in a project coming up at Punnorcode near Pazhamthottam in Ernakulum district, in connection with Kanakadharastavam, she put her signature on the letter of consent without any questions and attended all important events there. She also asked the Trust to add a Children's Home for the abandoned and the orphaned and announced to meet the expenses of two children till they would stand on their own feet. The Trust agreed to her proposal. Dr Leelavathy was one of the persons representing women to lay the foundation stone of the Mahalakshmi Temple being built there and also came to declare open the Meditation Centre attached to the monument.

*(To be continued)*

## WEDDING



**DIVYA**, daughter of Mrs Girija and P V Vijaykumar, and grand daughter of Late Shri O V Achutan Nambiar and Smt Devi Amma and Late K V Achutha Warriar and Smt Sreemathi Warassiar, married **SUJIT**, son of Mrs Sathi Sukumaran and Mr V V Sukumaran, Dubai on February 8, 2015 at Emerald Ayurvedic Resort Pulamanthole. The wedding Reception was held on February 14 at Olympia Lawns, Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai.

# ARTIST NAMBOODIRI

## Creator of Visual Delights

K M Vasudevan Namboodiri, popularly known as Artist Namboodiri is famous for his unique style of line sketches.

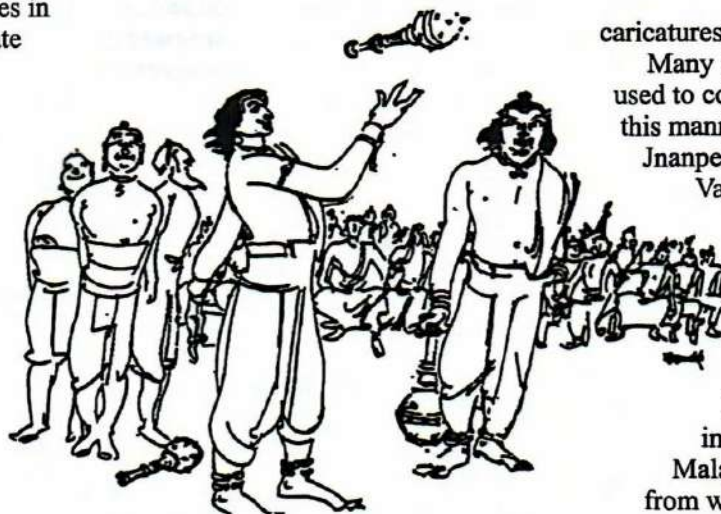
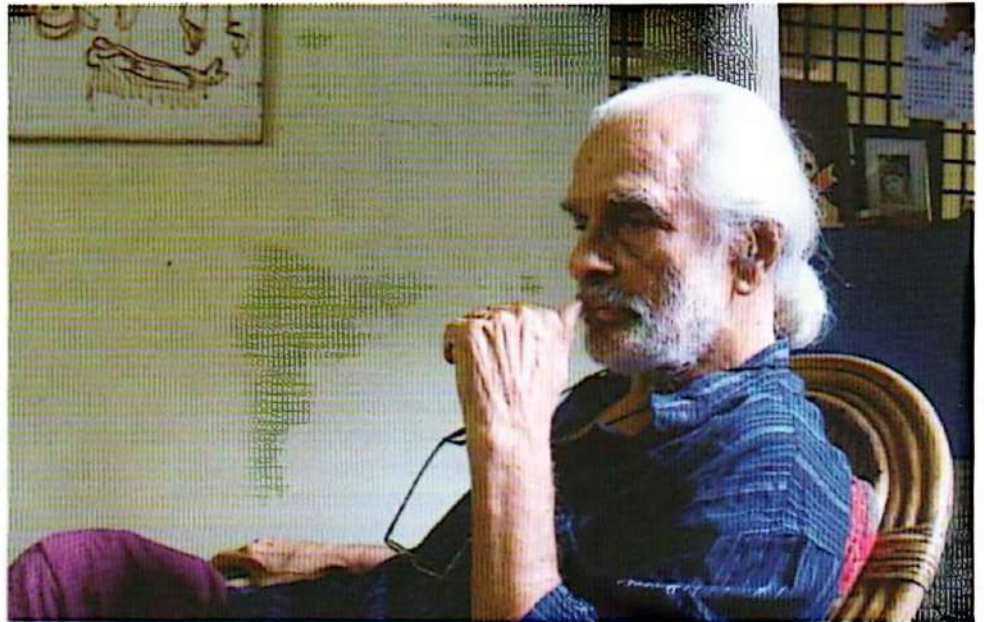


K. R. NARAYANAN

*"Mathrubhoomi Azhchappathippu"* (Mathrubhoomi Weekly), a well-established Malayalam weekly of Kerala published from Calicut, has always been an

obsession with the generation of Keralites that I belong to. I have been associated with it ever since I was a first form kid, some six and odd decades ago. We used to regard this magazine with a bit of pride for teaching us about many great men and women and their works. It enlightened us about literature, writers, artists, poets, critics and the like from the then Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. As a pleasant surprise, I too was fortunate to become a writer of scientific articles in this prestigious magazine, in the late sixties for about a decade or so.

It was, in fact, through Mathrubhoomi that I got to read much about the humorist-satirist, late Shri. V.K.Narayanan Kutty Nair of Thiruvilvamala popular as VKN. VKN's Malayalam had its own charm and it attracted us so much that we used to consider him a trend setter in Malayalam humor and style. His stories carried very attractive sketches of his famous characters, like *Chathans, Payyans, and Ittoopp Muthalali et al.* We carefully deciphered the name of the artist from his signature in these caricatures and found out that it was one Namboodiri who was creating these immortal protagonists of VKN. We developed great admiration for this Namboodiri, as he brought our favorite characters in the weekly so close to us. Much later, may be in the nineties, I read somewhere that VKN himself gave a deserving compliment to this artist, by saying that his writings were only some footnotes to Namboodiri's drawings and



Sketches drawn for novel *Randamoozham*

caricatures.

Many other writers of that time too used to compliment Namboodiri in this manner on many occasions. The Jnanpeeth Award winner, M T Vasudevan Nair, who was also the Editor in the Mathrubhoomi Weekly, had showered Namboodiri with praises in connection with his *Randaam Oozham*. Thus this artist has given life to many an immortal character of Malayalam fiction and poetry, from within the Mathrubhoomi and outside for many decades.

K M Vasudevan Namboodiri better known as Artist Namboodiri (b: 1925) belongs to Karuvattu Mana of Ponnani, in the South Malabar of Kerala. He is famous for his own style of line sketches (*Rekhachithrangal* in Malayalam) and was the winner of the Raja Ravi Varma Award for the year 2003. During his childhood, Namboodiri was influenced by the sculptures at the Shukapuram temple, near his house. "I had this urge to draw and mould sculptures after seeing these," he used to

say. Later, he was a disciple of the renowned artist K C S Paniker and also used to draw inspiration from renowned painters like Debi Prasad Roy Chowdhury and S Dhanapal. Namboodiri studied painting in the Madras School of Fine Arts.

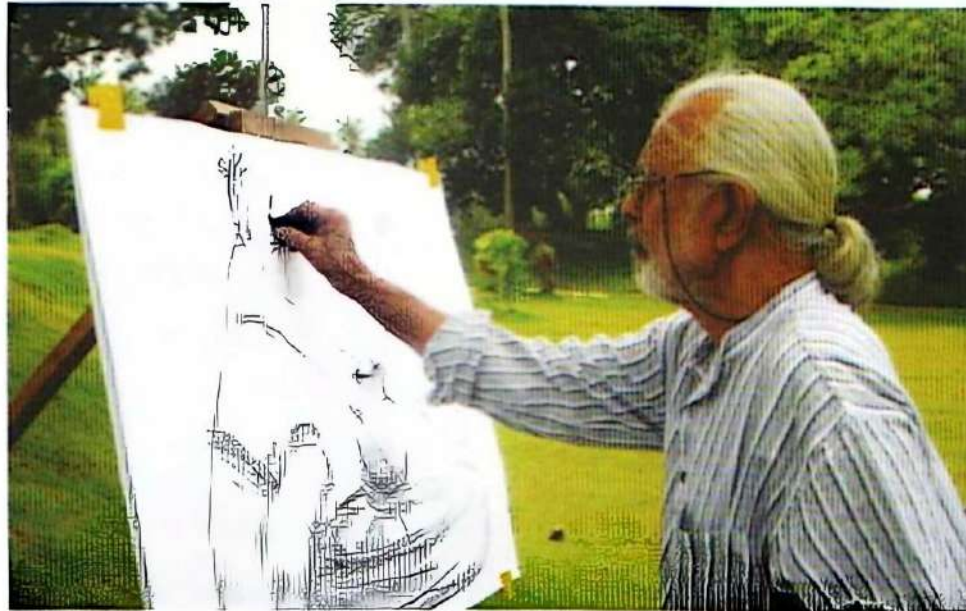
This artist has illustrated many popular characters for innumerable literary publications of Kerala. His cartoon series "*Naniyammayum Lokavum*" in the Mathrubhumi was extremely popular in those days. He also used to draw illustrations for several leading authors in Malayalam like Thakazhy Shivasankara Pillai, Kesavadev, M T Vasudevan Nair, Uroob, S. K. Pottekkatt, Edasseri Govindan Nair, and V K N.

Apart from the illustrations, Namboodiri's attempts to bring in new media for art work, especially the copper sheet relief works won him admiration from art lovers inside and outside the State of Kerala. Bringing out the sculptor's skill in him, the art work on copper sheet turned out as a refreshing experience for his admirers. The copper sheet relief work requires a lot of care at various stages. Namboodiri is also credited for resurrecting the art of finger painting, which he elevated into a respectable art form.

Namboodiri has been the Chairman of the Kerala Lalitkala Akademi for more than one term. During one such tenure, he took upon himself the task of setting up a building exclusively for the center in Thrissur. Also, he was the key figure behind the conversion of the Durbar Hall in Kochi into an art gallery.

Artist Namboodiri has been honored with many awards, like the Raja Ravi Varma Award (2003), State Award for the Best Art Direction for the Malayalam film Uttarayanam, Kerala State Institute of Children's Literature Bala Sahitya Award for the best illustration for his work in Kuttikalude Ramayanam - Ramayana for children [2004]. A documentary has also been made on the life and work of Namboodiri, titled *Namboodiri: Varayude Kulapathi*. This documentary was produced under the banner of Ask Movies directed by the famous G Aravindan in 1974.

Namboodiri has never placed his paintings for sale, except while he was a student in Madras. Currently settled at Bilathikulam in Kozhikode, Artist Namboodiri sees art essentially as an extension of his everyday living. "As far



as I am concerned, art is nothing but a way to satisfy my creative impulses" says this great artist. Paintings give him an enjoyment and a feeling of elation, because he always creates something great from nothing, using the brush and colors. His creations are really great, with a shape, expression and meaning.

In spite of all these, the humble Namboodiri never claimed to be an artist. "To be honest, I do not know why [they call me an 'Artist']. I have never called myself one," he said in a recent interview. "Moreover, I don't even like

being spoken of as such ... I dislike it." Says he very often. He is basically a traditional Malayalee, and looks back at his teachers and peers KCS Paniker, Dhanapal, KM Adimoolam and others from the early days of the Cholamandalam Artist's Village in Chennai as very bright stars in the artistic world. Before these great personalities, he feels, the 'Artist' tag conferred on him seems facetious. But, Kerala has been stubborn and called him 'Illustration' Namboodiri.

His illustrations always provided the common reader with a visual entry into the text. People understood the heroes and the villains through Namboodiri's depictions. He brought about a change in the visual aesthetics of the masses: suddenly, heroines weren't coquettish maidens and heroes weren't represented as paragons of the physical form. His women were amply breasted and had moles and warts; his men well-endowed with double chins and pot bellies. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, very often the readers even skipped the text and simply enjoyed Namboodiri's ink strokes.

To many in Kerala, all it takes to confirm the artist behind the work is a raised eyebrow and a monosyllabic query: "Namboodiri?" Half a century of work has lifted him to an iconic status. To writers of op-eds and essays, he has become an adjective ("Namboodiri like"), a noun ("...is a Namboodiri") and a putdown ("...thinks he is like Namboodiri"). By now, he has learnt to ignore his popularity. Instead, he continues to work without the anxiety created by other people's expectations. ■



# SUBITHA MURALI

## VERSATILE DANCER AND TEACHER

-Lakshmi V

A performing artiste of classical Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and all types of folk dances, Subitha Murali, Founder Director of the Dance school, Saraswathy Kala Kendra and Research Centre, also teaches dance in schools and choreographs dances for various programmes.

Subitha Murali is a classical dancer, teacher, and choreographer of repute in Mumbai for the past thirty years. She is founder Director of Saraswathy Kala Kendra and Research Centre, Mira Road, that recently celebrated its tenth anniversary.

Subitha's first dance teacher was her own father P V

Vasudevan a native of Cherppu , Thrissur.

Vasudevan is a veteran artiste, who got his training in Thandava dance from Kalamandalam Guru Sundara Narayanan, Carnatic music and flute from Tanjore Kambaath

Gopalakrishnan and tabla from Kalamandalam Guru Sudha Radha's brother Guru Jayaraj. Her father was also a playback singer for Drama companies in those days in Thrissur, Kerala. Leaving Kerala, he came to Mumbai in the 50's and set up his

business in plastic injection moulds. Subitha's mother Saraswathy hails from Cheruthuruthy, where Kalamandalam is located.

Subitha was brought up and educated in Mumbai. She spent her childhood first in Bandra and later at JB Nagar in

Andheri East. She took her initial training in Bharatanatyam from Guru Mani of Kala Sadan at the age of eight. She continued learning Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi under the tutelage of Guru Dr . Smt Rajyalakshmi Seth, (Sister of Dr Uma Ramarao , Hyderabad ) who is an exponent of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi style. She completed her gaja puja and Ranga pravesham in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi and has

also got trained in padams from Padmashri Smt . Kalanidhi Narayanan Mami.

Even as a child she was a regular performer for Bandra Malayali Samajam in the '80s. She has participated in many events and competitions during her school and





**Gaja Puja**

college days and won prizes and accolades in classical and folk dance performances at school/college and intercollegiate levels. She has accompanied her guru for lecture demonstrations, where she has given demonstrations in Kuchipudi style in Dombivli Kalakshetram, Sophiya college of Travel and Tourism. She performed for the prestigious Kuchipudi festival at Andhra Maha Sabha in Matunga .

She was awarded Nritya Shivali title during the Shivali festival of Mumbai, appreciation and felicitation during Shivaratri Utsav in Nataraja Chidambaram temple, Satara and Appreciation for her dance performance during the Ayyappa festival in the Goregaon Ayyappa temple.

As a choreographer, Subitha has choreographed dance drama ballets



**Subitha as Parvathy**



**Kuchipudi performance**

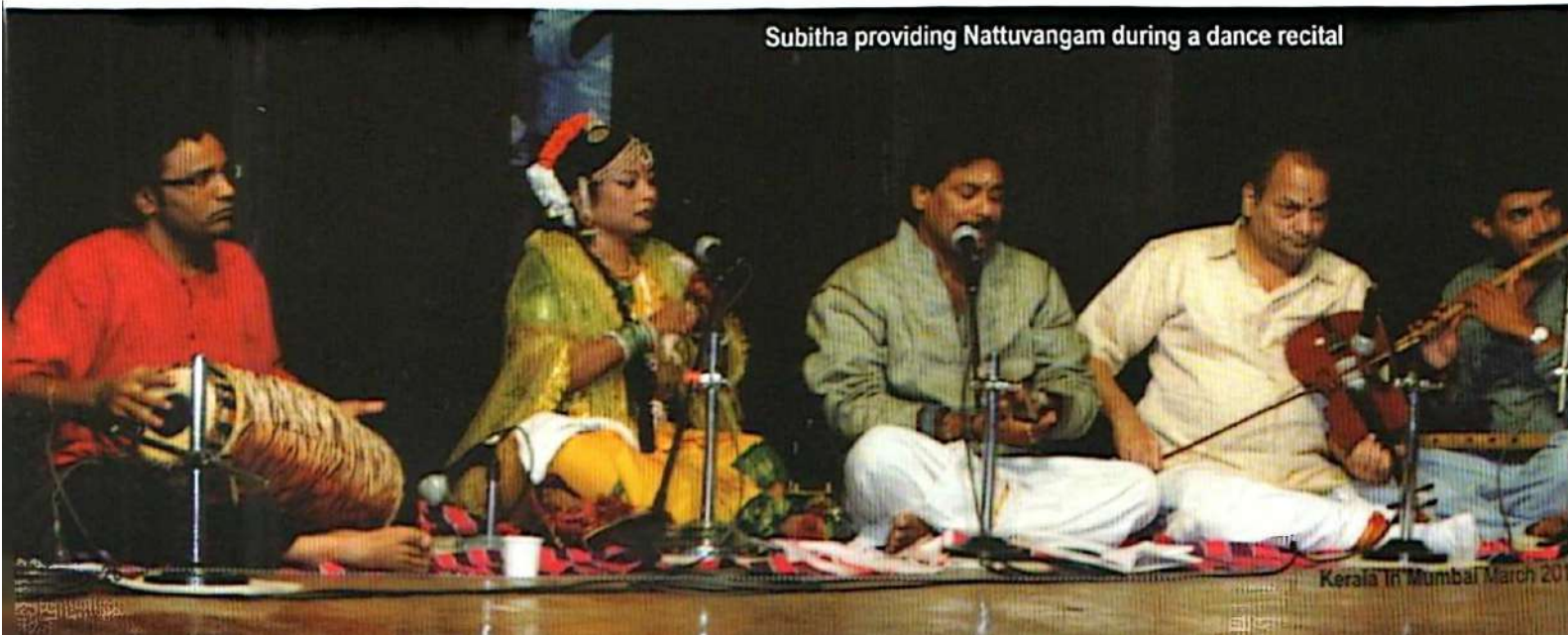
**“I appreciate all styles of dances, classical as well as folk, and I believe in Guru shishya parampara. Even today my teacher Rajyalakshmi blesses all my programmes and I keep learning new things from her.”**

namely Dashavataram, Nava Durga, Shivaratri, Krishna Leela, Ritu (Seasons), Panchatattva (Five Elements). An innovative artiste, Subitha strives to strike out something new in her dance ballets.

“Dance comes through the heart and soul,” she feels. “I appreciate all styles of dances, classical as well as folk, and I believe in Guru shishya parampara. Even today my teacher Rajyalakshmi blesses all my programmes and I keep learning new things from her,” she says modestly.

Subitha specialises in conceiving, choreographing classical, folk, instrumental recitals which she and her students present during programmes at schools and organisations all over Mumbai and the suburbs. Some of the schools where her students have performed include Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri, Rustomjee

**Subitha providing Nattuvangam during a dance recital**



International School, Dahisar, Children's Academy, Malad, St. Antony's Girls Convent School, Chembur, Thakur Public School, Kandivli, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Vidyalaya, Mira Road and G S Jangid Memorial School, Mira Road.

She has been on the panel of judges at ISKCON (dance Festival) Disha. Her students have performed folk dance for Doordarshan in their Kilbil programme in 1996.

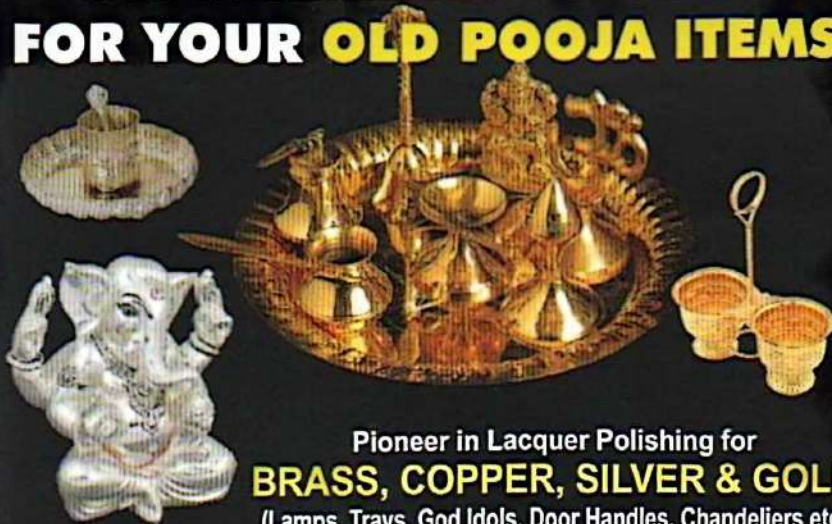
In 1992, Subitha founded Saraswathy Kala Kendra and Research Centre for imparting training in Bharatanatyam and Kuchupudi. The institution got its recognition from the Government in 2002 and is affiliated to Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya.

The Centres aim is to spread awareness and develop interest in the fine sensibilities of traditional art forms. Its mission is to motivate the



Subitha Murali with her family

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new generation to learn and gain knowledge of an otherwise fading culture.

Its special focus is on Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi styles and even folk styles and yet Kala Kendra has gone a step forward by following the basis of classical dance and inculcating the modern and contemporary styles thereby creating and promoting the essence of Indian culture.

Each child is given individual attention and with constant encouragement and motivation by participating in various shows and competitions their confidence level is built up.

Saraswathy kala Kendra gives Master Diploma courses,

Certificates and crash course for adults and Visharad. It organises summer camps, annual events and cultural programmes every year.

Subitha is a Graduate in Commerce and Economics from Dalmia College (Mumbai University), Post graduate Diploma in Management Studies from NMIMS (Mumbai University) and Masters in Arts from Mumbai University

Her husband is Murali Kumar a native of Wadakkancheri, but brought up in Juhu. He has his own business and is a good ghazal singer and also comperes her dance programmes.

They have three sons, Abhimanyu studying in Std VIII, Abhiram in Std VI, and Venkatesh in Std I. Both Abhiram and Venkatesh are learning dance from her and took part in the recently conducted annual programme of her Institute. ■

# GATEWAY LITFEST

## CELEBRATION OF REGIONAL LITERATURE



Dignitaries light the lamp at the inauguration

**A** galaxy of writers, journalists and film-makers attended the first LIC Gateway Lit Fest at NCPA, Mumbai on February 14 and 15. The event that was an attempt to celebrate regional writings and writers included around 50 regional writers of India discussing the trends in regional literary streams and its aim was to put regional writings and writers on par with English and mainstream Hindi.

The festival focused on seven main Indian languages, namely Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, and Tamil. There were exclusive sessions for some of these languages. Malayalam author Benyamin ('Goatdays'), senior journalist and author C P Surendran, Kureppuzha Sreekumar, Kalpatta Narayan, V R Sudhish, Manasi, Lakshmyanarayanan, Shaji Vikraman, M G Radhakrishnan, Prasannarajan, Ravi Subramanian, Harish Nambiar, Hemant Divatte, Satish Solankurkar, Sachin Ketkar, Jerry Pinto and

several other writers and book lovers attended the session and gave their valuable suggestions and inputs.

The two day fest was organized by Passion 4 Communication under the banner of Mumbai based magazine 'Kaakka'. PP Balachandran, well known columnist in English and Malayalam publications who has worked with international media houses like the Washington Post, Reuters, Al Jazeera

was the Festival co ordinator while Mohan Kakanadan, Editor, Crisil, a Standard & Poor's company and also edits and publishes a Malayalam literary magazine 'Kaaka' from Mumbai was the Executive Director of the literary festival.

"Lit Fest is an attempt to celebrate India's mainstream literature, as opposed to the prevailing Indo-Anglian literary festivals that have almost become the zeitgeist now. While acknowledging the



From left: Leena Manimekalai, Ananth Mahadevan, Adoor Gopalakrishnan and Govind Nihalani at 'Perspectives on adaptation of literature in Indian films' session.



MP Ramachandran (Chairman of Jyothy Laboratories), television journalist Govindraj Ethiraj, Dr Satish Modh (Director of VESIMSR), ace banker Ravi Subramanian



Harish Nambiar, Ravi Subramanian. Shaji Vikraman. Jerry Pinto and Hemant Divate at 'Mumbai Maximum City, Maximum Literature' Session.

contributory worth and value of these festivals to the overall growth of literature, we should not shy away from the fact that these festivals have been laying what can only be described as undue emphasis on a particular genre of literature that forms a miniscule part of a vast stream called Indian literature. This anomaly has been crying for attention for far too long a time," said festival Director and author P P Balachandran in his introductory words.

The first day's events opened with the Session on "Too much global, too less regional: who is guilty of pushing

regional writers and writings to the sidewalks," and former Sahitya Academy Secretary K Satchidanandan, Marathi writer Laxman Gaikwad and director actress Nandita Das participated in it. Veteran Gujarati Director Sitanshu Yashachandra was felicitated at the event. Senior Bengali writer Sobodh Sarkar remarked that Jnanpith Award winner Bhalchandra Nemade 'was a more important writer of India than Salman Rushdie who made no contribution to Indian literature,' thus setting the tone of the festival.

In his introductory address K

Satchidanandan read out a poignant poem 'Maapu' in Malayalam and its English version translated by him, on the Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's plight whose novel mentioning a cruel tradition of Tamilnadu has come into severe criticism and who has now been coerced to surrender his pen.

He and several other writers lamented the fact that the present generation were unwilling to go beyond English and learn the mother tongues and preferred reading the English translations of regional literary works which made them lose on the essence of their own literary treasures.

In the session on 'Films are Divorced from literature' world renowned film director Adoor Gopalakrishnan who chaired it stated that films have divorced from literature, paintings, and even decency. Film maker Govind Nihalani, Director - actor Anant Mahadevan, and young author- director Leena Manimekalai from Tamil also participated in the session and lamented the lack of infrastructure to make good movies out of literary works.

There were discussions on topics ranging from corporate to literature from marginalized writings to life of eunuchs, talk on censorship, book readings, book release, translations from one regional language to the other, etc.

Prize winners from different schools of the Literature Quiz contest that was held earlier, were felicitated during the event.

One of the highlights of the second day was a session on corporate India, 'Can regional players be the next trend setters in business?' involving entrepreneur M P Ramachandran, chairman of Jyothy Laboratories, management expert Dr Satish Modh (director of VES Institute of Management), ace banker and author Ravi Subramanian. Chaired by television journalist Govindraj Ethiraj, the session stressed the need to set up small ventures in the rural areas and these would be the trend setters.

"If I want to restart my business, I will still go back to the village," said Ramachandran referring to his journey from a remote village in Kerala with Rs 5000 to create Ujala brand which is now worth Rs 1500 crore.

The Lit Fest concluded with a resolve to strengthen the bond between regional literary streams through translations, sharing of ideas, and interactions between writers from different corners of the country by creating more avenues to promote 'Indian Literature.' ■

# Wandering in Many Worlds

## Autobiography of irrepressible and just V R Krishna Iyer

- Ashwati

[It is a must read to all who likes Krishna Iyer or hates him for whatever reasons. Krishna Iyer tells us, especially the younger generation, what he did to better the lives in our country without any malafide interests. He was a minister in the first Communist Government of Kerala, headed by E M S Namboodiripad, leading advocate of mofusil courts and Supreme Court of India, member of the legal aid system and a fighter for justice for the under-privileged. He firmly believed in spirituality as well as in socialism, and treated everyone from the path dweller to President as equal. After celebrating his hundredth birthday, he died on December 4, 2014.]

**V**aidyanathapuram Rama Iyer Krishna Iyer was a highly disciplined nationalist, advocate with a tender heart, legislator of Madras as well as Kerala states, minister of law, home, jail, social welfare, irrigation and electricity, justice of high court and Supreme Court of India, legal luminary, member of legal forum, author of nearly 100 books, social activist and an orator par excellence. He breathed his last on December 4, 2014. His autobiography *Wandering in Many Worlds* cannot be called as such because many of his personal experiences in private life do not find mention in this book but he opened a new world before the readers through this book. With some titbits from private life, he explored his public life in multifarious fields and explains how he could manage them with utmost satisfaction. Even today many people consider him a man with communist leanings though he insists that he is a Gandhian. People thought of him as Chanakya of the first Communist Ministry of Kerala. He reveals that even his worst political foes were his close friends in private life. Even those individuals who put road blocks in his career later became close friends once they understood him what he stood for.

### Personal life

Krishna Iyer was born on Nov 15, 1915 at Sekharipuram in Palakkad town, his mother's place. Later that house was donated to Lakhminarayana Temple. Father V V Rama Iyer was a pleader and after 20 years, he became an advocate in the mofusil court of Quilandi near Kozhikode and had a roaring practice. His father Venkiteswara Iyer was poor and hence could not afford to make him an advocate. Rama Iyer soon became rich and could become the proud owner of a big house as well as of a Ford car, a rare



achievement during those days. He was an ardent fan of Mahatma Gandhi. When Gandhiji visited Kozhikode to address a massive crowd at the beach, Krishna Iyer accompanied his father and witnessed his father presenting a 'mangalathram' (benedictory document) to the Mahatma. Rama Iyer used to spin charka and inculcated respect for it among his children and fellow advocates. He became president of Taluk Board and District Education Board but never entered active politics. These positions helped him to establish lower primary schools, medical dispensaries and build road where none existed.

Gandhiji made a lasting impression in Krishnan Iyer and till his end, he was a fan of Gandhi and his teachings. However he never joined Congress. Though he was considered a Communist co-traveller, he never joined that party too as he had some differences with some of their ideologies and in their method of

implementation.

When the legal practice of Rama Iyer in Tellicherry flourished, he moved there and bought the house of Krishna Kurup, father of V K Krishna Menon. By then Krishna Iyer also earned a name as a leading advocate and he also moved there with father.

Krishna Iyer had six siblings. The eldest Venkiteswaran died of cancer at the age of 27 in 1938 while studying in Madras Presidency College. He was very intelligent with tremendous memory. He was also an expert in classical music and mathematics. When he died, Krishna Iyer was practicing in Tellicherry Court and was pleading a case in Municipality Court. When he was presenting the case the news of his brother's death came but the Municipality allowed him to go only after he was made to remit a heavy amount for the time of the court.

His younger sister Ranganayaki, now in her nineties, married advocate Subrahmanya Iyer but she is now a widow. Another younger sister Dr Meenakshi went to US and did research there. She also was afflicted with cancer when Krishna Iyer was a judge in Supreme Court. She came to India and was treated at Tata Cancer Hospital for long. When Krishna Iyer retired from judiciary and returned to Cochin, she moved with him. She died after undergoing three surgeries.

Another younger sister Vijayalakshmi married a very enterprising engineer Venkatachalam and after leading a long happy life, they died one after another. Younger brother Ramachandran remained a bachelor as he was afflicted with epilepsy and died. He was highly intelligent and could remember hundreds of names, dates and events.

Rama Iyer was a busy advocate but he never maintained a diary. All his dates in various courts were jotted down on a wall

calendar. One day his father found a sheet on which he jotted down his appointments was torn away. When Krishna Iyer was asked about it, he denied though it was he who did it to wrap his school book. His father did not believe him and beat him up. To save him from further beating, his grandfather told Rama Iyer that it was he who did it. This opened Krishna Iyer's conscience and since then he never uttered a lie. Krishna Iyer tells us that the parents should inculcate the moral values among their children during their school days to prevent them from committing other crimes such as falsifying mark lists, stealing and corruption.

Krishna Iyer had his high school education in Basel Mission High School. Though it was a private school, the students had to pay a token fee only and this helped even poor children to have a quality education. Bible lessons were taught in Basel School and this helped Iyer to understand Jesus Christ and his teachings. This knowledge helped him during his judiciary days to understand the problems facing the poor men and women of India and work towards their cause. He laments that all current political parties give only lip service for free education but do nothing to implement their promises. Indian judiciary also does not come to the rescue of the students though Indian constitution do promise free and fair education to all children until they reach fourteen years of age. He remembers his teachers as loving and caring as they worked for the overall development of the children. When students responded well to the questions asked to them, the teachers used to gift them a piece of colour chalk and the children used to compete to get more and more chalk pieces. Teachers carrying a cane were rare and corporal punishment in schools made him to revolt against any kind of physical violence by people of authority. Krishna Iyer advocates that a proper education with emphasis on moral values can create great men even from a low level village grammar school.

After passing matriculation examination, Krishna Iyer joined Victoria College, Palakkad for intermediate class. Victoria College provided him an excellent atmosphere to expand his avenues as it had a great library with English books and magazines and excellent professors. Strikes in college campus were unknown and he had plenty of extracurricular activities. Reading books by Harold

Laski made him a follower of socialist ideology. During this period he stayed at the house of his uncle Advocate C V Subrahmanya Iyer in Tharekkad village. His uncle's recitation of Sanskrit hymns sowed the seeds of spirituality in Krishna Iyer. This attribute remained with him till his end.

After passing Intermediate examination, in 1933 he joined Annamalai University that offered class education at lower fee but with higher infrastructure. He became familiar with Bacon, Shakespeare, Arnold, Shelly, Wordsworth, Goethe, Spinoza, Gorky, Tolstoy, et al. Weekly debates made him an orator. He was chosen as the editor of the English section of the university magazine, *Annamalai Miscellany*. In 1934 he joined Madras Law College. During this period, students were allowed to attend hearings in various courts and thus Iyer witnessed the arguments of learned advocates such as Alladi Krishnaswamy, C P Ramaswamy Iyer, Srinivasa Iyengar etc. When the examination was near, he was suffering from tuberculosis. Yet he managed to pass the examination and soon became an inmate of Tambaram TB Sanatorium for two months. He moved to Kozhikode and became a junior apprentice to noted criminal advocate T V Sundaram Iyer. Showing his mettle as an intelligent lawyer, Krishna Iyer started getting cases by his own. Soon he started appearing not only in mofusil courts but also in Madras, Mangalore, Coorg and many other places including Ahmednagar Sessions Court in Maharashtra. His main clients were

farmers and workers. Thus he was considered as an advocate with Communist leanings. During this time AK Gopalan was convicted for speaking in support of postal strike and criticising Government of India for its insensitivity. Krishna Iyer took over the case and appealed in the Sessions Court. When Iyer rose to plead, the angered Judge asked him if the postal employees deserved more salary than his hard working Sirasthedar (court superintendent). Iyer's reply was that the Sirasthedar should have struck work much earlier and there was nothing wrong if the postal workers collectively struck work.

After two years Krishna Iyer was arrested for pleading the case of farmers and workers and Iyer had to spend nearly two months in prison. Though he personally suffered, this imprisonment helped to understand the state of affairs of Indian jails. When he became a judge of the Supreme Court, his judgement in Sunil Batra Case paved the way for jail reformations.

Krishna Iyer married Sarada in 1941 and they were highly compatible in all fronts and till she died of cardiac problems, they enjoyed life together and she was very supportive in all his decisions. She loved him so much that she officially changed her name Sarada to Mrs Krishna Iyer and insisted that she be called as such. They had two sons, Ramesh and Paramesh. Currently they are working in United States. Mrs Iyer was an ardent singer of classical music and a book lover especially of poetry. Mrs and Mr Iyer used to read the books together and watch the

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nature in the evenings. After some years, they decided to have their own home near his parents. Soon Iyer bought eight acres of land near seashore in Tellicherry and plans were drawn for their home. It was then he was arrested and imprisoned. After his release, the construction began. They lived in this house quite happily until he moved to Cochin when elevated as Justice of High Court.

Sarada was a disciple of Veena Maestro S Balachandran and Palace Vidwan Parameswara Bhagavathar. Socially they were active. Iyer was office bearer of many organisations and in most of them she was also nominated as an active committee member. Both of them were sports lovers and used to play tennis and cricket at home. They travelled hand in hand to many countries on invitations from governments. Iyer proudly claims that he always paid for her travel expenses and was never a financial burden to government of India or of Kerala or other institutions. When they were in Soviet Union, she was invited to sing Malayalam songs on Radio Moscow. Both of them were close friends with Flute Vidwan T R Mahalingam. The latter used to visit their home and played flute exclusively for the couple. After thirty three years of togetherness and three surgeries (the last two were conducted in



At his last birthday celebrations with Governor of Kerala

US), she died on August 21, 1974.

### Political life

When Krishna Iyer was practicing in Tellicherry, he was elected to Madras legislature as an independent with Communist support. The Madras legislature had several veteran leaders both in the ruling and opposition parties. Those leaders spoke on various issues affecting the state and Iyer did take part in those debates. These expositions helped

Iyer to evolve various projects and present them in the legislative assembly for approval. He worked for the people's involvement in government projects. Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement inspired him to move land reform bills and Kerala became the first state to implement land reforms. Irrigation and power generation were given prime importance. Marshy lands in Kayamkulam were converted to agricultural land in a couple of days by public participation. When he appealed to people to donate lamp posts and work free to lay power lines and dig ditches by free labour, parts of Malabar came out of power shortage. At many places opposition party leaders came forward to welcome him.

When he tried to increase the working days of high court to 210 days from 200 days, the concerned judges resisted. Besides writing to Chief Justice of India about this opposition, he introduced an amendment to affect the increase and then opposing judges fell in line and the workings days of high court was fixed at 210 days a year.

### In judiciary

When Iyer was a minister in EMS cabinet, his salary was a mere Rs.500 much lower than the monthly earnings as an advocate. When the ministry was dismissed, he immediately returned to the bar and shifted to Cochin. As a former minister, initially his application to join the high court bar was rejected but when he pointed out the stakes, he was admitted.

When Chief Justice of Kerala M S Menon requested Iyer to join the high court as a judge, Iyer rejected the offer. Justice Menon then privately met EMS and he in turn entrusted the job to K R



V R Krishna Iyer and his wife Sarada

Gowri. Her persuasion did the trick though a former cabinet colleague who later became Chief Minister tried to dissuade him.

He was appointed a judge of the Kerala High Court on 2 July 1968. As a justice of Kerala high court and Supreme Court, Iyer's tenure was noteworthy. He was instrumental in several landmark judgements. Many of his observations and orders drew international attention. Interpretation of Islamic law with respect to divorce of women, of criminal laws with a touch of humanism, constitutional guarantee of human rights for prisoners etc were some of the reforms he brought into judicial system. Many of his judgements were landmarks. Eg.:

In Shamsheer Singh case he ruled that the President of India to be guided by the Cabinet. In Maneka Gandhi's case he expanded the meaning of right to life and personal liberty to include many more human rights. While hearing the Ratlam Municipality case, he abruptly left the court to have a personal look at the site related to the case. This set a precedent in India now for the judges to visit the site in concern to have a personal look. His lonely crusade against the death penalty would lead to a later bench of the court letting it be imposed only in the "rarest of rare" cases.

He made bail conditions humane and directed the government to provide free legal-aid to detainees in prisons facing charges, once ruling that: "Bail is the rule, and jail, the exception"

Along with Justice P N Bhagwati, he laid the foundations for the induction of PILs (Public Interest Litigations) in the country with a series of cases, when in one such case, he treated a prisoner's letter posted from jail as a writ petition commenting: "Freedom behind bars is part of our constitutional trust...If wars are too important to be left to the Generals, surely prisoners' rights are too precious to be left to the jailors."

This revolutionary tool, initially used by public-spirited citizens to file PILs on behalf of sections of society unable to do on their own, continues to bring in unheard changes in the day-to-day lives of the people even now, decades later. Observing this, he states: "To transform the Supreme Court of India into the Supreme Court for Indians was the challenge...When the history of the judiciary in India comes to be written, PIL will be glorified as the noblest ally of the little Indian"

Sitting on the bench and away from it, he would reiterate time and again a



V R Krishna Iyer the Judge

guiding principle, that: "The law of all laws is that the 'rule of law' must sustain the 'rule of life'"

He was a member of the Law Commission from 1971 to 1973 where he drafted a comprehensive report, which would lead to the legal-aid movement in the country. He was elevated to judge of the Supreme Court on 17 July 1973. In June 1975, the Allahabad High Court had unseated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from the Lok Sabha and barred her from it for another six years. Hearing a challenge to this order in the Supreme Court, he was both blamed for granting a conditional stay and praised for refusing an

unconditional stay. His judgement said that she could continue as Prime Minister but cannot vote in the Lok Sabha as a member of Parliament. Later he came to know that Smt Indira Gandhi initially did not like his order but later found it satisfying. The very next day of his ruling she declared a state of Emergency in the country. And the rest is history.

## Public life after remission of office

Krishna Iyer retired as a judge, on 14 November 1980. He stood for the election of the President as Opposition's candidate in 1987, against his friend R Venkataraman, the ruling Congress's nominee. Initially he was not interested to contest but the combined effort of the opposition leaders borne fruit and thus he was agreeing. However he never asked anyone to vote for him but to exercise their franchise. When the results were announced, Venkataraman was the winner. In 2002, he inquired into the Gujarat riots as part of a citizens' panel, with retired Justice P B Sawant among others. He also headed the Kerala Law Reform Commission in 2009.

Out of public office he continued to advocate the cause of justice on every forum and in his writings, and his house would always remain open, bustling with all who sought his advice. No wonder, his judgements were often quoted in the judicial proceedings abroad, including in USA and UK. ■

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# A Hundred Summers Growing Old Gracefully

- Lakshmi Venkatachalam



Amma on her hundredth birthday



As a young woman

**R**ecently my mother Smt Krishna Ganapathy, celebrated her hundredth birthday. In spite of our trepidations on whether she will be able to withstand the strain of seeing the innumerable relatives and friends who would attend the function, and seek her blessings, my mother was enthusiastic and happy and sat through the function without complaining. She had a kind word for all the guests and blessed them lovingly.

By noon the dear old lady was absolutely tired, her eyes were closing

out of fatigue, but she graciously accepted everybody's wishes with a kind word or blessing pat and posed for photographs with them.

At this point, I have to mention my father, Sri V Ganapathy Iyer, who complemented and completed my mother. They made an ideal couple and Appa played a major part in moulding my mother's character for she was married to my father at the tender age of 13.

Having seen a century pass by, Amma has witnessed the change from

the twentieth to the twenty first century and she has moved with the times. She has seen India's freedom struggle and freedom fighters, and has been witness to the glorious independence of our country. She has gone to places in bullock carts, spent nights with lanterns and has also travelled by plane and enjoyed laser light displays. She has written long handwritten letters and is today equally at ease speaking on smart phones and skype.

Always enthusiastic, with a zest to learn new things, eager to know about the goings on in her surroundings, never gossiping or talking ill of anyone, never complaining, keeping herself and her surroundings clean and having a positive approach to life - that's Amma.

She has always taken life as it comes, embraced the good and bad with equanimity, lived with hope for better things to prevail, ('this too will pass'), looked at the innate goodness in her acquaintances, never strayed from the righteous path, shunned negativity, never fought with anyone etc. All these traits of hers have stood her in good stead. One of her favourite sayings was, I remember, 'allalitta veetile palliyum cherathu' (even a lizard will not live in a quarrelsome house), emphasising the need to live happily with other members in one's house without finding faults and fighting.

She is love personified. For her it is



My parents Smt Krishna Ganapathy and Shri V Ganapathy Iyer



Relatives lining up to seek mother's blessings



The senior relatives and the younger folks

love that makes the world go round. She loves everyone, from her children whom she holds very close to her heart, to the poor beggar on the road to whom her heart would go out in sympathy.

Amma's is a story of loving and giving. She fed anyone who came to our house even if she had to cook something again. No one who visited her went away empty handed. He/she

would be given a small token of love by my mother. If she came across a beggar or a small lad extending hands and begging, she would hand out a coin to him/her. In fact even her grand children have learnt it from her and they always have change to give the poor at street corners, trains etc.

Music is her passion. She had learnt harmonium and vocal Carnatic at a very

early age, maybe five or seven, and she always cherished her love for music. There was a time when she was busy managing the household and looking after us, her children, but once we grew up, she started playing the harmonium once again and even today, in spite of her age and her weakness, if allowed she will play for some time. Only we are scared to take such a risk. Such is her



My mother and our family



Relatives and friends who graced the occasion

passion for music. She has played nursery rhymes on the harmonium to her grandchildren who sang them as children and gladdened their little hearts. Some years back, she was sporting enough to play the piano at one of her grandson's house. She has taught to play English pop songs and Hindi film songs to her grandchildren on the keyboard. During the cradle ceremony of her month old great grandson, my mother, then 97, burst into a lullaby in a sweet and melodious voice, surprising all of us. (That all those who were present wanted the lyrics of the lullaby and rushed to her for it, is another

story!).

This is in fact the very essence of my mother. And I believe the secret of her long life. During the centenary birthday celebrations, we, her children, were awed by the praises, showered on Amma. Almost all of them spoke of her tremendous love and affection she had showered on them years ago, her hospitality when they visited her and we looked at our mother with renewed eyes.

As a tribute to our parents, we have decided to bestow every year a cash prize to the first rank holder from Government Law College in

Trivandrum where Appa practised as advocate and provide financial assistance to poor deserving girls for their school education. A power point presentation of hundred years of our Amma's life was keenly appreciated by all relatives and friends gathered at the function.

My mother lived an ordinary life among ordinary people within the confines of an ordinary existence but has achieved an extraordinary status simple living yet holding on to the tenets of loving and giving, helping, empathising, being tolerant and adjusting.

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# 35th National Game



**Sriprakash Menon**

■ Kerala had a spectacular display of sports and games administration prowess during the recently held 35th National Games in the state. The success of the games and admiration from all quarters across the nation have boosted the state's image immensely which is otherwise marred by political slang matches over liquor permit issues or solar energy scams.

Kerala and Maharashtra teams did very well by positioning themselves at second and fourth positions respectively with Services clinching the top place like they did in the last two national games. It got the Raja Bhalendra Singh Trophy.

President Pranab Mukherjee congratulated the state for the success of the national games while Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a special message said events like national games served as springboards for the country's young sportsperson to make a mark internationally. Union sports minister Srabhananda Sonowal lauded the state and said "the facilities made available for the athletes were outstanding. The entire credit for the success of the games goes to the government and the people of Kerala. They have showed what true hospitality means in God's Own Country". N. Ramachandran, president of Indian Olympic Association termed the 35th national games as "the best games ever since its inception. Games village, food, venues and the conduct was perfect."

Even before the games started very typical of Kerala, allegations of corruption and counter allegations made news instead of sportsperson or the sports. As the games progressed, Kerala's aquatic icon Sajan Prakash, Mahitha Mohan (won four gold medal in cycling and in 2010 was named as the best cyclist), Elizabeth Susan Koshy (shooting) and 21 year old Nitya Kuriakose Mathai (won 3 gold medals) created history for the host state drowning the negativity. By the time, host team captain Preeja Sreedharan and Kerala's Chef de Mission Wilson



Cherian received the best performing state trophy from Kerala Governor P. Sathasivam and the state was basking in the national games glory.

The event held between January 32 and February 14 across seven districts of Kerala in which 10,000 athletes competed for 33 events. This is the second time the state is hosting the games after 1987. As we all know, sports and games are of utmost important to any nation and its society. Not only sports promote national integration and harmony it also brings out the individual capabilities and talents. Why is it then that Kerala is not having a mammoth international standard sports university? Though the talks are going on for having such a varsity has been going on with the Union Government for the last several years. The State Government should take it up as a priority issue so that it can catch up the generation in a more constructive and productive way.

Another critical attitude issue facing Kerala has been the non involvement of the trade, business or the so called corporate sector (if any) in development of sports infrastructure or promoting young sports person to represent the state.





the state and the country. Everything in Kerala need not be government aided or funded. Big jewellery group, liquor barons, real estate majors, marine and spice exporters, plantation owners, film fraternity can come forward to help the state government in putting up sports facilities in every district of the state. Not only the young ones will be groomed well it will also create employment opportunities at various

levels.

Good availability of natural resources( wood and rubber) without disturbing the ecological balance can be turned advantageous for the manufacturing of sports goods and equipment in the state itself. Moreover, the football crazy state can also train cricketing talents which is now suffering from want of patronage and resources. One only wishes that superstar and versatile actor/singer Mohanlal who is a cricket buff may groom or support a good cricket team or sponsor sports persons in the state. Of course his music group's debut launch at the national games created a 'huge buzz in the local media than music on the ground'.

National Games was known as Indian Olympic Games and was first held at Lahore in the undivided Punjab in 1924. Then in 1940 when it came to be known as National Games it was first held in Mumbai and the first games in independent India was held at Lucknow in 1948.

Haryana and Maharashtra are the other two states which have done well in the national games after Services and Kerala. Maharashtra a decade ago developed huge sporting and games complexes. Today, Maharashtra has some of the world class facilities as far as sports is concerned. The focus on sports cannot just happen. Huge spendings for infrastructure and training need to earmarked by the Government and other private sector participants. Goa being the next national games destination is also developing huge complexes for sports and games.

Host Kerala was trailing in the fourth place in the recent games but finally emerged with 54 gold, 46 silver and 61 bronze medals to be in the second position after Services (91 gold medals). In all Kerala got 161 - the highest number of medals in the games. Services got 158, Haryana - 106 and Maharashtra - 122, Punjab - 93, MP - 91, Manipur - 69 and TN - 49.

If the Opening Ceremony was all about Mohanlal and

controversies, the closing finale of the games at the Greenfield Stadium, Karyavattom was about actress dancer Shobhana and her cultural offerings. Despite the limited political and economic opportunities for women in Kerala, their courage, perseverance and sustained campaign to be excellent in sports domain needs to be specially appreciated and rewarded by both the government and society at large.

Now after the grand sporting event, the state government should not sleep over the laurels. Kerala chief minister Oomen Chandy after the lavish praises he got for the success of the national games in Kerala should along with his colleagues in the Ministry and the National Games organising committee work towards the creation of an international Sports Academy in the state which could discover the vast talent pool available in the state. ■

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# CELEBRATIONS GALORE

## Raagalaya 11th Anniversary and Kerala in Mumbai 5th Anniversary and Music Competition

**L**ike in the past, the Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts celebrated its eleventh Anniversary and Music award Nite on a grand scale on February 1 at Aishwarya Hall Marol Education Academy. It was clubbed along with KERALA IN MUMBAI fifth Anniversary celebrations.

Former Chief Secretary of Kerala, K Jayakumar, IAS and currently Vice Chancellor Malayalam University, who is also a film lyricist, painter, poet and author, was bestowed with the Raagalaya Lifetime Achievement Award for comprehensive service to society. He received it from the hands of the renowned cardiologist Dr M G

Pillai while Abhijeet Nair FEI Cargo Director presented him a shawl and P V Vijaykumar, President, Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts handed a bouquet to him.

Dr Jayakumar in his address to the audience spoke about how his family is closely associated with the Malayalam film industry. He spoke about his life in



Dr K Jayakumar handing over KIM Awards to (L-R) V Balachandran, D R Nair, Alice and Johnson Therattil

the administrative services and his personal life as a writer of film songs. Music touched a chord in everyone's heart and he emphasized that the praise he received from the common man for his compositions that touched the human emotions were more precious to him than all the accolades he received while doing his official duties when he was in service. He recalled several amusing incidents while in service which was enjoyed by the audience.

This was followed by a musical programme of songs that were penned by Dr Jayakumar for Malayalam films which was presented by Mumbai singers. Later there was a musical programme by Raagalaya Orchestra that included melodious Malayalam hit film songs of yesteryears.

The singers of the evening included Madhu Nambiar, Manoj, Shruti Sunil, Anu Shyam, Swetha Swati, Sebastian, accompanied by Venugopal and Abhilash on keyboard, Viswanathan on guitar, Haridas and Ravishankar on the octopad, and Sani Moses and Kumar on the tabla. Noted Mumbai Malayalee singer Premkumar sang a song and President of Raagalaya Vijaykumar regaled the audience with a few songs.

## Kerala In Mumbai Fifth Anniversary

The fifth Anniversary celebrations of KERALA IN MUMBAI was also conducted the same evening. Seven eminent Mumbai Malayalees from various professions were honoured with KERALA IN MUMBAI Achievement Award 2015 for excellence in their chosen field and contribution to society. They included Dr Gopakumar G Nair, V Balachandran, D R Nair, Johnson and

Alice Therattil, Roy John Mathew, Viswanathan Palloor, Lata Surendra and Sani Moses. Apart from Dr Gopakumar Nair who could not attend the function due to ill health, the others were bestowed the awards, shawls and floral bouquet by eminent guests who were present at the venue. Every year KIM plans to felicitate

Mumbai Malayalees who have made a mark in the metropolis.

Mohan Nair and Aswathy Kumar, Directors of Meenu Gems Pvt Ltd, businessman and social philanthropist, Alexander Prince Vaidyan, Paul Parappilly of Don Bosco Group of Schools Dombivli, renowned cardiologist, Dr M G Pillai, S R Pillai, Vijay Pillai, Prakash Nair of KNSS, K Vijayakumar (Host Group of



Dr Jayakumar addressing the audience



K R Narayanan



Sriprakash Menon



Dr Sujatha Nair



Shankar S Bhogwekar



K V Prabhakaran



Dr K Jayakumar handing over KIM Awards to (L-R) Roy John Mathew, Viswanathan Palloor, Lata Surendra and Sani Moses



Music session

Companies), C R Unny (Mulund), Harikumar Menon, Sreekumar (New Alco, Mulund), Sashikumar Nair (Thane), office bearers from Mumbai Malayalee Samajams, subscribers of Kerala in Mumbai magazine, friends and well wishers attended the function.

KERALA IN MUMBAI had conducted a literary contest 2014 and three Consolation prizes were announced. The award included a cash prize and a gift in kind. The consolation prize winners are Revathy Iyer (Short Story), Lathika Poyilath (Malayalam poem), and Viswanathan Vaidyalingam (English poem).

The evening programme was compered by Geeta Poduval in an interesting manner who interspersed with nuggets from Dr Jayaklumar's life in between the musical presentation of his film lyrics. The celebrations concluded with dinner.

## Raagalaya Music Competitions

Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts conducted its annual Music competitions at Aishwarya Hall, Marol Education Academy on February 1 for all age groups ranging from five years to above sixty years.

The competitions started in the morning at 9 am with Managing Editor and President of Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts, lighting the lamp along with K V Satyanath, Executive Editor



Sections of audience



The stage is set

and Lakshmi Venkatachalam, Feature Editor of KERALA IN MUMBAI.

There were about a hundred participants which included all categories and they enthusiastically sang their choice of songs. It was heartening to see the eagerness of the younger age group, the promising talent of the middle age groups and the positivity of the sixty plus age groups. All the participants were amateur artistes whose passion or hobby was music. There were first and second prizes for males and females in all age groups as well as consolation prizes. Meenu Gems Pvt Ltd were the



Lighting of lamp

sponsors for the competition and they gave gift vouchers of Rs 2000/ to all prize winners.

The accompanying artistes for the participants were Viswanathan on the guitar, Sani Moses on the tabla and Venugopal on the keyboard. They were also the judges of the music competitions and they gave valuable advice to the participants on how to improve their singing skills and include 'feeling' in their music. The programme was compered with interaction from the audience in an interesting manner by Geeta Poduval.





Winners of the Raagalaya Music Competition

At the competition registration venue

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
1st Prize (Male) Sauravkrishna S Nair	1st Prize (Male) Aditya S Nair	1st Prize (Male) Neeraj Warriar	1st Prize (Male) Mahesh Variyar	1st Prize (Male) Ajaikumar	1st Prize (Male) L N Venugopal
1st Prize (Female) Akshaya	1st Prize (Female) Namitha Menon	1st Prize (Female) Reshma Krishnan	1st Prize (Female) Anu Shyam	1st Prize (Female) Sujatha Vipin	1st Prize (Female) Deedar Singh
2nd Prize (Male) Vivek Ajaikumar	2nd Prize (Male) Rickson George	2nd Prize (Male) Jenya Jayakumar	2nd Prize (Male) S Krishnan	2nd Prize (Male) Murali Nair	1st Prize (Female) Vasanthy Sukumar
2nd Prize (Female) Gauri Sasikumar	2nd Prize (Female) Anjali	2nd Prize (Female) Nishanth Warriar	2nd Prize (Female) Udayan Nair	2nd Prize (Female) Muralidharan Nair	
	Consolation Prize Harita Harikumar	2nd Prize (Female) Asha G Nai	2nd Prize (Female) Sandhya Pisharody	2nd Prize (Female) Sumangala Warriar	
		Rajalakshmi Somarajanj	Anusha Iyer		

# GOUTHAMAN-It is what it ought to be

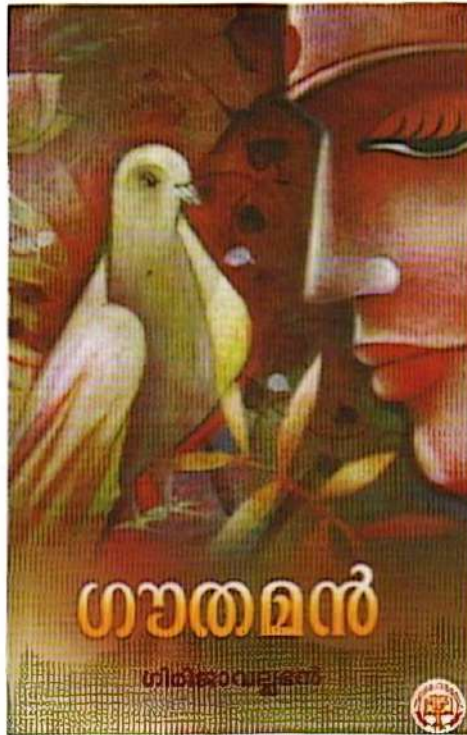
- Ramachandran

All of us must have read more short stories than novels, essays and poems and still we are not content with what they offered to us, barring from a few writers. The reason is not far away to look for. Many short story writers do not have much idea about what it should look like. One may wonder to know that this form of literature was the last to register the presence, after poems, novels or narrated tales or essays. When this short version of stories appeared in the nineteenth century, readers grabbed it because they found it could satiate them easily, in the shortest time frame and without much mental strain.

Many literary critics attempted to define a short story but none of them fully succeeded as there was something more than what they could foresee. According to Edgar Allan Poe, it should be read in one sitting, anywhere from a half hour to two hours while another thought it could have fewer characters and events than in a novel and should concentrate on a mood and not on the plot. One of our own masters thought short story should create an interest in the shortest time in the reader and leave him or her entertained, enlightened or bewildered at the end of short period of reading. In short, a short story is expected to leave amused, wiser or shocked.

We have a collection of short stories written by Girijavallabhan, a Mumbai based writer of several decades. Gouthaman has 18 short stories and each of them is torn away from life. The stories are really short, crisp and end with a sudden twist, quite unexpected and thus provide the swift climax.

The first story *Ila kozhiyumbol* (When the leaf drops) tells us the futile exercise of the grandson to bring his father's body to native village and cremates it without informing his grandmother about the death. The grandma was bedridden for a few years and not in her proper senses. The second tale Gouthaman is about the affection of the wife towards a dove, inviting her husband's ire and envy. The husband plans a trip with wife but she refuses and she loses both. If the author intends any connection with the bird and husband with the original *Gouthaman*, we are not sure. *Manjukilikal* (Birds of mist) is interesting and shows us how the intelligent are taken for a ride by a few hillside people. *Sakshi* (Witness) brings



tears to our eyes and makes the experience of the character that of the reader. Metacin exposes the corrupt officials in the government and how the ordinary people suffer because of them.

The remaining stories i.e., *Sayahnangal Njangalkku*, *Manakkanakkukal*, *Aadyathe Kallu*, *Vishukkani*, *Manimandiram*,

*Thirakalil Vasantham*, *Vandana Cirikkunnu*, *Metamazha*, *Saranaparvam* tell us about the frustrations of young men go through on account of rejection of their love by their presumed love, the joy they derive when they are accepted, difficult days they pass through in the suburbs of this megacity on account of inadequate money or the callousness of fellowmen etc. They have the scent of this city in sufficient measure.

We feel disappointed to see the name of the suburb of Mumbai falsely written as *goragon* in the story titled *Goragonile prabhatam*. It should have been *Goragavile prabhatam*. Malayalees for that matter any other community have no right to misread the local names. People of North and Central India always write *gaon* (to be read as Gaav) for village.

The title *Veendum Vellappokkathil*, misleads you for a while, making you anticipate a story similar to that famous story of Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai but you would soon be relieved to note that it is not.

*Kattuchenbakam pootha Raathri* (The night of blooming wild Champaka) is indeed shocking. It tells the bitter truth of social boycott of innocent people infected by HIV.

[*Gouthaman* by Girijavallabhan, published by Pambungal Publications, Mumbai. Pages 88 and priced Rs.70/-]



മലയാളക്കരയുടെ തനതായ സ്വാദ്

## Swaad

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## Art, Health and Recycling in Dharavi

**T**he Alley Galli Biennale 2015 proved once again that Dharavi was not just one of Asia's most populated settlements. It was a display of the talent and contribution of the people of Dharavi to the economic prosperity of the country, and celebrated health and recycling through art. It brought together multimedia work, performances, screenings and site-specific installations.

The Biennale event from February 15 to March 7 is taking place at three venues: Swami Vivekanand Society and Colour Box in 90 feet Road, and Jeevon Hall near 60 feet Road in Dharavi.

Medicine Corner at Vivekanand Society hosted an exhibition 'Healers of Dharavi' by the Wellcome Collection, a part of Wellcome Trust UK, curated by Supriya Menon who worked with a range of colleagues at Dharavi Biennale.

'The Healers of Dharavi,' featured portraits of eight local health practitioners and traditional healers living and practising in Dharavi,

captured on canvas by local sign painters and artists with an interest and expertise in visual art.

The portraits on display offered an intimate encounter with local purveyors of health services as they dispense an astounding range of traditional,

informal and formal medical treatments to those whose limited means ruled out access to high-end clinical spaces. The artists who painted them are local sign painters with an interest and expertise in visual art.

'Healers of Dharavi' is the first



Supriya Menon at the 'Healers of Dharavi' exhibition

exhibition of Medicine Corner, a 15-month-long arts project in India from Wellcome Collection. It explores India's rich plurality of cultures of medicine, healing and well-being through a programme of cultural activity that includes electronic music, live events and exhibitions. Informal medicine is just one element of the health and healing landscape that the programme examines. Also included is India's long history of traditional medical knowledge systems such as Ayurveda and Unani that still find widespread, modern application. The programme culminates with a major exhibition in Mumbai at the CSMVS museum (formerly Prince of Wales Museum) in January 2016.

Supriya Menon, daughter of noted social activist Prakash Padikkal of Mumbai, is the Project Assistant for Medicine Corner. She has been working in the cultural sector for four years, including public facing and research roles at various museums in England, such as the Wellcome Collection, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, and the Victoria & Albert Museum. Since 2014, she has been working as a research consultant for cultural projects in India.

Supriya is a graduate in South Asian Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and in Museum Studies from the University of East Anglia. Her research interests include museums in colonial India, Indian politics and more recently, 20th century art.

Regarding Medicine Corner and Dharavi Biennale she says, "I am very excited about working on both projects - Dharavi Biennale has been a fantastic opportunity to work with a group that has been facilitating the creation of meaningful art in an area that is stereotyped in India. It may be Asia's largest informal settlement, but is also home to incredibly skilled traditional industries, and is one of India's largest and most resourceful recycling centres. Working with SNEHA and the Dharavi team has been a very fulfilling experience," she says.

"For Medicine Corner project, I am grateful that the Project Manager, Ratan Vaswani, asked me to be a part of the team. I am getting an opportunity to understand and learn more about India's plural medical cultures and heritage every day, and meeting academics, professionals and colleagues who are



Art out of waste

doing wonderful work in the sector."



Colour Box, partly curated by Supriya, showcased installations and artworks, aptly named 'Everything is here' by local residents who were mentored by artists and focused on health and other urban issues and problems. From tracking the sounds of Dharavi to patchwork quilt with zari threads mapping Dharavi, from safe spaces for women to comic books and trinkets, from unorganized labour to creating air filter plants, 'Everything is here' exhibited the creativity of Dharavi residents.

An important aspect of the Biennale, was the coming together of mentor artists and local participants who collaborated with health scientists to develop artworks on important health themes. These different workshops called Artboxes engaged in various

activities in the main workspace and gallery 'The Colour Box.'

There was a ten day film making workshop by film maker Manish Sharma that resulted in a documentary on sanitation and safety particularly of women in public toilet areas, in

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**Volunteers of Colorbox**



**Children at workshop**

collaboration with first time film makers from Dharavi who were given handy cams and asked to 'shoot'.

Jeevon Hall had an exhibition of art from recycled matter. Dharavi is the dumping ground for used and discarded items be it plastics, rubber, metals, mobile phones automobile exhaust fans, washing machines etc. The artworks used traditional blockprints to create images about anxiety and depression, appliqued sarees responding to the rape of Nirbhaya, a pregnant lady sculpted with used surgical vials, an installation of painted pots representing the spread of sexually transmitted disease, 3-D installations of pixelated photographs of occupational hazards, a series of comics and wall paintings on nutrition, accidents and gender-based violence, a

depiction of the body's immune system made from recycled plastic waste and several others.

The three-week long event was organized by SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action) in collaboration with Wellcome Trust of UK and aimed to provide a wonderful platform for the residents of Dharavi to showcase art work that is challenging and highlighted important issues concerning urban health, maternal and newborn health, child health and nutrition.

The biennale event is led by Dr. Nayreen Daruwalla and Professor David Osrin. Dr. Daruwalla is a practitioner and health researcher who leads a programme working to end violence against women and children

for SNEHA in Mumbai. Professor Osrin is a doctor and a public health researcher for the Wellcome Trust.

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health. It provides more than £700 million a year to support bright minds in science, the humanities and the social sciences, as well as education, public engagement and the application of research to medicine.

SNEHA is an NGO that works at the community level to empower women and slum communities to be catalysts of change in their own right and collaborate with existing public health systems and health care providers to create sustainable improvements in urban health. ■

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# Silver Jubilee Celebrated

**H**oly Angels' School and Junior College, Dombivli held its Silver Jubilee celebrations in a colourful manner on the school ground. The Head of the Orthodox Church in Mumbai, Bishop GeeVarghese Mar Coorilos was the Chief Guest and Subhash Bhoir, MLA and Dr. Jossy Varghese, Vice Principal of Birla College were guests of honour. The Chief Guest opined that the institution helped the region to develop and also contributed to its cultural advancement. It has enriched the area educationally and morally. Subhash Bhoir in his speech said "this Institution has contributed for the development of Dombivli and nearby areas and helped people in educational, cultural and social fields. This institution has not only created doctors and engineers but also IAS and IPS Officers. The Director of the Institution Dr. Oommen David in spite of his birth place in Kerala chose his Karmabhoomi as Maharashtra and has made his precious contribution particularly in the Educational and Social fields." He thanked David Sir for that.

Dr. Oommen David, Director of the institution presided over the meeting, Mr. Bijoy Oommen, Principal presented the annual report. The institution remembered the support that people had rendered in the process of its growth and duly acknowledged and felicitated them on this day. The students and ex-students together presented the journey of the institution in the form of a musical theatre. More than 1000 students could showcase their talents during this celebration.



During the inauguration ceremony



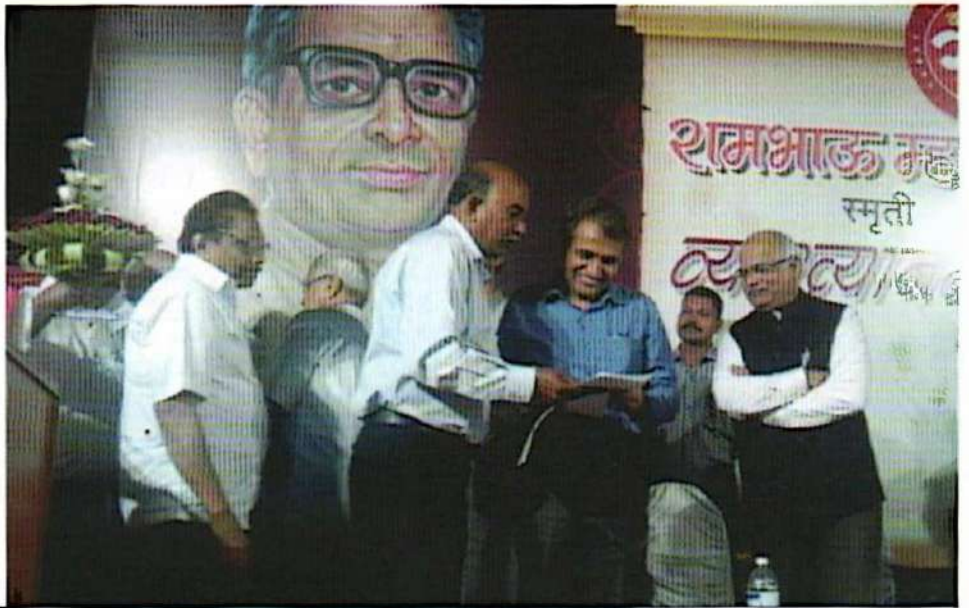
Dr Jossy Varghese lighting the lamp



Students' dance performance

# Memo to Railway Minister

All Thane Malayali Association (ATMA) handed over a Memorandum to Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu demanding additional facilities towards Kerala bound trains via Konkan. The requests include stops at Thane for Mumbai Kanyakumari Express, converting Duranto Express to Superfast with additional stops at Thane, Panvel, Kannur, Shornur and Trichur etc. The Railway Minister has agreed for The Kurla - Ernakulam Duranto Express to have additional halts as a result of the signature campaign organized by ATMA.



Shashikumar Nair handing over memo to the Railway Minister

## Bharatanatyam Arangettam

Neha Bhat Disciple of Smt Radha Chandran, Founder Director of Natya Kala Kendra, Marol and classical Bharatanatyam Dance teacher, performed her arangettam at Bhakti Kala Kshetra Hare Krishna Land, Juhu, on January 26.

Neha, daughter of Smita and Ramakrishna Bhat, is a student of Std VII at Marol Education Academy's High School. She has been learning Bharatanatyam for the past seven years and is also studying Carnatic music from Smt Sumangala Warriar. Vocal support was provided by Sivaprasad along with Radha Chandran on vocal and nattuvangam. The other accompanying artistes were P R Chandran on mridangam, A Ramadas on Harmonium, Satish Sheshadri on violin and KrishnaKumar on flute. The compere was P Chandran, Radha Chandran's husband.



Neha Bhat

## Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Mumbai Kala Bhavan, a cultural and fine arts centre in Powai, will be holding its Silver Jubilee celebrations on March 7 at 3 pm at Mahakavi Kalidas Natya Mandir, Mulund. The celebrations include instrumental music, solo /duet /group songs, dances and other entertainment programmes. K D

Chandran, noted film / TV star and a music and art lover will be the Chief Guest at the function. Guests of honour include Alexander Prince Vaidyan, Kumaran Nair, Chandran Sharma ( NCP Municipal Councillor). V Srinivasan is the Director of Mumbai Kala Bhavan. Despite his visual disability, he has ventured to establish this institute in

1989 to spread art education and more than 10,000 students have undergone training in keyboard as well as Carnatic vocal, over the last 25 years. He himself is a trained Carnatic singer and has presented full devotional and entertainment orchestra programmes in Mumbai and its suburbs. His ambition is to establish a multi - purpose art training centre in Mumbai.

# Charity Event

**A**IRA Events in association with SMART Wings Mumbai are organizing a Rock Concert namely, 'Rocking for a Cause' on March 28 at Shanmukhananda Chandrasekhara Auditorium Mumbai, as a Charity Event for the benefit of the children affected by muscular distortion and autism diseases, who are taken care and provided educational aid under the Central Government Mission - *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*.

Last year SMART Wings with the support of Ex-Governor of Maharashtra, K Sankaranarayanan and philanthropists of Thane and Mumbai had conducted 'Raj Bhavan Visit' and 'Mumbai Darshan' for I.E.D children (physically

and mentally challenged) of Vengara B.R.C, Malappuram District, Kerala, in the name '*Ullasapparavakal*'. This year AIRA Events and SMART Wings jointly have decided to extend their support to differently - abled children of Malappuram District along with such children of Mumbai province.

'*Rocking for a Cause*' - is an initiative with an objective to extend supporting hands in the Empowerment and Rehabilitation of the differently abled children under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (Malappuram District and Mumbai Province) by providing them with standardized infrastructure and essential educational equipments for their upliftment. Along with these contributions, the event would also contribute to bring new rays of hope in two extremely talented and brilliant differently - abled children, by gifting them Electronic Wheel Chair and padding them in the race to chase down

their dreams.

'*Rocking for a Cause*' is performed by the Kerala based band '*Thaikuddam Bridge*' and Mumbai based youth band '*Triloka*' giving a dedication of their songs to the *Ullasapparavakal*. The event is conceived with the aim of moulding the young generation and drawing their attention towards the social commitment.

All philanthropists are requested of patronage by active participation in organizing this event 'Rocking for a Cause'.

The total number of children is sixty. If anybody wishes to provide gifts for the underprivileged children they may inform the team in advance.

For more details and booking tickets contact: Adv.Prema Menon - 9892180858, Mr. Jeso Lalju - 8097036017, Mr. Vicky - 9029193995, Mr. Martin - 8976968916.

## Mumbai Marathon

**O**ne of the Asia's largest charity events organized by Standard Chartered Bank in Mumbai on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the Mumbai Marathon was a notable event. A total number of 40,485 people participated in it (Full-42Kms/Half -21.097Kms & Dream- 6Kms) and 14,321 participants were in the Half Marathon of 21.097 Kms. People of all walks of life were there, without considering celebrity status, age, gender etc. As usual, this year also a huge Malayalee participation was there. K Sasidharan (General Secretary of Gorai Malayalee Welfare Association) and his son Avinash Sasidharan- (Engg. student) participated and successfully completed Half Marathon in 2.41.20 Hrs & 2.05.13 Hrs. respectively.



K Sasidharan and his son Avinash



Pratheeksha Trust organised Muttappan Vellattam in Vasai

## SNMS Anniversary Celebrations

**S**ree Narayana Mandira Samiti will celebrate its 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary on March 8, from 4.00 pm to 9.30 pm at Sree Narayana Guru Educational Complex in Chembur. A troupe from Kerala will present 'Naadan Pattukal' Folk Songs from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm followed by public function at 6.30 pm and again a Daivadashakam theatrical performance will be presented by

Natyakalashethram, Kerala from 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm.

Prof.K.V.Thomas, MP (former Minister of State, Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India) is scheduled to be the Chief Guest for the public function and V Muraleedharan, State President, BJP Kerala and Sona Nair, Malayalam film Star will grace the function as the Guests of Honour for the same.

# Arangettam

**S**hruti Menon started her basic training in Bharatanatyam in the Gulf because her parents were there. After returning to Mumbai, she received guidance from Geeta Roy and performed her Arangettam at Guruvayoorappan Temple, Kerala in 2012 in the presence of Guru Kalamandalam Kshemavthy and Kalashri Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan on the Mridangam. She gave a dance performance at Goregaon Ayyappa Temple Auditorium on February 7. Orchestra support was by vocal - Shyamala Gopalakrishnan, Nattuvangam - Guru Geeta Roy, on mridangam - Kalashree Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan, violin - Vishnudas, flute-Manuraj, and moharsing, K.N. Gopal.



Shruti Menon's dance recital

## Dance Demo

**A**s part of the silver jubilee celebrations of Smitalaya, noted Kuchipudi and Kathakali exponent Guru Vijay Shanker was invited to present a lecture-demonstration on south Indian classical dance styles with emphasis on Kuchipudi, the classical dance style of Andhra Pradesh. at Sane Guruji Arogya Mandir in Santacruz west. Vijay Shanker's demonstration was well appreciated by the students, staff and the director of the Academy, accomplished Odissi exponent Jhelum Paranjape. The compere for the show was Dr Smt Usha Gujarati.



Guru Vijay Shanker

## V T Gopalakrishnan Memorial Award to C P Krishnakumar

**T**he seventeenth V T Gopalakrishnan Memorial Award is being presented to C P Krishnakumar on March 1 based on the stories presented by him at Sahityavedi. The award will be presented by novelist T D Ramakrishnan at Kerala Bhavanam, Matunga. The award was



C P Krishnakumar

instituted in 1998 after the demise of Gopalakrishnan. The award is instituted with the intention of encouraging and recognising the literary contribution of Mumbai based writers.

Gopalakrishnan was the founder member of Sahityavedi, literary critic, columnist and a scientist with BARC.



Dr Suresh Nair, Principal, Vivek Vidyalaya was felicitated for receiving the best teacher award at Mumbai Keraleeya Samithi, Malad West.



NANMA Charitable Foundation Kalyan Office was inaugurated by social worker Jayanth Nair and Balan Nair. NANMA Secretary Sunilraj, Rajendran and Sudheer Nair also in the picture.



Mulund Kerala Samajam conducted a free Ayurvedic Medical Camp on February 22 at its Ayurvedic clinic in Mulund East, where Ayurvedic doctors from Coimbatore Arya Vaidya Sala treated patients.

## Traditional Chenda Classes

**L**alitha Kalalayam Fine Arts Academy has started Kerala traditional chenda classes with 26 students at Varthak Nagar Church under the guidance of Guru Kalashree Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan from February 1. Nambisan had imparted training in Chenda for 15 students at Sarigaon Ayyappa Temple, Bhilad, Gujarat who performed their arrangettam after getting training also from some famous chenda players of Kerala.

Kalashri Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan lighting the lamp



## Annual Concert

**S**araswathy Kala Kendra & Research Centre celebrated its 10th Annual Concert at Prabhodhan Thackeray Sabhagraha, Borivli. The performances included classical dances, folk dances from the north, south, east and west of India, with a theme 'Folk Melodies of India' and a dance on national integration, 'jai jai maataram, vande maataram.' . Mudassar Khan, choreographer / Dance India Dance judge was the Chief guest and Mrs.Smita Pereira, Director of kidzee Bliss Global School and Owner of West Palm Beach Resort, Vasai was the Guest of honour.



Dance performance by the students

# Felicitation Of Guru Kalamandalam C Gopalakrishnan

The winners of this year's 'Pravasi Kalashree Award' of Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi, the cultural limb of Government of Kerala, were felicitated at Dombivli by a number of leading cultural organizations and the prominent stars of the Megacity's cultural horizon. The event was organised by Kalakshetram on February 21 at Model English School Dombivli.

The star attraction of the function was Kalamandalam C. Gopalakrishnan, who was bestowed with this prestigious award for his contribution towards Kathakali and Mohiniattam. The absence of the other awardee, the famous theatre artist Mary Paul, was a loss at the function, though the theatre historian Pavithran Kannapuram introduced her depicting her contributions to the theatre of the bygone years.

The programme started with the projection of a documentary film on the life and growth of Kalamandalam C Gopalakrishnan by his disciple Kalakshethram Renjish Rajan duly supported by Prasad Pavithran and others. In the documentary all the teachers and colleagues of Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan (Gurus like Vazhenkada Vijayan, M.P.S. Namboodiri, Padmashri Kalamandalam Gopi, Kalamandalam Vasu Pisharody, Mohiniatta Kulapathi Padmabhushan Dr. Kanak Rele, etc.) expressed their satisfaction of the devotion shown by Gopalakrishnan as a student. Many expressed the view that the film was far above an amateurish attempt.

Then the Mohiniattam students



Guruvandanam

presented a Mohiniattam item "Guruvandanam' produced, directed and presented exclusively by the talented students of Gopalakrishnan. The songs were authored by Namangalam Madhavan and the music was composed and sung by the inimitable Kalashree Kalamandalam Gireesan.

Later in the formal function many social organisations felicitated him through their representatives. Kalakshethram, Nair Welfare Association, Dombivli Keraleeya Samajam, Bombay Yogakshema Sabha, Bheri, Namasankeerthanam, various Ayyappa Seva Samithis, Karyman Sounds etc were among them. Subsequently, prominent personalities spoke. Jwala Gopi Nair of FOMA praised him for his commitment to arts. Kunnam Vishnu of Kalakshethram

spoke about the multifarious talents of Gopalakrishnan in Kathakali, Dance, Music and rhythms like Chenda and Maddalam. The popular voice artist M G Radhakrishnan explained his contributions in the creation of memorable event of Mamankam. Theatre artist Surendrababu explained the remarkable participation of Gopalakrishnan in various theatre creations. Kalamandalam Gireesan explained Gopalakrishnan's in-depth talent in Music. Lalithakalalayam Nambisan depicted his nostalgia in the teamwork for over 30 years. Paduthol Vasudevan aptly pointed out the funny bone of Gopalakrishnan who always has enough stock for a burst of laugh around. Venugopal of Marol Ayyappa Seva Samithi spoke about how Gopalakrishnan served art without bothering about the remuneration.

-Kunnam Vishnu



Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan with his students

# Foundation Stone for Nadumuttam laid



Foundation stone laying

**T**he Nadumuttam Villa project launching ceremony was conducted on January 25 at Banjara Hills, Shahapur. The laying of the Foundation stone of the first Nadumuttam villa was done by senior Malayalee personality S R Pillai and Mrs S R Pillai. The first villa project work for a two BHK villa was also started on the same day and they will try to complete it in the month of April 2015.

Many important personalities from different parts of Mumbai attended the foundation stone laying ceremony.

According to Grammam Developers, the response to the project has been very good and there are now only limited plots for sale. Anyone



Nadumuttam team with Soft Corner MD Kulkarni

interested in booking a villa can contact them or their marketing team available at site and they will explain further about this project. Interested parties may visit the site and see the progress of work there.

Grammam Developers comprising of four Directors Vijay Pillai, Sasindran Nair, Prakash Nair, and George Varghese and architect K R Anilkumar, International Consulting Engineers and Architects with offices in Kochi and Dubai are involved with this traditional Kerala Villa Projects 'Nadumuttam'. Grammam Developers is coming up with these traditional Kerala Villa Projects in the vicinity of Banjara Hills at Sector 5, Shahapur.

These heritage traditional villas near Mumbai recreate the magic of a bygone era.

## Special Features

The villas in Nadumuttam will have some special features typical of traditional Kerala houses. First of all, the building design and site planning are monitored by prominent Kerala Traditional Vastu Consultant, Kanippayoor Kuttan Naboothiripad.

All villas are rectangular in structure, where four halls are joined together with the central courtyard open to sky called 'Nadumuttam.' The main doors and windows are wooden. Every villa will also have verandahs supported by pillars. All villas will have individual compound wall and 'Padipurras'. There will be landscaping for all villas and separate vehicles entrance gates. There are three different sizes in construction to satisfy everybody's budget. The area for the nadumuttam project comprises approximately five acres of land and all modern facilities and amenities like Community hall, gym, swimming pool etc will be accessible.

Banjara Hills the biggest second home satellite township at Shahapur is totally a weekend home project and well connected to NH3 and 90 km pleasant drive away from Mumbai. One can also reach Shahapur by rail from Asangaon station. This mega project consists of 2000 demarcated N A Plots with private concrete roads upto the hill top table land and spread across 200 acres of lush greenery. The project is passionately getting developed as a private hill station by M/s. Seema Developers and marketed



Invited guests at the launching ceremony



Brochure launching - Grammam Developers and Seema Developers

by M/s. Soft Corner Marketing.

Banjara Hills project features include free hold clear title, N.A. plots with individual 7/12 extract according to the promoters. They are ready for registration 100% FSI, and sanctioned town Planning layout. There is private

concrete approach road up to the Hill top with internal 9m, 12m, 15m wide semi tarred roads. Water supply and electricity are available up to the plots, as well as street lights and roadside plantations. There is 24X7 security facilities and 12 Lakh Sq ft open space

with landscaped gardens. There is free membership of hill station resort that is spread over 5 acres.

For more details contact :  
9820150568/9819850501/9819884955

## FOMA Felicitates Sreekumaran Thampi

**P**opular Malayalam lyricist Sreekumaran Thampi received the Special Award for outstanding contribution in the film world from FOMA (Forum of Media Associates). The event took place at Vishnudas Bhave Auditorium in Vashi. Navya Nair and Good Night Mohan, were the Guests of Honour. Well known lyricist Mankombu Gopalakrishnan, Comrade P R Krishnan, M I Damodaran, Roy John Mathew, M K Navaz, Hariharan, J P Thakazhy, Architect Suresh and Dancer Sushama Gopinath were also felicitated.

FOMA Chairman N K Bhupesh Babu presided over the event. President U N Gopi Nair delivered the welcome Speech. Manoj Malavika compered the event. There was a musical programme of film songs of Sreekumaran Thampi presented by Biju Narayanan and party and a Comedy show by Ramesh Pisharody.

There was an audio CD release of Nanappan Manjapra's *Madhuram Malayalam* during the above event. Producer Biju Raman gave the first CD to Sreekumaran Thampi.



N K Bhupeshbabu, Navya Nair, Sreekumaran Thampi, Mankombu Gopalakrishnan, Gopi Nair on the dais



Madhuram Malayalam audio cd release. Producer Biju Raman giving the first copy to Sreekumaran Thampi.

# KCA School Building Inauguration

The Inaugural function of the new building - Phase I of KCA St. Francis of Assisi International School was held in the school premises on February 22 with Holy Mass by Ref. Fr. Jacob Purathur. His Excellencies Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal and Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas blessed the occasion with their graceful presence and encouraging words.

In the general meeting presided over by P J Mathew, President, KCA, Joint Treasurer Thomas and P George read the prayers. The school children accompanied by Tilak Nagar Unit members sang lovely hymns. General Convenor John Mathew welcomed the guests. There were encouraging speeches by the Rev. Fathers and attending Bishops. Over 2500 people attended the function.

PJ Mathew, in his speech gave a brief account of the growth of KCA particularly the dream school project and their vision for the international school to be moulded into a State-of-the Art educational institution. There was singing by the school children and some of the members. Mrs Priya Varghese was the master of ceremonies. Abraham Lukose, General Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.



During the Inauguration ceremony



Dignitaries at the function



Madhavi Nrithyalaya, Mira Road 7th anniversary inauguration: Film-Serial Director Rajesh Kannankara, Actor-Director M B Padmakumar, Guru Unnikrishnan, Adv Padma Divakar and Rajendran Padiyur on the stage.

## Book release

Rajan Thekkumala's Collection of Short stories 'Deshatanakkiliyuppan Card' published by Pambungal Publications was released during Mumbai Kathavedi's first anniversary celebration. Noted writer Girjavallabhan handed over the first copy of the book to litterateur Meghanadan. Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Sangham Zonal President P Lali was the Chief Guest. K B Said Mohammad, Vijaya Menon, D Thamba P R Rajkumar spoke about the book and K Rajan introduced the same. This was followed by 'kathayarangu' inaugurated by Meghanadan, presided over by Girjavallabhan and moderated by K Rajan. Mumbai Kathavedi Chairman proposed a vote of thanks.

# Haimavathy teacher passes away

**H**aimavathy teacher who led the Kaikottikkali that entered the Guinness Book of Records, died in Dombivli following a cardiac arrest. She was 69.

Haimavathy teacher was fully devoted to the art form of Kaikottikkali. Observing her dedication, the organizers of Mumbai Pooram entrusted the task of organizing the Maha Kaikottikkali of 2012 to her and she did with complete submission and devotion.

Daughter of Kuzhikkattupurathu Krishnankutty Nair of Varantherappalli

Haimavathy teacher moved to



Haimavathy teacher with the participants of Mumbai Pooram Thiruvathirakali performed at hundreds of stages. She had a large number of disciples. She was survived by her son Hemachandran and daughter Dr Jayashree Menon and their spouses Shreeja and Satish Menon respectively.

Mumbai soon after her marriage to Pallikkadathu Sudhakara Menon of Irinjalakuda and settled down at Dombivli. She set aside a large part of her time to her art and formed a Kaikottikkali group and

# Vasai Nair Welfare Association Anniversary

**K**erala State Devaswom and Health Minister V S Siva Kumar inaugurated Vasai Nair Welfare Association's 20th Anniversary celebrations at Ayyappa Sabarigiri Temple Prarthana Mandapam. Changanesseri Nair Service Society Director Koikkal Harikumar, Media person Anil Nambiar, KPMG Chief Operating Officer Sachin Menon, J K Cements Vice President Balachandran

Menon, Kondath Venugopal Menon, Prof Shibu Nair, Dr Santosh Pillai, Shrikantan Nair, Ankaleswar and Ramachandran Pillai were guests of honour.

There was a procession of Vasai Nair Welfare Association's members along with Singari melam troupe from Kerala with the message of Safety for women. Meritorious students of SSC and HSC, former office bearers and

founder members of the Association were felicitated.

Kerala Folklore Academy Award winner M Sudhakaran and party (Thavam Gramavedi, Kannur) presented folk songs during the event. There were cultural programmes presented by Vanitha Vibhagam and Youth wing of the Association.

## First Birthday Celebration of Vaishnavi daughter of Rupesh and Vidya Vijaykumar





**KSNA Amateur Drama Competition - felicitation of Kalashree Awards - Valsalan Moorkoth, Sreekanth Nair, kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan, V.V. Achuthan and Tara Varma on the dias.**

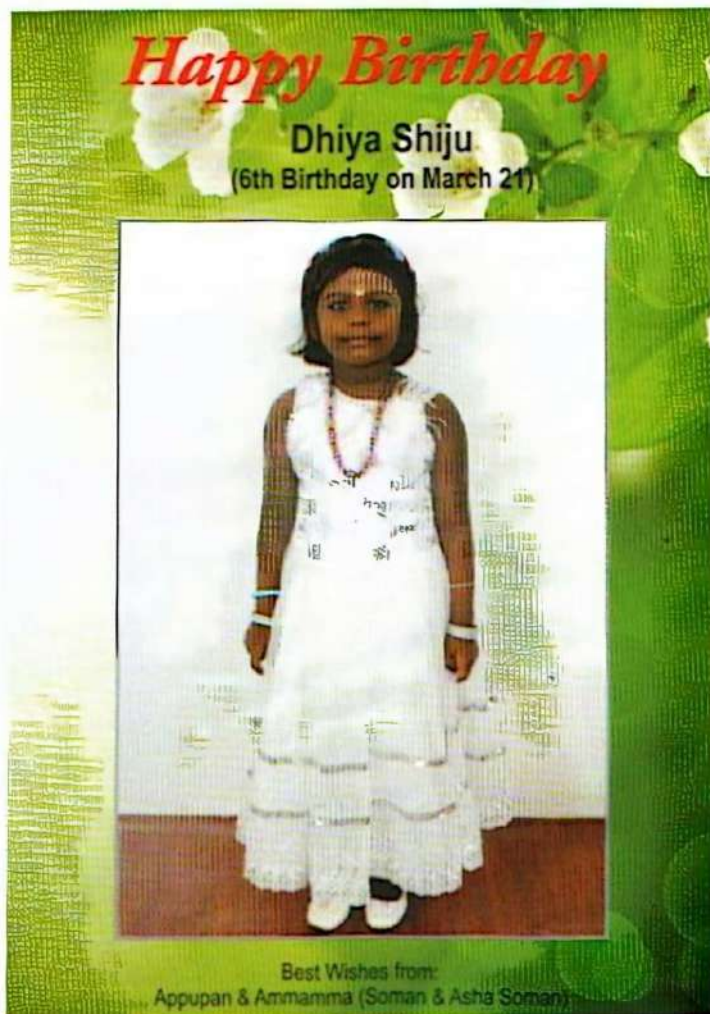
## Pravasi Kalasri Awardees felicitated

**T**he winners of the Pravasi Kalasri Awardees of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi were felicitated by the Western Region of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi on February 15 at Vasudeo Balwant Phatke Natyagruh in Panvel. The event was held along with the

drama contest. Smt Mary Paul and Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan were the awardees for their contributions towards drama and Kathakali respectively.

Co-ordinator of the Western Zone Surendra Babu introduced them to the audience. Senior stage actor and director V V Achuthan felicitated Mary Paul and Smt Tara Varma did the honours to Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan. Akademi officials Valsan Moorkoth and Srikant Nair attended the event.

The drama contest commenced at 10 a.m. and witnessed four plays. 'Avasanathe Urhavu' of Naattarang, 'Lambamaanasam' of Sunayana Arts, 'Grimayanam' of Kalanjali Theatres and 'Bharathadarsanam' of Vilappil Vithal Natakasala were presented. This was done as part of the India Amateur Drama Competition organised by the Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Rajasthan come under the western zone. The three member panel of judges would declare the final results on March 15 after witnessing the plays of other zones. The Kalasri awardees and winners of the drama contests will be presented their awards on that day at Kanakakkunnu Palace at 4 p.m.



**V V Achuthan felicitating Smt. Mary Paul**

# PANDIT NEHRU A Sincere Leader



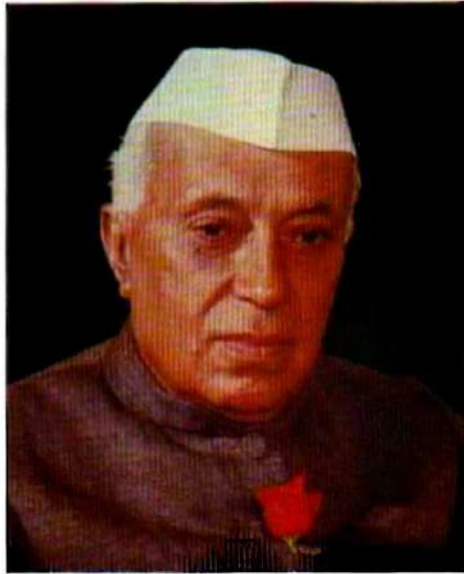
Mandakini Nampoothiri

■ It happened a long time back, May 27<sup>th</sup> 1964 to be exact. It was a sad day for India. That was the day when the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru left us all

leaving India leaderless.

My husband being in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service was posted in the Central Ministry, New Delhi at that time. May is the hottest month in Delhi. On that particular day, I was having a light nap after lunch. It was about 3 o'clock. I was woken up by a knock at the back door of my house. I opened the door to let in my servant maid, Chameli. She came in saying "bibiji you did not know or what that Panditji is no more with us."

I was flabbergasted to hear the news. But the atmosphere made me feel that something bad had happened. Usually, the sun's rays are unbearable in May. But on that afternoon, the sky was overcast with dark clouds and there was a



slight drizzle too. I felt that even nature was weeping in grief.

I went in and switched on the radio, to know whether Chameli's words were true. It was mourning music broadcast from all channels. In between, there were descriptions about Pt. Nehru like 'Panditji Amar ho gaye, Bharat bina

neta ban gaye.'

Mahatma Gandhi saw Pandit Nehru as the most suitable person to rule independent India. Nehru was Prime Minister of India for 17 years until his demise. His rule was of a profound nature. Long years of freedom struggle and prison life had turned him to a mature political leader. What he envisaged was allround development of India. He referred to dams as modern temples of India. Five year Plans through which he aimed a time-bound development of India as a whole was his brain-child. In the early stages of the Plans, there were good progress as a result of his sincere and earnest efforts.

Alas Today's plans happen to be just namesake projects. The ill-management of present day politicians has made the situation deplorable. Today India needs leaders of sincerity and good purpose like Pandit Nehru. Such persons of sincerity are rare now. Then how can people elect such persons.

I earnestly wish to see a better change in India before my death. I hope things will improve in every sphere of action.

## Kerala style coin-operated 'she-toilets' set to make it to Mumbai

Last month, a team of engineers from the department had gone to Kerala for a day's visit, to understand the concept of women-friendly she-toilets. Mumbai has a poor record in terms of public toilets for women. There are very few toilets available for women and they mostly have unhygienic conditions.

The she-toilets are technology driven and Kerala was the first state to introduce the concept three years ago. It consists of stainless steel toilet booths which have a coin-operated door, a sanitary napkin vending machine, an incinerator to burn the napkins and automatic flush.

The most important feature of she-toilets is an attached bacterial tank in which the waste will undergo biodegradation and only water will be left. The civic body has decided to go ahead with a pilot project in 11 locations in the island city.

The Sewage Waste Management department is in the process of finalising the locations where these toilets can be set up in about a month's time. The department's Executive Engineer, U A Shirodkar had gone to Kerala on

January 24 with other engineers to understand the project.

BMC will start the project at 11 locations and the aim is to benefit the floating population like office goers or travelling women. Setting up one 4X4 stainless steel toilet will cost anywhere between Rs 8 lakh to Rs 10 lakh and if it is properly maintained then it will last at least 20 years.

The bacterial tank was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation for the military. Due to the bacteria in the tank, the complete solid form of waste will be processed and only liquid will remain.

In Mumbai this technology will help in many ways. For instance, if BMC wants to construct toilets, there are several hurdles to cross such as permissions like Coastal Regulation Zone clearance to ensure the solid waste is not directly discharged into sea.

The plus point of setting up she-toilets is that there will be no issue of CRZ clearance, as after biodegradation, the water that remains will be discharged into the sea. Also this water can be used for gardening.

-Biju Cherian

# GURUDEVAGIRI

## Perpetual Abode of the Supreme



Sajith Soman

■ Gurudevagiri is not just another temple. It's an array of prosperity blended with the manifestation of boundless growth. The more one learns about Sree Narayana Guru here, the more one unlearns divergence. Gurudevagiri, apart from having a temple complex comprising of Guru Mandir and Siva temple, has the exclusive distinction of having Guru's original artefacts in the form of 'Holy Teeth'. Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti (SNMS) received the holy teeth of Sree Narayana Guru on January 11, 2004 at a function organised for this purpose at Gurudevagiri.



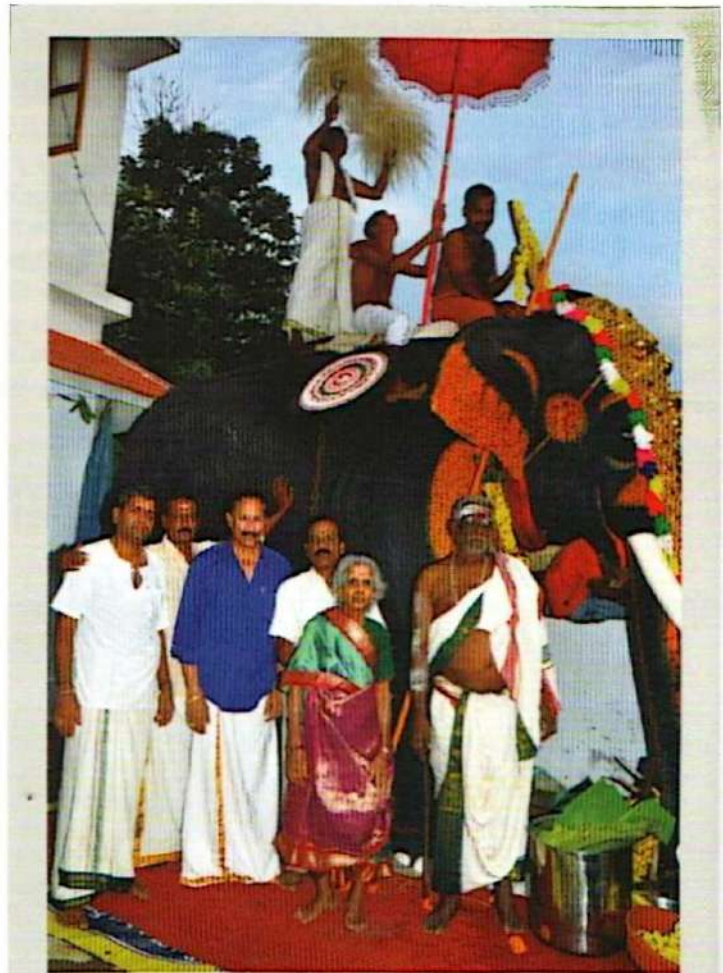
The teeth were in the custody of Guru's dentist Dr G O Pal in Trivandrum. After his demise, it went to the custody of Dr Shivaraj Pal, son of Dr G O Pal. Dr Shivaraj Pal presented the teeth to his friend Shivadasan Madhavan who handed over it to R K Krishnakumar. Krishnakumar in turn handed it over to the late Dr K K Damodaran, President Emeritus of SNMS. It has been kept in the Samiti with due respect and is being displayed to the public during this annual Gurudevagiri Theerthadanam day.

Gurudevagiri also houses an International centre which has a well-equipped library containing about 50,000 books and other publications on Vedic literature, literary works of Sree Narayana Guru, interpretations and commentaries on Guru's works, Biographies and teachings of Guru, and many other literary works and publications. It has also facilities for research in philosophy and Vedic studies.

'Gurudevagiri Theerthadanam' is an annual pilgrimage which happens in line with the concepts of the annual sacred 'Sivagiri Theerthadanam'. The Guru amalgamates the Advaitic philosophy of 'non-dual consciousness, or oneness of being' into the lives of all of us. He reveals that God is omnipresent and can be worshipped in any form. A mirror is thus a supreme deity and the ultimate reality lies within ourselves. All is indeed one and the indispensable truth is nondual, which is what the Guru preaches. The merits and insights of Guru hold a distinctive place which can never be

bound to space and time. Guru also stresses on contemporary concerns and through Theerthadanam he wants the society to achieve some fundamental yet crucial objectives. He wants us all to be enriched and uplifted with proper wisdom, knowledge and self-enlightenment. He wants prominent personalities to educate the common man not only in terms of adulation to God but also on forward-looking aspects of education, technology, cleanliness, organization and so forth.

Gurudevagiri Theerthadanam is thus not just an occasion, it is a festival and a grand get-together which not only elevates our contemplations of mankind but also drives development, dispels darkness, thereby illuminating faith and propelling oneness. ■



The 9.5 ft Gajasilpam (Gajakesari Ramanandan) made at the backside of P Rajagopalan's (known as Krishnamani in Mumbai) village home in Perinkulam has bagged national record from Limca book of records and Asia book of records as the largest elephant sculpture at private home - 2014, according to the Limca and Asia Book of Records. The sculpture of the elephant was designed and constructed by Madhavan Nair, the seniormost person from Mangalamkunnu, Kerala and inaugurated in October 2010.

# വേർപാടും പൊരുത്തപ്പെടലും



V Achuthan

വ്യോമസേനയിൽ നിന്ന് വിരമിച്ച ഇൻസ്ട്രുമെന്റ്സ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ അശോകൻ ചെമ്പൂർ ഷെൽകോളനിയിലായിരുന്നു താമസിച്ചിരുന്നത്. ആരുടേയും ആദരവ് പിടിച്ചു വാങ്ങുന്ന ഒരു വ്യക്തിത്വമായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റേത്. ഭാര്യ, മക്കൾ അജയ്, അനീഷ്, രതി, പിന്നെ സഹോദരി ശാന്ത. ഇത്രയും പേരായിരുന്നു അശോകന്റെ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങൾ.

1983 ജനുവരിമാസത്തിലെ ഒരു ദിവസം. വൈകുന്നരം മാലുമണിക്ക് ഞാൻ ജോലി കഴിഞ്ഞ് വീട്ടിലെത്തിയപ്പോൾ മാത്രം എന്നെ കാത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ചെമ്പൂർ ശ്രീനാരായണ സാഹസികസംഘത്തിലെ അവരുടെ ഫ്ലാഗിനു താഴെയുള്ള ഫ്ലാഗ് സ്റ്റാൻഡിന്റേ പോക്കുന്നു. രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപ കൊടുത്താൽ കിട്ടും. നങ്ങളൽ വാങ്ങിക്കണമെന്നതാണ് ശാന്തയുടെ ആവശ്യം. ഖാക്കൗട്ട് കഴിഞ്ഞതേയുള്ളൂ; പണത്തിനു വളരെ തെരുക്കം. പൂമ്പാട്ടിം ശാന്തയ്ക്ക് നിർബന്ധം ഞങ്ങൾ അത് വാങ്ങിയേ തീരൂ. പാശ്ചാത്യരായി വിചാരിച്ചാൽ നടക്കും.

പിറ്റേദിവസം ഞാൻ ശ്രീനാരായണ സൊസൈറ്റിയിലെ പരിമേധയിലെ അഞ്ചാംനമ്പർ ഫ്ലാഗ് സ്റ്റാൻഡിനെത്തിയപ്പോൾ പാവിലെ ഉടമ രാമചന്ദ്രനു പുറമെ ശാന്തയും ഭർത്താവ് പാശ്ചാത്യരനുമാണായിരുന്നു. അപ്പോഴേക്ക് ശാന്തയും പാശ്ചാത്യരനുംകൂടി വില 1,82,000-ത്തിനു ഉറപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. എനിക്ക് പമ്പാൻസ് കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ജോലി മാത്രമെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. മന്ത്രാധിപരും രൂപയും ബാക്കി മൂന്നു മാസത്തിനകം ക്ലാക്കുമെന്ന ഉറപ്പും നൽകി ഞാൻ മടങ്ങി.

തിലക് നഗർ ഫ്ലാഗ് വിറ്റുകിട്ടിയ സംഖ്യ, പി എഫ് ലോൺ, പാശ്ചാത്യരും എ കെ നായരും കടമായിത്തന്ന സംഖ്യ എന്നിവ ചേർത്ത് മൂന്നു മാസത്തിനുള്ളിൽ ഇടപാട് പൂർത്തിയാക്കി മെയ് മാസത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ താമസം മാറ്റി.

ജൂലൈ മാസം രണ്ടാംതിയ്യതി അതിരാവിലെ മൃത്യയാഘാതംമൂലം ശാന്ത ഈ ലോകം വിട്ടുപോയി.

ഇതിനിടെ അനുജൻ ഒരു ജീപ്പ് വാങ്ങാനായി ബോംബെയിലെത്തി. നാരായണസാമി സ്മാരക മദ്ധ്യവർത്തി മുഖാന്തിരം മഹിന്ദ്ര ഇന്റിനിയു വാങ്ങാ മെന്നു കരുതി അയാൾക്കു മന്ത്രാധിപരും രൂപ നൽകി മൂന്നുമാസത്തിനകം ജീപ്പ് ലഭ്യമാക്കാനായി ഏർപ്പാടാക്കി. അനുജൻ ക്ലബ്ബിപ്പോയി. ആറുമാസം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടും ജീപ്പ് ലഭ്യമാകാതിരുന്നപ്പോൾ, കൊടുത്ത രൂപ മടക്കി പിട്ടിന്ദ്രാൽ മതിയെന്നായി. അതിനകം പണം തിരിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ട് അച്ഛൻ ആറ് ക്ലബ്ബിംഗ് എനിക്കയച്ചു. ഒരുവിധം നാരായണ സാമി യിൽനിന്ന് പണം തിരിച്ചുവാങ്ങി മന്ത്രാധിപരും അയച്ചുകൊടുത്തു.

### ഇന്റെ അച്ഛൻ

ഒരു അസാധാരണ സ്വഭാവക്കാരനായിരുന്നു ഇന്റെ അച്ഛൻ. മുക്കത്തു ശൂൺഠി, കോപം പാശ്ചാത്യർ ക്രൂരമർദ്ദനം. വിവാഹിതനായ മന്ത്രാധിപരും ഭാര്യയുടെ മുന്നിൽവെച്ച് അച്ഛൻ

അടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. വീടുവിട്ടു പോയ ജ്യേഷ്ഠനെ വളരെ വിഷമിച്ചാണ് ഞാൻ തിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്നത്.

ഇളയസഹോദരിയുടെ ഭർത്താവും എന്റെ ആത്മ സുഹൃത്തുമായിരുന്ന ശ്രീധരൻ അവളെ ജോലിസ്ഥലത്തേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുപോകാനായി റെയിൽക്കിറ്റുമായി നാട്ടിലെത്തിയപ്പോൾ, അതു ചെയ്തത് തന്നോട് ചോദിക്കാതെയാണെന്നതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം അവരുടെ വിവാഹബന്ധം വിടർത്തിച്ചു വ്യക്തിയാണ് എന്റെ അച്ഛൻ. പിൻകാലത്ത് അവൾക്ക് സ്നേഹസമ്പന്നനായ മറ്റൊരു വരനെ കിട്ടി എന്നത് മറ്റൊരു കാര്യം.

1985 ആയപ്പോഴേക്ക് നാട്ടിലെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പഴയ ഭവനം പൊളിച്ച് മൂന്നു കിടപ്പുമുറികളുള്ള സാമാന്യം വലിയ ഗൃഹം നിർമ്മിച്ചിരുന്നു അച്ഛൻ. അത് ഇളയ പെങ്ങൾ കല്യാണിയുടെ പേർക്ക് എഴുതിവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്ന് അമ്മ പറഞ്ഞു, ഞാൻ നാട്ടിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ. നിരത്തുവക്കിലുള്ള മറ്റൊരു വലിയ വീട് മുത്ത പെങ്ങൾ കുഞ്ഞിപ്പാറുവിന്റെ പേരിലും. അതുപോലെ മറ്റു സ്വത്തുക്കൾ അഞ്ചു സഹോദരങ്ങൾക്കും; എനിയ്ക്കൊഴികെ.

എനിക്ക് അച്ഛന്റെ സ്മരണയും വേണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അച്ഛൻ എനിക്കൊന്നും തരാത്തതെന്ന് അമ്മ പറഞ്ഞു. എന്തിനാണ് ഞാനങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞത് എന്നമ്മയ്ക്ക് അറിയാം. പത്തുകൊല്ലംമുമ്പാണ് അച്ഛൻ ചോദിച്ചതെന്നും അന്നുള്ളത് ഭാഗിച്ചാൽത്തന്നെ ജീവിക്കാനുള്ളത് കിട്ടുമായിരുന്നില്ലെന്നും ഞാൻ അറിയിച്ചു. ചോദിച്ചിട്ടു വേണമോ തരാൻ? ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചു. അനുജനെ ഞാൻ ബോംബെയിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി ഡ്രൈവിംഗ് പഠിപ്പിച്ച് ജീപ്പ് വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊടുത്ത ശേഷമല്ലേ ഈ സ്വത്തല്ലാം ഉണ്ടായത്?

അച്ഛനെനിക്കു ഒന്നും തന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും മറ്റുള്ളവർക്ക് വീണ്ടും സ്വത്തുക്കൾ നൽകാതിരുന്നില്ല. മാത്രമല്ല, ഇഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട ആൺമക്കൾക്ക് സ്വർണ്ണംകൂടി വാങ്ങിച്ചു നൽകി. മൂപ്പരു സെൻറ് ഭൂമി വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് എഴുതിവെച്ചിരുന്നത് പിൻകാലത്ത് സർക്കാർ ഏറ്റെടുത്തപ്പോൾ എനിക്ക് 30,000 ക. ലഭിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ബോംബെയിൽ ഫ്ലാഗ് വാങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ ഒരു



Achuthan receives Kerala In Mumbai's Life Time Achievement Award



Left to right:- Hema Vivek (Daughter in Law) Abhilash Vivek (Grandson) Anurag Vivek (Grandson) Bruno (Pet) Vivek Achuthan (Elder son)

ലക്ഷം രൂപ കടം വന്നുവെന്ന് അറിയിച്ചപ്പോൾ അച്ഛൻ 30,000 ക. അയച്ചു തന്നത് ഞാൻ മറന്നിട്ടില്ല.

അച്ഛന്റെ അന്ത്യം പെട്ടെന്നായിരുന്നു, 1985 സപ്തംബർ 28-ന്. ഹൃദയാഘാതമായിരുന്നു ഹേതു. മരണംവരെ കാര്യമായ അസുഖങ്ങളൊന്നുംതന്നെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു പിടി പെട്ടതായി അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഏതു ഇല്ലായ്മയിലും രാവിലെ ഒരു ഇളനീർ കുടിക്കുന്ന ശീലം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞാൻ അവസാനമായി അദ്ദേഹത്തെ സന്ദർശിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ തെങ്ങിൽ കയറി ഇളനീർ ഇട്ടുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇളനീർ കുടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേ ഞങ്ങളിരുവരും പല പഴയ കാര്യങ്ങളും സന്ദർഭവശാൽ ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. പരമ്പിൽനിന്ന് വിൽക്കാനായി വാഴക്കുലകൾ വെട്ടിയപ്പോൾ കുട്ടികളായ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് തരാതിരുന്നതും, ജ്യേഷ്ഠൻ പണം ഒരുക്കുട്ടി വാങ്ങിയ മുണ്ട് കത്തിച്ചു കളഞ്ഞതും കുട്ടികൾക്ക് ഭക്ഷിക്കാനുള്ള



Left to right:- Sindhu Arun (Daughter in Law), Anirudh Arun (Grandson) Siddharth Arun (Grandson) Arun Achuthan (Younger son)

വകയില്ലാതിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അച്ഛന്റെ സമ്മതത്തിനു കാത്തു നിൽക്കാതെ തേങ്ങയിട്ട് വിറ്റതിന് ജ്യേഷ്ഠനെ പരമ്പിൽനിന്ന് ഇറക്കി വിട്ടതും സമ്മതമില്ലാതെ പറ്റുകടയിൽനിന്ന് ഒരു മുക്കാലിന് മിഠായി വാങ്ങി തിന്നതിന് അമ്മയുടെ കയ്യിൽനിന്ന് ചുല്ല് പിടിച്ചുവാങ്ങി അടിച്ചതും “ആൺകുട്ടികളെ ചുല്ല് കൊണ്ട് അടിക്കരുതേ”യെന്നു അമ്മ നിലവിളിച്ചതും ഞാൻ അച്ഛനെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തി. അച്ഛന്റെ മുഖം കോപംകൊണ്ട് ചുവന്നു, ചുണ്ടുകൾ വിറച്ചു. അതു കണ്ട് പേടിച്ച് പഴയ കാര്യങ്ങൾ പറയേണ്ടെന്ന് അമ്മ വിലക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ എഴുന്നേറ്റു പോയി.

രാത്രി ഭക്ഷണത്തിനുശേഷം അവിൽ കൂഴച്ചത് തിന്നാൻ എന്നെ ക്ഷണിച്ചു. രാത്രി അവിൽ ഭക്ഷിച്ച് ശീലമില്ലെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞ് ഞാൻ അതിൽനിന്ന് പിൻമാറി. പിറ്റേന്ന് കുടുംബസമേതം ഞാൻ ബോംബെയിലേക്ക് യാത്ര തിരിച്ചു. അന്നായിരുന്നു അച്ഛൻ മരിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പായി ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ജീവനോടെ കണ്ടത്.

1990-ൽ പ്രീമിയറിൽ സ്വമേധയാപിരിയൽ ഏർപ്പാട് നടപ്പിലാക്കി. ആയിരത്തിലേറെ പേർ അതു സ്വീകരിച്ച് നാട്ടിലേക്ക് പോയി. ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ കുറിച്ച് അമ്മയ്ക്ക് എഴുതിയപ്പോൾ എനിക്കെന്തെങ്കിലും നൽകാൻ അവിടെയുള്ളവർ ബാധ്യസ്ഥരല്ലെന്ന് അമ്മയും ഇളയ അനുജനും എന്നെ എഴുതി അറിയിച്ചു. അനുജന്റെ കത്തിൽ എന്റെതായ സ്വത്തൊന്നും അവരുടെ പക്കലില്ലെന്നും ഭാവിയിൽ സഹായം ചോദിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അമ്മക്കെഴുതരുതെന്നും ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. ആ കത്തിന്റെ കാർക്കശ്യം ഇന്നും എന്റെ മനസ്സിനെ മഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ധനം ഇടയിൽ കയറിവന്നാൽ സഹോദരസ്നേഹത്തിനു വിലയില്ലെന്നു വരുമോ?

അമ്മയുടേയും അനുജന്റെയും കത്തുകൾ വായിച്ചപ്പോൾ എനിക്ക് വാശിയായി, എന്തു വന്നാലും എനിക്ക് രാമന്തളിയിൽ ഒരു വീട് വേണമെന്ന്. കയ്യിൽ കാര്യമായി ധനമില്ലെങ്കിലും പത്തു സെന്റിലായാലും ഒരു തനതായ വീട് വെച്ച് കുടുംബമായി പത്തു ദിവസമവിടെ താമസിക്കണമെന്ന്. ഞാൻ മുത്ത ജ്യേഷ്ഠന് ഒരു കത്തെഴുതി രാമന്തളിയിൽ നിരത്തുവക്കിൽ എനിക്കായി പത്തു സെന്റ് ഭൂമി നോക്കി അറിയിക്കാൻ.

ജ്യേഷ്ഠന്റെ മറുപടി എന്റെ കണ്ണുകളെ ഇറുക്കുന്നിയിച്ചു. ജ്യേഷ്ഠന്റെ ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലത്തിൽനിന്ന് പത്ത് സെന്റ് ഭൂമി എടുത്തുകൊള്ളാൻ. സമ്പന്നന്മാർ നന്ദി അറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ മറുപടി എഴുതി എനിക്ക് എന്റെ നാട്ടിൽ സ്വന്തമായി നേടിയ ഭൂമിതന്നെ വേണമെന്ന്.

1995 ഫെബ്രുവരിയിൽ മകൻ വിവേക് എന്റെ സുഹൃത്ത് കൃഷ്ണകുമാറിന്റെ മകൾ ഹേമയെ വിവാഹം ചെയ്തു. ഫോണിൽ നാട്ടിലുള്ള എല്ലാവരെയും വിവരം അറിയിച്ചുവെങ്കിലും മുത്ത ജ്യേഷ്ഠന്റെ മകൻമാത്രം വിവാഹത്തിൽ പങ്ക് കൊള്ളാനായി എത്തി.

1996-ൽ ജ്യേഷ്ഠൻ അറിയിച്ചു, മുമ്പ് സർക്കാറിന്റെ ആല



Grandchildren

# Noopuradhvani - Festival of Classical Dance

**N**oopura Fine Arts Academy and the Bilawar Association presented the Noopuradhvani Festival of classical dances at the Bilawar auditorium in Santacruz East. It was interesting to watch three different classical dances being presented in the same platform.

It was creditable on behalf of Mohiniattam and Bharata Natyam exponent Guru Ramya Jagadish to organise a festival providing a platform to talented youngsters. The dancers featured were Vineeta Srinandan for Mohiniattam, Arundhati Patwardhan for Bharata Natyam, Kuchipudi by the disciples of Guru Vasantha of Dombivli and the disciples of Guru Ramya Jagadish. The festival commenced with the elegant Mohiniattam recital by Vineeta Srinandan. Vineeta is the talented disciple of Kalamandalam C. Gopalakrishnan. After the invocatory Ganapatiye, Vineeta performed the composition of Ollapana Nambooripad "Krishna Kavyam" which portrays the magnificence of the Lord in the poetic format. Vineeta has a natural flair for expressions which was observed in the



**Vineeta Srinandan**

Swati Tirunal padam "Poothen" wherein the heroine suffers from the pangs of separation and waits anxiously to meet her Lord.

Arundhati Patwardhan is the

daughter and disciple of renowned Bharata Natyam exponent Sucheta Chapekar. Her recital had the typical flashes and brilliance pertaining to the technique and clarity of movements which was evident in the entire performance. The piece-de-resistance of the programme was the portrayal of the concept of both Shiva and Shakti in the number Ardha Narishwar, concerning the feminine and the masculine power. Arundhati is indeed blessed with a fine personality and concluded the programme with the Lalgudi Jayaraman Revati Thillana which was commendable for its complexity and dexterity.

Disiples of Guru Vasantha of Dombivli presented a sparkling Kuchipudi recital. The dancers danced to perfection while balancing with the pot on the head and danced to fine rhythmic patterns on the rim of the brass plates. The talented dancers were Divya, Bhavika and Arpita. Several disciples of Guru Ramya Jagadish performed varied items in the Bharata Natyam style with lot of excitement. On the whole a pleasing festival.

*-Guru Vijay Shanker*

ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന സ്ഥലത്ത് 22 സെന്റ് ഭൂമി 13,000 രൂപ നിരക്കിൽ വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന്. അങ്ങനെ അത് ഞാൻ വാങ്ങി. ഇതി വീട് കെട്ടണം. എങ്ങനെ, എപ്പോൾ?

ഈ വർഷത്തിൽത്തന്നെയാണ് അമ്മയുടെ ചരമം. സപ്തമെൻ്റ് 26-ന്. ഞങ്ങൾ സഹോദരിസഹോദരന്മാരെ പരസ്പരം ബന്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അവസാനത്തെ കണ്ണിയാണ് ഇത്തരൂണത്തിൽ നഷ്ടമായത്.

1997-ൽ ദുബായിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്തിരുന്ന രണ്ടാമത്തെ മകൻ അരുണിന്റെ വിവാഹം സഹോദരി കുഞ്ഞിപ്പാറുവിന്റെ രാമന്തളിയിലുള്ള വീട്ടിൽവെച്ച് ഗംഭീരമായി നടന്നു. ഇതിന് സഹോദരങ്ങളെല്ലാം സന്നിഹിതരായിരുന്നു. അഴീക്കോട് സുഗതന്റെ മകൾ സിന്ധുവായിരുന്നു വധു. എന്റെ ഭാര്യയുടെ ബന്ധുവാണ് സിന്ധു.

വിവാഹം കഴിഞ്ഞ് രണ്ടു ദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അയൽവാസി സാലു കുഞ്ഞിരാമൻ എന്നെ കാണാൻ വന്നു. ഒരു രഹസ്യം പറയാനുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു എന്നെയും കുട്ടി പുറത്തിറങ്ങി.

എന്റെ അച്ഛൻ കുഞ്ഞിരാമനുമായി നിത്യവും സംസാരിക്കാറുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെന്നും മരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ രണ്ടു ദിവസം മുമ്പ് കണ്ടപ്പോൾ അച്ഛൻ വളരെ അസാസ്ഥനായിട്ടാണ് കാണപ്പെട്ടതെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു. കാരണം അന്വേഷിച്ചപ്പോൾ, അച്ഛന്റെ ഹിതം ഞാൻ പാലിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നും അതിനാൽ എന്നോട് മകനോട് പെരുമാറേണ്ട രീതിയിൽ പെരുമാറിയില്ലെന്നും എനിക്ക് തരേണ്ടതായ സ്വത്തുക്കൾ തന്നിട്ടില്ലെന്നും ഇനി തരാനായി

തന്റെ പക്കലൊന്നുമില്ലെന്നും അച്ഛൻ പറഞ്ഞതായി അറിയിച്ചു. സ്വന്തം ഭാഗത്തിൽനിന്ന് സഹോദരങ്ങളിൽ ആരെങ്കിലും എന്തെങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കാനുള്ള സാധ്യത കാണുന്നില്ലെന്നു കൂടി അച്ഛൻ പറഞ്ഞുവത്രെ. വികാരാധീനനായി ഞാൻ കുഞ്ഞിരാമനോട് നന്ദി പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചു.

എന്റെ രണ്ടു മക്കളും നല്ല നിലയിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്നതു കണ്ട് 1998-ൽ ഞാൻ പ്രീമിയറിൽ നിന്ന് സ്വമേധയാ പിരിഞ്ഞു. പ്രൊവിഡണ്ട് ഫണ്ട്, ഗ്രാറ്റ്വിറ്റി മുതലായവ എട്ടരലക്ഷം രൂപയിലേറെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. മക്കളുടെ ഉപദേശപ്രകാരം ഞാൻ ആ സംഖ്യ സർക്കാർഫണ്ടുകളിൽ നിക്ഷേപിച്ചു. അതിന്റെ പലിശകൊണ്ട് ഞങ്ങളുടെ ചിലവു നടന്നുകൊള്ളുന്നു. തികയാതെ വരുമ്പോൾ മക്കൾ സഹായിക്കും.

നാട്ടിൽ വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ട ഭൂമിയിൽ മക്കൾ വീട് പണിയാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു. നാട്ടിൽ അതിനുവേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകളെല്ലാം ചെയ്തശേഷമാണ് അവരെന്ന വിവരംപോലും അറിയിച്ചത്. 2010 ഏപ്രിൽ മാസത്തിൽ മൂന്നു കിടപ്പുമുറികളുള്ള ആ ഇരുനില കെട്ടിടത്തിന്റെ നിർമ്മിതി പൂർത്തിയായി. എല്ലാ ബന്ധുക്കളേയും നാട്ടിലെ എല്ലാ സുഹൃത്തുക്കളേയും ക്ഷണിച്ച് വിപുലമായ രീതിയിലാണ് ഗൃഹപ്രവേശച്ചടങ്ങ് നടത്തിയത്.

അന്നു രാത്രി പതിനൊന്നു മണിക്ക് ഞാൻ ആരുമറിയാതെ അച്ഛന്റെയും അമ്മയുടേയും ശവകുടീരത്തിൽ പോയി അവരുമായി മൗനമായി സംസാരിച്ചു. അവരെന്നോടും മനസ്സിലെ ഭാരങ്ങളൊഴിഞ്ഞു, അന്യോന്യം പൊരുത്തപ്പെട്ടു.

(അവസാനിച്ചു)

# GROOMING FOR FORMAL OCCASIONS



**Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan**

■ A well groomed person with a smart attire and good etiquette never fails to impress others.

So ladies, let us discuss about grooming for business meetings and formal occasions

where you need to look formal and professional (not gorgeous or sexy!) Your habits and appearance should be such as you earn respect from people around you.

## Dress

You should dress smartly according to the dress code of the company or office where you work. Avoid clothes that clash with your corporate culture. Dress conservatively if you are going for a business meeting.

- ▶ Wear a simple outfit without too many layers and frills.
- ▶ Your clothes should be clean and neatly pressed.
- ▶ Avoid exposing your body.
- ▶ Avoid low cut shirts and blouses with plunging necklines showing

cleavage. Avoid sleeveless blouses.

▶ Avoid spaghetti straps beneath your jacket. If you need to take your jacket off, it would be embarrassing.

▶ Choose tops that cover your shoulders and upper arms.

▶ Wear well fitted tops. Your clothes should neither be baggy or too tight.

▶ Avoid shorts and miniskirts.

Choose knee length skirts. Avoid slits that extend above knee.

▶ Avoid looking too trendy but your attire need not be boring. You don't have to dress up like a man.

▶ Wear tailored suits. Avoid masculine suits.

▶ Never wear t-shirts and jeans to the office.

If you are wearing western type of clothes, wear a light coloured shirt with dark suit. Well fitted trousers or A line skirts can be worn. You may cover your legs with skin coloured or black nylon hosiery. Blouse should be of light colour without too many prints. A silk or satin scarf can be added.

Sometimes ladies are allowed to wear traditional dresses e.g. crepe or georgette saree or a less formal churidar with kurta (with light prints

but without sparkles). Don't wear shiny or gaudy dresses to a formal party.

## Shoes

▶ Choose closed toe and flat leather shoes with small heels for business meetings. The standard colours are



brown, black or burgundy.

- ▶ Avoid stiletto heels, strappy heels, noisy heels and platform types of shoes.
- ▶ Shoes should be well polished.
- ▶ Avoid sandals as they show too much of skin and are considered to be inappropriate for office.

## Make up

A little make up can make you feel confident and look good but don't overdo it.

- ▶ Apply light make up that matches your skin tone. The foundation and concealer should match the color of your facial skin.
- ▶ Keep heavy make up for evening parties only.
- ▶ Apply light eye makeup. Avoid dark and heavy mascara, heavy

eyeliners and dark eye shadows. Try natural shades only.

- ▶ Avoid vibrant colors for lipstick. Choose natural shades and clear lip gloss.
- ▶ Nail colours should be natural. Avoid bright colours.
- ▶ Avoid long nails. Nails should be clean and trimmed.
- ▶ Avoid unnatural hair colours like blue, purple or pink.
- ▶ Keep your hair washed and clean. Choose a formal hairstyle.

## Accessories

A few accessories can add style to your attire but they should be suitable to the occasion.

- ▶ Avoid too much of jewellery and heavy jewelleries. A few professional looking pieces will do (like a ring or a chain with simple pendant).
- ▶ Avoid sparkling jewellery. Shiny

diamonds are suitable for evening parties.

- ▶ Avoid large earrings and dangles. Use small earrings.
- ▶ Avoid noisy anklets and glass bangles.
- ▶ Carry a simple purse or shoulder bag. Avoid gaudy handbags or purses.
- ▶ Use a mild perfume or cologne. Don't use excessive or strong perfumes.

## Dining table etiquette

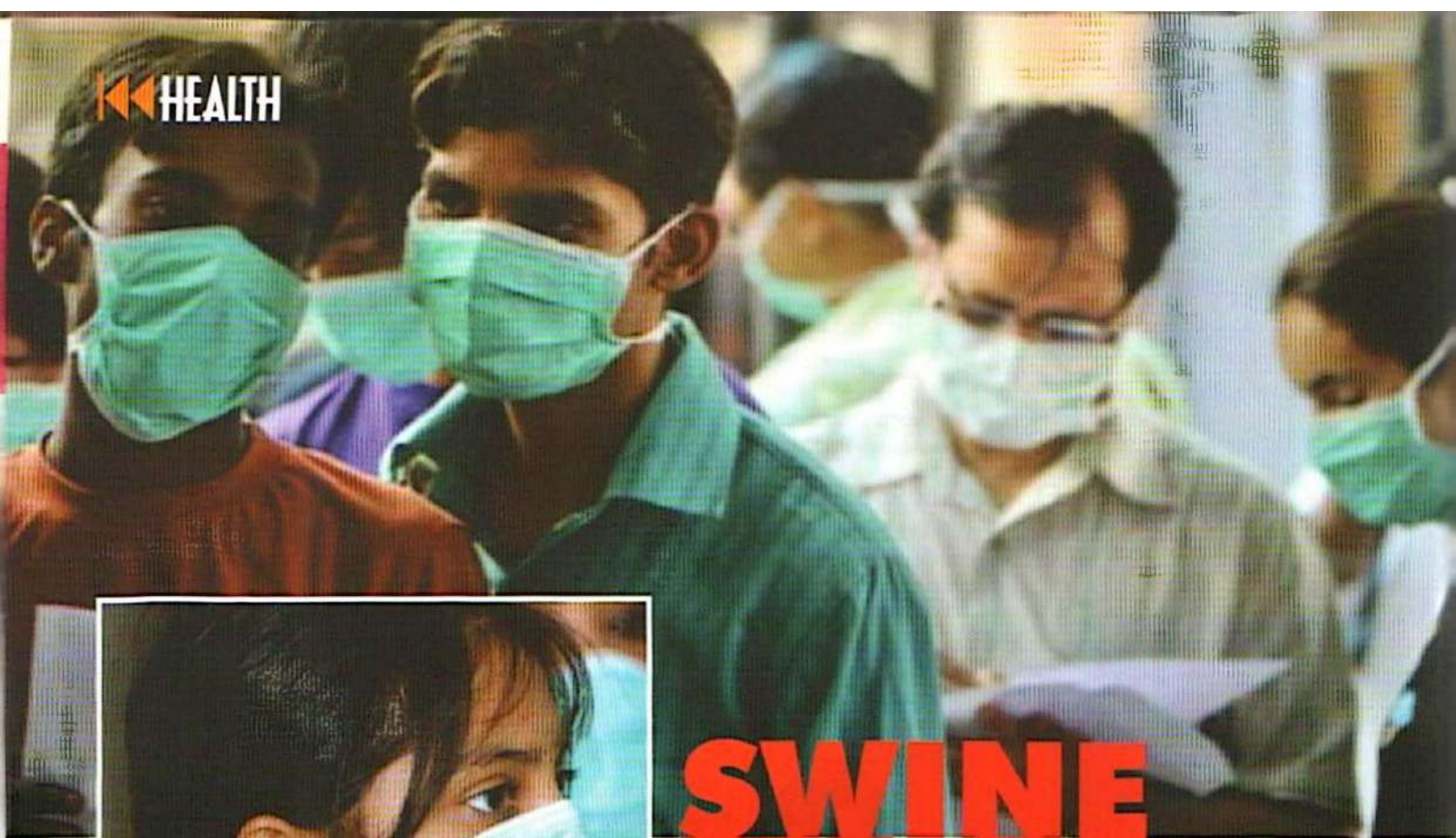
Food etiquette is important at dining table also.

- ▶ Try to avoid making noise while using cutlery or serving yourself food.
- ▶ Don't chew food with your mouth open.
- ▶ Put napkin on your lap.
- ▶ Don't lean on the table or put your elbows on the table.
- ▶ Don't pile up your plates with food especially in Buffet parties.
- ▶ Don't burp loudly.

Bad personal grooming is reflected in clothes that are not ironed, dirty and stained dresses, faded clothes, torn socks, dirty nails, chapped nail polish, untidy hair and dirty shoes.

You can improve your image through good personal grooming and etiquette. Remember to use basic courtesy words like please, thank you, excuse me and sorry. Good grooming definitely boosts your morale and enhances your self confidence. ■





# SWINE FLU

Dr (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

**T**he breaking news in audiovisual media now is about the dreaded disease Swine Flu attacking our country. As per the data given by Union Health Ministry, a total of 11955 cases and 743 deaths are reported so far (as on 21 Feb).

Swine Flu is a type of fever caused by H1N1 Influenza virus first seen in Mexico in April 2009. It was first detected in India in May 2009. Earlier this infection was seen in pigs and men got infected only due to contact with pigs. But later a new strain of this virus developed (Influenza A-H1N1) which can be transmitted from man to man. In August 2010, WHO declared Swine Flu as a pandemic (severe variety of infectious disease). The new strain of virus is responsible for the present epidemic of Swine Flu.

## How is Swine Flu spread?

**Direct Contact:** Care givers of a patient or those who come in contact with patient (friends, relatives, family members, visitors and health care professionals) can get the disease from breathing the droplets spread in the air when the patient sneezes or coughs.

**Indirect Contact:** Swine Flu virus can live for 2 hours outside our body. So when a person touches a contaminated object infected with virus (like food, handkerchief, door handles, remote control of TV, computer keyboard, counter tops, paper money, flush handles, toilet seats, handrails etc) and then touches his nose, eyes or mouth before washing hands, he can get infected. Sometimes patients with no symptoms can also spread infection to others. Eating Pork will not cause Swine Flu.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms are more or less similar to those of Influenza. Fever with chills, body ache, headache, sore throat, persistent cough, running nose or stuffy nose, watery eyes, fatigue, loose motions, vomiting etc. Symptoms may develop after 3 days of exposure and may continue for 7 days. In children the symptoms are high fever, stomach ache, dry cough, sore throat, vomiting etc.

## Complications and Causes of Death

- ▶ Worsening of diseases of heart,

Diabetes, Asthma etc.

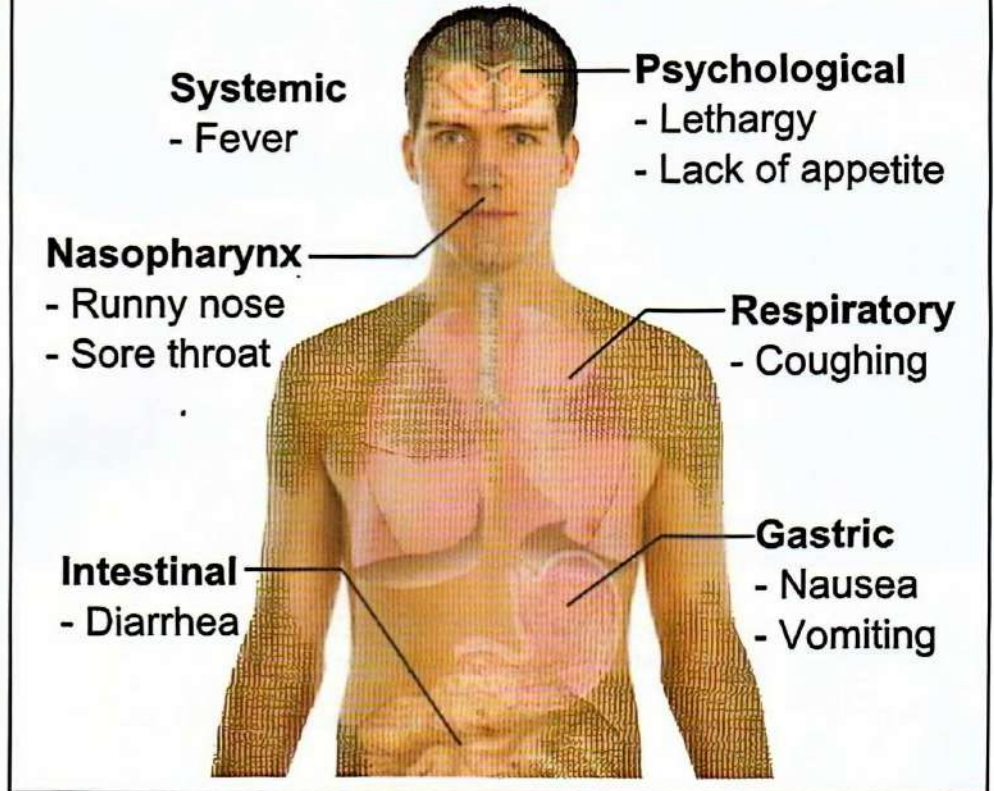
- ▶ Severe pneumonia.
- ▶ Kidney failure.
- ▶ Respiratory failure.
- ▶ Brain disorders.
- ▶ Severe dehydration due to excessive vomiting and diarrhoea.

## High Risk Groups

- ▶ Health care Professionals (Doctor, nurses, health workers and hospital staff).
- ▶ Hospitalised patients.
- ▶ Children younger than 5 yrs of age especially children under 2 yrs.
- ▶ Elderly persons (65 yrs or older).
- ▶ Pregnant ladies.
- ▶ Patients who are on long term treatment with Aspirin.
- ▶ Patients taking steroids for Asthma or other diseases.
- ▶ Patients with low immunity due to diseases affecting immune system (e.g. AIDS) and due to medicines (taken for other diseases) which can suppress immune system.
- ▶ Patients with long standing diseases and conditions like Asthma, other lung diseases, Diabetes, Obesity, Heart



## Symptoms of Swine flu



diseases, Blood disorders etc.

### Treatment:

- ▶ Consult a doctor and start treatment, as soon as you have any of the above mentioned symptoms.
  - ▶ Take bed rest.
  - ▶ Get more sleep.
  - ▶ Drink plenty of water & liquids like fruit juices, soups etc.
  - ▶ Don't take pain killers on your own (especially Aspirin)
- Antiviral drugs are usually given only to patients with high risk of developing complications.

### Prevention:

- Patients:** Stay home if you are sick.
- ▶ If you have cough and sneezing, cover your nose and mouth.
  - ▶ Use disposable tissues for cleaning the discharge from nose and throw them in covered type of dustbins.

### How to protect ourselves:

- ▶ Eat balanced diet, drink plenty of water, get adequate sleep and exercise.
- ▶ Wear masks and gloves if you come in contact with animals.
- ▶ Wear a mask on your face if you travel in airplanes or go to crowded places.
- ▶ Avoid going to crowded places and travelling to areas where there is an outbreak of Swine Flu.
- ▶ Avoid repeated touching of face,

eyes and nose without washing your hands.

- ▶ Avoid contact with sick pigs and patients with Swine Flu.
- ▶ Keep away from patients with cough or sneezing.
- ▶ Clean floors, door handles, countertops, handrails etc with disinfectants.
- ▶ Avoid kissing, hugging or shaking hands with people if there is risk of getting infected with Swine Flu.
- ▶ If a member of your family has swine flu, isolate him in a separate room. Only one member should take care of him. Others must reduce frequent contact with the patient.

**Washing hands:** Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently using soap and water. If soap is not available, an alcohol based hand sanitiser can be used. Remember that washing hands is always important before, during and after preparing food, before eating, before and after touching patients, before and after dressing wounds, after using toilets, changing diapers or helping a child in toilet, after blowing nose, cough or sneeze.

In short, good hygiene is important and can reduce your risk of getting Swine Flu or passing it on to others if you have infection.

So stay protected and take care! ■

# GOING BEYOND EMOTIONS



**Dr Sujatha Nair**

■ Man lives in his mind. Most of his activity revolves around the mind. As a result the body has been neglected and the unity of mind body has been shaken. The result-

stress, emotional angst etc... we color every experience with emotions , thus deluding us from reality.

Have you ever eaten something very delicious and wanted to hold on to that taste ? For that, if you stay hungry and do not brush your teeth the whole day..what do you think will happen? The next morning, you wake up hungry, stinking and grumpy and the taste that one so wanted to hold on to is now only in the mind... this is exactly what we do with our emotions .. whether happy or sad, we tend to hold on to them till they raise a stink....

We find ourselves living in more than one mind at a time trying to think why another person behaved in a particular manner , what will people think if I did this etc. ; living in one mind itself is tiring , imagine living in multiple minds- exhausting!

In addition , the addict is at an advantage because the problem is so in the face that he has to do something about it. With the rest of the world the proverbial carpet is ever present.

But do things actually get brushed under the carpet? The incidents will, but the emotions are held on to in a conscious or unconscious form either suppressed or repressed... which then colors all our responses to incidents in our lives.

Thus, we can conclude that it is our emotions that are behind every so called " issue" in our lives. "Gurus" tell us go beyond emotions, detach ourselves from emotions, be in the present, renounce our relations, material things etc but can we "renounce" our minds? And HOW do we go beyond all our emotions?

Our mind never allows us to see reality as it is, for, it takes us to the past and the future [ both non -existent] thus enabling us never to be in the present. A story- two monks come across a woman waiting to cross a river. One of the monks volunteers to help and carries the woman across, lets her down and goes his way. The younger monk begins arguing for 3 hours about how could the monk touch a woman , it is forbidden in their sect and is a sin... the older monk quietly tells him, I dropped off the woman 3 hours ago..I see my friend, that you are still carrying her... this, is what we do with all our emotions.

The ability of going beyond emotions is inherently present within each of us, we only have to become aware of it and live it.

A few methods we incorporate :

## Writing

The writing is in a prescribed manner. We write all the incidents in our lives as they happened , without embellishments or adornment of philosophy and retrospective analysis. It is describing the incident as it happened. Then, to make it more interesting write down the emotions you felt at the time separately. Also add the emotions you feel now when writing the incident. If you sit with yourself for at least 45mins everyday and keep writing all the

incidents in your life in this method ; slowly you will realize that you develop a detachment from the emotions one has held on to over the years.

## Meditation

Regular practice of meditation releases suppressed and repressed emotions stored in our cellular memory and changes the structure of our brains, reducing the size of the areas that cause emotional fluctuations thereby changing the responses to stressors around us ; the areas of our brains that regulate compassion and empathy increases in size. Meditation keeps us in the present moment.

## Yoga

Yoga balances the interiority of an individual ,keeping one in the present enabling an increase in awareness of our body and mind.

## Being present

Extending this practice of being present to everything we do in life. While eating eat , while drinking water drink, while walking, walk.... cut out the multitasking.

Being present and doing all of the above to do so , eventually, helps us to deal with incidents in our lives without attaching emotions to them and seeing them in all their reality and we learn to truly "respond " instead of " reacting".

We at Anatta enable this ability to go beyond emotions to surface and provide the tools to maintain it....

We are only a phone call away.



Anatta Humaniversity Pvt.Ltd.  
Contact Person:  
Ms. Vandana Hiranandani  
+91 9967334000  
Website- [www.anatta.in](http://www.anatta.in)

**Devadundubhi sandralayam (ദേവദുന്ദുഭി സാന്ദ്രലയം)**

Film: Ennenum Kannettante (1986), Director: Fazil

**Lyrics: Kaithapram**      **Music: Jerry Amaldev**  
**Singer: Yesudas**      **Raagam: Aabheri**



Karthika



Kaithapram



Jerry Amaldev



K J Yesudas

ഉം... ലയം... സാന്ദ്രലയം  
 ദേവദുന്ദുഭി സാന്ദ്രലയം ദിവ്യ വിഭാത സോപാന രാഗലയം (2)  
 ധ്യാനമുണർത്തും മൃദുപല്ലവിയിൽ കാവ്യ മരാജഗമനലയം  
 ദേവദുന്ദുഭി സാന്ദ്രലയം ദിവ്യ വിഭാത സോപാന രാഗലയം

നിരവഭാവം മരതകമണിയും സൗപർണികാതിരഭുവിൽ (2)  
 പുവിടും നവമല്ലികാലതകളിൽ സർഗ്ഗോത്ഥാദേശുതിലയം  
 ദേവദുന്ദുഭി... സാന്ദ്രലയം....

പുവിതളിന്മേൽ ബ്രഹ്മം രചിക്കും നിഹാരബിന്ദുവായ് നാദം  
 ശ്രീലവസന്ത സാരഗതി മീട്ടും ക്ഷരപിവിണയായ് കാലം  
 അഴകിന്നീറൻ നിലാഞ്ജനം ചുറ്റി ഹരിചന്ദനശുഭ്രസമുണർത്തി  
 അപ്സരകന്യതൻ.... അപ്സരകന്യതൻ....

താജവിന്യാസ ശ്രികാല ജതിയായ് തൃസന്ധ്യകൾ... (അഅആ)  
 ദേവദുന്ദുഭി സാന്ദ്രലയം ദിവ്യ വിഭാത സോപാന രാഗലയം (2)  
 ധ്യാനമുണർത്തും മൃദുപല്ലവിയിൽ കാവ്യ മരാജഗമനലയം  
 ദേവദുന്ദുഭി... സാന്ദ്രലയം....

Um.... layam.... sāndralayam...  
 Devadundubhi sandralayam divyavibhaṭa sōpānarāgalayam (2)  
 Dhyanamuṅarṭṭum mṛdupallaviyil kāvyamarālagamanamayam  
 Devadundubhi sandralayam divyavibhaṭa sōpānarāgalayam

Nīravabhāvam maraṭakamaṇiyum souparṇikāṭīrabhūvil (2)  
 Pūvitum navamallikāḷaṭakalil sargōnmādaśruṭīlayam  
 Devadundubhi... sāndralayam...

Pūviṭalinmēl brahmam racikkum nīhārabinduvāy nādam  
 Śrīlavasanta swaraḡaṭi mīttum kachapivīṇayāy kālam  
 Azhakinnīrhan nīlānjanam cut'ti haricandanaśubhagandhamuṅarṭṭi  
 Apsarakanyaṭan.... apsarakanyaṭan...  
 Ṭālavinyāsa ṭrikāḷajaṭiyāy ṭrsandhyakā... (AAĀ)  
 Devadundubhi sandralayam divyavibhaṭa sōpānarāgalayam  
 Dhyanamuṅarṭṭum mṛdupallaviyil kāvyamarālagamanamayam  
 Devadundubhi... sāndralayam...

**Transliteration:**

Ā/ā = ആ/ഓ ; C/c = ച; dh = ധ; E/ē = ഏ/ഐ; I/i = ഇ/ഈ; Í = ഉ; ṅ = ണ; Ñ/ñ = ഞ;  
 ṛ = റ; O/ō = ഓ / ഔ-ഓ; R/r = റ / റ; Ś/ś = ശ; Ś/ś = ഷ; Ṭ/ṭ = ത; ṭṭ = റ്റ ;  
 Ū/ū = ഊ/ഘ

Produced by Sajan, this film was a teenage romantic film with new faces Sandeep and Sonia in the lead. Other artistes are Nedumudi Venu, Thilakan, Sree Vidya, Jalaja, Jagathy Sreekumar, K P Ummer, Meena, Sukumari et al. Madhu Muttam also wrote some songs. Besides Yesudas; Chithra, M G Radhakrishnan, Padma Subrahmanyam, Satish Babu and Sunanda also lent their voice..

# From stage to screen

**W**hen moving images were invented, the people engaged in its production wanted to have interesting stories for creating the images. Most of the stories available were in the form of writing such as poems, prose etc. They were good enough for reading to literate people but illiterate could do nothing with them. Visual images and spoken words could be understood by all including illiterates but there was no guarantee that well comprehended words would transform into attractive moving images. Thomas A Edison who in 1896 invented moving images, later they were called movies, wanted well accepted visual medium such as stage plays to be used for this new medium. So they turned to stage plays for adaptation. In the western countries where movies originated and in India, this method was adapted. The first Indian talkie 'Alam Ara' was adapted from a Persian drama and in Tamil 'Chintamani' a popular stage play was adapted into a movie. Incidentally, this movie ran for more than one year in a single theatre in Madras.

When movies made their appearance in Malayalam, the people associated with them did the same. The first movie was a silent 'Marthanda Varma', adopted from its stage version but it could not find a release. When 'Balan' was produced, after the initial enthusiasm in the cities, it could not pull audience to the exhibition centres for lack of infra structure such as electricity, good halls and transport system. The producers were in the lookout for established popular stage plays.

A play 'Sasidharan B A' written by the humorist N P Chellappan Nair was the first to be adapted. Unknown artistes could not pull an audience to the cinema hall and so the producer T Janakiram, an

established producer and director, decided to have known artistes from the stage. Thus P K Vikraman Nair, a popular stage actor as well as PWD official in government was roped into play the lead. Vikraman Nair retired from the Travancore-Cochin government as Chief Engineer.

Miss Kumari, a find of Koshi and Kunchacko, was selected to play the female lead and Kottarakkara Sreedharan Nair, a known face on the stage to play the villain. Other artistes were C K Revamma, Aranmula Ponnamma (debut), Nagavally R S Kurup, Muthukulam Raghavan Pillai etc. Revamma was a classical singer who retired as Principal of Trivandrum Music College. Music was entrusted to Kalinga Rao with instruction that good tunes from Hindi cinema to be adopted for the songs. Thumbamon Padmanabhan Kutty was engaged to write the lyrics with the tunes lifted from Hindi and the singers were C K Revamma, Mohanakumari, Vaikkom Mani and Kalinga Rao. Two songs from this film were instant hits i.e. *Neeyen Chandrane* (tune copied from Dillagi) and *Azhalerum jeevitham* ((Mohanakumari). The film was released in 1950. Subsequently Vikraman Nair was prohibited from acting in films though he could continue in stage plays.

Same year another popular play 'Stree' written by Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair was also adapted. It was the first play among the six plays (Stree, Maya, Mareechika, Kalakaran, Sariyo thetto, Jeevithayatra) he wrote. Thikkurissi wrote the screenplay, dialogue and lyrics besides acting in the lead. Though it was a success on the stage, as a film it failed to attract the audience. One of the reasons attributed to its failure was its long dialogues. B A Chidambaranath provided the music. The songs created on

classical scale found no takers. Several well known stage artistes like Vaikkom Mani, Omallur Omana, Aravindaksha Menon etc were in the cast. Along with P Leela, Thikkurissi, Vaikkom Mani and Chidambaranath also sang some of the songs.

The next year Pappachan produced Ponkunnam Varkey's play *Navalokam*, again with Thikkurissi and Kumari in the lead. This turned out to be the first film of veteran music director V Dakshinamoorthy as a full fledged music composer. For the first time *Navalokam* had songs composed without influence of other language films. 'Thankakinakkal hridaye Veesum...' rendered by Kozhikode Abdul Khader was from this film.

T N Gopinathan Nair, a well known playwright, actor and theatre personality, adapted his play 'Pookkari' into 'Aniyathi', directed by K Krishnan Nair, starring Prem Nazir, T K Balachandran, Kumari etc in 1955. His another play 'Pareeksha' was also made into a film by Vasu Menon under the direction of P Bhaskaran in 1967. Pareeksha drew the attention to the malpractices in the examination system and it had Thikkurissi, Prem Nazir, Sarada and others in the cast. The songs penned by Bhaskaran and composed by Baburaj were a huge draw. *Oru Pushpam ...*, *Annuninte Nunakkuzhi*, *Praanasakhi Njan*, *Avidunnen Gaanam Kelkkaan* and *En Praananaayakane* are some of the songs cherished even today.

*Ummarithanka* was a play written by Jagathi N K Achari and successfully staged by Kalanilayam on hundreds of stages. Producer cum actor Sathyapal adapted it into a movie in 1961 as the last film of the then star Padmini before her marriage. As a historical, it had a big draw in the southern Kerala with a huge star cast of Kottarakkara, Padmini,



Chellappan Nair



Thikkurissi



N K Achari



Vaikom Chandrasekaran Nair



T N Gopinathan Nair



Thoppil Bhasi



PonkunnamVarkey



Achari



S L Puram sadanandan



K T Mohammed



N N Pillai

Ragini, G K Pillai, Muthaiah, and it was a moderate film.

This year also saw two more adaptations of stage plays in *Kandam Becha Coat* by Mohammed Yousuf and *Mutiyanaya Puthran* of Thoppil Bhasi. The first was the first full length colour film in Malayalam, dialogues written by K T Mohammed with Thikkurissi and Muthaiah in leading roles with Prem Nawaz and Ambika in the romantic lead. Directed by Modern Theatres T R Sundaram, who gave Malayalam its first talkie, it had music by M S Baburaj and songs by Mehboob, Baburaj and Leela.

*Mutiyanaya Puthran*, directed by Ramu Kariat saw a very powerful performance by Sathyan and Kumari in the leading roles while Kottayam Chellappan, P J Antony, Kambisseri, Ambika, Adoor Bhavani, Thoppil Krishna Pillai and Adoor Bhasi in subordinate roles. It won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Malayalam. The success of this film led many of Bhasi's plays being adapted to screen. *Puthiya akasam puthiya bhoomi* (1962), *Aswamedham* (1967), *Thulabharam* (1968), *Mooladhanam* (1969), *Koottukudumbam* (1969), *Ningalenne Communistakki* (1970), *Sarasayya* (1971), *Surveykkallu* (1976), *Yuddhakandam* (1977), *Kaiyyum thalayum purhathitaruthu* (1985) are some of them. While Bhasi directed some of them, A Vincent, K S Sethumadhavan and P Bhaskaran directed the other movies.

The rebellious play writer Ponkunnam Varkey was a favourite with

the producers. In 1962, his *Viyarpinte vila* was adapted with M Krishnan Nair as director and T E Vasudevan as producer. *Althara* again of Varkey, was produced and directed by P Subramaniam in 1964.

K T Mohammed was another dramatist whose many plays were adapted to the screen. His *Kadalpalam* (1969) was considered a landmark film and it was directed by K S Sethumadhavan and Sathyan giving a powerful performance as Kaimal. He also enacted the role of the elder son Raghu. In 1970, his *Thurakkatha Vaathil was adapted by P Bhaskaran*. *Muthuchippikal* of K T Mohammed was adapted to *Rajahamsam* in 1974 under the direction Hariharan. It was followed by *Srishti* in 1976 directed KT Muhammad himself.

*Attom Bomb* a hilarious comedy by N P Chellappan Nair was made its appearance on the screen with P Subramaniam as producer and director in (1964). The flamboyant London returned youth played by Malayali actor Balaji spoiled the film with his Tamil accented English and Malayalam. In this film N P Chellappan Nair successfully caricatured Charlie Chaplin and the audience loved it.

The popular play of Kalidasa Kalakendra's *Doctor* by Vaikom Chandrasekharan Nair was directed by M S Mani for H H Ebrahim. The film won a merit certificate from the Union Government. Sathyan and B S Saroja were the main lead in the film.

Plays by S L Puram Sadanandan were big draw in film circles. His first play to be adapted was *Oral kooti kallanayi* (1964) by producer actor P A Thomas. In 1967, Krishnan Nair directed *Agniputhri* for producer actor Prem Nawas with Prem Nazir, Sheela and Muthaiah in the lead. In 1990, *Kattukuthira* followed under the direction of P G Viswambaran. This film is remembered for the brilliant performance of Thilakan in the role of Kochuvava which Rajan P Dev enacted on the stage.

Shyama Prasad adapted his *Kallukondoru pennu* (1998) with Suresh Gopi and Vijayashanti, the then leading Telugu actress but it did not succeed as expected.

Actor, producer and director Madhu adapted Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai's *Maanthrika manushyan* into *Manyshree Viswamithran* (1974) with Sheela and himself in the lead.

In 1965, P A Thomas picturised N N Pillai's *Porter Kunjali* with the same title but it was not a successful film. *Cross belt* (1970) and *Kapalika* (2013), both by N N Pillai were also made into films.

After the success of *Chemmeen*, Babu Sait made Ramu Kariat to direct the adaptation of Kaladi Gopi's *Aezhu rathrikal* (1968) with the actors of the original play but it bombed at the box office despite having Salil chowdhary as its music director.

Bahadur's play *Ballatha pahayan* written by M M Ibrahim was adapted in 1969 by actor Muthaiah and he directed it too.

Well known dramatist of *Nammalonn* fame Cherukad's *Manninte maaril* was adapted in 1979 by P A Backer. Writer P Padmarajan directed the play *Ammakku Vendi* written by Sajini Pavithran under the title *Thinkalazhcha Nalla Divasam* in 1985 and it was a huge hit with the audience.

The successful play *Thulasi* by Sreemoolanagaram Vijayan was adapted to *Samudayam* in 1995. The list is incomplete but it gives us some idea about the role played by stage plays on the screen in the dark cinema halls. ■



Kumari



Sona in Kapalika

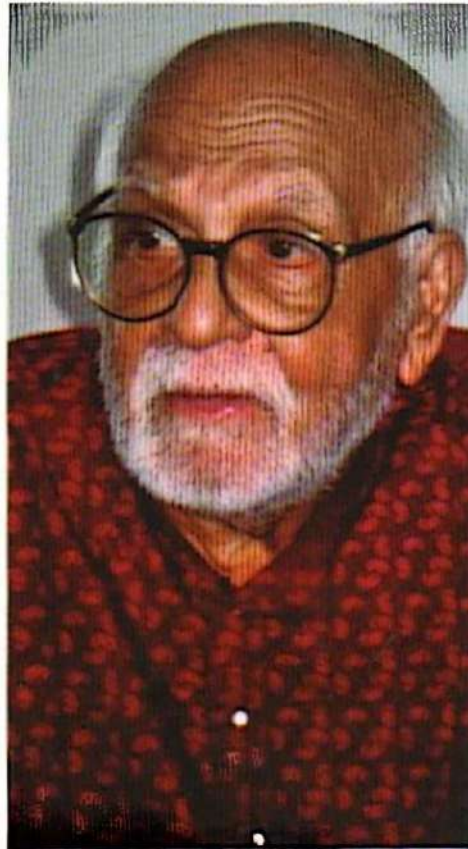
# Ace cinematographer Director Vincent bids adi

**A**ce cinematographer and director A Vincent passed away at a private hospital at Chennai on February 26. He was 87. Following a prolonged illness, he was admitted in a private hospital.

Aloysius Vincent is credited as a photographer who took film shooting outdoors and provided a romantic touch to the frames. He learned the art of photography from his father George Vincent since the age of three and was totally involved with it till his end. His father owned Chithra Studio in Calicut. A chance photograph he captured of a girl Ramadevi, dressed as heavenly nymph Rambha catapulted him to the world of cinema. An auditor of S S Vasam happened to see that photograph and soon he was taken to the staff of Gemini Studios. Director Ramakrishna Rao was shooting in 1953 a Telugu-Tamil bilingual 'Chandi Rani' there with his wife P Bhanumathy, a female superstar of that time and Vincent became an assistant photographer for this film. Bhanumathy wrote the story, screenplay, dialogue and also directed this film besides doing double roles. With 'Bratuku Teruvu', a Telugu film, directed by Ramakrishna Rao, he became an independent cinematographer.

Simultaneously Vincent got associated with 'Neelakkuyil' as he was from Kozhikode and the rest is history. He worked for Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi films and got accolades from all sides. He had opportunities to work with all leading directors, producers, script writers of these languages.

Malayalees became familiar with Vincent when T Prakash Rao directed 'Utthamaputhiran' with Shivaji Ganesan in a double role came. Noted script writer who later turned producer-director C V Sreedhar noticed his talent and took him along for many of his films. It started with 'Kalyana Parisu' and continued with 'Meenda Sorgam', 'Vidivalli', 'Thennilavu', 'Nenchil Or Alayam', 'Nencham Marhappathillai', 'Sumaitanki' and 'Kathalikka Neramillai' and the Telugu and Hindi versions of some of these films like 'Nazrana' (Raj Kapoor), 'Dil Ek Mandir'



During 2000-2010

(Rajendra Kumar) and 'Mahaan' (Amitabh Bachhan). With the last mentioned Tamil film, he became a freelancer. He worked with 'Enga Veetu Pillai' and 'Adimai Penn' (MGR), 'Vasantha Maligai' (Shivaji) and 'Prem Nagar' (Rajesh Khanna), 'Adavi Ramudu' (NTR), 'Amaradeep' (Devanand) etc.

In Malayalam, after Neelakkuyil, he worked with 'Mootupatam' with Ramu Kariat and also with 'Thacholi Othenan' though he did not take credit for the latter.

Vincent co-ordinated with Vaikkom Mohammed Basheer and directed his first movie 'Bhargavi Nilayam', that turned out to be a classic. Then he



collaborated with M T Vasudevan N and directed his second Malayalam movie 'Murhapennu' followed by 'Nagarame Nandi', 'Asuravith' and 'Nizhalattam'. He directed three film with Thopiil Bhasi's script such as 'Thulabharam', 'Nadi' and 'Aswamedham'. He also directed Sridhar's only Malayalam film 'Triv

He worked as cinematographer for over 250 films and directed over 55 films. He worked with three actors like Rama Rao, M G Ramachandran and Jayalalitha, former Chief Ministers Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu.

Jayalalitha's 100th movie "Thirumangalyam" (Tamil, 1974) was directed by him. His last film was 'Annamaya' in Telugu in 1997 and in Malayalam 'Kochuthemmadi' (1986).

"The portrayal of the song "Sonn Neethana Sol Sol" in the film *Nenjil Allayam* speaks volumes about Vincent's talents. Long before the arrival of steadicam, he had pictured the scene would etch in the memory of the audience. In *Meenda Sorgam*, he filmed Padmini spinning around in a scene letting a camera hanging from above revolve around her. When Walt Disney introduced Circarama and ran an exhibition in India, Vincent tried it in 'Kathalikka Neramillai'.

Vincent won the Filmfare Best Cinematographer Award for "Prem Nagar" (1974). In 2003, India Society of Cinematographers (ISC) awarded him an Honor Membership, along with KK Mahajan and VK Murthy. He also conferred with J C Daniel Award.

He is survived by his wife Margarette, sons Jayananan and Ajayan (both cinematographers), daughters Sneha and Sumitra, their spouses including Sabu Cyril (Art Director).



Final Journey



# Kerala in Mumbai

**LINKING MUMBAI MALAYALEES**

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

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

— 98201 10509 —