



GST Good, but not so simple

■ Vol. 8 No. 5 ■ Price Rs. 70 ■ August 2017

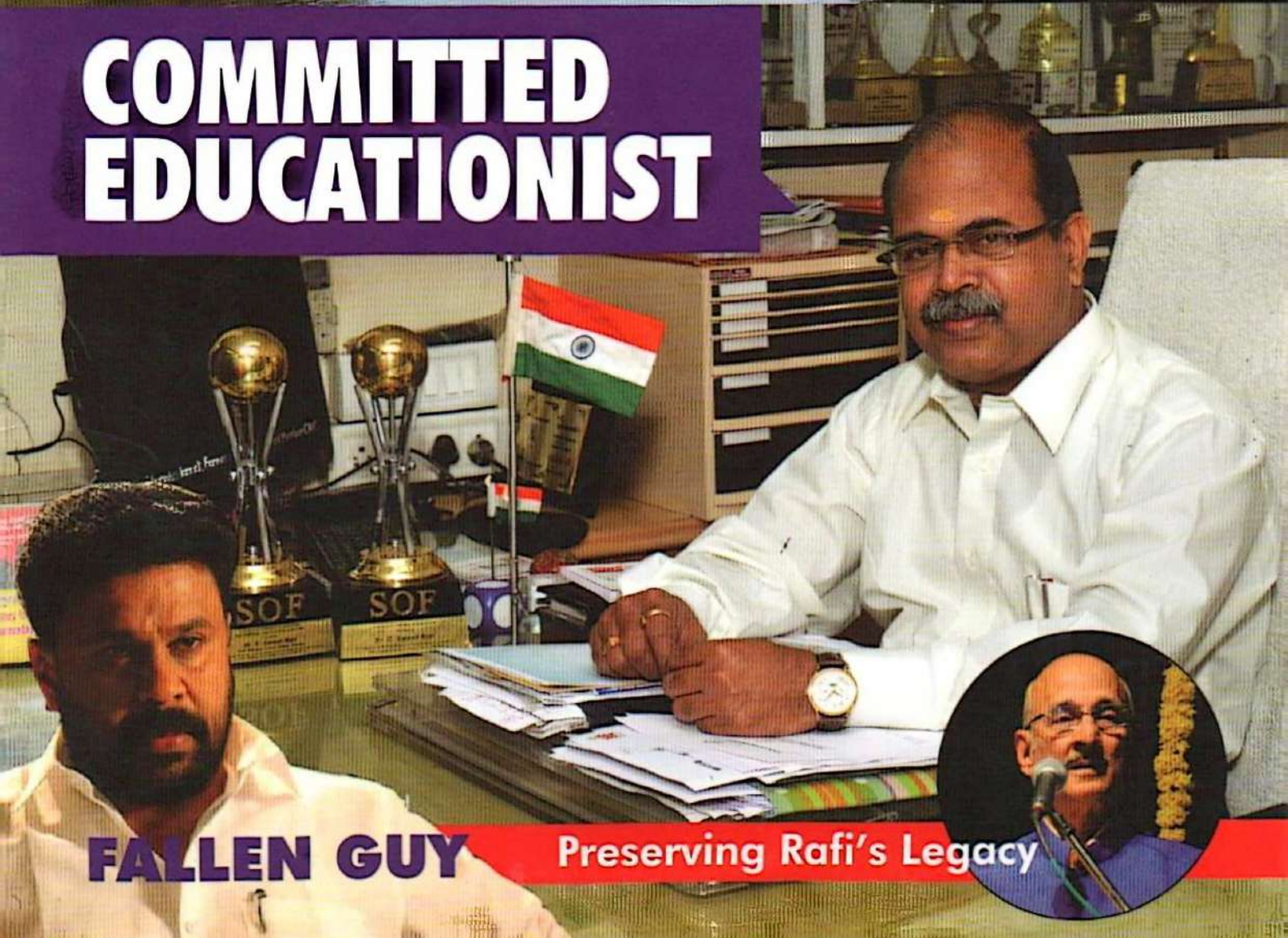
Kerala in Mumbai

The Only English / Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees



**KARAMANA
RIVER CLEAN-UP**

**COMMITTED
EDUCATIONIST**



FALLEN GUY

Preserving Rafi's Legacy

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

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

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Revive the values

India won its freedom from the foreign rule exactly seventy years ago. Thousands of Indians from the various walks of life fought hard for the political freedom without caring for the losses incurred during the process. For them the independence of the country was paramount. Many of them lost their lives. Many spent a large part of their lives behind the bars, suffered torture and many other indescribable miseries during this process. Many lost their properties in the bargain.

After a few decades, the Union Government declared pension for the freedom fighters and many deserving persons refused it saying that they participated in the struggle without expecting any rewards.

Many of the freedom fighters went for other career options once their mission was achieved but some made politics itself their career. Even among them, many were selfless as they had some other income to fall upon. However many, who were labelled 'freedom fighter' by chance, took advantage and indulged in money making rackets such as corruption, land grabbing, interference in administration etc and their number is growing by default. Politics has now become dynastic. Examples are aplenty from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Dwarka to Mizoram. Now all politicians proclaim from their roof tops that they are for social service and ardent follower of democracy but it is always their progeny or close relatives who come up to fill the vacancy whenever it arises.

If all of them live upto their statements, we have no complaint. When they amass wealth on the side while doing official duty and cover up the ill-gotten wealth using detestable methods, our blood start boiling but mouth remain shut for reasons well known. Recently we heard a cowherd donating Rs.one crore to the two year old son of his master and one rich man making his driver director of some of his companies. Ministers and law makers indulging in sexual assaults and some lawmaker slapping a civil servant for doing his duty etc are some of the news reports. Politicians from Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra, Telengana, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh (the list is inconclusive) and all of them are defended by their parties and leaders. We are shocked to hear all these allegations. We had heard of Prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Sastry and Gulzarilal Nanda struggling to make both ends meet out of their meagre income. We have also heard of some chief ministers like C Kesavan, C Achutha Menon et al complaining about shortage of money to meet their domestic expenses after demitting their posts. They used to travel by public transport. When the bachelor CM of Madras, Kamaraj was ruling the state, his aged mother was staying alone in a small house at his native village.

All these incidents came to our mind when we heard about the recent developments in Bihar. A chief minister there, was forced to resign and was sent behind the bar a few years ago but he has enough clout to send two of his sons to the Legislative Assembly, daughter to Parliament and now planning to send his fourth standard pass wife to Rajya Sabha. The said former CM has only eleven members in the family, including him. One of his sons was thrust upon the current CM belonging to another party and was made Dy CM. When his home was raided by CBI, the CM wanted his deputy to resign but the former CM informed him that it would not happen. The drama started and CM resigned bringing the entire state ministry down with him. The very next day he again assumed office of CM with the help of another party against which he fought only a few years ago. Meanwhile some of his party people went against him and some former allies rebuked him for spoiling their chances in the next election.

Meanwhile a bribery case erupted in Kerala adversely affecting the party ruling from Delhi while taking away all the possibilities of bettering their one seat strength in the state assembly.

The only beneficiary of all these drama is T V channels and news papers and the losers are the people. They are now in the dark in spite of all these fireworks, not knowing whom to send to the law making bodies next time.

Learning of Malayalam

This refers to your editorial that appeared in the edition for the month of May 2017 of 'Kerala in Mumbai' magazine regarding Kerala Government's initiative to teach Malayalam compulsorily in schools.

I have been working in Mumbai for the last three decades. I have two daughters born and brought up here. However, I had sent them to a school where Malayalam was a third language. Now they know to read and write in Malayalam.

Regarding your suggestion of action against wrong usage of Malayalam, did we teach the language in schools properly? No. I studied in Kerala, Malayalam medium. I don't remember learning correct spelling and usage of words, and basic grammar. Recently I have seen a magazine published by an 'Ashram' in a very good manner of spelling, usage and grammar. Then I understood how poor was my usage of Malayalam though learnt in Malayalam medium.

Another thing I would like to point out is: are we teaching Malayalam numbers in schools. No. How many Malayalees know there is a numeral system in Malayalam language? I learnt it from 'Panchangam' where it is still used. There is a way of writing quarter, half, three quarter, etc. in Malayalam system. It was used in 'Vasthu' calculations earlier.

Before starting actions against wrong usage, first we have to teach people how to write good language

through media, and other ways and give them a chance to improve.

-Narayanan
Mumbai

Bigger font for easy reading.

I would like to thank you at the outset, for publishing my articles in your esteemed Magazine in the February, May, and June issues of 2017.

If I will not be mistaken, I would like to point out that the font of the matter published is a little too small to generate reading pleasure. Please print it in bigger font so that it is easy for senior people like me to read. Perhaps, you would like to look into this aspect.

P V Ramanathan
Wadala

ROLE MODEL - SACHIN MENON

The Article on Sachin Menon was excellent. The career growth of Sachin Menon is a shining example of how with hard work and dedication, one can rise up in life and succeed in one's career. Sachin Menon is an authority on Taxes, Direct and Indirect. He has achieved this post due to his initiative and efforts. Congratulations to Kerala In Mumbai for publishing a Feature on an outstanding personality month after month in your pages. We are coming to know about so many of our Malayalees who are doing well in this metropolis. Keep up the good work.

Sebastian Chacko
Marol

Initiatives To Solve Monsoon Woes

I would like to note here about how the city of Mumbai becomes a watery hell during the Monsoon months. Year after year we read in newspapers and hear in TV channels about the disasters that strike the citizens during the heavy rains because of bad management of the civic authorities and their unpreparedness for the monsoon showers. With proper planning and utilization of resources BMS can avert many tragedies of accidents and loss of lives during this season. The recent incident of a TV journalist on whom a tree fell while she was taking a walk, cutting short her life, is a case in point. Poets and writers may have waxed eloquent on the beauty of rains, and compared the season to India's springtime. But reality is far from this. Monsoons are a period of dread and fear. The anxious mother waits for her school going child to come home safe and sound. The lonely wife prays for her husband's safe return from office. The old and elderly avoids going out during the rains, fearing some mishap. I hope, through your pages and through your Initiatives as a magazine, you would highlight these problems with the civic authorities and create an awareness drive among Mumbai's citizens to decrease the hazards caused by the rains and make Mumbai a better place to live in, go around, and enjoy during these rainy months from June to September.

Pushkala Ganesh,
Nerul

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

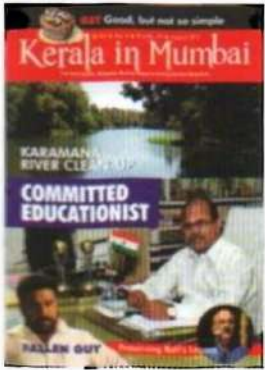
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Please intimate us in case you do not receive your subscribed copy by 15th of each month, in order to help us to take necessary action. Tel: 2920 9959 / 2094.
E-mail: keralainmumbai@gmail.com

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

Managing Editor: P V Vijaykumar

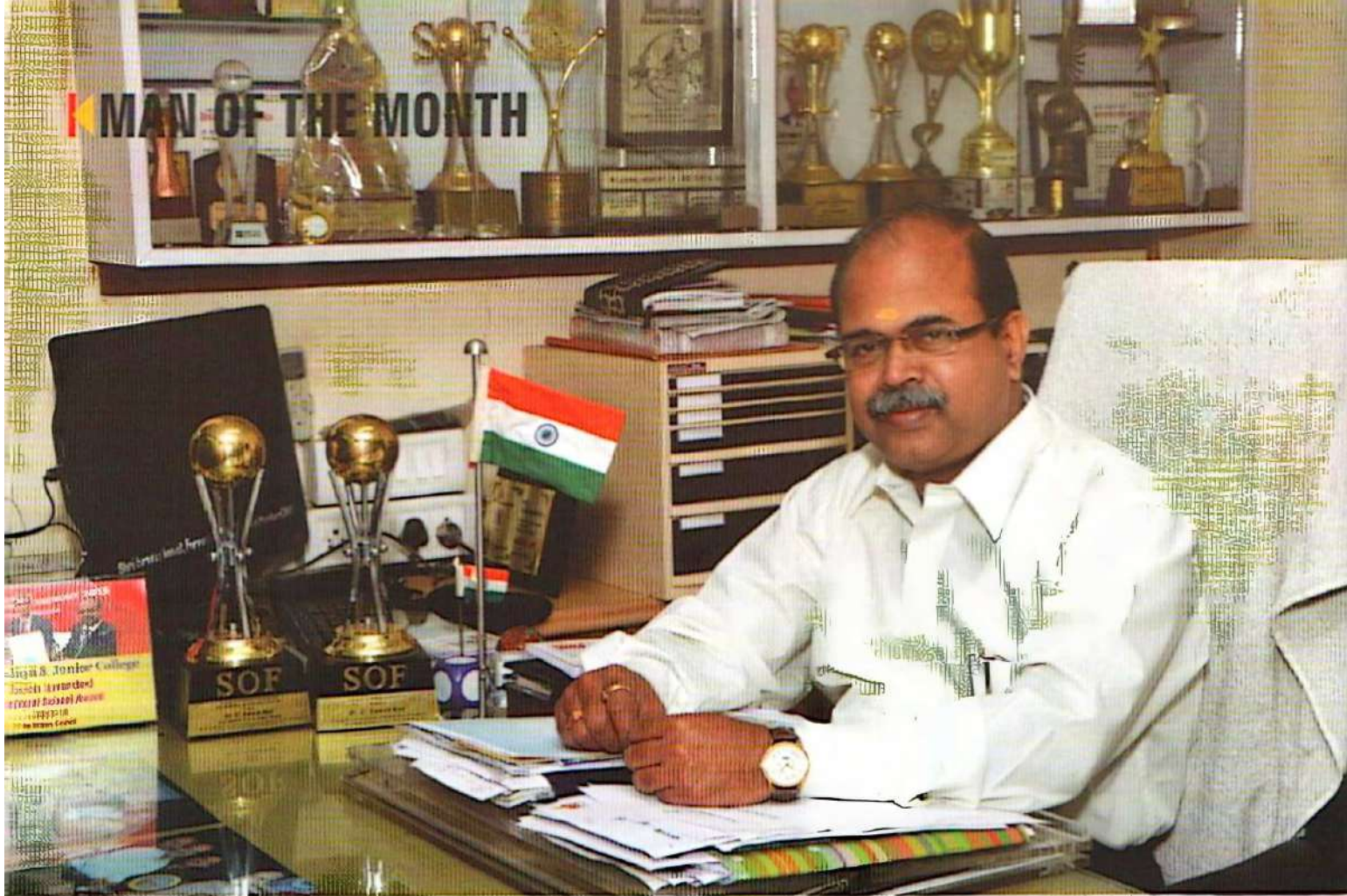
IN THIS ISSUE



- 05** Editorial Revive The values
- 08** Man of the Month - Dr Suresh Nair
- 13** Changing Faces of Campuses
- 17** Nitya Chaitanya Yati
- 19** India for Israel and Israel for India
- 21** Bloody Borders - Poem
- 22** V K N - A Kunchan Reborn
- 26** Excellence of V K N
- 28** Karamana river Clean up
- 32** Expanding New Horizons of Scientific Research
- 34** Deewana Hua Venkit...
- 36** GST Good But not so Simple Tax
- 38** Ayurarogyasoukhyam
- 46** Mumbai News Digest
- 52** Kerala News Letter
- 63** Health & Beauty -
- 65** Entertainment Zone

Lakshmi V
Satyanath
V N Gopalakrishnan
P R Krishnan
M Rajan
K R Narayanan
Prof M R Chandrasekharan
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Dr. SURESH NAIR

COMMITTED EDUCATIONIST AND TEACHER

Dr Suresh Nair is one of the well known educationists and teacher in Mumbai. A well read person, he is Kerala's pride.

Lakshmi V

■ Dr Suresh Nair is a reputed educationist of Mumbai and Principal of Vivek Vidyalaya and Junior College in Goregaon.

After eighteen and half years of service with K C College, Dr Suresh Nair joined Vivek Vidyalaya and Junior College as the Principal. Right from the beginning, he was interested in administration and hence he joined Vivek. He has a lot of good and challenging experiences with this post. Under his leadership, the school received many accolades such as 100% results in SSC and International School Award etc.

Professional Achievements

Right from the second year of his service as Principal of Vivek, he was awarded the Social Action Award by Indian Development Foundation for education services, resource mobilization and health awareness, consecutively for 10 years.

In 2012, he was awarded the Best Principal Award (Maharashtra and Goa) by Science Olympiad Foundation, New Delhi for popularization and promotion of various Science and Mathematics Olympiads in his school and various other schools of Mumbai.

In 2012, Abraham Lincoln Prema Headmaster Puraskar was awarded to him by Shikshak Bharti, Mumbai Division.

In 2013, he was conferred with the Best Teacher Award by the Government of Maharashtra in recognition of his services in the field of education. The award was handed over by the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Prithviraj Chavan at Kolhapur.

In 2014, the Education Department of Brihanmumbai Mahanagarपालिका felicitated him by conferring Inspiration Award.

In 2016 he received the 19th Jwala Award.

Dr Suresh Nair is the Main Convener of KP West ward of Schools numbering about 135 schools aided, unaided, and private sector included. He also holds the position of Chief Cordinator (Maharashtra) of Open

Forum For Principals, an NGO of Principals of Maharashtra and also of India and Treasurer (Maharashtra) of All India Principals' Association (AIPA).

He has conducted a number of workshops and seminars for the students and parents for educational guidance. As a part of the delegates of the Education Exchange Programme arranged by Open Forum for Principals, he visited Banksia Park International School, Adelaide, Australia during 2014 and Wittschraft Mittleshule (Wittschraft Middle School), Basal, Switzerland in 2015.

Dr Suresh Nair has co-authored Educative Physics - A Text book of Physics for Students of Standard XI and XII, approved by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Mumbai. He has also authored Manual of Physics Practicals for Standard XI and XII.



Dr Suresh Nair receiving State Best Teacher Award 2013

Lover of Malayalam language

Since 2015, Suresh Nair has been Chairman of Malayalotsavam, conducted by Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Sangham. The main objective of the organization is to help people learn Malayalam and create interest particularly among children. He is striving hard to start Malayalam Classes at various places under Malayalam Mission. He is also a member of All India Malayali Association (AIMA).

"If our children are not able to speak our mother tongue Malayalam, I blame the parents for the same. If we parents converse in Malayalam with our children at least at home, they will naturally pick up their mother tongue."

He feels sad when some parents consider talking in Malayalam is beneath them. "I would definitely say that even if we speak in English or Marathi very fluently, we would still be considered Malayalees or Keralites here and hence we should be proud to speak in our mother tongue. Who cannot love their mother?"

With a view to promote Malayalam, even though Malayalam is taught in every class under the curriculum at

If our children are not able to speak our mother tongue Malayalam, I blame the parents for the same.



Social Action Award from IDF



Dr Nair's PhD Convocation

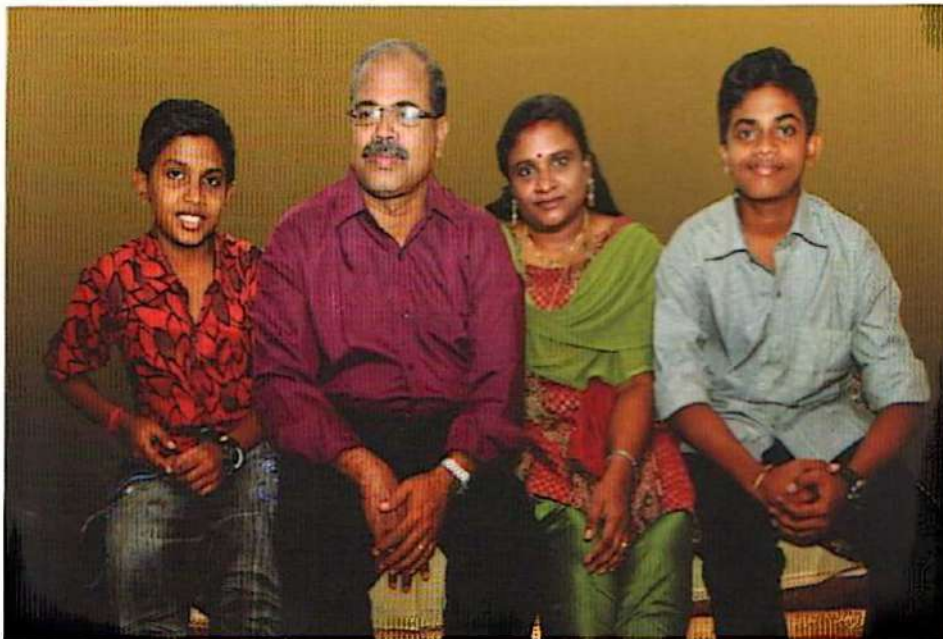
Vivek Vidyalaya, free Malayalam Classes are conducted on Sundays. There are about 52 students in this Malayalam Mission Classes. This course is recognized by the Government of Kerala and the examination is conducted by Government of Kerala.

Childhood and Education

Dr. Suresh Nair was born at Charanchath House, Perakam, 2.5 km from Guruvayoor Temple. Born to Appunni Nair and Saraswathy Amma, he has two sisters and a brother. He is the eldest among them.

He did his schooling at Vazhappully AUP School, then Govt. High School, Chavakkad upto SSLC. He joined Sree Krishna College, Guruvayoor for Pre-Degree and completed B.Sc Physics from there. During the five years of study at Sree Krishna College, he was in NCC and through NCC, he could join the inaugural ceremony of Asiad 1982 held at Delhi.

He then joined St. Thomas College, Thrissur for his M.Sc Physics



Dr Suresh Nair with his family

Dr Suresh Nair has co - authored Educative Physics - A Text book of Physics for Students of Standard XI and XII, approved by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Mumbai. He has also authored Manual of Physics Practicals for Standard XI and XII.

(Electronics) Course under University of Calicut. Dr Suresh Nair passed his M.Sc with 6th rank in the University.

“St. Thomas College was the only College offering M.Sc Physics then. So I joined it as my family was not in a position to send me far away where I would have to go for hostel accommodation,” he reveals.

After completing M.Sc

in 1986, he was working in a Parallel College teaching Physics to Pre-Degree students. Having thought of getting a job, he came to Mumbai in 1987 and waited for three months to get one. His first job was at K C College, Churchgate as a Lecturer in Physics.

“In fact, I came to Mumbai to attend an interview in BARC as Scientific Officer. While I was working with K C College, I was selected for Western Railways, HCL etc, but I did not join,” he says.

In 1991, he completed his B.Ed Course from Bombay Teachers' Training College, Colaba and simultaneously



Indo-Swiss Education Exchange Programme 2014

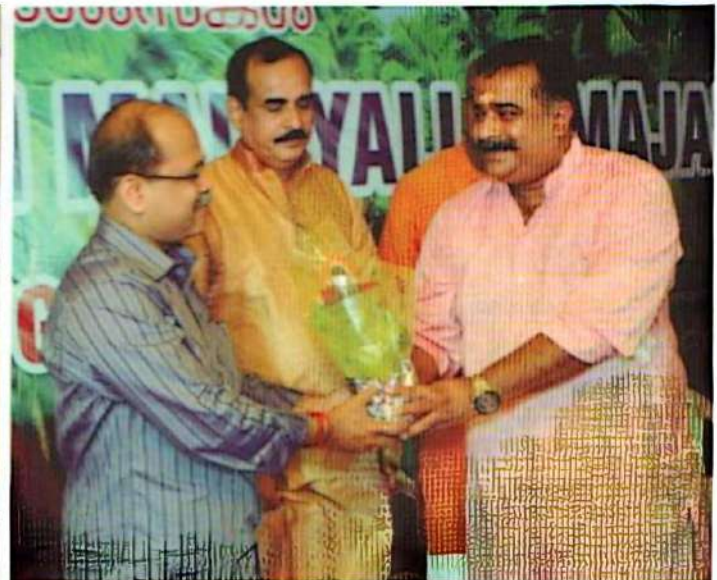


Best Principal Award 2015 by Science Olympiad Foundation

completed an Advanced Diploma in Computer Software and System Analysis from Aptech. With the exposure given by K C College, he attended many seminars, symposia etc. While he was in K C College, he was

the Centre Co-ordinator for conducting Science Olympiads in the College and other educational institutions.

In 2011, he completed his Ph D in Education from International University, Colombo, Srilanka.



Guest of Honour at Borivli Malayali Samajam Onaghosham

Family

In 1993, he got married to Bindu, who was born and brought up in Mumbai and graduated from Mumbai University. Bindu's both parents Prabhakaran Nair and Parvathy P Nair, hail from Kaveed, near Guruvayoor temple.

They have two sons, Pranaav Nair and Nikhil Nair. Pranaav is doing his fourth year Engineering course in Mechanical branch at Thakur College of Engineering and Technology, Kandivali East. Nikhil has just passed his ICSE examination with 91% marks and secured admission in Computer Science at K. C College, Churchgate.

Social Activities

Suresh Nair was associated and served with Lokhandwala Township Malayalee Association as President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Committee Member.

He confesses that he may have been an average student as a child but he always had the urge to help others. He was also very religious and god fearing right from childhood.

He visits Sabarimala every year for the past 30 years. In Mumbai he was the President of Shree Ayyappa Seva Sangham, Kandivali East for many years and currently, he is the Secretary of the same. He is also a life member of Ayyappa Seva Sangham Bombay, Bangur Nagar and Shree Balaji Foundation, Charkop. Two principles that he holds very close to his heart are: if you can, do good to others and never do bad at all; before committing any thing, think twice and once decided, do it at any cost. ■



Meeting with Governor of Nagaland P B Acharya



Vivek Vidyalaya Malayalam Classes - Malayalotsavam Champions

CHANGING FACES OF CAMPUSES

Satyath

The elderly citizens of India are now worried over the changing face of the educational system as persisting now in our country. The present generation of the student community is better placed in modern technology but those go towards the general education such as languages and arts subjects are not faring as in the past.

In ancient world history, India was placed along with Rome and Egypt in the field of knowledge and wisdom. In India, Bihar and South India were ahead of other regions. Bihar was proud of Nalanda University that was on par with American and British Universities of today. Knowledge seekers thronged to India for learning and they spread the fame of India world over.

Till a few years ago, Bihar was known as a poor state with only a few educational institutions. Those parents, who could afford, sent their children to Delhi and centrally funded universities elsewhere. It was like early twentieth century when Keralites used to send their children to Madras and Tiruchirappalli for graduation and professional courses. A couple of years ago, Bihar suddenly surged ahead of other states in the field of education. Students from Bihar suddenly found securing unimaginable levels. The bubble is now burst. Educational brokers of Bihar used their brains to invent new techniques of increasing marks and grades in public examinations. Elderly educated people impersonated registered students, answers were sent to the students writing their papers, using WhatsApp etc through mobile phones, bribing invigilators and paper evaluators for granting higher marks etc were some of the methods adopted by them to hoodwink others.

Recently Hindustan Times reported that "The 24-year-old appeared for the board exams at Ramnandan Singh Jagdip Narayan High school in Samastipur's Chhakhahabib village and

scored 82.6 per cent. He got 92 per cent in Hindi, 82 per cent in music and 42 per cent in social science..

But he seemed to have a difficult time explaining 'sur', 'taal' and 'matra'.

"Last year, arts topper Ruby Rai topped the Class 12 examination but told reporters that "prodigal science" she probably meant political science was about cooking."

The various news reports reveal that the examiners, evaluators, university staff are all vulnerable before a few RBI notes. Coaching classes are notorious for managing the question papers a few hours before the examination is held and those with money power and influence could get them with answers. Parents who want the names of their children to appear in the rank list, students want to pass the examinations without going through travails of hard work, invigilators willing to close their eyes in the examination hall, evaluators to increase the marks for a fee and to avoid the time consuming work of evaluating the paper, and university staff to increase the marks in the mark list for a price etc are all possible links of this chain. In 1995, this writer had even observed at Kalina campus of MU brokers murmuring to the students standing in a long queue to submit applications of revaluation of the answer papers of subjects that they were declared failed,

"First class, 5000, second class,3000."

The scam has its effect on the Class XII examinations of 2017. About 64% students of Std XII in Bihar failed this year when the belts were tightened. The controversial third ranker of Science stream was arrested by the Bihar Police. SP Chandan Kushwaha revealed that during the interrogation, the student admitted of paying Rs.5 lakh for the third rank. He was one of the four rank-holders of the college, who had been named in the FIR in the toppers scam. The higher rank holders Shalini Rai and Saurav Sresth have still not been arrested.

The picture cannot be different in other states. It is only that we are not aware of the situation.

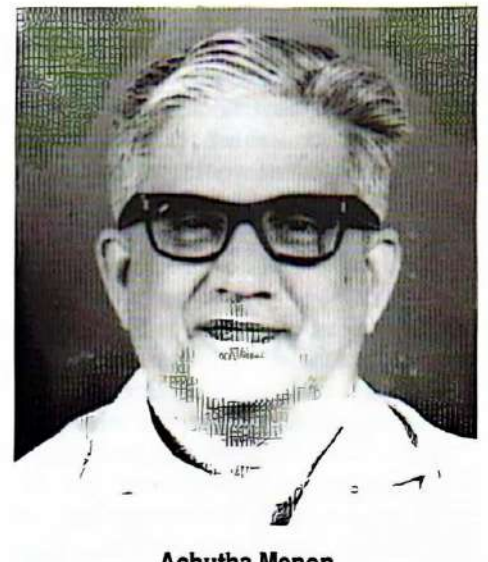
Genesis of the problem

The facts mentioned above are not unknown to the officials of the institutions and the government. They are pretending to be blind so that they need not toil to eradicate the evil. Probably they know they cannot do anything to cleanse the field.

When India gained its political freedom, the higher education or college education was beyond dreams and even secondary and primary educations were a far cry. Ability to read and write was considered adequate for men. Women were thought of only as home makers who need not have any education. So



EMS



Achutha Menon



A K Antony



Oommen Chandy



Pinarayi Vijayan



Lalu Prasad Yadav



Yechuri

educated class then was so small and most of them were from upper middle class.

If one goes through the history of Kerala, this picture would come clearer. Education was thought of as an instrument to gain job in the government or professional service. Christian missionaries worked hard to spread the power of education. Later, organisations of various castes also joined the movement. Balagangadhar Tilak, Ramakrishna Gokhale et al contributed to this phenomenon in Maharashtra. Slowly education became a fundamental right. Half a century later, government made a policy decision to pass all students upto Std VIII in the examination. Repeating students in the same class involve huge expenditure to the government. Now we started seeing the fall to the graver depths. Recent media reports indicate that the government and the educationists started pondering over the subject. Some of them feel that old system of examination should be re-introduced to bring the standard to a higher level. Some thought that the entire system of examination be scrapped to avoid the huge cost of conducting examinations and then make all of them pass irrespective of their performance. Narendra Modi government is a little scary about this line of thinking as it would result in unpredictable consequences. Now Modi says that no student would be declared 'Failed' in Std X but would be marked "Eligible for skill development."

Role of Politicians

The gravest disservice of freedom struggle was the allurements of young students from school and colleges so they could take part in the freedom struggle. When India became free, many of these agitators became politicians. Politicians in every state were mainly drawn from the student unions. EMS Namboothiripad, C

Achutha Menon, Vayalar Ravi, Oommen Chandy, A K Antony, V M Sudheeran, Pinarayi Vijayan, Prakash Karat, et al in Kerala were the contributions of student politics. Brinda Karat, Sitaram Yechuri, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitishkumar and the like are their counterparts.

Reasons of unrest

The basic reason of student unrest is the worsening relationship between the teachers and students. During the years of yore, students considered their teachers as role models and had a tremendous respect and love for them. The parents also shared this feeling and teachers commanded great respect in social circles. Students could always approach their teachers to solve their problems not only of study but also of personal nature. The teacher was ever willing to help. Now that scenario has changed. Teaching, like other professions, now became a means of making a livelihood closest to one's home. Earlier teachers were sources of knowledge and information. Now the moneyed and powerful consider education a fast means of making

money. The funniest part was that the government always bemoaned that it did not have enough money to provide infrastructure for educational institutions but was willing to fund the salary and retirement benefits to the teachers appointed by private groups. The latter appointed teachers after forcing them pay huge amounts. Once appointed, the responsibility of maintaining them would fall on government. Even teachers retrenched because of closure of divisions for want of children are also paid salary until they are re-employed. Now there appears to have some thinking to insist that the idle teachers should be absorbed by private schools instead of fresh recruiting. So far government has not succeeded as the private players are united and powerful. Remember, education was the fiercest weapon used to dismantle the first government of Kerala. Private teachers unions are also not less powerful.

Private service also gives a wonderful gift: liberty to participate in politics that is denied to teachers of government service. To most of the present day teachers, this profession is only a source of livelihood and nothing



Prakash and Brinda Karat

else. The earlier commitment to the society is wholly missing.

The role of students is no different. If we recollect the past events of student agitations, we can see the adverse effects of such agitations. They were instigated by political leaders. Instead of encouraging students to fare well in their assigned task, the latter encouraged them to agitate against the government for their personal selfish interests. A good example is the Alappuzha Boat agitation or 'Oru Anna Samaram' of the late fifties. If at all anybody had to agitate, it was to be the parent and not the school going child since it was the former who met the financial responsibilities. A K Antony, Oommen Chandy et al were the leaders of that agitation. The success of this agitation led to other events also like Vimochana Samaram against the first elected Communist government of EMS Namboothiripad. Soon Communists also started following this tactics and they performed better in achieving the goal.

Now the Kerala Campuses have become notorious for student agitations. Since the tuition fee is very low in government and aided institutions and the policy of government to pass all students, reservation in jobs etc made these matters worse to sustain. If Kerala is found wanting in development at any time, it is the result that accrued from the student agitation days.

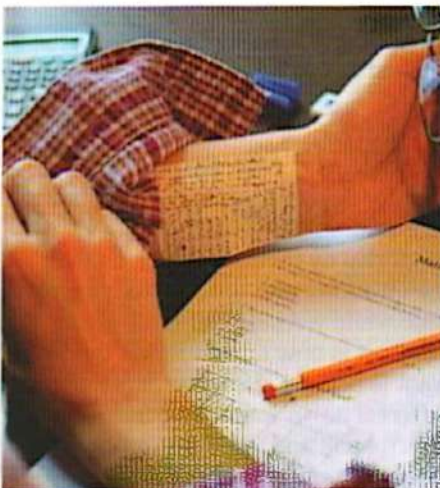
Student-teacher link

There was a time when teachers encouraged students to ask questions inside class rooms and even outside and the students warmly responded. This encourages the student-teacher proximity to be strong. Today neither the teachers nor the students have time for discussions on academics. Teachers abhor it lest their lack of knowledge would be exposed and the students have many other things demanding their time. If at all they meet, their interactions are more on non-academic subjects.

When a student leader becomes a teacher, his interests change. A teacher who participated in agitations during his student days would never admit that he was wrong in the past.

Rights of Students

Student leaders claim that they are agitating for their rights. What are their



Cheating in Examination

rights? Without prejudice, I would say their only right is to have a congenial atmosphere to pursue their studies in peace. India has recently ensured that every child has a right to have education and provided necessary rules to achieve that objective. In Maharashtra, every year after entertaining all applications, more than one thousand seats go waste which otherwise would have gone to general category. By the time the last admission is over, the academic year is nearly half over.

Kerala is probably the only state where the students have to pay the lowest fare for his travel. In Maharashtra it is half the normal fare. While in Maharashtra, the public transport carries the burden, in Kerala it is the private transport that is burdened with the concessional fare. In India it is always the parents who bear the cost of education of his ward and so students need not go for agitations. Government should ensure that all children get their due, be it amenities to stay and eat, library facility etc and provide finance through loans which of course to be claimed once the student finishes his education.

Example of Mumbai

Mumbai had its share of darkness among the student community before 1967. The atmosphere was vicious with student agitations with the result that the academic level went down. This sent the real academicians into some brooding. When Prahlad Balacharya Gajendragadkar, the eminent educationist of that time, became Vice Chancellor of University of Bombay, he called a meeting of the leaders of all student unions and had a nice cordial talk with them. He brought their attention to the low level of academics and convinced them about the need of improving the standard of education. If not dealt with immediately, it would adversely affect the future of students, he pointed out. He requested them not to indulge in agitations (he called it moratorium) for five years so that he could concentrate on improving the standard of university. Gajendragadkar succeeded in convincing the students and they agreed. Five years is a long period in the life of students and they forget the tricks of organising an agitation themselves. Since then Maharashtra or University of Mumbai has not seen or heard of a student agitation though teachers continue with

their agitations.

This aspect of moratorium was brought to the attention of Oommen Chandy when he was CM of Kerala and he seemed convinced. Though he mentioned it the Kerala Assembly during a discussion, nothing came out of it, probably because of the resistance of political parties.

The student community when organised under political parties are not working for the advantage of students but to that of their political leaders. Hardly any student leader who fought for the right of students has moved up in life except in politics.

Mindset

Many students in the modern age feel that bowing before his teacher or showing respect to the guru is beyond him. Many of them talk of mutual respect. When student leaders tell their teachers that classes cannot be held because of their planned agitation, they expect the guru to meekly obey them. The guru is not given any opportunity to explain his point of view. Gurus who dared to differ had to face grave repercussions in Kerala campuses recently.

A teacher, who was a union member when she was a lecturer, resigned from the union and became independent to carry out her duties expected of her as principal in Victoria College, Palakkad though her husband was still in the union. When she put her foot down before the student leaders for their unjust demands, they made a tomb on the day of her retirement. The 'welcome' slogans written on the entry point more than five years ago are still visible there as none dared to rub them off. Another Principal of the college once admitted in a private talk that he failed to bring any discipline in the college as the student union was strong. Any old student would moan if he or she sees the surroundings of the college

today. It is in such a dilapidated condition. Government failed to allot funds for the upkeep of the building that passed several decades. The hostels for students do not have the necessary infrastructure as the damaged ones are never repaired or replaced.

Students feel that in the changed time set, teachers are not necessary as the computer world has opened a plethora of information. They do not realise that what a teacher could tell in five minutes, the computer will take several hours. There are still no ways to

community is left free, they (leaders) would starve soon.

Till the sixties, college unions in Kerala were free from politics and teachers and students were determined to keep it that way. However the time has changed. The high schools, colleges and universities are now embroiled with politician students. Every year elections in these premises are fought like a war and the results are splashed across newspapers. Only privately run institutions where tuition fee is on the higher side are free from this menace.



False funeral of Principal of GVC, Palakkad

clarify doubts as texts available do not change according to the doubts. In any form of education, mutual interaction is a must. Very often we hear from old generation how deeply they venerated their teachers for what they made of them. Will it tell us what Albert Einstein told a journalist about his Theory of Relativity? Never! Internet also is provided with texts often with [Edit] sign, indicating that the information given might need correction. After all all the data on the internet are written by people like us.

What is ahead?

Students of Mumbai have no time now for agitations as they are fighting against time. They are here either supported by their parents or on their own working part time or studying part time while working full time. Their mind set is now tuned to what they want to achieve. However it is quite different down south. Students in government and aided institutions are divided among various unions patronised by political parties. Politicians feel if the student

We also see students from Kerala migrate to other states like Karnataka or Tamilnadu for their higher studies or professional courses. Even politician like Achuthanandan who opposed computers tooth and nail in the eighties sent his son outside for his computer education. Students of today should learn some lessons from these experiences.

Conclusion

To prevent malpractices in examinations, placing CCTVs in the examination hall will prevent it to some extent. A fear of being caught itself prevents the crime. Biometric system can be introduced to ensure that only genuine candidate appears for the examination. Further it should be decided that how many hours the student should spent inside the classroom to be eligible to appear for a subject so that unnecessary agitations could be prevented. Minimum hours should be around 120 hours in an academic year. In this case, the admission process cannot be extended longer and should be over by August every year. ■

Errata

In our July 2017 issue in page number 33, the captions under the photographs of Chalapathi Rao and Frank Moraes are interchanged by mistake. The error is regretted.

- Ed

Nitya Chaitanya Yati

ERUDITE SCHOLAR AND PHILOSOPHER



V N Gopalakrishnan

■ Nitya Chaitanya Yati was a philosopher, psychologist, author and poet besides an exponent of Advaita Vedanta. He succeeded

Nataraja Guru as Head of the Narayana Gurukulam, a worldwide contemplative educational community centre.

Nitya was born on November 2, 1924, as the elder son of Pandalam Raghava Panicker and Vamakshi Amma at Vakayar, near Konni, Pathanamthitta district. His original name was K.R. Jayachandra Panicker. He has one brother late Balachandra Panicker and three sisters, Smt. Subhashini Amma, late Enakshi Amma (passed before completing 1 year old) and late Dr. Sumangala Amma. Pandalam Raghava Panicker, nephew of Satirist Mulloor S. Padmanabha Panicker, was also a poet and model teacher.

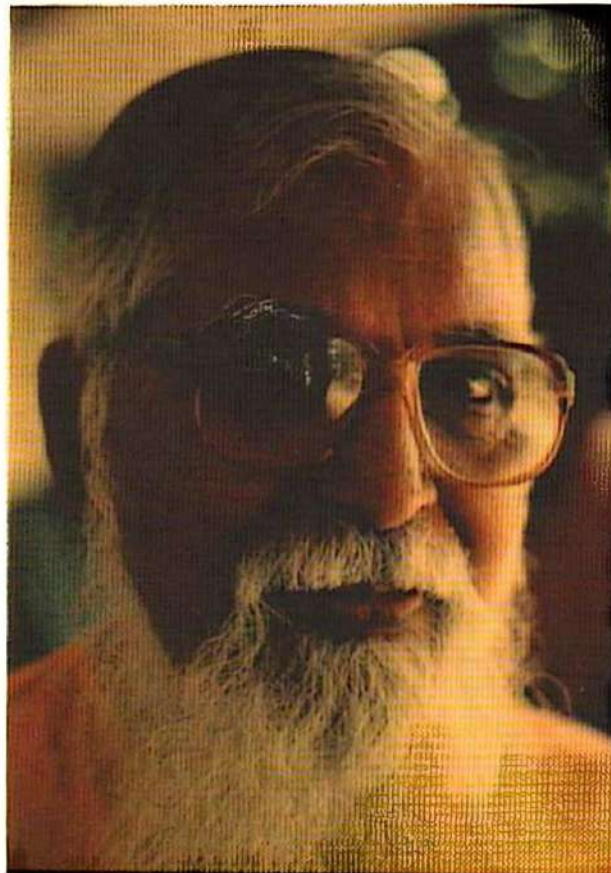
Nitya had his preliminary education under Nanu Pillai and early education at Kulathungal School where he stayed for sometime at the residence of a relative. After his matriculation at the age of 16, Nitya left home as a wandering mendicant to familiarize himself with the land and people. His eight years of wanderings took him to every nook and corner of the subcontinent, both cities and villages. He met great people of the time including Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. G.H. Mees, the Dutch Scholar of religions. He sat at the feet of several spiritual masters, including Sufi fakirs, Jain munis, Buddhist monks and Hindu masters. In 1947 he met Ramana Maharshi and became a monk. Nitya

returned to Kerala in the same year and joined Union Christian College, Aluva to study philosophy and psychology. In 1952, he took M.A. degree in philosophy from the University

organized at the Advaita Ashram, Aluva. Three years later, he accepted Nataraja Guru as his spiritual preceptor. During 1953-55, he served as Professor of philosophy at the Vivekananda

College, Madras. Later he spent eighteen months in retreat observing silence. Again, he carried out research on social psychology at Mumbai University.

In 1963, he shifted his base to New Delhi and served there as Director of Indian Foundation for Psychic Research for four years. He was charged with the investigation of the claims of yogis and fakirs. He was also head of research of Yoga at the Indian Council of Medical Research. During this period, he edited an English magazine titled *Adhyatma Sarojam*. After his studies, he was planning to go to the Himalayas. Then he had a chance meeting with Swami Vikalananda of the Ramakrishna Ashram in Mysore and the Swami advised him to return home. On his way home, he halted at Narayana Gurukulam at Ooty, met Nataraja Guru and became an inmate there.



College, Trivandrum. For some time, he taught at the Sree Narayana College, Kollam.

After getting his master's degree in social psychology from Mumbai University, he continued his spiritual journey and sat at the feet of reputed sanyasins to learn Vedanta, Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, Indian poetics and literature. He also carried out research on Problems of the handicapped and their mental state of mind. He served as professor of Indian philosophy at the universities in India, Europe and USA.

In 1948 he met Nataraja Guru during the Conference of all Religions

After Nataraja Guru's samadhi in 1973, Guru Nitya functioned as Head of Narayana Gurukulam. There he had to act as a liaison between members of the Gurukulam at an interpersonal level in the teacher-taught context. He had to serve as the enunciator of programmes from time to time to spur the Gurukula community to work in unison and to help everyone to understand his or her integral value vision (*swadharna*). In 1973 he founded the East West University of Brahavidya in Varkala and served as its Director for many years.

He also worked as the Commissioner for World Education and

as a sponsor of the World Government of World Citizens. World citizenship is a unique concept that Nitya Chaitanya Yati tried to give life to. In his own words: "The term 'world citizen' can be better understood with a negative definition than with a positive one. If a citizen of a state with political frontiers is expected to pay allegiance to the government of the state to which he or she belongs to and is expected to take arms against aliens who might invade the territory of the state, a world citizen recognizes the entire world as one's state and in principle does not recognize any member of one's own species as an alien to the world community to which oneself belongs. Such a person recognizes the earth as one's sustaining mother, the innate

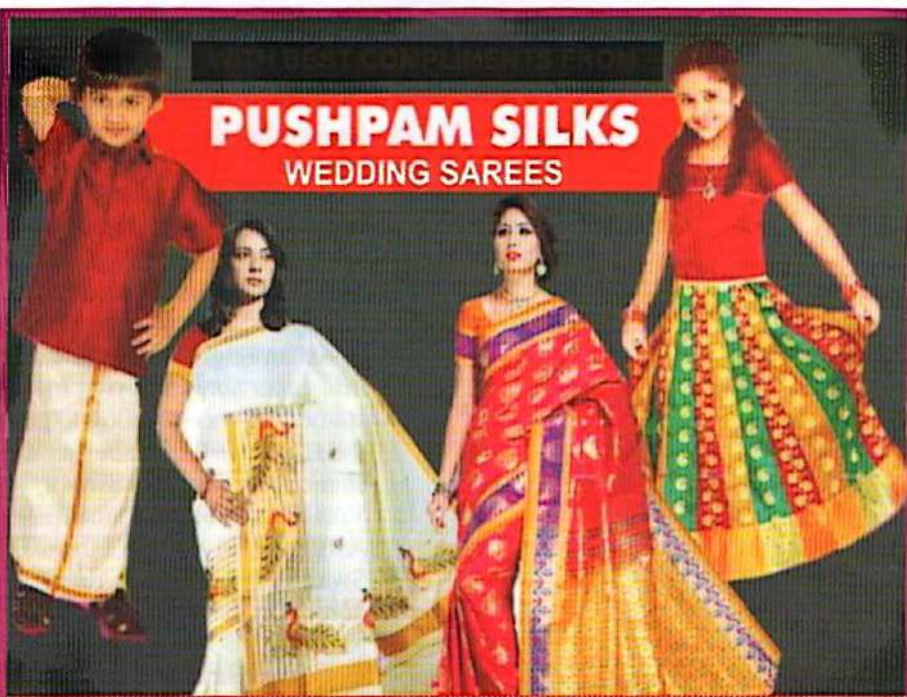
inviolable laws of nature as one's protecting father, all sentient beings as one's homes. The world citizen's allegiance is to the foundation of truth, the universality of knowledge and the fundamental ground of all values."

Most of Nitya Chaitanya Yati's written words in English are either not published or only available in uncirculated booklets. He has published over 120 books in Malayalam and 80 books in English besides countless articles on philosophy, psychology, social ethics and aesthetics. Some of his major works in English are: *An Intelligent Man's Guide to Hindu Religion*, *Meditations on the Self*, *In the Stream of Consciousness*, *Love and Devotion*, *A Commentary on Bhagavad Gita*,

Mandukya Upanishad, *Brahadaranyaka Upanishad* (detailed commentary), *Neither This nor That but AUM*, *The Psychology of Darsanamala*, *Love and Blessings* (Autobiography), *Living the Science of Harmonious Union* (Patanjali's *Yoga Shastra*), *Letter to Ananda*, *In the Wonderland of Companionship*, *Nataraja Guru and Samadhi* - Including A Paean to Narayana Guru, *Psychodynamics of Pranava*, *Love Letters of a Sanyasin*, *The Value of Emptiness*, *Starry Night*, *What Religion is to me* etc.

The *Darshanamala*, one of the last major works of Sree Narayana Guru, contains 100 verses lucidly expressing the Guru's unitive vision expounding the core of Vedantic wisdom. Nitya Chaitanya Yati, using his deep scholarship in western psychological thought, masterfully examines this wisdom from the psychological point of view to address basic questions of human psychology. Referring to western thinkers including Carl Jung, St. John of the Cross and Kierkegaard, Yati explores Sree Narayana Guru's absolutist vision to present insights into such items as consciousness, illusion, yoga, existence, awareness, contemplative devotion and liberation. Referring to the thought and philosophy of Greek and other western philosophers and ancient scriptures on Advaitic philosophy, his commentary incorporates the perspectives and vision derived from Nataraja Guru, his Guru who had translated the entire poem *Darshanamala* into English.

Throughout his life, Nitya Chaitanya Yati has been instrumental in sustaining Narayana Guru's legacy as the emancipator of women and eradicator of caste distinctions as well as interpreting his unsurpassed mystical vision for the modern seeker of truth. He travelled throughout the world as a teacher with a special flair for the meaning of the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Bible*, and continued to welcome seekers of truth to his retreat at the Narayana Gurukulam in Ooty, until his death. In 1977, Kerala Sahitya Akademi honoured him for his work titled *Nalini Enna Kavaya Shilpathine*. He attained *Mahasamadhi* on May 14, 1999 and his legacy of love and wisdom continues in his writing and in his disciples. ■



D. S. CUTPIECE & R. M. SHOPPING

HANDLOOM TEXTILES

SILK, COTTON, POLYSTER, KERALA SAREES, SET MUNDU, SKIRT WITH BLOWSE, CHURIDAR, POOJA CLOTHES AVAILABLE

RAMRAJ DHOTHI, MUNDUKAL, READYMADE SHIRTS, VELCRO DHOTHI WITH POCKETS AVAILABLE

മാമതാജ് ഭദ്രാത്തി, മുണ്ടുകൾ, റെഡിമെയ്ഡ് ഷർട്ടുകൾ
 "ഓട്ടിപ്പോ കെട്ടിക്കൊ വെൽക്രോ ഭദ്രാത്തി പോക്കറ്റ് ഉൾപ്പെടെ"
 ഫാക്ടറി വിലയിൽ ലഭിക്കുന്നതാണ്

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 Matunga (C.R), Mumbai - 400 019.

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INDIA FOR ISRAEL AND ISRAEL FOR INDIA



P.R. Krishnan

■ The three day visit to Israel during July 5-7 of Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after his 2 days trip to United States of America has been termed as highly successful by the corporate backed electronic and print media in India. This was the 54th foreign visits of this prime minister after he came to power in May 2014. The BJP headed National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and its mouthpieces have described it as historical milestone in the relations of the two nations. Modi's visit has resulted into 7 agreements between the two countries. Each of these agreements when looked into and analyzed do reveal they are of strategic importance for both the countries. Narendra Modi's visit to Israel is the first ever by an Indian prime minister to that country. Modi and his entourage who landed at Tel Aviv Airport on 4th July was received and accorded a red carpet welcome by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his entire cabinet ministers. This was something new. History of no country in the world shows any precedence of having welcomed the VVIP of another country by the full cabinet of the host country but Modi could have it and Netanyahu described it as "we were waiting for this occasion since last 70 years." Another occasion when protocol gave a miss was when Modi met Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. He greeted Modi at the gate of his palace rather than wait for the guest inside the hall. The President's comment for such a gesture was "protocol is between people to people who don't know each other; protocol is not between friends."

Arranged and included in Modi's programme was a visit to the Indian war cemetery at Haifa. Here, both Prime ministers Modi and Netanyahu paid homage to the 44 Indian soldiers

who made sacrifice during World War I in liberating the city 100 years ago in 1917. The two prime ministers unveiled a plaque commemorating the memory of Major Dalpat Singh who headed the successful cavalry charge which resulted in the liberation of Haifa but what is of greater significance was conclusion of memoranda of understandings (MOU) leading to 7 agreements between the two countries. These pacts as specifically listed by Times of India dt. July 6, are:

1. Department of Science & Technology (India) and National Technological Innovation Authority. Israel to set up India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund.
2. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of Israel sign MoU on National Campaign for Water Conservation in India.
3. UP Jal Nigam, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of Israel sign pact on state water utility reform in India.
4. India-Israel Development Corporation- Three year Work Programme in Agriculture 2018-2020.
5. Plan of Cooperation Between ISRO and Israel Space Agency (ISA) for cooperation in atomic clocks.
6. MoU between ISRO and Israel

Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in GEO-LEO optical link.
7. ISRO and ISA sign pact on cooperation in electric propulsion for small satellites.

Of the seven agreements signed on 5th July, three relate to cooperation in space technology. These are in fact an extension of an improvement in the agreements which the two countries had inked on (a) January 21, 2008, (b) April 20, 2009 and (c) February 15, 2017. The other agreements provide for a separately designated strategic partnership on agriculture and water, waste water treatment, water conservation, and cleaning of Ganga River and so on. After signing the agreements, Modi said in Jerusalem that India would set up a cultural centre in Israel. This is meant to enhance people to people contact between the two countries. In the talks here Modi expressed appreciation of the contribution of the Jewish community in India and Jews of Indian origin in Israel in bringing the two societies closer. This was warmly reciprocated by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He in that connection recalled Israel's support and sponsorship of India's initiative to promote the practice of Yoga by designating June 21 as International Yoga Day. Dr. Noah Masil, the founder president of Central Organization of Indian Jews in Israel had made a statement before Modi's arrival that



Narendra Modi



Benjamin Netanyahu

such an announcement would fulfill a long time dream of Indian and Israeli communities.

Following signing of the agreements the Indian foreign secretary S Jaishankar who accompanied the prime minister said in Jerusalem "Prime Minister Modi and his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu have visualized that the two countries would become close partners in development, entrepreneurship, defence and security. They will stand shoulder to shoulder to fight terrorism." It should be noted that India is already Israel's largest weapons importing country. Every year India imports 100 crores dollar worth weapons from Israel. The new agreement on defence collaboration is aimed at enlarging these purchases. In addition, India is slated to soon receive armed drones from Tel Aviv. On business front, both countries have signed strategic pact worth \$ 4.3 billion. Around 30 CEOs of top corporate bodies of both countries have pledged to power the economic and investment relationships and setting up \$ 40 million worth innovation fund in India. "India for Israel and Israel for India" was the comment made by Netanyahu after signing ceremony of the agreements.

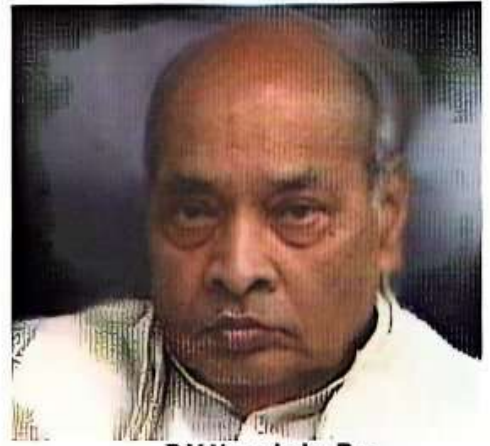
A special feature in most of Modi's foreign trips is that he finds time to have gatherings with Indian immigrants in the visiting countries. He also makes it a point to speak a few words in the language of the dominant communities of the NRIs working in or settled in those countries. There were such meetings of Indians when he visited some of the Arab countries, European countries and USA. But in Israel there was no such meeting. However here in Israel he met three NRIs who are recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. This is an award instituted by the union government for Indians abroad who achieve outstanding successes in different fields. In Israel, they are Eliyahu Bezelal, Shaikh Ansari and Dr. Lael Anson Best. The prime minister also met the well-known Indian origin Israeli singer Liora Itzhak. As well as the 11 year old Moshe Holstsborg, the Israeli survivor of 2008 November terrorist attack in South Mumbai. Moshe, who was just 2 years old then, had lost his parents in the attack. They were in Nariman House in South



Reuven Rivlin

Mumbai on that day of terrorism. He enquired about their well being. Some of the gifts Modi presented to the Israeli President and prime minister were Kerala products of ancient Jew settlement period.

All these said and done, what is significant to observe is the fact that there is a policy shift from India's side towards Palestine. India had adopted a policy of solidarity with Palestine during the period of freedom struggle as well as after independence. It followed a policy of non-alignment and was against military pacts. India was opposed to cold war and supported national liberation struggles in countries under colonial rule. It stood against racial discriminations. It was in the forefront of world peace movement and campaigned for disarmament. India advocated a policy of no war between nations. Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Morarji Desai, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Chandra Shekhar and Rajiv Gandhi all followed this policy while firmly maintaining good relations with nations abroad. In this, India always kept a special place for the cause of Palestine. That happened because this country had a long period of colonial oppression and exploitation. That was the past. There are strong indications now that the BJP headed and RSS guided Narendra Modi government has abandoned this policy and started choosing a different path. In the case of Israel it suits and fits in well with RSS ideology and Zionism of that country. Israel has been adopting a policy of anti Islam and anti communism throughout its history. The RSS founder leader V D Savarkar had described Israel as a holy state. He had written that though India is a



P V Narasimha Rao

larger country it has many things to learn from Israel. Guided by this ideology, Modi has been giving priority to evolve a strategic alliance of three nations comprising of America, Israel and India against China. Now it is escalating to Pakistan. Though not officially mentioned, it is evident from the joint communiqué issued at Tel Aviv by the two prime ministers.

It needs recalling here that it was during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao regime in 1992 that full diplomatic channels came to be established between Israel and India. Rao did so under American pressure. Thereafter it was during prime minister A B Vajpayee's time that home minister L.K Advani and foreign minister Jaswant Singh paid visits to Israel. That was then followed by Israel Prime minister Ariel Sharon's visit to India in 2003. The place chosen for that visit was Gujarat when Narendra Modi was the chief minister of that state. Thereafter Modi visited Israel while being chief minister in 2006. It may here be remembered that the same chief minister who sought Visa for a visit to America during that period could not get it. Modi's plea for such a visit was turned down by USA on the ground that he was involved in communal holocaust in Gujarat.

After BJP came to power in May 2014 and before Modi's visit to Israel, his government had initiated fresh attempts to open new channels for widening strategic fronts with that country. This became clear from the visits of home minister Rajnath Singh and foreign minister Sushma Swaraj to Israel before Modi's visit. Another significant step was the visit of President Pranab Kumar Mukherji to Israel in 2015. However Mukherji took that opportunity to visit Ramallah, the Palestinian capital. The practice

V K N - A KUNCHAN REBORN

"There are three English alphabets which written or uttered in a particular manner bring a smile on the face of any reasonably read Malayali. They are: VKN. That is why it is said that one cannot claim to be a Malayali, if he or she is not familiar with the fêted characters, such as 'Payyan,' 'Chathan' and 'Sir Chathu'", said Jabir Mushthari, in his article titled The Alchemy of VKN Humor (Hindu dated 9.01.2013).



K R Narayanan

■ About five or six years before his demise in 2004, wild rumours were afloat that the litterateur Vadakke Koottala Narayanankutty Nair popular as VKN passed away. As the

press and the reporters were running amok to check the veracity of the news, the newsroom received a call. The caller said: "VKN speaking.... This is to inform you that I am still alive... Will let you know, before I die, in the formal way".

No one except the 20th century's greatest humorist-satirist of Malayalam, will have such a sense of humor to be the hero of such an unusual incident. This Wodehouse of Malayalam dominated the world of satire and humor, from the fifties to the early years of the second millennium, and created a niche for himself in the world of satirical writing in Malayalam.

It was through a strange coincidence that I bumped into VKN's novel *Manchal* (the Palanquin) - in 1966, when I was working in a forward area in Western India. It was a Keralite Indian Air Force officer, who led me to the VKN literature. He presented me with a book of this writer and said: "Edo, ivan oru ugran sadhanam anu. Thakarppan Namboothiri Hasyam. Thanikku rasikkum!!" (This is a great stuff; excellent Namboothiri humor. You will enjoy it).

The appearance of the old (perhaps, the oldest!) edition of the book, with a yellow cover page showing a Palanquin, did not impress me much in the beginning. Before going to bed, inadvertently, I happened to open the book and read the first sentence (about Tipu Sultan's fort in Palakkad): "കല്ലിൽ കൊത്തിവച്ച ചെല്ലച്ചെട്ടി പോലെയാണ്

കോട്ട. സുൽത്താന്റെയാണ് സൂഷി..."



VKN

കോട്ട. സുൽത്താന്റെയാണ് സൂഷി..." (The fort was like a betel box chiselled out from the rocks. The Creation of the Sultan...).

The well-chiselled words and the crisp style bewitched me. Unknowingly, I went on reading more... about the then administration of Malabar, the people like the *Thukdi Sayippu*, *Amsam Menon* and *Adhikari*, the Adhikari's pretty sister, *Nanu Namboori* and many others of the bygone era. There were many characters, each depicting specific role models of the then Malayalee society, speaking a very charmingly peculiar Malayalam. Vivid and humorous descriptions of the life style of the good old Nair joint families and the Namboothiri landlords, engaged in sumptuous feasts, and legal and illegal sex with innumerable men and women

of various social orders. The author held mirror to the then liberal man-woman relations of those era, always with a hidden chuckle.

The theme on the feudalistic Nampoothiri regime was superb and the presentation penetrated deep into the readers' mind. It brought in the memories of the social set up and the Brahmin domination of the bygone era.

This was the beginning of my sojourn with VKN. It continued through the stories and adventures of his protagonist, *Payyan*, in and around Thiruvilvamala, Thrissur and New Delhi, followed by his fictions based on the socio-political scenario of the then rural Kerala, brilliantly brought out through some of his protagonists, like *Chathans*, *Arrack Shop Owner Chandappan*, *Krishi Bhagyam Gopalan Nair*, *Constable Kuttan Pilla*, *Velan*



Chami, Burman Nair and above all the printer-publisher *Ittoop* of Kunnammkulam.

At the national level, VKN's immortal "*Payyan*" and his journalist friend Anantharaman stood as mute witnesses for many major national events, like the split in the Indian National Congress, formation of the Syndicate, rat-race for political power and the like. The author always points a finger to the ego, greed and selfishness of the so-called leaders and their satellites and the high-level corruption, which is the root cause of all the undesirable events. VKN could tell the stories of the political changes and transformations, through the satirist comments and remarks of many of his characters. The newspaper tycoon *Saalvan Prabhu*, the veteran politician, who manipulated unbelievable political moves with a single Tamil word "*Paakkalaam*" (meaning "*Let us see*"), the Shingam (lioness), *Poocha Sanyaasi* and the like, did specifically point to the

weaknesses and political lapses of the then leaders. There are many other significant issues of economic and political importance of the country, like the agitations against cow slaughter, nationalization of banks, the infamous firing on the *morcha* of the *Nanga Bhavas* (the Naked sanyasis) in front of the parliament house, the kicking out of an interim Prime Minister, the rise of Indira Priyadarshini, the split of the good old congress, the imposition of emergency, etc., etc.

The young and old of the sixties and seventies eagerly waited for VKN stories, which used to be published in the weeklies like *Mathrubhumi*, *Malayala Rajyam* and *Malayala Nadu*. Also, they used to watch out for the "*Sahitya Vara Phalam*" (a weekly review of the articles, stories and other published works in Malayalam) - a regular feature written by the late M. Krishnan Nair in "*Malayala Nadu*" - for the commentaries on VKN stories. Krishnan Nair's reviews and comments

gave a deeper and wider dimension to VKN's themes, characters and his manipulation of the language. The stories of VKN, presented in his inimitable style, with the caricatures of the Cartoonist Namboothiri, in *Mathrubhoomi* weekly used to be a craze amongst the readers.

Satire and Humor in Malayalam

Malayalam has seen many masters of humor and satire ever since it established itself, as a distinct language. A young Nampoothiri -popular as *Thola Kavi* could be considered as one of the earliest in this field. Tholan (as he was called) used to have a hearty laugh at the way the then brahmin community's insistence on conversing amongst them only in Sanskrit. He, therefore, created his own Sanskritized lingua mixing both Sanskrit and the vernacular. (E.g. *Panasi dasaayaam Paasi*). Kalakkath Kunjan Nambiar of Killikurissi Mangalam was yet another major milestone in this field, on account of his spontaneous wit and satire, through his novel temple art called *Thullal* or *Ottam Thullal*.

According to Dr K M George (*Western Influence on Malayalam Language*), long and short light-vein writeups, articles and stories of the older days, in due course, graduated into valid humor literature in Malayalam. He listed many writers of yore, who contributed to this new way of writing Malayalam. E V Krishna Pillai (1895-1938) and M. R. Nair (1903-1942) strengthened this branch of Malayalam writing. EV's *Chiriyum Chinthayum* and M R Nair's *Sanjayan* (in five volumes) showed their hidden chuckle, at the weaknesses and drawbacks of the society, systems and traditions and the



V K N with wife

way of life in the then Malayalam speaking world. Their ideas, thoughts and writings were totally independent of the humor writings of the west, although they were fully aware of the humor of the west. But, however, some of the later writers and satirists in Malayalam were aware of the writers like, P.G. Wodehouse, Jerome K. Jerome, E. V. Lucas and the like. But, their influence was little on Malayalee writers.

Thereafter, Puthethathu Raman Menon, E.M. Kovoov, N P Chellappan Nair, P. Sridharan Pillai (Seetharaman), C R Kerala Varma (Vikraman), P K Raja Raja Varma (1907-1987) etc. are said to have been influenced by the western. From the mid-20th century onward, writers like E. M.Kovoov (*Hani Puraanam*) and Malayattoor K V Ramakrishnan (*Dr Vezhampal*) also enriched this branch of literature with their valuable contributions.

The VKN Era

In the latter half of the 20th century, VKN, proved himself to be an indomitable monarch of satirical writing in Malayalam. He was an inimitable humorist and the creator of an entirely different style of Malayalam writing. He had a peculiar way of effectively narrating contemporary issues whether it is of the villages around Thiruvilvamala, Thrissur or Palakkad or the cities like then Madras, New Delhi or the nation as a whole - through his rural and urban characters - in an inimitable Malayalam.

The poet Shri P Kunhiraman Nair once described him as, "*Kunchanu Sesham Malayalathil Sambhavicha Mahatbhutham*" (A great wonder in Malayalam after Kunjan Nambiar) and, hence, referred to him as "*Abhinava Kunchan*" or modern days' Kunchan Nambiar. For the younger generation's writers, VKN was the Moothars (the elder) of rural Kerala or the *Payyans* (the boy) of the newer generation. Whatever he was, he excelled in anything he handled.

Though he was only a matriculate, VKN was very well-read and well-informed in Malayalam, English, Sanskrit, History and even the then prevailing political intricacies and equations. It is



VKN (C) with Mohd Basheer

often said that, in order to understand VKN properly and to relish his humor, satire and sarcasm, the reader need be well-informed and equipped with adequate background information. VKN could quote from the *Ramayana* or the *Megha Sandesham* or the *Chambus* as quickly and effortlessly as he could from a new generation literature. This textual proficiency was not confined to poetry or literature alone. It was generic.

The then younger readers used to consider VKN as a monarch of satirical humor in Malayalam. VKN gave shape to a new style of humor writing "*an English way of writing Malayalam*" - which set a new trend amongst the then younger Malayalees even in the day-to-day conversations.

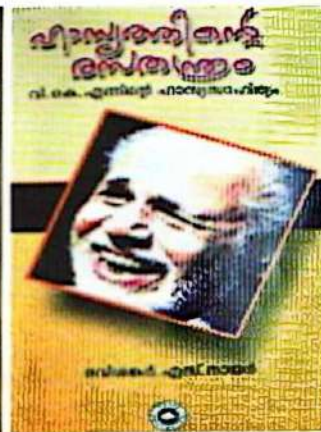
Literary Career

VKN's entry into Malayalam literature was in the 1950s. Like many other writers, his first love had been

poetry. Though he gave it up later, he kept up this adolescent infatuation all through his life. Anything from under the sun, from contemporary politics to primitive occultism, from modern astrophysics to Chanakya's *Arthashastra*, or from *Das Kapital* to *Kamasutra*, was a narrative device for him, which he brought into play in his stories and novels.

It was in the 1960s that VKN came into prominence as a writer. But, by then he had left Kerala and landed in New Delhi. The New Delhi of the 1960s had a defining role in modern Malayalam literature. It was the group of young writers who happened to come together on various professional engagements in the country's capital that made Malayalam literature (particularly fiction), what it is today. Prominent among them were O V Vijayan, M Mukundan, George Varghese (Kakkanadan) and M P Narayana Pillai. VKN "landed" in this circle. These

writers used to meet regularly to thrash out literature, politics or whatever else was the topic of the day a preparation that capacitated them to accomplish new heights in writing. As might be expected, VKN became an unfailing member of that collective. Those interactions, evidently, helped him to become conversant with the latest developments in literature and consummate his style that is full of vim and vigour. Also, it was from those



gatherings that he picked out many of his prototypical characters, especially the quick-witted, but hard-up "hero" - *Payyan* (The Boy) - of his seminal work, *Payyan Kathakal* (The Stories of Payyan). His *Payyan* made inroads into the higher echelons of power and wealth using nothing but his sharp intelligence and winning demeanour, as can be seen in his *Arohanam* and *Syndicate*.

The Delhi life in 1960s had significantly contributed to framing VKN's social outlook as well. The institutionalization of unscrupulous political manipulations, power broking, corruption and the murky dealings in the corridors of power; all that to which he became a silent, but alert, head-on witness deepened his distrust of the entire social and political order. And, what he did was to make them materials for a laugh that begot another laugh, which finally spread across our body, mind and intellect. For that reason, he was (wrongly) labelled a "humorist".

His works include the novels like *Arohanam* (VKN himself translated this work into English under the title *Bovine Bugles*), *Syndicate*, *Adhikaram*, *Pithamahan*, *Asuravani*, *General Chathans*, *Anantharam*, *Nanuaru*, *Manchal*, *Kaavi*, etc. His short story collections were: *Payyan Kathakal*, *Payyan*,

Chathans, *Hajyaru*, *Kalaghathathile Payyan*, *Mananchira Test*, and *Sir Chathu Leacock*. Other works of VKN are: *the VKN Phalithangal*, *Ayyayiravum Koppum*, *Ammoomma Kutha*, *Oru Nooru Minikathakal*, *Kudineer*, *Kozhi*, *Podipooram Thirunal*, *Dushyanthan Mash*, etc.

The important awards bestowed upon this great satirist of our time were: Kerala Sahithya Academy award in 1969 for '*Aarohanam*', Kendra Sahithya Academy award in 1982 for '*Payyan Kathakal*', M.P Paul award of Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham in 1978 for his short stories and the Harmony Award by Organization of Understanding and Fraternity, Delhi, 1987, for works promoting communal understanding.

The Brand VKN

What is so distinctive about VKN is the dark humor, trenchant criticism of the political class and his unmatched ability in stretching the limits of language any language for that matter. His works call for an informed reader, who can track down the allusions and shift between languages (Sanskrit, English, Hindi, Malayalam and the distinctive variety of Tamil spoken by the Palakkad Brahmins).

In most of the cases, the use of language except Malayalam is immediately followed by a translation (in parenthesis), but these translations had very little done with what they stand for in the original. He goes even to the extent of translating the names of his characters too. Look at the name Bhagvan Sahai (the News Paper Tycoon Salvan's Personal Secretary), who



becomes "Swami Saranam" in Malayalam (*Arohanam*).

The astonishing way by which he manoeuvres the language in his novels and short stories produces an entirely new meaning, gravity and humor to the topic touched. VKN never hesitates to question any of the institutional set ups of power - religion, cast, and ruling class, media and literature. His historical sense aided him to blend the past and the present so finely that, though some characters from the past suddenly appear in his stories, the reader never feels it to be unnatural.

It is said that VKN used many people who lived in and around his familiar places to portray his characters. This is clearly visible in *Arohanam* and *Syndicate*. Some examples are: *Gappaji*, *Kattilan*, *Pucha Sansyasi*, the *Maha Maouni*, the Indian newspaper,

Deluxe Express, its owner and *Industrialist Salvan Prabhu*, etc. etc.

In an article, titled *Vishvasthan Viplavssri Chathans*, (*Malayala Manorama* of 22nd January, 2006), Shri. Arun Ezhuthachan observed that out of every ten people we meet in Thiruvilvamala, one will be VKN's character. Many of his characters are said to be still living in Thiruvilvamala and other places. According to Ezhuthachan, VKN's character *Chathans* - was none other than a living person called Muthiarkode *Chathan*, with some added qualities of a farm labourer by name *Kori*.

So also, were many others like *Burman Kunhan Nair*, Ration Shop owner *Kuttan*, *Eroman Nair*, Arrack Shop owner- *Chanthappan*, *Kunjan Chettiar*, *Auditor*, etc. including the printer, publisher "*Ittoopp Muthalali* of Kunnamkulam. The *Moothar*, *Valiya Nayar* or *Menon* of his stories, invariably, was none but VKN himself.

Even when there is no major dispute among judicious readers about the greatness of VKN as a writer, not many studies have been carried out on the large body of his works. According to Dr M R Thampan, of the State Institute of Languages, neither VKN nor his works have ever lost any lustre due to this conspicuous neglect from the literary critics. "*The loss obviously*

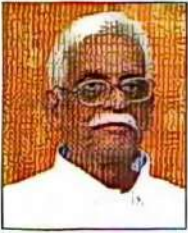
is of the discipline of Malayalam criticism", observes Dr Thampan in his preface to the book titled '*Hasyathinte Rasathanthram*,' (The Alchemy of Humour), written by Ravisankar S. Nair.

It can be said that VKN was one of the very few writers in Malayalam who could unleash an acid attack of ironies on the negative tendencies in society as well as on the rots with the men in power. As pointed out by Shri Ezhuthachan, many writers tried to follow or rather imitate VKN, but they all lacked the charm and originality of the *Moothars*.

VKN passed away in January, 2004, at his native place, Thiruvilvamala, at the age of 74. But his characters of his shall live as long as Malayalam language lives. ■

Excellence of V K N

Prof M R Chandrasekharan looks back at his favourite story writer



■ VKN is my favourite story writer. I consider him the greatest among his contemporaries. T Padmanabhan, M T Vasudevan Nair, Madhavikutty, N

Prof M R Chandrasekharan Mohanan et al belong to his generation. Among them Mohanan wrote a few good stories and then he limited his writing only in the government files. After his retirement, he wrote again some stories but vanished soon from the scene.

These story writers belong to the third generations. Kesari Nayanar, K Sukumaran, MRKC, Moorkoth Kumaran and Ambadi Narayana Poduval are considered belonging to first generation. They are the forerunners of first generation.

The second generation belonged to the renaissance period. S K Pottekat, Vaikom Mohamed Basheer, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, P Kesavadev and Ponkunnan Varkey are the prominent writers of that period.

During these two periods, prominent storey tellers were five each in number. In the third generation too, there were five prominent storey tellers. Among poets we always had triumvirate; ancient triumvirate, renaissance triumvirate and Communist triumvirate (O N V Kurup, P Bhaskaran and Vayalar). Like poet- triumvirate, we have story telling cinque.

Among the third generation, each of the five, had their unique characteristics. I consider VKN was the best for imagination. In creativity, M T Vasudevan Nair is far ahead of others. Real genius was Madhavikutty. Padmanabhan is the embodiment of



VKN

love and empathy. Mohanan wrote his stories in a poetic prose.

VKN told his stories straight, without any periphrasis. His stories enchanted the readers. What K Sukumaran did in his time, VKN did with cleverness and details. Sukumaran was prone to dialogues. Craftiness of VKN was many folds in creating humourous dialogues. He played with his language. He invented many words in the language. One of his characters was 'Chathans.' This name was created by joining the pluralistic form of English with Malayalam word. It was a meaningful invention. By adding 's', he elevated Chathan to a higher respectful entity, standing for 'Chathan Esq.' 'Chathan Esq' will not carry much weight in our tradition. Mere 'Chathan'

would not impact him as a Communist, diplomatic and leader. Probably VKN invented this word after considerable thought.

Before VKN, E Vasu used a suffix 'Esq' to his fashionable umbrella. The genesis of 'Chathans' cannot be after 'Umbrella Esq.' Patent of 'Chathans' can only be ascribed to VKN.

Prank Vocabulary

Besides 'Chathans' many similar words were created by VKN. 'Avans' (He Esq), *Patasekharanmar* (Farmer), *Paski* (*Pakshi*, Bird), *Korens*, *Kumbils*, *Thandars*, *Paatts* (song), Greeshma Pithamahan and All Sangham are all picked from the first story of *Chathans*, a compilation of stories on Chathans.

On later periods, VKN wanted to create newer prank and frolic words. Kunchan Nambiar created a word 'Poosakan' and VKN followed him in many ways. S K Pottekat had some craftiness in distorting words. VKN went much ahead of him.

Mere writing will not make one a writer. He should have the ability to draw readers to his writings. Reading habit cannot be created by threat and torture. The writing should give enough scope to the reader to continue reading.



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The ideal literature should first enthrall, then inform and finally compel to think.

In the first portfolio, VKN is a king. A person who had earlier read one of his stories, would automatically read anything under the name VKN. That is certain. His stories first appeared in weeklies. Anyone who had those weeklies would certainly have read his story before anything else. That is my experience. Others also must have had the same experience.

The first compilation of stories by VKN was 'Mandahaasam' (Smile), in 1956. When a story titled 'Vivahappittenu' (Second day of wedding) appeared in *Mathrubhumi Weekly*, VKN was crowned emperor of short stories. Other two stories of that collection were 'Valiyoral Varunnu' (Bigman comes) and 'Thakkol' (Key). VKN had tremendous talent to attract his readers by telling story of small incidents with extraneous craftiness so as to intoxicate them. He wrote a number of stories about Chathans and serialised them. In these stories he exposed the deception, trumpery, worry, vituperation and crookedness existing in our socio-political areas. *Chathans* is his first compilation with a lot of inner strength.

'Payyan Kathakal' has a new turn. After 'Panchu Menonum Kunchiyamayum' (of P K Rajaraja Varma), similar stories were written by VKN. Several stories were written after the character Colonel Renu.

VKN is unlike T Padmanabhan who insists that he could write only short stories. He (VKN) wrote with both hands; short stories, serial stories and novels too. Quality of writing can be proved by the spontaneity of creative writing and their vitality. He was a forerunner in both.

VKN, after establishing himself as a short story writer, attempted novels. His first novel was 'Manchal' (palanquin). Namboothiries and their salacious

nature were the content. 'Asuravaani' was the second. The name itself denotes its content. As a novelist, his fame rose after 'Pithamahan.' It enumerates the corruption during the rule of King Bharani (Kochi). When VKN shifted to Delhi, he wrote three novels analysing Indian politics; Aarohanam (Ascent), Syndicate and General Chathans. Adhikaram (Power) is to be considered as a sequel to them. These novels became noteworthy because of his expertise in sifting affairs of the nation from the inner circles of centres of power. As the time passes, the story content might lose its punch but their historical relevance cannot be ignored.

VKN used humour for social criticism. What Kunchan did during his days, VKN did in his days. Humour may interest the reader; but it never got its due from them. Sentimentalism gets its worth in gold. Kunchan Nambiar

excels Ezhuthachhan in imaginative power. He is neither lacking in talent. Yet he is made to stand far behind. The contribution of Ezhuthachhan is confined to his line by line translation or condensation of epics. In both, the creativity was lacking though it was abundant in Nambiar's works. He was like Kalidasa who exemplified a small narration about Sakuntala into Abhijnana Sakuntalam. Nambiar exemplified small narrations in Mahabharat into great works through his 'thullal' narrations. Critics do not praise *Kalyanasouganthikam* of Nambiar as they do with Abhijnana Sakuntalam. Sakuntalam gives more importance to sentimentalism as in the case of Ezhuthachhan. In the works of Nambiar and VKN, melodrama is missing but humour prevails. Readers enjoy humour but turn indifferent to it later. ■

Wedding



Ajay, Son of Mrs. Anita & Mr. Mohandas got married to Swathy, daughter of Mrs. Meena Kumari & Mr. Surendran Kaimal on 10th July 2017 at Triprayar Sree Rama Swamy Temple (Kerala).



KARAMANA RIVER POISED TO RECLAIM ITS PAST GLORY

KSCSTE has initiated an integrated river basin management project to minimize pollution and salvage the ecology of a river that was once the lifeline of the capital city of Kerala.



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

■ Having spent my childhood and later years by the banks of Karamana River in Thiruvananthapuram, I have very sweet memories of the clean and beautiful river at its glorious majesty. Over a period of time it was saddening to see the river highly polluted and uncared. A recent visit to Thiruvananthapuram gave a surprise: I saw that the river banks in Kalady-Karamana areas were clean and many more improvements are being carried out. The Karamana river that flows through the city of Thiruvananthapuram is a landmark of the capital city. The river is named after the busy part of the city, Karamana, it passes through.

Once upon a time the Karamana river was a beautiful spot, with clear waters and an inspiration for artists and poets, musicians and nature lovers. Even today with the Aruvikkara dam built on its upper levels, it is the source of drinking water for residents of Thiruvananthapuram. However, studies have revealed that the river is polluted.

According to detailed studies conducted by reliable bodies, Karamana river and its main tributary in the city, Killiyar is highly polluted and root cause of waterborne diseases namely 'pani' that is plaguing the city now. Erosion, sand-mining, encroachment, and growth of weeds along the river's course were found to be obstructing the water flow. According to the project report, leachate from garbage dumps at Jagathy, Valiasala, and Iramuttam

were polluting the river. Discharge of untreated sewage, waste water from houses, schools, and community halls, disposal of poultry and slaughterhouse waste, waste water from dhobi ghats and encroachment are the other major causes for pollution.

Based on the RITES Report, an action plan of pollution mitigation and flood control of the river has been drawn up by the State Government.

The State Planning Board has



Killiyar at Maruthankuzhi

entrusted in 2013-14 the Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) formerly called Science Technology & Environment Council, an autonomous body to take up a model co-ordinated project named Karamana River Scientific Management (Pilot) Project (KRSM) with the objective of mitigating pollution of Karamana river and its main tributary Killi river in the city area; if successful it can be carried out in other regions and rivers of the State. Other objectives include reducing water pollution and water borne diseases in the city, remove drinking and bathing water and sewage pollution, mitigate flash flood in the city and avert people from river pollution activities. The then State Minister for Water Resources P J Joseph inaugurated the Project at Valiasala-Nandavanam, near Killipalam. Former Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shashi Tharoor was the special guest at the function which was presided over by former Minister for Health V S Sivakumar.

An Action plan has been constituted by KSCSTE, headed by the then Executive Vice President V N Rajasekharan Pillai and three Committees have been formed namely Technical Committee, Co-ordination Committee, Monitoring Committee and Monitoring Cell with Co-ordination by KSCSTE, Implementation and Monitoring by TRIDA (Trivandrum Development Authority) and execution by Line Departments and Institutions including Irrigation, KWA (Sewerage Dn), Minor Irrigation, PWD, Home Department, City Corporation, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) etc. A Budget amount of Rs 500 Lakh was sanctioned for the year 2013- 14, Rs 800 Lakh for 2014-15, Rs 800 Lakh for 2015- 16 and 300 Lakh for 2017-18.

Presently the KRSM project is progressing well under the leadership and effective management and guidance of Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE and Smt. Tinku Biswal IAS, Principal Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Kerala with the strong support of Dr. S. Pradeep, Member Secretary, KSCSTE.

Under the expert Guidance of Prof. (Dr) K G Narayana Pillai, Advisor and Chief Project Co-ordinator, KRSM Project, B Gopakumar, giving Engineering Support, Thilakan, Ajith and Surajit of Irrigation Department, Madhu and Thomas Issac of Kerala



Historical Kadavu (landing ghat) excavated at Bio-park site



Chain linked fencing on the bridge across the river



Karamana river and bridge - view from river bank at Thiruvallam



Dr. Suresh Das
Executive Vice President



Dr. Pradeep Kumar
Member Secretary



Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai



Dr. K.G Narayana Pillai
Advisor & Chief Project Co-ordinator



Er.Gopakumar B
Project Supervisor

Water Authority, Oommen V Oommen KSB, restoration work is being carried out throughout the path of the river within the city from Thiruvallam to Vazhayila in Sasthamangalam and public awareness has also been created with sign boards and other means along the way. The works co-ordinated by KSCSTE are monitored and implemented by TRIDA under the leadership of Ajith, Chief Engineer.

As Dr Narayana Pillai says, "A river is a living ecosystem. It should have a direct link with the land. By putting concrete blocks and walls along the bank, we are blocking this link. So in our restoration work we are using gabions, rectangular cages of steel mesh in which rocks are stacked, for bunds and banks so that natural interaction is possible between the land and water. Another technique we are using in our project is Bio-remediation that is a technique for augmenting natural bacteria in the river that will eat away the pollutants of the river."

At the Thiruvallam bank near the Parashurama temple where last rites are conducted for the departed, Balikkadavu renovation, biogas plant and incinerator for integrated waste management, a new balikkadavu and chain linked fence, have been carried out by the Irrigation Department. A pump house that has been constructed at the origin of the canal is intended to control and maintain adequate flow of water at the bali ghat near the temple. However as Dr Narayana Pillai says, the public have to be more aware of the importance of keeping the area clean for hygienic reasons. Publicity and awareness boards have been put up

"Very few cities are fortunate enough to have a river like the Karamana flow through its heart. The aim of the KRSM pilot project which is being coordinated by KSCSTE and has participation of various state government agencies is primarily to demonstrate how concerted efforts of all these agencies along with public participation can help to rejuvenate the Karamana."

Dr.Suresh Das,
Executive Vice President, KSCSTE

to this effect.

The construction of a check-dam further downstream, between the Edayar island and the mainland diverts the heavily polluted water from the Parvathi Puthannar canal into the estuary, instead of letting it mix with the river upstream. The Committee has stressed the need to expedite the work of sewage line on to sewage treatment plant at Muttathara to direct the sewage and to reduce pollution of the Parvathi Puthannar.

A major work was building of chain

linked fence on both sides of the 8 bridges of Karamana river as well as 18 bridges in Killi river executed by the Irrigation Department. Pollution mitigation measures by way of gated Flushing arrangement (Gated Weir) and renovation of drains with silt traps at Myladikadavu, renovation of Maruthankuzhi Weir & allied works in Killi river, new bathing ghat and balikadavu and monumental door to Kochar have also been executed.

Bio-Diversity Park

As per proposal by the Biodiversity Board, around 1.75 acres of government land next to Vighneswara temple ghat at Karamana, is being converted into a biodiversity park. The irrigation department, in charge of building infrastructure here, has completed the first phase. Already rich with plants and shade giving trees the Board plans to grow more of the indigenous varieties like wild cane, different types of bamboo, river pine, wild lilies and othalam (cerebra odollum or sea mango) as well as rare and threatened species of plants usually found only in the tropical forests.

In the first phase of this project, gabions, have been used to build the retaining walls. Plans are a foot to build benches, walkways and handrails for visitors. A historical kadavu with broad and shallow steps for easy transportation of cargo was recently excavated at the Bio Park site. This was built during Sethu Parvathi Bai's time when Karamana was a busy commercial port for movement of cargo. The Dhobi Ghats at Kalady has also been renovated.

A major work was the renovation of Thekkanekkara Canal



Lakshmi Venkatachalam with Dr Narayana Pillai at the proposed Bio-park site

where the open part of the canal was cleaned, and chain linked fencing completed. New sewage pumps at Kuriathy and sewage pipelines at Thittakudi, Sastri Nagar and Kailas Nagar have been carried out.

Killi River Surveillance System (CC Camera) has been installed from Myladikavadu to Attukal Bridge and Myladikadavu to Vazhayila, with monitoring system installed at Cantonment Central Monitoring Station of Home Department. This was executed by the City Corporation through KELTRON with the support of the Home Department. CCTVs in the vicinity of the Karamana river where solid waste including animal carcasses are being dumped illegally can thus be monitored and remedial actions taken.

Sub projects include increasing the depth of the Thiruvallam stream and construction of spillways along its banks to aid drinking water supply. The irrigation department has undertaken the work. The department has constructed a spillway at Myladikadavu to increase water flow in the Killi river during the summer season. New sewage pumps at Thaliyal and Arannoor, sewage lines, sewerage water recycling projects, awareness programmes about the need for conservation of the river are some of the other schemes in the pipeline.

THE RIVER MAP

Karamana river starts its flow from the southern tip of the Western Ghats at Agastyar Koodam 1600 mts above sea level. The catchment area is mostly forested, command area is under mixed dry land crops such as coconut, tapioca, pepper, plantain, rice, etc.



Dhobi ghat at Karamana Kalady

The river flows for 61 kilometers in a south - south west direction before flowing into the Arabian Sea. The largest tributary of the Karamana is the Killiyar, which flows for a distance of 33 kilometres. It has five anicuts on it which regulates the flow of water. During earlier days part of the water was diverted into the Kochar channel which in turn used to feed the Padmatheertham pond outside the Padmanabhaswamy Temple. Presently the Kochar channel is blocked at many points. Moreover, the Killiyar is highly polluted also. There are several temples located along the Killiyar's banks, the most famous of which is the Attukal Temple. The Killiyar drains the Nedumangad forest and its basin is rich in avian fauna. The river merges with the Arabian Sea through the Pozhikkara estuary. In its final lap, it runs parallel to the sea and here it is known as the Edayar.

The Karamana river has two

important dams on it. These are the Aruvikkara Dam, built in the 1930s and the Peppara Dam which lies further upstream and was built in 1983. The Aruvikkara Dam was completed with the aim of providing piped drinking water to the city. The Peppara Dam regulates the flow of water into the Aruvikkara Dam by unifying all the upper tributaries of the Karamana river. The Peppara Dam has played a crucial role in eliminating the floods that once used to characterize the Karamana. There is also a 3 MW hydel power station at Peppara.

The Karamana river has several bridges across it.

Because of its beauty it is called Vanamaala (Garland of the forest). The Karamana river also closely influenced the development of music in Kerala. Some of the singers, instrumentalists and composers who are associated with the river include Irayimman Thampi, Vadivelu, Neelakanta Sivan and K S Chitra. Besides, the composer-king Swathi Thirunal was also influenced by the river's scenic beauty. Over a dozen of his court musicians hailed from the Karamana village on the banks of the river.

Killiyar

Killi river, also called Killiyar, the main tributary of Karamana River, originates at Theerthankara near Panavur in Nedumangad taluk of Thiruvananthapuram district. The river enters Thiruvananthapuram city at Vazhayila and flows through Mannammoola, Maruthankuzhi, Edapazhinji, Jagathy, Killippalam, Attukal, Kalady South and merges with Karamana River at Pallathukadavu. ■



Poonthura Puzhy where the river merges with the Arabian Sea

Expanding Horizons of Scientific Research

Discovery of a new species is big news in biology. Proposing a name or getting it called after one's name is a great scientific honour.



Dr A P Jayaraman

■ The current year, 2017, was declared as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development by the United Nations. We still have a good number of days to

celebrate and promote the contribution of tourism to building a better world. Tourism accounts for 7% of worldwide exports, one in eleven jobs and 10% of the world's Gross Domestic Product. We need to be good guests and fine hosts in a flourishing tourism economy.

Ecotourism

Kerala Tourism has been conferred the coveted United Nations Award for creating innovative initiatives for sustainable tourism for its work in the backwater resort of Kumarakom. Kerala successfully connected the local community with the hospitality industry crafting a model for empowerment and development of the local people while sustaining eco-friendly tourism. The state has designed, developed and deployed an admirable model of ecotourism in 21 sites and another 56 spots are under development.

Smartness

Intelligence is great. Teachers are engaged in creating a community of students with situational intelligence, communicative intelligence and global intelligence. As human intelligence is flying high, Artificial intelligence (AI) is being created by science. Machines display intelligence mimicking the human mind. A mysterious character, "Master" has swept through China playing with superhuman speed and zero thinking time. All the great

Grandmasters of the strategy game Go went down as this Master won 60 out of 60 games! If this AI, a product of human intelligence, is further augmented a brave new world super intelligence will emerge. The Japanese insurance company, Fukoku Mutual, decided to remove at 34 of its office workers and busy install IBM's Watson AI. In India application of even elementary forms of AI in the banks will send many people looking for other jobs. It may be a real threat to many employed people. Stephen Hawking fears that AI could spell the end of the human race. Others believe that holding hands with AI we can hope to have super intelligence.

Skin Cancer

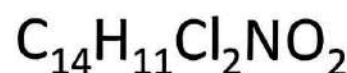
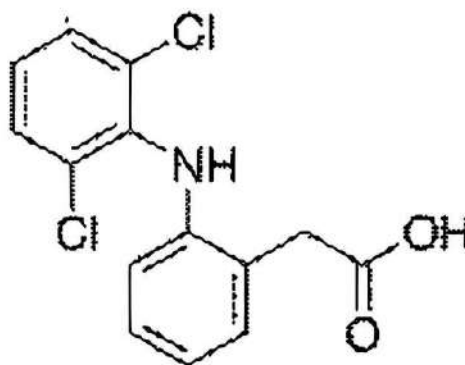
All forms of cancer are bad. Skin cancer is no exception. Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer. It

can be fatal as it can spread throughout the body very quickly and attack distant organs such as the brain and lungs. A chemical compound which can be a good drug able to stop the spread of melanoma by 90% has been discovered.

Iceberg

The northernmost major ice shelf in Antarctica is called Larsen C. It is about 350 metres thick and is as large as half of Kerala. This big iceberg is on the verge of breaking away. A long-running rift in the ice shelf grew suddenly and just 20km of ice is keeping the 5,000 sq km piece from floating away. This will make the whole shelf vulnerable to collapse, which would raise global sea levels by 10cm. Scientists have been tracking the rift in Larsen C with trepidation as they have seen two earlier collapses of Larsen A and B. Some believe that this is a geographical shift

Vulture Killer-Diclofenac



while others attribute it to climate change.

Strong but light weight

Heavy and strong go together. Light and strong seldom team up. Metallurgists have made the strongest light weight novel material. Flakes of graphene have been pressed hard and fused. It looks spongy. It is ten times stronger than steel but has only five percent of the density of steel. Shape is riddled with very tiny pore spaces making the material suitable for water and chemical filtration systems. The same geometry could be applied to large-scale structural materials. Concrete for a bridge might be made with this providing comparable strength with a fraction of the weight. It is possible to make materials with a density of just 5 percent of steel, but 10 times stronger!

Attack and Failure

Human heart is neither hard nor hardy. It is heir to a host of diseases. Most frightening in public mind is heart attack which is the blockage of arteries supplying blood to the heart. Congestive heart failure is a form of cardiovascular disease that results in the decreased ability of the heart to pump blood forward or the ability to fill the heart with blood in a cyclical manner. It affects over 41 million people worldwide. Now a new helper for heart is around the corner. It is a soft robotic sleeve that elegantly twists and compresses in synch with the beating heart. It augments cardiovascular functions weakened by heart failure. Mechanical pumps called ventricular assist devices are in use presently. They pump blood from the ventricles into the aorta. There is a risk of stroke and clot with this. Transplant is another solution. Tiny soft robots are a viable solution to make sick hearts beat normally.

Brain Ageing

Neurons and glia are the cells that make up our brain. In the cortex, the brain area that enables us to think, speak and be conscious, they are produced by a particular type of neural stem cell. The difference between an old brain and a young brain is not so much the number of neurons but the presence and function of supporting cells called glia. Neurobiologists examined post mortem brain samples from 480 persons ranging in age from 16 to 106. They found that the state of

glia is so consistent through the years that it can be used to predict age. This research work lays the foundation to understand glia's role in late-in-life brain disease

A New Ape

Discovery of a new species is big news in biology. Proposing a name or getting it called after one's name is a great scientific honour. A new species of gibbon has been discovered from the tropical forests of China. It has been named the Skywalker hoolock gibbon by its discoverers and scientific name, *Hoolocktianling*. 18 species of gibbon are already known. Gibbons are found from eastern Bangladesh and northeast India to southern China and Indonesia. They are noted for their loud song, which they use to mark their territory. Subtle differences in facial markings of white eyebrows and beard enabled scientists to identify the species and further genetic analysis confirmed new species.

Chimera

An American woman was motherly shocked when she was told that the children she gave birth to were not her own. It turned out that her twin was actually the biological mother of her children. She did not have a twin. It was discovered that the woman was in fact her own twin, confirmed by doctors to be a rare medical condition called human chimerism. Chimera is a mythological monster made from the body parts of many animals. For example there is a chimera in mythology that is a lion-goat-serpent monster

In genetics chimera is a single organism composed of cells from different zygotes. Biologists have created a human-pig hybrid in a milestone study that raises the prospect of being able to grow human organs inside animals for use in transplants. Pigs and cows are close to us in organ size. Pigs are attractive as cows are expensive. Work is in progress with pigs.

We see around us an amazing diversity of animals. These animals are made of many cells. We are made up 37 trillion cells. How did a single celled animal give birth to many celled animals? That was a great mystery in the glorious evolution of life. Few events in the history of life on Earth are as significant as the evolution of

multicellular animals from single-celled ancestors.

About billion years ago, evolution worked its way at molecular level. A single molecule called GK-PID-guanylate kinase protein interaction domain-did the trick. Animals depend on this molecule for growing different kinds of tissues. Without this molecule, cells donot develop into coherent structures. They grow into a messy mass and may lead to an end in cancer.

When a cell divides, it makes an extra copy of its chromosomes. Each set of chromosomes moves into the two new cells. GK-PID latches onto proteins that drag the chromosomes and attaches to anchor proteins on the inner wall of the cell membrane. Once those proteins are joined by GK-PID, the dragging proteins pull the chromosomes in the correct directions. That is the way the critical molecule plays its part. Scientists liken the molecule to a car abiner. A single, billion-year-old mutation helped multi-cellular animals evolve from the trap of single celled creatures. Such is the science story narrated by researchers in their Molecular Time Travel into the distant past.

Moon by Collision

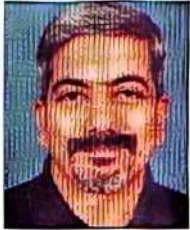
How was the moon formed? This question has many answers. But four of them are serious answers. A single planetary body split into earth and moon. This is simple and straight forward. Second view is that the moon was captured by the Earth because of its gravity. This is how smaller moons of outer planets were formed. Third view says the earth and the moon were formed at the same time when the proto planetary disc accreted. This is a rotating of gases and dust around the sun. Accretion means accumulation of particles into a massive object by gravitationally attracting more matter.

The best answer today is like this. In the very beginning, there never was a moon. About one hundred million years after the early earth took shape, it suffered a violent heady collision with a proto-planetary disc called Theia. That was a high speed crash 4.5 billion years ago. From the debris, two early moons took form. The two merged to form our only moon. The impact of Theia can be seen both on earth and the moon. The ratio of oxygen isotopes in the rocks of moon and earth is the same. That is the short story of moon as in 2017. ■

'Deewana hua Venkit.....'

PRESERVING LEGACY OF RAFISAAB

Passion for Mohammed Rafi's songs since college days made this technocrat a devotee of his songs.



Sriprakash Menon

'Mein pyaar ka rahi hoon.....' will greet you if you were to call him on his mobile not because this is a season for rain and romance. This caller tune also denotes how fondly

this person is in love with one and the only voice of the well known playback singer Mohammad Rafi - whose death anniversary falls on July 31. Passion for Mohammed Rafi's songs since college days made this technocrat a devotee, who is not leaving any stone unturned to sustain the legacy of Rafi songs. Through a special initiative Klub Nostalgia which he found after his retirement from the corporate world is keeping this 77 year young N R Venkitachalam, busy as ever.

Fondly called Venkit, Venkitachalam was born in Koduvayur (Palakkad) to Radhakrishna Sarma and Thangamma. "My father was legal adviser to Kochi Maharaja and later was Law Secretary to Travancore Raja. As a family we were three daughters and three sons. After completing matriculation from Trivandrum in 1956, I did Pre -University from Victoria College, Palakkad to join one of the earliest Engineering college at Thrissur. In fact, my wife, daughter of a doctor, Geeta Venkatachalam is also from the same college and did electrical engineering like me", he recalled.

Venkit recounted, "In 1965, I moved to Kolkata to join my brother. I joined Crompton Greaves and worked in several north east states as well. In 1983, I was posted to Mumbai as GM in Greaves. Till retirement as senior vice president in 2000, we were staying in south Mumbai. My wife was working in electronics department at the Kendriya Vidyalaya and she retired in 2006". His son Dilip (from IIT Kharagpur) is married and is working in Singapore while his daughter Shweta is from FTII and is married to film maker Vinil Mathew based in Mumbai.



N R Venkitachalam

"Right from my school days I was more interested in sports activities but a sudden turn in my life came when I heard a Rafi song 'toote huwe



Mohammad Rafi

kwabone.....' (Madhumati). This song triggered my keen interest in Rafi's voice. I was also fond of Tamil and Malayalam songs then. After coming to Mumbai, I was listening to all singers, somehow, I found magic in Rafi's voice", he felt.

After, his retirement, he confessed, "Everything happened by default and not by design. Despite being an Iyer, am not ritualistic or puja type but I believe in Godliness. I felt after working for 44 years let me live life on my terms and that's how Mohammed Rafi happened to me. I wanted to do good to the society, I was blessed with two things: hyper energy and enthusiasm. And to convert these two aspects into action I joined C R Balasubramaniam (originally from Chittur) who founded Mutually Beneficial Activities (MBA) Foundation - a rehabilitation centre at Powai and now has a bigger place in Airoli. Started with three children in 2001, it now has over 350 children. I am the Honorary Director of MBA Foundation to 'provide a life of self esteem and dignity for the disabled.'

During his social work, Venkit came across many talented singers and musicians especially those who were singing Rafi songs. "Initially we were having song sessions in our flat. My love for Rafi's voice flowered and I started organising Rafi Nites since 2004. From my drawing room sessions I took out Rafi songs to various halls for larger audience. An automobile entrepreneur friend Prem Kumar and me formed Klub Nostalgia in December 2004 with our first show at Mood Indigo, IIT Powai. It was a huge success".

"I knew that retro music can capture the imagination of the audience and that's what happened at our first show. With that kind of gut feeling we went show after show and till date we have done 255 shows with a young band of talented singers and musicians," he explained. Even today, Venkit said, "We get upcoming singers from every part of the country, sending their audio clips, aspiring to sing for Klub Nostalgia. My

music nites gave me boost to all my social activities as well, yet let me tell you, I am biased towards Rafisaab. Klub Nostalgia's main purpose is 'music for a noble cause'. All the money collected through the shows, go for charity purposes."

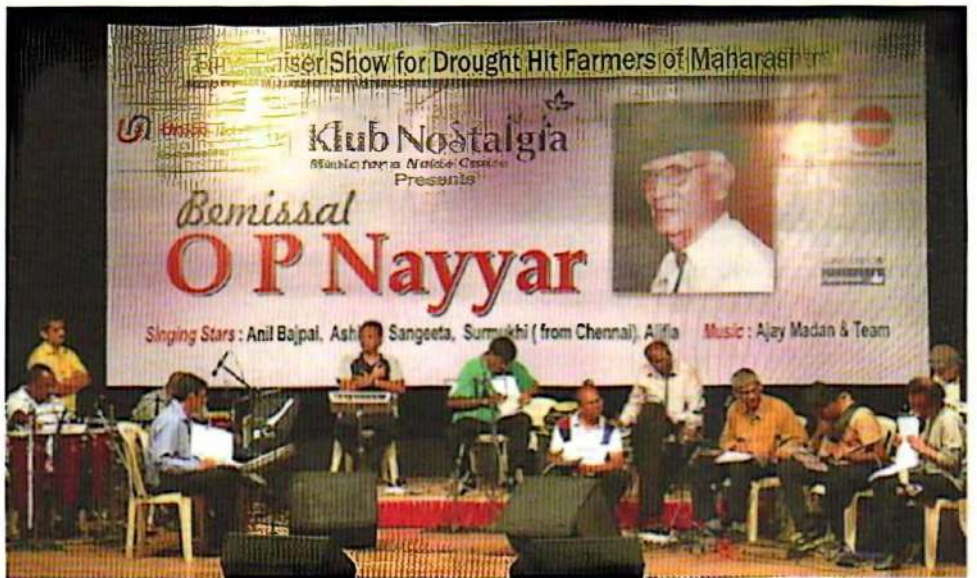
"For one of our shows, we invited Rafisaab's family members in 2008, since then our association developed. My admiration for Rafi was not to his voice alone but his human quality which is very rare to find. Last year a strange thing happened, when I was driving past Swami Vivekananda (SV) Road at Bandra West near Lucky Restaurant, I was shocked to see urchins dirtying the memorial site of Rafisaab. I straight away drove to Rafisaab's daughter Nasreen Ahmed's residence and urged them to do something to maintain the sanctity of his memorial. Rafisaab's son Shahid Rafi also became an intimate friend after my intervention. They said I should do everything possible to re-do the memorial and I took up the responsibility to get the approvals for refurbishing/renovating the memorial site," Venkit narrated.

On November 19, 2016, 'World of Mohammed Rafi Foundation' with Rafisaab's family members on board was launched and "the family insisted that I should be one of the directors. The mission of this Foundation is to help the needy and continue the charity work of Rafisaab about which very few people knew about. Our first charity show for the foundation will be organised on July 28, 2017. This show will be a tribute to Rafisaab and the entire proceeds will go to Vision Foundation - who are working for needy blind people with gift of sight and fighting against preventable blindness in India.

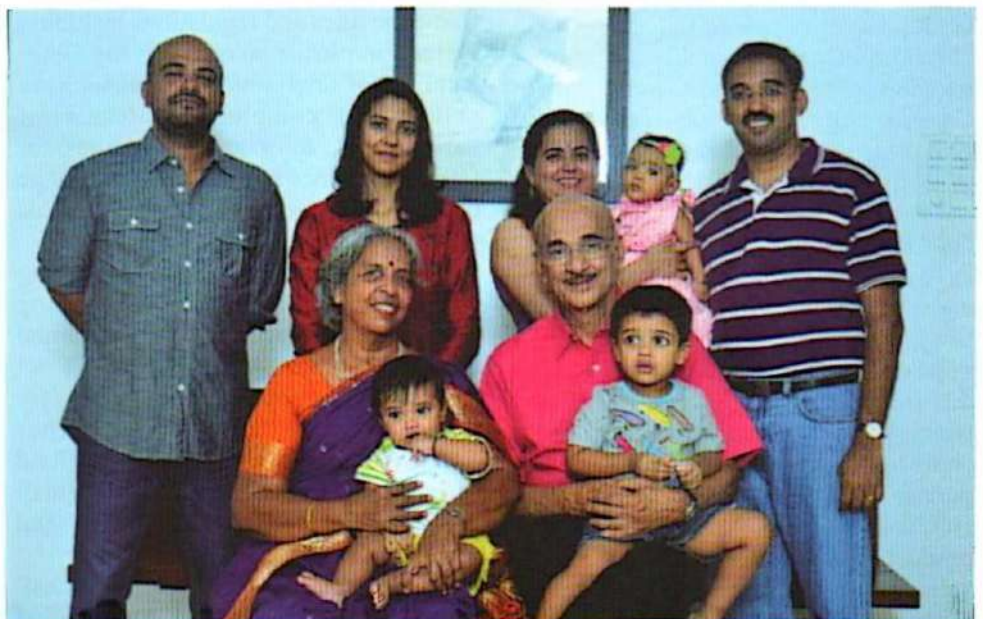
Talking about his favourite icon Rafisaab, Venkit said "he was a saint. Never asked anything for himself. He is remembered for his humility and innocence dedicated always to music. He never ran behind fame and money. I think, he is the only singer to have a global following and in that sense he is a 'Vishwa Ratna' ". Venkit cannot stop talking about Rafi but has to rush for another meeting and does not conclude without humming 'yaad na jaaye beethay dino ki.....". That's Rafi, an eternal voice, always refreshing and hauntingly melodious even in this digitally modified era of music. ■



Felicitating families of Rafi and Shammi Kapoor during a Klub Nostalgia Show



Musical show presented by Klub Nostalgia



Venkitachalam with his family

GST GOOD, BUT NOT SO SIMPLE TAX



P I Jose

■ India's biggest tax reform - GST (Goods and Services Tax) rolled out on 1st July this year is good and simple tax as the government has portrayed, but very complex for compliance by the small and micro enterprises. GST can be described as a trust with destiny. General public or individual consumers are not concerned about the GST regime, but the business community has to take the brunt for its transition by following all the rules and cumbersome filing procedures. Companies are spending too much of time and money to train up their employees to be GST ready - with seminars, training programmes and installing latest software. The Chairman of GSTN has commented in an interview with Bloomberg TV that India's GST is the most complex of all the countries which have implemented this system.

Difficulties in compliance:

An estimated 160 countries in the world implemented GST in some form or other. There were initial hiccups and protests in some countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Puerto Rico and Canadian province British Columbia before settling down with GST. Hence, implementation is the key word. India could have adopted the system of "Monthly, Quarterly or Yearly returns" based on sales turnover, as in the case of Canada the model chosen by our government. It could ease the burden of monthly filings for small businesses.

There are three monthly filings under GST, viz. GSTR-1, GSTR-2 and GSTR-3 as against previous quarterly filings under VAT. One has to be very careful in filing the correct returns as there is a system of "Invoice matching" between the filings of supplier and the buyer which will determine the ITC (input tax credit) or the Refund as applicable for the purchases. Any mismatch of item-wise H.S.N. code, sale / purchase value, product specifications, failure to file valid returns, etc. or delay in payment of tax by the supplier will result in rejection



of ITC or refund. Small businesses are nervous about ITC / Refund getting rejected on account of unintentional mistakes from either side of the supply chain.

Another problematic area is imposing tax on advance payment and balance tax to be paid after supply of goods. There could be administrative difficulties for the manufacturers in adjusting tax amount paid on advances, and also claiming refund in case of cancellation of order. Trademarks and Goodwill also attract GST of 18%.

Small businesses distressed under GST

Finance ministry is of the view that business community is unprepared for GST compliance. Government has got the machinery and money at their command to engage top software companies and department officials to frame the rules and regulations including system implementation. On the other hand, as of now small businesses have neither the complete awareness of various acts, rules and procedures for GST compliance nor the funds to engage highly paid consultants and professionals to handle the same.

Many of the businessmen running small and micro enterprises are spending too much of their time to study and understand various sections of GST act and rules to be followed which calls for three monthly filings and other procedures for input tax credit or refund as applicable. It will be difficult for small entrepreneurs to focus on sales and marketing for the interim period.

There is no price advantage for small manufacturers below the turnover of

Rs.1.5 crores, who were not excisable units under the previous Central excise act. The excise duty of 12.5% was not applicable for them, hence the billing was done only by adding 5.5% VAT or CST and they had a cost advantage over larger companies charging excise duty besides sales tax on their invoices to customers.

Ideally, GST should have been rolled out from the next financial year; until then introduce the system, software, etc., provide training to departmental staff and give 3 to 4 months time for business community to study and get acquainted. Until now even the departmental staff, including seniors are not fully aware of the GST rules, formats and system implementation. Moreover, Business organizations, Chartered accountants and Consultants are busy with auditing of accounts and annual filing of Income tax, VAT, etc. as well as completing ROC (registrar of companies) procedures at this point of time.

The government expects minimum interface of tax payers with tax authorities through the common portal known as GSTN. Nonetheless, the annual audit by tax authorities (other than audit by Chartered Accountant) for registered entities above Rs. one crore turnover will nullify the advantage.

Composition Scheme

To help retailers and small businesses the government has introduced Composition Scheme on following conditions:

■ Sales turnover (for goods) not exceeding Rs.75 lacs in previous financial year.

■ Only intra-state supply is allowed (not inter-state).

■ Composition dealer will not be eligible to claim ITC (input tax credit).

■ As the dealer is not eligible to claim ITC, he cannot issue tax invoice as well.

■ A buyer will not be able to claim input tax credit on goods bought from a composition dealer.

■ Such dealer has to file only Quarterly return in Form No.GSTR-4 (summarized return) and no invoice-wise details are to be filed, plus annual return in GSTR-9A.

■ There is no need to maintain detailed records by composition dealer, as in case of other tax payers under GST.

■ Manufacturers to pay 2% and other suppliers 1% towards CGST & SGST combined.

Unregistered dealer

Dealers having a sales turnover below Rs. 20 lacs for goods or services do not have to register under GST. Given that Unregistered dealers do not charge tax on their invoices, the registered customer becomes liable to pay tax under "reverse charge mechanism". Under normal circumstances, the supplier charge tax and in turn pays to government; but in this situation the receiver becomes liable to pay tax, or in other words the chargeability gets reversed, hence the term used is reverse charge.

It would be beneficial for companies to buy from unregistered dealer only in case the tax paid on certain goods or services bought from registered dealer is not available as input credit.

Impact of GST on Export sector

India's merchandise export reached the highest level of US\$ 314 billion in FY 2013-14 and the following three years saw a decline. After achieving \$ 314 billion, exports tumbled to \$ 262.29 billion registering a sharp contraction in the financial year 2015-16, and subsequently signalled a modest revival last year (FY-17) at \$ 276.28. If we had achieved a reasonable growth of 10% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) from the financial year 2013-14, our exports would have scaled up to \$ 418 billion last year.

In the aftermath of GST roll out, at the time of writing this critique on 25th July, Exporters are holding back stock of goods in factories and warehouses as the system is not in place within Customs departments at ports and ICDs, including JNPT and Mulund ICD in Mumbai. There is anomaly on procedures including Bond / LUT while passing shipping documents. A few of the exporters have filed their Invoices and Shipping Bills without providing all necessary information as per GST requirements since proper invoice format was not available from the authorities in the public domain. The input tax credit or refund for such shipments may be at stake.

Weak economic indicators in domestic market

■ GDP growth slows down to 6.1% Jan-March quarter FY-2016-17. (Annual growth 7.1% as against 8% in previous fiscal).

■ Manufacturing PMI slowed to 50.9 in June 2017 from 51.6 in May.

■ Job creation is at 5 year low as reported by ET. Globally too India has slipped to No.7 on hiring expectations of employers among 43 countries surveyed (seventh position after Japan, Taiwan, Hungary, US, Hong Kong and Turkey). Manufacturing and Services sectors are showing steepest decline.

■ Hiring of talent for GST implementation may be momentary and once system is in place, these positions will become redundant.

■ IT engineers will be less in demand due to visa restrictions in US. White collar and blue collar employees are returning from Gulf countries since these nations are facing economic crisis, major reason being oil glut and crude oil price reducing to less than half from the year 2014.

■ Remittances from NRIs employed outside the country dropped from US\$ 68.9 billion in the year 2015 to \$ 62.7 billion in 2016 (almost a fall of 9 percent).

■ Oil import in FY-18 may rise to US\$ 88 billion from US\$ 70 billion in previous financial year due to price rebound. Gold (second largest item of import after oil) also witnessed an

upward trend in the first two months of current financial year.

■ India's gold imports in tonnage for the first half of 2017 crossed the entire imports of 2016. The total import was 510 tonnes in the whole of 2016 against January to June 2017 of 521 tonnes as per data compiled by GFMS Thomson Reuters. In terms of value it stands at \$ 23 billion for the first half of 2017 according to Ministry of commerce. All this will push up the trade deficit and current account deficit.

Advantages of GST

About 17 Central and State Taxes have been subsumed under GST, hence the hassle of dealing with a number of departments is minimised, and the interface of tax payer with tax authorities will be through the common portal known as GSTN. Moreover, the cascading effect of various taxes is done away with. Under GST regime, exporters will be refunded all input taxes, unlike the previous tax administration where refund on certain taxes were not given due to fragmented nature of indirect taxes.

Conclusion

Lack of awareness among business community and clarity in rules and procedures are hurdles for smooth implementation of this momentous reform. If this is taken care, and corruption eliminated, GST will be the best reform that will bring economic prosperity for our country in the long run. ■

Obituary

Smt. Gouri Panicker wife of Late Guru Krishna Panicker expired on July 11 at Andheri, Mumbai. She hailed from Tiruvalla, Pattanamthitta District. She came to Mumbai in 1950. Along with her husband Late Guru Krishna Panicker she founded in 1960 'Nrityaprabha' (School of Indian Classical Dances). The couple along with their six daughters Prasanna, Radha, Rema, Ambika, Girija and Shailaja were performing and conducting Indian Classical Dances. Her daughters and granddaughters continue to perform and conduct dance classes.

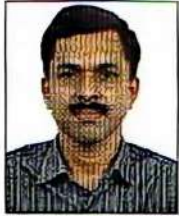


Smt. Gouri Panicker



Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala

Ayurarogyasoukhyam



Dr. K. Devikrishnan

■ The Sanskrit idiom *Ayurarogyasoukhyam* (the last word in Shrimad Narayaneeyam, a great work by Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiripad) in a

nutshell imbibes the philosophy of Ayurveda, considered to be the subtext of Atharva Veda, the fourth Veda that handles the formulas and spells intended to counteract diseases and calamities. Ayurveda is the science of life span.

When we decipher this Sanskrit complex word, it tells about the long life, health and happiness i.e., the state of body and mind. Our ancient *rishis* who lived along the Himalayan valley, forests and river banks used to meet at

least once in a year and discuss their thinking and conclusions among themselves. The final outcome of their discussions were mostly inscribed on palm leaves, treated to last long, while some parts were left unwritten but remembered by the group. These conclusions form the basis of Ayurveda, the science of health and life. This is one of the great contributions of India to the world for the benefit of the mankind. Their conclusions were written in the form of quatrains (*sloka*) to facilitate easy remembrance. Ayurveda deals with the healthy life period of human beings. Ayurveda not only cures the disease but also keeps the harmony of health by balancing *tridoshas* in the body.

Our ancient *rishis* firmly believed in Nature and its other assets and their

properties. They found that Nature has provided remedial measures also for a long healthy life but to enjoy such a life, one has to follow certain rituals and practices. They worshipped Nature as God for preparing the world for a healthy living of plants and animals of all kinds. They meditated on Nature and also preserved them. They believed in *Panchamahabhootham* (earth, water, fire, sky and air) that make all animate and inanimate things in this world. They also identified the three energetic forces (*Thridosham*) *Vata*, *pitha* and *kapha* that manage the life. When the *thridoshas* are balanced, the health is preserved and developed leading to a contented life and happiness. When these elements are imbalanced for various reasons, ailments start leading to ill-health and shorter life span.



panchakarma

- >> Vamana
- >> Virechana
- >> Nasya
- >> Basti
- >> Raktamokshana

Ayurveda is a wholesome integrated science of health. It deals with life span, health, ailments, daily routines, seasonal routines, food intake with instructions of what, when, how much etc so that one can lead a perfectly healthy life devoid of any types of ailments.

The tale about the genesis of Ayurveda is as follows:

Lord Brahma taught Ayurveda to Daksha Prajapati. He in turn transferred that knowledge to twin gods Ashwini, Devendra, rishis Atreya and Agnivesha. They segregated the knowledge and codified the most important parts in a book called *Ashtangahridaya*. This is the most revered text by the practitioners of Ayurveda in Kerala. Invoking Dhanwanthiri, the book transcends to sutra, shareer, nidanam, chikitsa, kalpa and uttara phases.

When a person is free from body or mental ailments, he can be called healthy. There are instructions about when to wake up, when to start the daily chores, how to lead the daily tasks etc. Change of food types according to seasons is also covered. Benefits of applying of oil on body, importance of physical exercise, protection of eyesight by application of Eileen etc are also detailed. It tells us about the steps to be taken for a perfect healthy life on a day to day basis. It also tells us that everything in this world is a medicine and nothing is a waste. Even a blade of grass is medicine, it reminds us.

Treatments

Treatment is generally classified as *Shodhana* (motion) and *Shamana* (cure). *Shodhana* itself is segregated into *vamanam* (vomiting), *virechanam* (purging), *nasyam* (treating through nose), *kashayavasti* (treating through bladder using decoction) and *snehavasti* (treatment using oils). When the aggregated dosha is eliminated from the body by forced vomiting, it is called *vamanam*. *Virechanam* is forced excretion using purgative medicines. By *nasyam* we mean removal of negative elements

from head by dropping medicated liquid into nostrils of the patient. By forced entry of *Kashayam* (medicinal decoction) or medicated oils through anus into the body, undesirable elements from the body can excreted and this process is termed *vasti*.

In *shamana chikitsa*, the doctors use *kashayam*, tablets, *arishtam*, *leham* (medicine in paste form), *choornam* (powder), *Bhasmas*, Oils etc either in combination or separately, to bring the illness under control. The level of *thridosha* determines the mode of

kaya (general to the entire body), *Bala* (infant and the woman who delivered), *graham* (mental), *shalakya* or *Oordhanga* (eye, ear, nose, face) and *Visha* (poison).

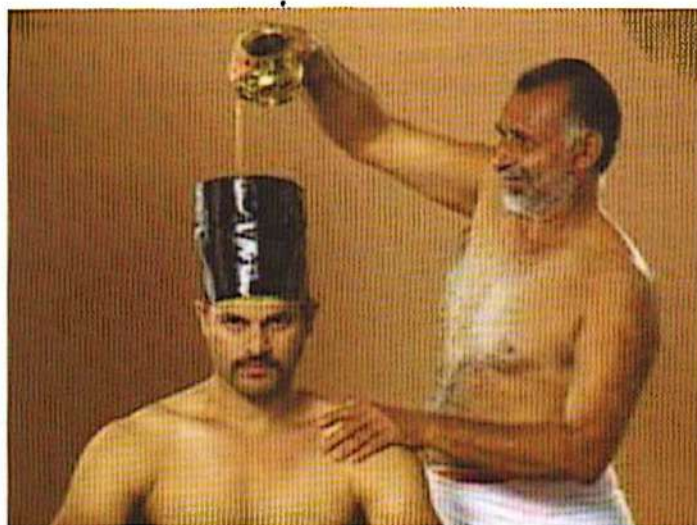
Shalya chikitsa is the equivalent of modern surgery. Sushrutacharya is considered the father of surgery. Ailments caused by poison are treated by *agadatantra*. *Rasayana* chikitsa deals with issues related to *dhatupushti* (growth of body), memory and long life. *Vajeekarana* deal with problems related to copulation.

Ayurveda, the Veda of life science, has flourished to what we see now is truly due to the enormous contribution of the eminent *Acharyas*.

Ashtavaidyas, Itti Achuthan, Vaikkathu Pachu Muthathu, Kaikkulangara Rama Varier, Kayikkara P M Govindan Vaidyan, Vaidyaratnam P S Varier, Manakkodan Kesavan Vaidyan, Eledathu Taikkattu Narayanan Mooss etc. For the popularity and preservation of Ayurvedic medicines we are indebted to Vaidyaratnam P S Varier, founder of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala. He initiated the manufacturing and logistics of ayurvedic medicines on a commercial basis so that patients could use quality medicines at affordable prices. The international glory that Ayurveda has achieved in this decade owes a lot to the great contributions of P S Varier. Ayurvedic education, medicine manufacturing, popularising Ayurveda, Aryavaidya Samajam, Malayalam musical drama and Kathakali are the areas to which invaluable contributions

were made by this great entrepreneur and visionary. A gifted and well-known Ayurvedic practitioner, Panniyampilly Sankunni Varier, instituted Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala in 1902. Ayurveda is, contrary to the public belief, always open to the developments in other branch of medical science. Ayurveda has used modern pharmaceutical science, biochemistry, biotechnology, botany, chemistry, law, engineering, information technology etc for its growth and global recognition.

To be popular and acceptable



Treatment with oils

treatment, i.e., *Shodhana* or *Shamana*. If the level is not high, *Shamana* is adequate. For *panchakarma* treatment, age, physical and mental health and intensity of the ailment etc are to be taken into account. Many people believe that ayurvedic treatment is pure and has no side effect but that is not true. Some ingredients have reactions. Proper analysis by the doctor is therefore essential. It is true for *panchakarma* also.

Depending on the type of ailment, the treatment is specific for the eight parts (*ashtanga*) of the body. They are

internationally for the Ayurveda treatment and medicines, they have to undergo recognised trials over long periods and come out successfully. The results are to be interpreted using modern methods and favourable judgements only bring recognition to Indian medical science. Manufacture of medicines is put under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by the government of India. Committee for Ayurveda Pharmacopoeia has published books containing codified QA directions for the manufacture of medicines. Department of Ayush and Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha still continue similar efforts now.

The entire knowledge about Ayurveda is inscribed and preserved in text form spread over a number of books. They deal with the health, disease and remedial measures. Most prominent books among them are Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanghrudayam, Ashtangasamgraham, Sharngadhara Samhita, Madhavanidanam, Bhavaprakasam, Bhaishajya Ratnavali, Sahasrayogam and Rasaratna Samuchayam. For a comprehensive treatment, the doctors have to comprehend the text of all these books.

Treatment is nothing but avoiding or eradicating the causes of disease. There are many factors that lead to reduction of resistance power and non-conducive to health. We should identify them and keep them away to keep our body healthy. Food, vitality, digestion, location, age and mental strength etc are some factors essential for maintenance of health. A patient should be fully aware of the reasons for his illness. Communicable diseases, fever, diabetes, cardiac ailments, mental problems, respiratory diseases, menstrual problems of women, diseases related to unhygienic environment etc are still on the rise. Our society is in the process of discovering a state of perfect health for all. In such circumstances, drugs capable of preventing diseases, food habits capable of improving resistance power, life styles and exercises have great importance.

Diseases Vs Season

Ayurveda tells that the major cause of disease is inadequate digestive power. Indian medical system is suitable for our climate and life style. It is closer to nature also. It is therefore

essential to adopt this system for betterment of all.

Ayurveda describes the importance of daily routine and seasonal routines. Though it is difficult to adapt the points in our life these days, we should remember that the secret of better health among our ancestors was due to their adherence to these principles. As we move away from nature, possibility of reduced health would increase.

When Vata, pitha and Kaphas are in equilibrium, the health will be perfect and when they lose their equilibrium, the body faces ill-health. A mere absence of illnesses does not mean one is healthy but when both the body and mind are in harmony, that state is called healthy.

Importance of food intake



A painting depicting treatment

Vata becomes off balance when one eats excessively food that tastes bitter, sour and/or hot at odd timings, not relieving oneself on time, inadequate sleep, sadness and fear and unnecessary broodings etc.

When food having excessive bitter, salty, acrid, chilly hot, sour tastes, of high temperature, is frequently consumed, pitha dosha dominates. Excessive sleeping during daytime, food with excessive sweet, oily or cold food and an idle body would also cause kapha dosha.

The need of a steady regime of habits such as rising everyday at a particular time, cleansing the body, hygienic conduct, timely bath, bodily exercises etc are prescribed in our texts. Those who adhere to these prescriptions, according to Ashtangahridaya, will have health and long life.

The food one consumes everyday should be pleasing and of right measure. It should meet the digestive power of the body and also be balanced in content. Eating frequently, when not hungry, not eating when hungry, remaining hungry for long time, excessive chilly-hot items, all contribute to adverse effects and may cause digestive ailments. Indigestion, pyrosis, tastelessness, burning sensation, excessive belching, gastritis etc may result in uneasiness and ulcer. Working in an air-conditioned room for long hours may affect the health of vertebral column. Persistent lumbago, neck pain, pain in the limbs, stiffening of fingers, numbness, swelling of legs, indigestion may also result. Application of oils like Dhanwantharam Tailam on body and limbs, on medical advice, would bring

relief if applied much before bath. For related diseases, medication will be needed.

External influence

One should take care to eliminate presence of bacteria in air-conditioned rooms. Bacteria may cause continuous cold, throat pain, loss of voice, sneezing, fever etc. According to the physical condition of the individual, there may be ups and downs in these ailments. Over a period of time, even asthma etc may develop. These ailments generally occur when there are rapid changes in atmospheric temperature. Intake of Indukantham Kashayam Vyoshadi Vatakam, Harindrakhandam etc, on medical advice, will eliminate fever, anaemia, reduced body resistance etc. If these ailments are hereditary, some elixir on medical advice may also be needed besides the above mentioned

remedies to reduce the intensity of ailments.

Job oriented mental tensions, disoriented work schedule, heavy work load without rest, deep strains about incomplete work, inability to complete work on time etc may cause mental disorders resulting in physical health. Blood pressure, cardiac problems, diabetes etc are on the rise these days. A healthy mind needs a healthy body. Less people are currently found reading our mythologies, epics, classics etc. Reading habit is a good energizer for mind. Good books always help to cleanse the mind, improve its analytical ability and develop a progressive outlook. Pranayamam is a good exercise to keep away from problems

and artificial cold drinks, fruits sprayed with pesticide, unboiled water, contaminated food, communicable diseases, excessive use of beauty aids with artificial colours, excessive use of drugs with side effects etc play a major role in bringing down health and reducing body resistance. Change in climate, change in seasons etc increase the possibility of bringing ill-health. Selection of food according to summer, winter and rainy seasons is desirable. Food not conducive to season may adversely affect our health. Untimely change of seasons is seen these days. If changes in nature according to the season do not take place, our body resistance may decrease. We are then more amenable to ill-health.

be taken. Rasanadi Choornam should be smeared to alleviate swelling. For fever in new born babies, the juice of Panikoorka (*Plectranthus ambonicus*) mixed with honey could be given. Ayurveda treats fever as a major symptom and prescribes various remedies. Since most of the diseases show fever as a symptom, the principle of fever treatment is usually adopted for other diseases also. To prevent spreading of germs, it is advisable to smoke the room by burning a mixture of neem leaves, *Commiphora wightii* (guggulu), *Saussurea costus* (kottam), *Terminalia chebula* (katukka), *Brassica juncea* (mustard), *Boswellia serrata* (kunthurukkam), *Cedrus deodara* (deodar) etc. When feverish, one should avoid oily bath, exercises, napping, heavy food etc. To seek relief from fever, people use many herbs such as *Tinospora cordifolia* (chittamrutu), neem, Basil (*Tulasi*), dry ginger (chukku), pepper, long pepper (*Thippali*), garlic, nut grass (muthanga), *Terminalia chebula* (katukka), *Emblica officinalis* (Nellikka), *Terminalia bellerica* (Thannikka), *Oldenlandia corymbosa* (parpatakappullu) etc.

Even after having relief from fever, the food intake should be desirable to the body. Intake without control will lead to only recurrence of fever. The essence of Ayurveda is to avoid the causes of disease. It is necessary to comprehend the basics of Ayurveda and practice them religiously to remain healthy. Always think of good things. An unhappy mind would affect the body also. As we keep our body healthy, keep our surroundings also healthy. That will ensure our health.

Turmeric, gooseberry, basil, pomegranate, green gram, wheat, honey etc are capable of resisting diseases and so try to include them in our daily intake. Items not beneficial to the body should be avoided. The impact of the non-beneficial food items would be known much later in the form skin diseases. Consumption of medicines capable of keeping the blood pure and occasional use of purgatives would keep the diseases away to a certain extent.

Those who desire long life for the attainment of uprightness, wealth and pleasure here and hereafter should regard the precepts of Ayurveda with utmost reverence. ■

(The author is Senior Manager (Quality Assurance) of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal)



Dr P K Varier with Venkaiah Naidu

of lungs and bring order in our thoughts. It is relevant to remember the poetic quote "We alone create heaven and hell for us." Indian medical science enunciated by our Rishis is built on the thought that everyone in this world should be healthy and happy.

Ayurveda tells us that the most important organ of the body is eye. A blind person cannot envisage world. Even ugly sights also affect the health of eyes. When we work relentlessly, we are neglecting the health of eyes. Applying oils benevolent to eyes may be applied on head, dropping Elaneer Kuzhambu, Netramritam etc in eyes as per physician's prescription, Triphaladi Choornam mixed with honey are some remedies for eye diseases.

Food with excessive fat, liquor, smoking, oily foods, old refrigerated food, re-heated food items, coloured

In today's hurried life, we have to resort to all sorts of remedial measures to remain healthy. We should daily have beneficial and balanced food intake:

Against fever, normally we have medicines like Amritarishtam, Sudarsanasavam, Chavikasavam, Vettumaran gulika, GoroChanadi gulika, Sheetajwarari Kwitham tablet, Indukantam kashayam, Dasamoolakatutrayadi Kashayam etc. According to the status of fever, many medicines are prescribed. Food should be simple (gruel, green gram, horse gram etc). Perspiration, steaming etc remove obstacles from the sources. To increase hunger and digestive power, one can mix Ashtachornam, Brihat Vaiswanarachoornam etc in boiled buttermilk and consume. If there is throat pain along with fever, Talispatradi Choornam, Mridweekadi Leham etc can

Remarkable Coincidences



P V Ramanathan

■ Sometimes, seemingly ordinary actions carry within themselves seeds of unpredictable or unanticipated endings.

Jawaharlal Nehru used to stay in Pre-Independence days with one Satyamurthy, a leading lawyer of Madras. To make Nehru's stay comfortable, Satyamurthy gave Nehru his domestic help to be of assistance to Nehru. However, in the night, the boy used to snore, causing inconvenience to Nehru. Needless to say, the boy was replaced.

This may be a small matter to find a place of mention anywhere, least of all not to be part of any historical record. But a historical record, it turned out to be.

The boy grew up to be none but Kamaraja Nadar who had a major hand in making Indira Gandhi the Prime Minister of India. From being an unknown boy hailing from an obscure village, he rose to fame and power and became a force to reckon with in Indian Politics and was regarded as a man of robust common sense and was

politically indestructible.

Nehru, or for that matter anyone could have least imagined that a great potential future was so near him.

A farmer saw a boy drowning in the quagmire of a filthy pond and saves him from certain death, as the swirling current of water could suck him in any time.

It was a fortuitous interference and the presence of the farmer at that time of the impending calamity was inexplicable and the only reason could be that a mysterious force governs and controls all worldly activities - whether of human or of the tiniest insect and we have little control over many things in life. Where human efforts reach their inexorable end, manifest destiny takes over as an inevitable concomitant.

The boy happens to be a rich man's son. And the rich man hearing the incident of the boy being saved from the jaws of death tries to reward the farmer with money which the farmer declines. Unable to accept things as they stood, the rich man offers to impart education to the farmer's son in the same measure he would do with his own son. The farmer agreed to the offer.

As time passed, the rich man's son fell sick of a fatal disease which only the invented medicine of the farmer boy- turned- doctor could save. And the boy was saved.

The doctor was Sir Alexander Fleming who invented Penicillin. And the boy saved was Sir Winston Churchill.

The manner in which the Nobel Foundation was established was not only astounding but was an accidental outcome of a misleading news report.

Alfred Nobel was an arms dealer world-wide and one day he saw the newspapers carrying a stomach-churning news that Alfred, the Merchant of Death was no more. In fact the one who had died was his brother with the similar name.

The news not only rattled Alfred but also made him question within himself the very validity of his existence as a human being. He was shattered to realise how the world regarded him, that he was a merchant of death, an embodiment of evil, a savage manifestation of death and destruction in the midst of a sea of peaceful humanity.

Alfred abandoned his death-dealing activities and established the present Nobel Foundation as an everlasting monument and as an eternal retribution to what he had done.

More often, reality is stranger than fiction. While fiction has its origin in the mind of man, reality has its origin from the womb of Nature which weaves kaleidoscopic patterns imperceptible to the ordinary human eye.

If one cares to probe deep into the incident of the farmer saving the drowning boy, the farmer's presence at the tragic spot, and the farmer having a son who can rise to the occasion to make the best of the offered opportunity, (because he had a job to do in times to come - that of saving the life of the rich man's son), one will find that all the pieces are falling in place to piece together the tapestry of a glorious destiny and the hand of God is not invisible to those who believe.

Miracles do keep happening always and everywhere; if only we are willing to see the causes behind every event - the why and wherefore of them. ■



Satyamoorthy



Nehru



Kamaraj



Alexander Fleming



Winston Churchill



Alfred Nobel

RISING CARDIOVASCULAR EPIDEMIC IN INDIA

The Indian Subcontinent is the new Cardiovascular & Diabetic Capital of the World. Maximum newly diagnosed diabetic patients are of Indian origin. Indians on an average suffer from Cardio-vascular ailments 10 years earlier than the rest of the world. Add to that, Indians have approximately 20% smaller coronary blood vessels as compared to the western world. Carbohydrate rich Indian food with lesser fibre and proteins coupled with physical inactivity in an urban populace makes them highly susceptible to cardiac events.

Young adolescence both male & females taking up smoking as a fashion statement and partly because of peer pressure accelerates the process of wear & tear in blood vessels from an young age. Smoking is the number one attributable risk factor for heart related problems in less than 35 year olds.

The 2K generation aptly called the I-pad generation fed on Junk foods has problems of Childhood Obesity (Couch Potatoes) making them even more vulnerable in the long run.

Are Pure-vegetarians at a lower risk?

Paradoxically, Indian vegetarian diet rich in carbohydrates, is extremely low in proteins (less than 5%) and lacks



Dr. Anup Taksande

essential vitamins & micro nutrients resulting in higher Homocysteine levels which is a risk factor for cardiac events.

Warning Signs & Symptoms

- Breathlessness and chest heaviness on Physical activity
- Severe Chest pain at rest with sweating
- Pain in the jaw/ left arm/upper abdomen

Early diagnosis & Intervention

There should be no delay/hesitation in doing an ECG, if you have the above symptoms. In case of a Heart Attack, early Coronary Angiography and opening of the occluded artery by early Angioplasty (PAMI) is the preferred treatment of choice. Earlier the PAMI, more is the heart muscle saved.

Time Saved is Muscle Saved!!

Golden hour for doing PAMI is within 3 hours and preferably within 6 hours for maximum benefit to the patient.

Holistic Approach

Prevention is better than cure. Mindfulness in eating (Calorie counting), Sleeping & Physical activity (counting steps) coupled with stress alleviation by Yoga, Vipassana will lead to a balanced physical & mental state; helping to keep cardiac diseases at bay.

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Aksharaslokam VI

- Guruji

Our poets of last generation were keen observers and listeners that what they experienced they put into their poetry. See how Kodungalloor Kunhikuttan Thampuran in his instant poetic play 'Dakshayaga Shatakam' present the character of Dakshayani questioning her husband Lord Shiva when he refused to go to the Yaga of her father Daksha:

“എന്നാലും താതതല്ലേ? പുനരവിടെ നട-
 ക്കുന്നതും യാഗമല്ലേ?
 ചെന്നാലും നിങ്ങളല്ലേ? പരമവിടെ വിശ-
 ഷിച്ചു ചെല്ലേണ്ടതല്ലേ?
 ഇന്നെന്താണിഷ്ടമല്ലേ? തവ ദുഃഖമെഴുന്ന-
 ഉള്ളതിനിബ്ഭാവമില്ലേ?
 നന്നല്ലേ മട്ടു വല്ലെങ്കിലുമിഹ മമ വാ-
 ക്കിന്നു സിദ്ധാന്തമല്ലേ?”

Poet Vallathol Narayana Menon goes one step forward. He even presents Parvathi getting ready to question Lord Shiva.

ഉടൻ മഹാദേവിയിടത്തുകയ്യാൽ
 അഴിഞ്ഞ വാർക്കുഴലൊന്നൊതുക്കി
 ജാലിച്ച കൺകൊണ്ടൊരു നോക്കു നോക്കി
 പാർശ്വസ്ഥനാകും പതിയോടുതുച്ചാൾ.

She then puts all her frustrations into sarcastic comments for which poor Shiva has no answer.

“കിട്ടിലയോ ദക്ഷിണ വേണ്ടുവോളം
 വിശിഷ്ടനാം ശിഷ്യനിൽനിന്നിദാനീം
 ദിവ്യായുധം വേറെയുമുണ്ടുവെങ്കി-
 ലെന്നാലതും നൽകിയനുഗ്രഹിക്കാം.”

ENCOUNTER WITH THE DISASTROUS RAINS- A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION



Jose Chemmassery

■ 26th July 2005 was the rainiest day in Mumbai. It continued to rain for more than ten hours without any break. With 94 cm torrential rains it felt as if the black clouds in the

dark sky have opened their underbelly never to close. Gushing turbid waters from the hillocks to the roads near the film city-Goregaon, main roads, express highways turning to waterlogged broad sheets, unprotected and open man holes turned death traps to the weary as well as uninformed pedestrian. It was a macabre/horrible disaster partly man made in the city of dreams. The weather forecast for the day with cloudy skies, gusty winds, temperature below normal proved to be nothing but a breeze before the onslaught of a furious tornado. It was water everywhere and disaster lurking behind.

I will never forget that day of rainy wrath. As usual I was on my job of investigating the occupancy pattern of the flats under Bank's loan. Verifying the inmates/occupants whether they are borrowers, owners, tenants or strangers etc was the action point with the objective of detection of fraudulent transaction. The branch had a tourist car arranged to take us around along with an assistant from the branch as a witness and help. We had a cup of tea from a roadside vendor somewhere near to a big residential complex in Malad East. It started raining around 11.00 am with accompanying gusty winds. As we proceeded to the Goregaon East covering the film city area it started down pouring heavily. The gusty winds wilted the frame work of umbrellas opened by us to shield the rain. It was of no help. The accumulated rain water from the umbrella was falling on our clothes. Our wet clothes were dripping with rain water and closely stuck to our cold bodies making us uncomfortable, leading to an eerie and shivering feeling. Every house we visited was closed at their entrance door and nobody was visible outside in front. It was two inch sheet of water at the entrance and surrounding floor area.

Strong winds were blowing with a booming sound. Entrance doors were closed to prevent the rain water reaching/ rushing inside the flats even on the higher floors of four storied MHADA buildings.

We were identifying and counting the flats covered from the record sheets held in a plastic folder, the basis of our investigation job. As there was no communication from any source we could not know the impact of the rains outside our area where we were located. We wandered from one flat to another climbing up and down the stairs of small buildings without lift to ascertain and verify the genuineness of the holder/occupant. As our task was to cover maximum number of units before closing for the day we were exerting to complete survey of the area covered

shouting not to take this road, avoid that road etc, made our driver fumble despite his best efforts to control the journey. We wandered from Goregaon East to Kandivli forwards and backwards to explore our access and crossover to the west without finding an exit. We became impatient, hopeless, scared and felt trapped in the hands of enraged nature with furious and torrential rains. With several attempts failed, we could finally find a narrow road from the east to the west passing by a bloating rivulet /nallah with turbid water and household waste to the brim. It was a stinking scene of watery mess. Our return journey took almost two hours to reach S V Road Malad west. In the normal course the distance could be covered within fifteen minutes.

Since the Link Road was under



before we return. Finally we decided to close our work at 3.00 pm to return to our homes as we felt trouble galore on the way. Turbid waters gushing from the small hillocks near the buildings and the un-interrupted rains gave us an indication of the possible grim events to unfold. All the while we were famished as we could not find an eating joint.

Our troublesome return journey was taking us from one spot to another in search of an accessible road to cross from the east to the western part of Malad. Road blocks, traffic snarls, people walking in the middle of the high ways avoiding the sides with dirty water flowing and joining the already choked gutter water gushing from the man-holes were the horrible scenes. People

more than one feet water, the driver urged me to get down near Movietime theatre skipping the Evershine Nagar interior road where I was destined to reach. As the area was fully under water with more than one foot depth I walked from the Movietime to our building in Evershine Nagar slowly, dragging my feet in the accumulated water. The under currents of the water spread over the roads was pulling me down as I was wobbling with my office bag .I felt dizzy and breathed heavily to reach the house without losing myself in the watery grave. Shutters were down of all the shops except Alex's meat shop which was about to close as I reached. On the way I had the chilling and morbid feeling of getting electrocuted from the

clogged water. It shook my confidence and undermined my courage.

Several families lost their bread winning members on their way to home in the murky waters flooding the roads, canals, wastage dumping nullahs gutters and manholes. A man in his thirties, working in a computer servicing agency /call centre rings his wife at home to inform her that he will be reaching home within a few minutes. Few minutes lengthened to few hours; he could not make it as a man-hole hidden in the flood waters on the Link Road trapped him to be dragged in the high tides to unknown destination where he became silent forever. That was the final call he made to his beloved about the adventurous journey through the water.

A family of four travelling in a luxury car was stranded in the traffic jam after the heavy rains; they had stored vadapav and pepsi cola in the car to satiate their hunger and thirst. They waited in the car shutting up the doors to enjoy the air conditioned comfort inside of the vehicle parked in the Oshiwara area on the Link road. They were unaware about the surging waters as they were enjoying the fun in the rains. When the water level rose on the road they could not open the doors, as the mechanism failed to work. Remaining in the enclosed car they had their last supper and pedestrians found them dead in the next morning. That was a luxurious journey to eternity.

In the Oshiwara nullah water rose to such high levels and with the force of gushing waters, several buffaloes, milch-cattles from the neighboring tabelas were swept and washed away drowning them in the fury of the raging waters. Their loss was painful to the owners who milked them regularly for their livelihood.

Our maid-servant living in the slum areas near Orlem informed us the next day that two of her gas cylinders were washed away in the flood waters. She however could manage to retrieve it the next day. In the nullah near the Ryan's school, Malad one eye-witness found two raised hands, torso hidden underneath in the slushy and muddy water. Obviously they were dead bodies finally raising their hands seeking help

to escape the wrath of premature and gory watery death. A housewife and mother, picking up her two children from the nearby school in Goregaon dared to wade through the raging waters. Her children could not withstand the undercurrents of the raging water and for all three it was watery death. It was a deadly education for the family after the school visit.

Several buildings closer to sea and low lying areas were flooded; water reaching to their first floors and occupants hanging over the roof of their cup-boards without food and water for several hours awaiting the water inside their flats to abate and recede. Their furniture, electronic items became useless as muddy stinking water entered into their rooms where they spent their leisure time in the company of their



family members and friends. The stink that emanated from the slushy water from their neighborhood nullah was an unforgettable experience obnoxious odour for many days-in their life in a posh locality in Andheri west.

Death toll could not be specifically ascertained as there was no census taken in this regard. Most of the news covering the floods and death numbers were unreliable under estimates. Loss to property including documents stored in the underground strong rooms and safe deposit vaults could not be ascertained as it was a heavy task to verify and record best ignored in the prevailing circumstances of grief and agony. Although the impact of this disaster was large and general, suffering and pain out of this turmoil was personal and unique. Those who suffered knew it better; those who witnessed only shared their

grief. The day of the disaster remains a tragedy for many but a natural and pathetic lesson for ever one.

My family members were out on their jobs; they did not return to the home and spent their night in their work places, as entire Mumbai life was halted in the unprecedented torrential rains. I will never forget this experience and consider this as the deadliest fury of nature I had to encounter.

Unprepared and unplanned, when the disaster struck the administration was in a confusion mode. Lack of communication with correct and proper information to guide the people trapped on the roads made their life miserable and horribly helpless. The administration abysmally failed to help the citizens to save their lives, and were blissfully in the dark to know what was going on around. A disaster they could make out; its deadly impact could not be assessed; and disaster mitigation management was not in place to perform in time. When lights were off snapping the electricity supply and land lines went dead, it was adding further chaos to the anxiety of the public. A few mobile stations were functional and people could know the whereabouts of their stranded family members. Some officers took boats to reach destinations on the main road filled with slushy waters from the overflowing gutters and choked up drainages. Common people and Samaritans stretching to

help the stranded commuters on the roads were relayed by the TV channels.

Since unorganized and unprepared, help and guidance from the administration was lagging. When disaster strikes un-announced, immediate reaction was pressing the panic button leading to confusion and chaos all around. That was visible everywhere and the tragedy for many continued in the prevailing murky situation. Things would not be different if a similar disastrous situation unfolds again. Confused and helpless we struggle to overcome the tragic situations. Nature teaches us great lessons but we forget soon and pursue the path of the ignorance to perdition. I remembered the Malthusian theory of population when nature takes its course to control the over - population. ■



Meritorious Students of Std. X with Director Dr. Oommen David and Principal Bijoy Oommen

Holy Angels School felicitates Its Rank holders

■ Holy Angels School has been continuously achieving cent percent results in the Board Exams for the past 15 years. Holy Angels' School & Jr. College Director Dr. Oommen David felicitated meritorious students of Std. X (CBSE Board): Udit Udayan Gor

(95%) who stood first, Ashna Nissan (94.60%), second and third that was shared by Ashish Nair, Maulya Shetty and Gaurav Salgaonkar (94.20 %). Director- Dr. Oommen David and Principal Bijoy Oommen also felicitated the top rankers of the H.S.C.

examination March 2017. Meenakshi SundaramVani stood first by securing 91.10% , Suchitra Sureshkumar stood second by securing 90.02% and Aleena Johnson stood third by securing 90%.



Meritorious Students of H.S.C. with Director Dr. Oommen David and Principal Bijoy Oommen

NANMA Distributes School Kits to Adivasi Children

■ Nanma Charitable Foundation, Kalyan, distributed school kits including notebooks, slates, school bags, erasers, pencil boxes to 85 school children from Jillah Parishad schools and anganwadis of Plotpada village in Shahapur Taluk. The event was inaugurated by Nanma Secretary Sunilraj and presided over by Instructor P B Loby. Ravindranath, E U Unnikrishnan, Arjun Bhoir, Shajimon, Smitha Shyam Rekame, Sivan, Varun Nair, took an active lead in the distribution. Food was served to the children. The Foundation aims to donate computers, table fans, electric lights, uniforms, water filters to the schools and also conduct medical camps for the children. Further details on 9769232244; 9987449944.



Nanma Secretary Sunilraj distributing school kits to children



MP Chintaman addressing the audience

MP Chintaman Felicitated

■ BJP Vasai Wing President Utham Kumar organised a reception at its Vasai office to MP Chintaman Vanga for getting sanction to construct a new Bridge connecting Mumbai, Gujarat, Rajasthan Delhi. Free notebooks were distributed to school children and advocates who were approved as notaries were also felicitated. Sekhar Dhuri, K D Pandian, Ramanujam, Ritesh Satyanath and others attended the function.

Vivahavedi

■ Thane Nair Welfare Association organised a new event 'vivahavedi' on July 9 at Srinagar Thane. People in and around of Mumbai and Thane district participated in this initiative. The event was inaugurated by the Association President K R Hari Kumar. Shrikant Nair, Rajan Nair, Sashikumar Nair attended the event. More than 100 parents seized this opportunity to get good marriage proposals for their children. The Thane Nair Welfare Association gave a platform for those interested to find their future partners, and get to know one another. The organizers for this programme were Vijayan Panicker, Vipinkumar, Aravindan Nair and Prakashan Nair.



President K R Harikumar lighting the inaugural lamp



Participants of the dance show along with their teacher and dignitaries on stage

Dance Recital

■ Nartaki Nrithyalaya Bhayandar headed by Dancer and Sneha Chilanga Award winner Nikita presented its second classical dance programme on July 2 at Sacred Heart Church Hall. About 30 students participated in the event. Nikita's brother and son of Baby and Roshini of Anatharakkal Kannur, 15 year old Godwin Baby who gave vocal support for three hours of the programme mesmerized the audience with his singing. PJ Mathew, Adv Padma Divakaran, Cee Gee Warriar, Shweta Warriar, Greeshma Gangadharan et al attended the event.

Onam Celebrations

■ Malayalee Welfare Association (MWA) Thakur Complex will be celebrating Onam on September 10 at Nirmala Hall, Ninety feet Road, Thakur Complex, Kandivali East. Under the auspices of the Cultural Committee, Essay Competitions are being organised prior to the event on 'Onam Ningalude Manasil' for youth and 'Onam annum innum' for those above 30 years of age. There will also be a pookalamalsaram on September 9 at Nirmala Hall. Participation is open to MWA members and families. For participation, register before August 31 with Pradeep Nair - 992-434646.

Felicitations and book distribution

■ BJP Vasai Wing felicitated meritorious students of Vasai Virar who cleared their SSC Examination at a function held at St Peter's College on July 13. Tribal Welfare Minister Vishnu Savre was the chief guest. College Chairman Dr Vinod Gaikwad presided over the function while President Utham Kumar welcomed the audience

and Ramanujam proposed a vote of thanks. The students were given a certificate and memento. BJP Vasai Wing and Prateeksha Trust headed by Utham Kumar distributed free note books and study materials to Adivasi children studying in Palghar district Schools. Minister Vishnu Savre handed over the books to the children.



Minister Vishnu Savre handing over certificate and memento to a student

Vivek Vidyalaya tops in Schools Survey

■ Vivek Vidyalaya & Junior College has been ranked No 1 in Mumbai and No 3 in Maharashtra in Aided School category in the Maharashtra School Survey conducted by Education Today.co., according to the Principal of the School, Dr Suresh Nair.



During the felicitation ceremony organised by Bombay Keraleeya Samiti Malad (W) to felicitate students who secured high marks in the SSC 2017 Board Examination. Dr Suresh Nair and Samiti office bearers including President Adv Padma Divakaran, T Madhavan and other personalities attended the function.

Senior Fellowship to KNP Nambisan

■ Lalitha Kalalayam Kalashri P Nambisan has been awarded Senior Fellowship In Instrumental From Ministry Of Culture, New Delhi. This is apart from Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi State Award of 'Kalashree'. He has also been bestowed many awards from various Institutions both in Maharashtra as well as Kerala. Nambisan says he would continue his experiments on different percussion instruments in the future also.



Karkitakavavubali at Gurudevagiri Nerul.



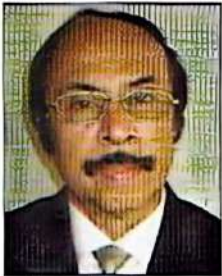
Karkitakavavubali held at Prarthana Mandapan, near Sabarigiri Temple Complex on July 23 co-ordinated by Sree Ayyappa Seva Samiti Vasai.

SNGC Bank on the path of progress

■ Sree Narayana Co-op Bank established fifteen years ago has now shown tremendous potential of growth, according to its Chairman K S Bahuleyan. The deposits have touched Rs. 61.83 crores from Rs. 54.44 crores. The loans disbursed has grown to Rs. 28.42 crores from Rs. 27.93 crores. This bank gives a higher rate of interest on deposits compared to other co-op banks, he said. The resultant annual profit has gone up to Rs. 7.56 crores from Rs. 6.71 crores. More than 50% of the loans are given to housing and small scale industries sectors. From these sectors the profit of last year has gone from Rs. 84.95 lakhs to Rs. 89.62 lakhs. The seventeenth AGM of the share holders of the bank was held on July 27 at 10.30 am at the Seminar Hall of the Educational complex at Lokhande Marg, Chembur.

AIMA National Samiti

■ Upendra Menon has been elected as National Vice President of All India Malayali Association (Maharashtra) for the period 2017-2020. T A Khalid has been elected as Secretary and Adv Prema Menon has been elected as Convenor of AIMA Draft Committee. Mohan Kandathil Editor of Malayali World and other personalities have also been elected in the AIMA National Samiti .



Upendra Menon



T A Khalid



Adv Prema Menon



Mohan Kandathil

New MC Members



N. Balagopal
Chairman



S. Jaganathan
Vice Chairman



K. Arvindakshan
President



K. U. K. Nair
Vice President



Venugopal G Nair
Secretary



Sanjay R Nair
Jt. Secretary



P. Haridas
Treasurer



C. Karunakaran
Jt. Treasurer

■ Annual General Body Meeting of Goregaon Malayalee Samaj was held on July 16 and the following members were elected to the Managing Committee. K Aravindakshan is the President, KUK Nair is the Vice President, N Balagopal is the Chairman and S Jaganathan is the Vice Chairman. Venugopal G Nair is the Secretary, Sanjay R Nair Jt Secretary, P Haridas is the Treasurer and C Karunakaran is the

Jt Treasurer. Managing Committee members include A V Kuruvilla, K K Sudhakaran, C A Gopi, P G Menon, K S Ashokan, Mrs. Meera R Kutty, Babu M Nair, K G Sunil, Mrs. Janaki Unnikrishnan, E V Shaji, K O Abraham, Mrs. Chandralekha Unnikrishnan, N P G Nair and Suresh P S. Internal Auditors are V Balakrishnan and Prakash M Nair. M/S. P B Shetty and Co is the statutory Auditors.



Chuttuvilakku offering by Dr Saroja Variar at Vashi Vaikundam Guruvayurappan Temple in Sector 29. The Chuttuvilakku set was donated and installed by Harikumar Warriar Vashi and opened to devotees recently.

Powai dancers excel at NCPA event

■ Divya Warriar and Keertana Ravi, residents of Powai presented *Sayujya*, Weaves and Shades of Mohiniattam and Bharatanatyam at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) on July 1. This performance delved deep to encompass the fluidity of Mohiniattam and the angularity of Bharatanatyam. Both artistes explored the repertoire to elucidate the similarities and embrace the differences in the two styles. *Sayujya* met,

conversed and merged through the rich tapestry of the *Margam*. The dance of the enchantress and the temple dancer, though stems from the same text of Bharata Muni, are different aesthetically and lyrically. The Little Theatre at NCPA was packed to capacity. Divya Warriar is a senior disciple of Guru Jayashree Nair whereas Keertana Ravi is a disciple of Guru Rama Vaidyanathan. Both of them have performed individually in many festivals in Powai including Powai Fest and Powai Fine Arts.



Keertana Ravi and Divya Warriar



Dombivli Brahmana Samooaham organised a free medical Camp for ladies at J K Womens' Hospital in Dombivli on July 16.

National Dance, Music and Drama Contests

■ Utkal Yuva Sanskritik Sangh of Odisha is organising its 25th National dance, music and drama contests, in association with Union Cultural Department, International Dance Council (UNESCO) and Tru Indian Information and Guidance Society from September 1 to 12 at Kala Vikas Kendra, Cuttack. Contests will be in One Act Plays, Drama, classical dances, music, patriotic songs and mono act. Early applicants will be eligible for free train journey tickets. For details contact Prof Karthik Chandra Rath on 0671 2507148 or 9937055184.



Borivli Malayali Samajam's V K Krishna Menon Academy held a felicitation programme to celebrate the school's cent percent SSC results. The Std X students who passed out, teachers of the Academy and BMS Committee members attended the function.

Fallen guy!

Kerala was shaken with a hurricane when suddenly a very popular actor was arrested for conspiring against a female colleague. According to police, this was meant to defame and demoralise and thus ruin her life. The conspiracy, alleged the police, started in 2013 when the actress informed the actor's wife about his unethical relationship with another actress, also a friend of the wife. After two failed attempts, finally the contracted culprits succeeded in their mission in February this year. However, the result was not according to the script scrupulously written by them as the wind blew in the opposite direction.

Experience confirms that whenever someone attempts to dig deeper to conceal facts, he always leave some strong evidence behind that cannot be wiped off easily. The evidence returns with much more force at an unguarded moment on the surface of earth in such a way that none could help hiding it again.

Probably the conspirators in this drama may not be aware of this unwritten law. Had they, they would not have done anything to pre-empt the legal course but would have conducted themselves as if nothing has happened.

A delayed quotation

Actor Dileep thought the collapse of his marriage with Manju Varier, was on account of the actress involved in the case. There was an altercation between him and the actress that resulted in animosity. According to the police, Dileep wanted to avenge it. In 2013 March, Dileep allegedly gave a quotation to Sunilkumar (Pulser Suni) when the rehearsals of a stage show for AMMA were going on at Abad Plaza Hotel premises, in Kochi. The execution was delayed because of Suni's involvement in a theft case on account of which he went underground for one year and later surrendered to the police. He was behind the bars for more than a year.

The quotation was renewed in 2016. Suni received Rs.10,000 in ten one-thousand rupee notes from Dileep inside the latter's BMW car during the shooting of *Georgettan's Pooram* at Thrissur Tennis Club premises.

The execution was delayed as Suni took some time to get accustomed to the conditions of film shooting and develop acquaintance with the actress. Further he needed a few accomplices to help him out. Finally execution was



Dileep in Police custody

scheduled for January 2017 but taking the people and the vehicle to Goa was a hurdle. Then it was postponed for February.

How it started?

On the night of February 17, a young Malayalam actress of about fifteen years of experience in the film field, was going to Kochi to do some dubbing for her film. Martin Antony (24) was her driver. When the car reached Athani near Angamaly, four people stopped the car and forcefully entered it. The driver was threatened to force him to run away. One of the culprits drove the car around while another held her down and the third told her that it was a quotation to sexually abuse her and to prove the act it would be video recorded. She was threatened to co-operate with them. She was video graphed in nudity, her face, neck and finger with her engagement ring on it were clearly recorded so that none would doubt its authenticity. After two hours, they left her and the original driver took over. He drove her to director-actor Lal's Thrikkakara

residence. When she narrated her ordeal, Lal phoned local MLA P T Thomas who in turn informed the police. The police came and detained the driver too for questioning.

After questioning Martin Antony, he was suspected to have been involved in the plan and was arrested. Since the actress had already identified Pulser Suni during the kidnap, the police spread their net to capture him. On Feb 19, *Vadival* Salim and Kannur native Pradeep were arrested. Next day Manikantan was arrested and Police suspected the involvement of Dileep in the conspiracy. On Feb 23, Pulser Suni and Vijeesh came to Ernakulam Court but before they surrendered before the magistrate, Police arrested them and took them away to Aluva. Police suspected that they were advised to surrender by their advocate Pratih Chacko.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan came out with a statement that there was no conspiracy. The media suspected that there could be someone, closed to the party, involved in it. On Feb 25, police refuted CM's statement and confirmed



Dileep



Nadirshah

the conspiracy. In an identification parade conducted in Aluva prison, the victim identified the four tormentors. On Feb 28, police searched for a mobile, said to have been used to record the molestation, in the lake but failed to recover it.

On questioning, Suni told the police that he handed over the phone, used to record the visuals, to Pratish on Feb 23 at his office. Since the police could not get the phone though Suni's bag was recovered, Judge asked him to co-operate with the police but denied him anticipatory bail. This arrest was unexpected and was a great forward jump for the police and a setback to the conspirators.

On questioning, Suni stated that he planned the abduction alone and no one else had any role in it. He further stated that the kidnap was organised for a ransom of Rs one crore.

I G Dinesh Kashyap and his team that included Perumbavoor Dy SP Sudarshan and CI Biju Paulose, had only feeble leads in the beginning. Though Dileep was under a shadow of suspicion, there were no clear leads linking the threads of incoming information bits. That the victim and Dileep were not in a friendly relation was the first bit of information as many people told them that Dileep himself told them this. The move Dileep adopted to disassociate himself from every piece of information against him also said to have created suspicion.

On April 18, Police submitted their first charge sheet against the seven accused including Suni, in the first class magistrate court of Aluva.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's statement denying any conspiracy

created a public outcry alleging closure of the doors of further investigations and ending with Suni alone but it helped police to silently move with their plans exploring other avenues. Dileep also believed that he was in the safe zone. He became less apprehensive about the secret investigations and thus helped the police to move ahead. They however needed a link to establish the proximity between the plotter and the executor.

It was necessary to prevent Suni from coming out of prison on bail and so they submitted the first charge sheet within two months of his arrest. They anticipated that this delay would make Suni to contact the main conspirator for help. Police made all arrangements in a secret manner for Suni to do so and Suni fell into that trap. Jinson was planted by Police as his cell mate so that all movements of Suni were known



Pulser Suni

to them. Unknowingly Suni revealed all his inner thoughts to Jinson.

Suni first tried to get the phone numbers of Dileep, Nadirshah and Appunni and it alarmed the police who was keeping a close observation on him. It is believed that it was the police who planted the phone inside the prison for his use. Soon the letter written by Suni to Dileep also came out.

On June 24, Dileep and his friend and film director Nadirshah lodged a complaint with the police that one Vishnu had come to them and tried to extract Rs. one and a half crores on behalf of Suni. This was a blunder on the part of Dileep. Police felt happy that their suspicion was turning true.

On June 28, Dileep and Nadirshah were separately questioned by the police for 13 hours from 12.30 pm onwards. Police discovered vital contradictions in their statements. Based on the statement of Suni, that a recorded video had been given to Lakshya, a textile boutique of Kavya in Thrikkakara, police raided it. Though the employees denied Suni's presence there and also told the police that the CCTV data was already lost. However the police examined the recordings of the CCTV cameras of neighbouring shops and their data contradicted the denial. Police got evidence of visit by Suni and also the money handed over to him. However they could not get the information about the person who handed over the money.

On July 2, police got the recordings of the assault on the actress and also a photograph in which both Dileep and Suni were seen at the shooting site of a film prior to the day of assault. This picture was termed by the police as the signature of the God.

According to police, the attack was a personal vengeance for destroying his married life with Manju Varier. It was this victim who exposed Dileep- Kavya affair to Manju leading to their divorce. There were also allegations about their involvement in real estate dealings. However all angles including real estate are under scrutiny.

Another incident led Police to suspect Dileep's involvement in the kidnap drama. On Feb 17, a producer tried to call Dileep to inform him about kidnap and rape. He found Dileep's phone switched off. Next morning when he called up Dileep again, the latter cut off the call in twelve seconds without showing any concern. This behaviour aroused the suspicion of police.



AMMA at its formation

The Police felt it was necessary to get Suni under their custody and hence he was charged with the crime of using a phone inside the prison and the court put him under police custody. This helped them to tighten their grip over Dileep. The complaint filed by Dileep with the police regarding Suni's attempt to blackmail him opened new doors. The sound track of audio threats was found fake.

The print and electronic media had a field day. While channels continuously ran the same clips time and over, the print media devoted three to four pages every day under the caption 'Hero-Villain'. Further everyone including the members of public kept a close watch over their movements. Police was very keen to cover their tracks so that the other side could not take counter measures. And they wrote a better screenplay.

Serious suspicion arose when Dileep took an unduly delay to lodge complaint to the Police about Pulser Suni. The variations in the statements of Suni created the first suspicion about Dileep. When the police came to know about the earlier attempts against the victim, the theory of a conspiracy got strengthened. The presence of a much bigger plotter was felt. The statements of Jinson, the co-prisoner of Suni paved way for this line of thinking. It was Jinson who told them about Suni seeking money from Dileep by contacting Nadirshah and Dileep's manager Appunni using mobile phone from the prison. After the second grilling, Dileep was then arrested.

A day after his arrest, the police produced him at the residence of a magistrate at Angamaly near Kochi. He was remanded in judicial custody for two weeks. A large number of people gathered there greeted him with derisive hoots. Dileep was booked under several IPC sections including 376 (D) (gang rape), 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy), 366 (kidnapping), 201 (destruction of evidence), 212 (protecting the accused), 411 (hiding the evidence), 506 (physical threat), and under IT Act 66(E) (violating privacy and filming defaming incidences) and 67 (A) (uploading defaming sexual contents). If all charges are proved, it would invite imprisonment upto a minimum of 20 years and a fine of Rs.10 lakhs. In the charge sheet submitted before the magistrate, the police accused him of instructing Pulser Suni to photograph the actress in the nude. He was instructed to ensure that the video should be shot 'up and close' so that it wouldn't be dismissed as a morphed one. He was also directed to take close-

up shots of the ring finger of the recently betrothed actress. After the sexual assault, Suni had gone to a textile business centre near Kochi, owned by Kavya Madhavan to hand over the visuals of the assault on the actress.

AMMA Stand

The press meet soon after the meeting of AMMA, the organisation of cine artistes and the outbursts by Mukesh, Ganeshkumar and Innocent became new ammunition in the police guns. It also became a setback to Dileep. The victim and some actors who were supportive of her also strengthened the hands of police. The female actors formed a subordinate collective for themselves and sought the support of the Chief Minister. The allegations made by DIG Senkumar that he was not getting inputs from the investigative team also forced the government to adopt a firm stand on the investigations. Once Dileep was arrested, all criticism turned to be admiration. The public and the media applauded the police and the government for misleading them and thus strengthening the secret investigations. They declared their unflinching faith in the police network.

The new events proved the screenplay written by police was much superior to one created by the conspirators. The hero turned villain where as the normal villain police turned hero. There was appreciation of the fact that to bring the truth out CBI was needed but local police was more than adequate.

Dileep was entrapped by his



Innocent

overconfidence and blind faith in his own intelligence. The letter sent by Pulser Suni from jail had no tone of threats. From the very outset, Dileep maintained that he had neither met nor seen Pulser Suni and Police knew it was a lie but did not have any evidence to prove their claim. So they went everywhere that they thought the duo must have gone together and collected evidence. When they examined the telephonic conversations, they were affirmative.

Suni's letter had the tone of a friendly talk. The initiative of Dileep and Nadirshah to complain to the police about a letter of blackmail was not in tune with their complaint. When the Police pointed out this discrepancy, they had no answer. They also could not give a proper reason for the delay of 20 days to lodge the complaint after receiving the letter. Similarly when they accused Suni of demanding Rs.2 crore, police pointed out that no amount was mentioned in the letter and it mentioned only amount agreed upon and to be given in instalments over five months.

This complaint proved to be the last nail on the coffin, reminding us about the complaint of M K T Bhagavathar and N S Krishnan to Governor of Madras.

Police also mentioned that he has confessed to have acted thus to avenge a long standing revenge.

At the rehearsal of an award function in 2013, Dileep had an open spat with the actress, the police learnt from various sources. The special investigation team pieced together the conspiracy angle following interrogation of Dileep, Suni and his accomplices besides the recordings of several phone conversations between the main culprits who were involved.

The remand report states Suni met Dileep between March 26 and April 17, 2016 to plan the crime. Dileep was staying in a hotel in Kochi where they met. He also met Suni three times later in November 2016 inside a caravan at Thrissur on Nov 13 and also at Thodupuzha. Police cited eye witness accounts and call data records.

As soon as Dileep was arrested, AMMA of which he was treasurer sacked him from its primary membership, though it supported him earlier.

What is in store?

Kerala Police still needs a lot of evidences to prove the guilt of the conspirators and they need solid witnesses to back up the claim of police. The best bet was to find a less sinned approver and ensure he does not turn against the prosecution at the time of trial, a difficult task.

The probe team is mainly investigating whether Dileep and Manju Warier were involved in any real estate dealing with the attacked actress. The district registrars have been directed to provide the details. The probe team is examining whether Dileep and the victim actress had conducted any joint deals. Dileep had conducted 35 real estate deals from 2006 onwards in Ernakulam and Thrissur. Dileep has also made huge investments in various trusts and hotels. All of them are now under scrutiny.

Reactions from colleagues

Innocent, President of AMMA, Ganeshkumar and Mukesh were defensive earlier. Nevertheless the moment Dileep was arrested, they turned against him, mainly because of the aggressive posture of youngsters

like Prithviraj, and removed him even from the primary membership.

Many erstwhile colleagues of Dileep gathered courage and came out against him. Late senior actor Thilakan had earlier bluntly called him poison. Now director Rajasenana, Pattanam Rasheed, Story writer and director Thulasidas, director Vinayan, exhibiter Liberty Basheer, Baiju Kottarakkara, Dinesh Panicker (actor, producer) et al came strongly against him.

Actor Mukesh MLA who supported Dileep initially and shouted at the media men at the press briefing, had claimed that he knew Pulser Suni only for a short time of one week when Suni was his driver during the absence of his regular one. The very next day, the photo, shown aside, became viral, which is self explanatory. About Dileep he said that he treated him like a brother. He trusted Dileep when he said he was innocent.

Missing links

Police need a few more links to finally sew all evidences together.

Though the police have the visual evidence of the dastardly attack of the victim by Suni, they do not have the original recording and also the phone that was used to record it. According to Police, Suni has claimed to have handed over the original recording to Dileep but the latter was not co-operating in the investigation. If the phone and original recordings were traced, they could establish the presence or absence of any other conspirator. Similarly they have to trace the BMW car in which Suni and Dileep conspired.

Trace of guilt

Further the police are busy in ascertaining the participation of Kavya and her mother in the conspiracy.



When members of Female Collective called on CM

The offerings they made in Kodungallur Devi Temple, Chettikulangara Temple, Judge Ammavan Temple (Ponkunnam) and Rajarajeswari Temple in Kannur are indicative of their fear of getting involved in the case.

Birth of a star

P Gopalakrishnan was born on October 27, 1968 at Desom near Aluva. He was educated in VBB High School, U C College, Aluva and Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. He joined Kalabhavan and got trained in mimicry. In 1991, he became Assistant to director Kamal for movie 'Ullatakam' and next year became an actor through 'Ennotishtam Kootamo' with an

heroine was evolved around Kavya, he was there to be her hero. When gossip involving both of them spread, he surmounted them with his humour and innocence. He became a producer in 2003 through the film 'CID Moosa.' He was chosen for the award for best actor in 2011 for 'Vellaripravinte Changanji'. Kavya got married and moved to Gulf region but very soon got divorced. Dileep was called the villain of the piece but he laughed it off. He was divorced on January 31, 2015 from Manju Varier and married Kavya in 2016.

Dileep was never a highly ambitious hero outwardly and was always a younger brother to Mammooty and Mohanlal but there were many actors who were scared of him as they lost out

started Manjunatha Films. After his biggest hit 'Meesa Madhavan', he came in various roles changing the character in each one of them. Chandupottu, Malayamohini, Kunhikoonan etc were only a beginning. Besides his regular fee, he also demanded distribution rights off his movies. He owned a boat house 'Kochi Rajavu' in Alappuzha backwaters. He coaxed his colleagues to form partnership firms and entered into various business fields. It was alleged that he joined with Kalabhavan Mani to build a theatre in Chalakkudi but now it is owned by him. Now the police are also enquiring about this deal.

Alleged Conspiracies

Dileep was alleged to have played vital roles in splitting existing trade unions and forming new ones, often heading them. When producers and directors unions were determined to boycott Dileep for his alleged indisciplined act against Thulasidas, AMMA intervened and a compromise was brought in. Soon Vinayan found his MACTA split vertically and another union (FEUOK) with Dileep as President was coming up. Many producers and directors moved to Dileep's union as they had business deals with him. Dileep also controlled a union of exhibitors when there was tussle about sharing the income from



CM Pinarayi Vijayan with members of Female Collective

appearance in one scene. He had a few more scenes in 'Sainyam.' He was promoted to the role of a hero in 'Sallapam' in 1996. In this the name of the hero was Dileep. When the film became a hit, he adopted the name of hero as his film name. Manju Varier was the heroine of the movie.

Dileep did not have the physical qualities that the movie world prescribed for a hero. He had however had a great dream of conquering everything that went by. His growth was the result of a lot of planning and manoeuvring. He had a knack of recognising opportunities and manipulated himself to those opportunities.

The marriage of Dileep and Manju Varier in 1998 sent shock waves in the film world. When the perception of a

opportunities because of him. Directors, script writers and actors were afraid of him as they were tramped down as and when he wished. Thulasidas, Thilakan, Baiju Kottarakkara, Dinesh Panicker (actor, producer), Rajaseenan et al were some of them. Whoever crossed with him was forced to move out.

Alleged manoeuvres

When Dileep was a simple and amiable actor, he was loved by everyone and he was titled as a popular hero (Janapriya Nayakan). Soon he grew up to a hero moving in slow motion and became a super hero. He was not merely an actor. He was also a producer, exhibitor and hotelier. He was a proud owner and partner of many real estate establishments. He first produced CID Moosa and after marriage with Manju

exhibiting films. He refused films to the theatres owned by Liberty Basheer, then President of Exhibitors Union. He had a firm grip on almost all professional bodies of film world and thus practically controlled all.

Now all his real estate deals are under the scanner. Police is investigating his dealings in detail. Dileep and his very close friends have bought about 35 plots in Ernakulam district. Benami transactions will be much more. Manju Varier has transferred all the properties bought by Dileep in her name to Meenakshi, their daughter. After his arrest, all organisations of actors, producers, distributors and exhibitors have sacked Dileep not only from the positions he was holding in them but also from primary membership. What a fall! ■

Looking back

Being a celebrity is not only paying but payable too. Dileep aka Gopalakrishnan must have found out this truth had he bothered to delve into an old incident involving the highest paid film actor of India of his time. That actor had acted only in 14 films from 1934 to 1959, during which period he was in prison for almost three years. Seven of his movies were super hits, running one (*Chintamani*) to three years (*Haridas*) in single theatres, exhibiting two shows a day. He was the first Indian actor who commanded Rs. 1 lakh a film when super stars of Hindi were paid only in thousands. When he went to prison, he had signed contracts to act in another 12 films.

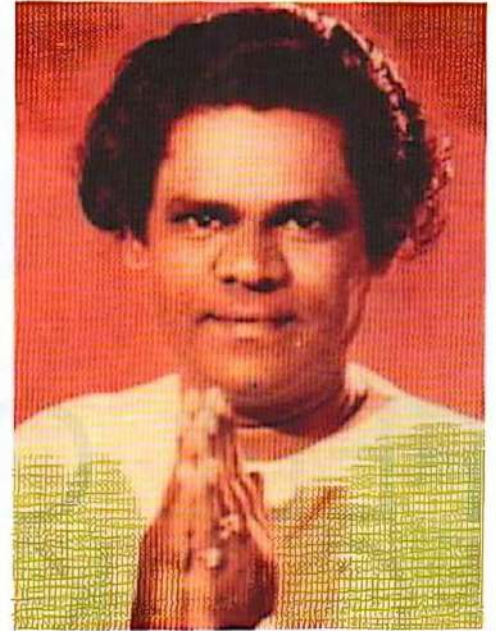
His name was Mayavaram Krishnamurthy Thyagaraja Bhagavathar (1 March 1910 - 1 November 1959), Classical singer and actor. He was also called Thyagaraja Bhagavathar or simply MKT.

C N Lakshmikantham was an ambitious man who wanted to become a lawyer but ended as a lawyer's tout bringing false evidences for lawyers for money. He was caught and transported to Andamans but he came back to Madras when that island was captured by Japanese army during World War II. Then he started a magazine *Cinema Thoothu* (Kerala had a couple of magazines of the same genre such as *Thaniniram* (True Colour) and *Gestapo*) with a lot sleazy contents. He wrote columns on the private lives of celebrities and moneyed individuals and sent advanced copy to the concerned people threatening to publish it if not paid huge sums and they meekly submitted. When he wrote such columns about Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, N S Krishnan the ace comedian and singer of Tamil movies and Coimbatore based film producer and director Sriramulu Naidu of Pakshiraja Films (he made several Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Sinhalese films), they approached Governor of Madras and sought a ban on the yellow journal. The Governor Arthur Oswald James Hope obliged. Lakshmikantham then came up with another magazine of similar type *Hindu Nesan* and published some articles damaging the images of these three celebrities.

On November 7, 1944 when



M K T Bhagavathar



N S Krishnan

Lakshmikantham was returning from the house of lawyer J Nargunam on a hand rickshaw, a few people surrounded the rickshaw on the way and threatened the rickshaw puller. When the rickshaw puller abandoned the rickshaw, the two men stabbed him and left him bleeding to death.

Lakshmikantham returned to Nargunam's house, told him what had happened, named the persons who had hired his assailants, and then left for the police station, accompanied by Nargunam's friend, Brew, an Anglo Indian, and swore out a complaint naming Bhagavathar, Krishnan and Naidu the probable culprits hiring the assailants. He was then admitted in Government hospital and died next day.

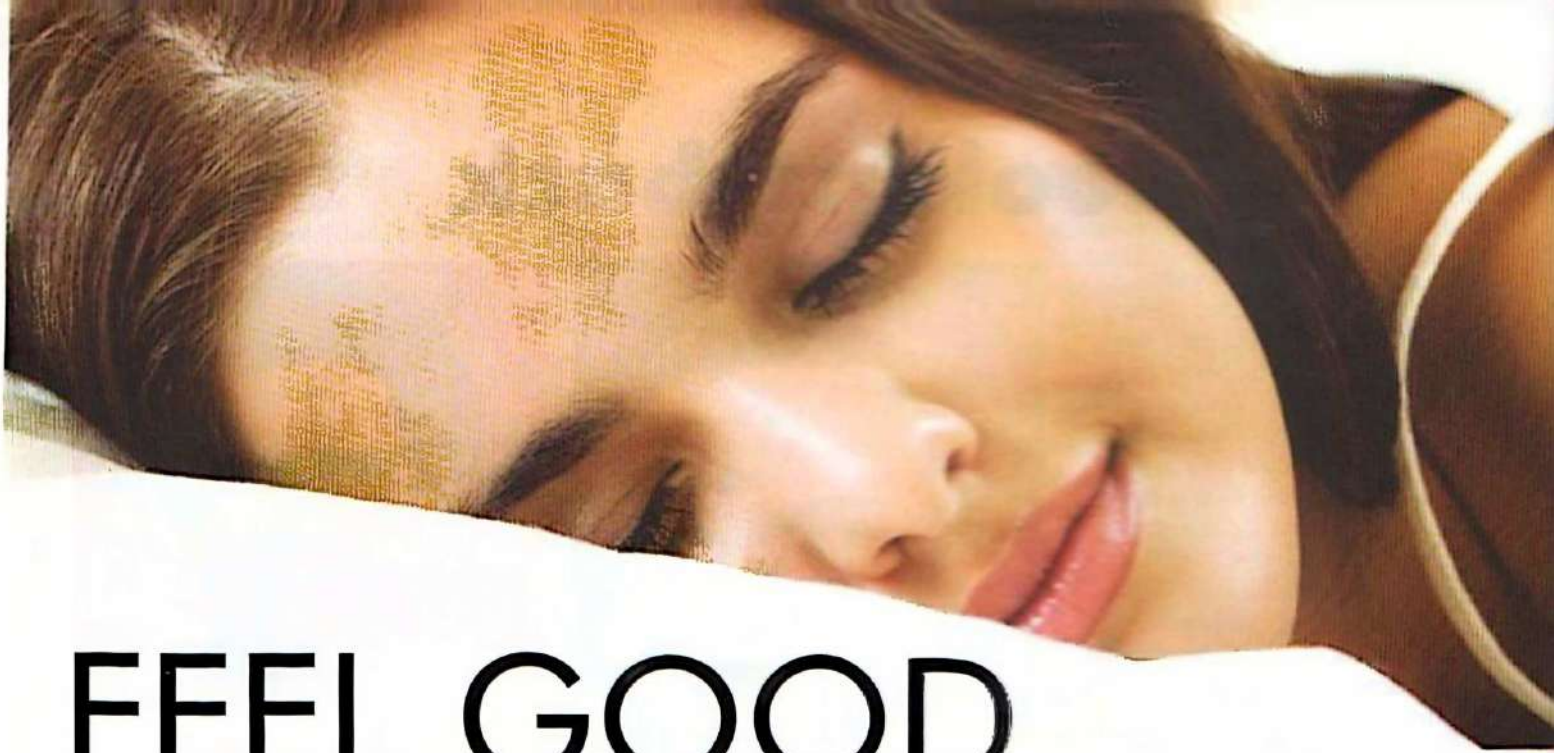
After a month when Bhagavathar was leaving an auditorium after a music concert, surrounded by hundreds of admirers, Inspector Krishnan Nambiar murmured into his ears that he was under arrest. Smiling to the fans, Bhagavathar climbed into the police jeep and they left. Next day the public was aghast when they heard that the trio were arrested for the murder of Lakshmikantham.

K M Munshi, the then leading lawyer of India (who later found Bharateeya Vidya Bhavan) who charged enormous amount to defend the arrested, represented the trio. But circumstantial evidence was against them as the evidence of request to the Governor and a police constable who kept an

observation on the road to watch victim on behalf of Bhagavathar were strong. The case was cited as 'M K Thiagaraja Bhagavathar and Others' though Nagalingam and Vadivelu were cited as first and second accused and Bhagavathar was only the third. Accused one and two were sentenced to death by hanging while Bhagavathar and Krishnan were sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment. When appealed to Madras High Court, the appeal was rejected and they were sentenced to spend five years in Andamans. They then appealed to Privy Council and the prosecution was ordered to conduct a fresh probe. They were set free for insufficient evidence. Sriramulu was set free by the trial court itself. In the meanwhile, Bhagavathar and Krishnan spent thirty months behind the bar.

By the time they came out, both of them became penury and faced hardships. Late playback singer P Leela remembered seeing Bhagavathar blind and moving on the Egmore Railway Platform with the help of a personal aid. He was wearing a torn and dirty silk jubbah. She knelt down before him and sought his blessings reminding him that her first film song was a duet with him. Minutes later, Bhagavathar boarded a third class coach while Leela got into first class.

Bhagavathar was very generous to help the needy. Though the Viceroy wanted to decorate him with Rao Bahadur, Bhagavathar declined it ■.



FEEL GOOD LOOK GREAT



Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

■ Do you know that your mood could be one of the reasons for wrinkles or breakouts or dull complexion of your face? There is definitely a connection between mood and beauty! Let us go into the details.

Changes of mood like anger, depression and fear can adversely affect our skin. Negative thoughts, bad moods, stress and depression can negatively influence our body and reduce skin healing. Anxiety and depression can increase cortisol hormone and may lead to premature hair loss, skin pigmentation, acne and weight gain. Repeated frowning and furrowing of eyebrows in depression can deepen wrinkle lines. Prolonged depression can trigger hormones which affect sleep patterns leading to puffy eyes and dull complexion.

Effects of stress

Research shows that there is a strong connection between mind and skin. Stress can cause acne breakouts

due to increase in production of sebum (oil that helps to protect skin). The sebum gets mixed with dead cells and bacteria leading to clogging of hair follicles which can cause white heads, black heads and pimples. Stress can reduce the production of collagen leading to thin and weak skin. It impairs the ability of skin to renew and heal. Thus skin becomes more prone to



infection.

Stress causes increased formation of stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol. Stress may upset your body's internal balance leading to hormonal problems affecting cell repair and collagen production.

Under stress we tend to over eat, drink alcohol or smoke, all of which can adversely affect our skin. Hectic work schedule, poor diet, lack of exercise, inadequate sleep, illness, mental tension or over-exertion are all causes of stress. Negative emotions can lead to stress and stress can cause negative emotions.

Stress makes skin more sensitive. It can lead to itching, redness and increases the existing skin problems like Psoriasis, Eczema, acne, Rosacea and Seborrheic dermatitis. Skin becomes dry and dehydrated allowing more allergens, irritants and infectious agents to penetrate skin and cause problems. Inadequate sleep due to stress could be a cause of baggy or puffy eyes and dark circles. Stress accelerates the aging process of skin causing wrinkles, fine lines and even pigmentation. We know that stressed or depressed persons tend to neglect their skin and body care. They may not eat healthy food

and may go for junk foods or foods with high sugar and oil. Stress can also cause brittle nails, ridging of nails, increased sweating and loss of hair.

Brain and nervous system influence the immune cells of skin. There is a medical field called

“Psychodermatology”, which deals with the connection between brain and skin. If a skin condition fails to improve with standard treatment, there could be an underlying psychological problem. So along with the skin problem, the psychological problem also requires treatment with counselling, stress management etc.

How to prevent stress related skin problems?

- Follow your skin care routine. Don't neglect your skin.
- When you are in stress, we tend to have more junk-foods, fast-foods, caffeine, high sugar foods or oily foods. Try to stick to your healthy diet habits. Eat a balanced diet and take vitamin supplements as per doctor's advice.
- Be strict about your bedtime. Get adequate sleep.
- Practice relaxation techniques like deep breathing exercises, meditation, relaxation or yoga to calm your mind and bring down stress levels.
- Take up a hobby (Reading, Singing, writing, printing, dancing etc) it will take your mind off worries and help you relax.



- Keep yourself well hydrated. Drink plenty of water and fluids.
- If you feel sad, don't get depressed. Cry it out. It will lower stress and release negative feelings. Your mood may improve after crying.
- You need regular relaxation times for yourself. Plan an outing or picnic with family and friends. Go for a movie. Take a morning or evening walk to refresh your mind. Get a massage or

facial done from beauty parlour. Talk to friends or simply put on the music, close your eyes and listen. Your mood will be elevated.

Improving your mood and good eating habits will lead to a healthy skin. Good and happy mood has beauty benefits also.

Emotions do speak through our skin! So be cheerful, feel good and look gorgeous. ■

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COMMON COLD

Dr. (Major) NaliniJanardanan

Common cold is a common infection which can commonly affect nose, throat, sinuses and upper airways. It is caused by different types of viruses. Rhinovirus is the commonest among them. There are more than 200 types of viruses which can cause common cold. Children can have 6-12 colds per year. Adolescents and adults can have 2-4 colds per year. Common cold is most frequently seen during Autumn, winter, spring and rainy season. Cold weather itself does not cause common cold though it is common in winter. There are no vaccines to prevent the infection.

How it spreads?

Common cold is contagious and transmitted by infected airborne droplets or direct contact with infected secretions from contaminated surfaces.

The various methods of transmission are:

- By airborne respiratory droplets:- when a patient with common cold

sneezes or coughs, the droplets get into air. When a normal person breathe in this air, he can get common cold.

- By touching contaminated surfaces or objects:- If a patient with cold blows or touches nose and then touches someone or objects or surfaces, the viruses can spread. Thus mobile phones, telephones, computer keyboards, coffee cups, tea cups, door knobs, flush handle, blankets, sheets



towels, pens, books or anything which the patient touches can cause common cold in others.

- By skin to skin contact:- like handshakes or hugs.
- By saliva:- (example kissing, Sharing drinks). It is contagious during

the first 2-3 days of illness.

Risk Factors for acquiring the infection:

- Age:- infants and children are more likely to get infection.
- Seasonal variation:- it is common during winters, autumn, spring and rainy seasons.
- Persons with weak immune system are more likely to develop common cold.

- Common cold can spread easily in crowded places like market, malls, cinema theatres etc.

Symptoms

Common cold begins with clear nasal discharge which may later become yellowish or greenish in colour. The symptoms are sneezing, runny nose, cough, sore throat, low grade fever, watery eyes and nasal congestion. Headaches, body ache, loss

of appetite, fatigue and high fever may be seen especially in associated 'flu'.

Complications:

Though common cold is self limiting disease, complications may develop. There may be bacterial infections like middle ear infection, sinusitis or

pneumonia in patients having lung diseases like asthma or COPD, their symptoms may worsen leading to shortness of breath and increased wheezing.

Treatment

- Take adequate rest
- Drink plenty of water and fluids like soups, juice etc.
- Have a healthy and balanced diet (with Vitamins and nutrients)
- If you have sore-throat, use throat lozenges or cough drops. Warm Saline gargle also helps to relieve symptoms as home remedies like ginger tea or honey or masala tea.
- It is better not to buy over the counter medicines to treat yourself. One has to be careful especially in cases of pregnant ladies, children, very old people and those on medication for various diseases as taking some drugs can cause serious or life threatening side effects.

Patients with common cold generally recover within 7-10 days. If your symptoms worsen or you don't become all right, it is better to consult a doctor. The doctor prescribes medicines to relieve your nasal drops or nasal sprays and inhalers. If there is bacterial infection, doctor may prescribe antibiotics. Otherwise



common cold treatment doesn't require antibiotics.

When to see a doctor?

In certain situations you have to see a doctor urgently to prevent further complications. They are:

- Infants of 3 months or younger age developing common cold.
- If there are severe symptoms like high fever with chills, headache, vomiting, neck stiffness, stomach ache, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, confusion or cough with blood stained mucus.
- If you don't improve after 10 days
- If there is pain, redness and swelling of face with yellow or green coloured discharges from nose and fever.

Prevention

- Avoid contact with infected patients.
- Frequent and thorough hand washing is important.
- Don't share personal belongings like towel, handkerchief, tissues or toys with someone who has common cold.
- Clean and disinfect potentially infected surfaces and objects.
- Avoid sharing utensils with the patient.
- Encourage patients to cover their nose and mouth while coughing or sneezing to prevent transmission of viruses. ■

International Conference of Jurists

■ International Conference of Jurists was jointly organized by International Council of Jurists, All India Bar Association and Indian Council of Jurists at Sahyadri Govt. Guest House, Malabar Hill, Mumbai (India) early this year. Adv. Padma Divakar who was invited as a Distinguished Guest presented her paper on 'Women's Empowerment' in one of the sessions.

Hon'ble Judges, Ministers, Diplomats, Parliamentarians, Bar leaders, bureaucrats, CEOs of multinational companies and law firms, representatives from banking and financial corporations, and law teachers, journalists, chartered accountants and social activists from India and abroad attended the conference.

The event was organized by (Dr. Adish C Aggarwala), President, International Council of Jurists, Chairman, All India Bar Association, Convener, Indian Council of Jurists).

In the past, these kind of programmes have been attended



Dr. Adish C Aggarwala felicitating Adv. Padma Divakar by Pranab Mukherjee and Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, former Presidents of India, and many eminent dignitaries within India and abroad.



FOUNDATIONS OF TREATMENT

DIGNITY AND COMPASSION



Dr Sujatha Nair

■ The month that follows, beckons the beginning of a slew of festivals in India from Raksha Bandhan, Onam, Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra, Diwali, Eid, Christmas etc.

India is a melting pot of cultures- however, one culture that seems to be alarmingly on the rise is that of popping the cork for every celebration pan socio-economic groups and cultures.

Where there is alcohol there is alcoholism, where there are drugs there is drug addiction. It is the addictive personality of the individual that leads to indulgence in substances to the extent that they get addicted to it. Then, it is the substance that takes control over the personality and every physical and psychological action of the individual; at the same time maintaining the illusion that it can be controlled by the individual. It makes the person think, act and behave like a person afflicted by a mental ailment. As a consequence, most times they are mis diagnosed with having psychiatric ailments like Bi polar disorder, psychosis or schizophrenia etc. This mis diagnosis results in the person being medicated wrongly in the name

of addiction treatment, a label is applied and the person is discriminated and ostracized by family and society as being mentally unstable - hence, often treated as a non entity. The person afflicted is thus stripped of all shreds and semblances of dignity.

The cries for help go unrecognized. The person who drinks alcohol or uses drugs and falls in a stupor on the road or in his plush bed or lashes out is also trying to control his usage. Unlike other chronic ailments that evoke sympathy and compassion in people, this ailment evokes disgust, hatred and fear due to lack of awareness and lack of the desire to invest the time and effort to enable these suffering individuals to turn around their lives and get beyond their addictions. Resultantly, they become victims of being picked up like animals and dumped in involuntary facilities where they are heavily medicated, labelled as being psychiatrically unstable and do not see the light of freedom for months or even years. Is this actual treatment or is it "treatment" to allay the fears and anxiety of the family who also require as much therapy?

Those afflicted are extremely intelligent, socially manipulative and emotionally challenged. It is this last trait of being unable to deal with and

manage emotions, that results in repeated indulgence in usage under the illusion of the temporary relief from emotional pain.

In reality, they require an environment that is loving, non judgmental [they judge and demean themselves worse than anyone one else can], accepting and compassionate. This is a space where they can be themselves without fear or shame - for, these are the only circumstances where they can accept themselves, begin loving themselves, at the same time taking responsibility for their lives and learn to enjoy living and reach a stage within themselves of not finding the need to use substances. This enables them to own their dignity.

Such an ambience is provided by us at Anatta and we have found through our experience that this is the only crucible in which real change can take birth and grow.

So let us welcome and celebrate this festive season with love and compassion towards ourselves first and our fellow beings.

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Kannuneermuthumai... കണ്ണുനീർമുത്തുമായ്...

Film: Nithyakanyaka (1963)
Lyrics: Vayalar
Music: G Devarajan
Singer: K J Yesudas/P Suseela

കണ്ണുനീർമുത്തുമായ് കാണാനെത്തിയ
കുതിരുകാണാക്കിളി ഞാൻ
എന്നോടീത്ര പരിഭവം തോന്നുവാൻ
എന്തു പറഞ്ഞു ഞാൻ?
സങ്കല്പങ്ങളെ ചന്ദനം ചാർത്തുന്ന
മന്ദസ്മരവുമായ്
ഇക്കിളി വാതിൽക്കലിത്തിരിനേരം
നിൽക്കൂ! നിൽക്കൂ നീ! നിൽക്കൂ!
നിൽക്കൂ നീ!
സ്വപ്നം വന്നു മനസ്സിൽ കൊളുത്തിയ
കർപ്പൂരക്കിണ്ണവുമായ്
എന്റെ മായാലോകത്തുനിന്നു നീ
എങ്ങും പോകരുതേ! എങ്ങും പോകരുതേ!
എങ്ങും പോകരുതേ....

(കണ്ണുനീർ...)

(സങ്കല്പ..)

(കണ്ണുനീർ...)

(സ്വപ്നം..)

Kannuneermuthumāi kānhānetthiya
Katirukānhākkilhi njān
Ennotitra paribhavam tonnuvān
Enthu parhanhū njān? (Kannuneer)
Sankalppangale chandanam chārthunna
Mandasmēravumāi (Sankalp..)
Ikkilhivāthilkkalithiri nēram
Nilkkū! nilkkū nee! nilkkū nee!
nilkkū nee! (Kannuneer)
Swapnam vannu manassil kolhuthiya
Karppūrakkinnavumāi (Swapnam)
Ente māyalokathuninnu nee
Engum pokaruthē! Engum pokaruthē!
Engum pokaruthē...

The 100th Malayalam film, 'Nithyakanyaka' was released on February 22, 1963. The social movie was a remake of the successful Tamil film 'Ethirparathathu' (The Unexpected, 1954) produced by A. K. Balasubramaniam who also produced the Malayalam version under the same banner. It was based on a story authored by C V Sreedhar who later went on to become a successful producer-director.

The renowned Malayalam writer Ponkunnam Varkey wrote the dialogues for 'Nithyakanyaka'. Sathyan and Ragini played the lead roles in the film. Other popular stars of the time, Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair, Kambissery Karunakaran,

Kottarakkara Sreedharan Nair, Ambika, S. P. Pillai handled other important roles. This was the third directorial venture of the prolific Malayalam director K S Sethumadhavan. The music composed by G. Devarajan was the highpoint of the film and the lyrics were by Vayalar Rama Varma.

The devotional number, 'Krishna Krishna Guruvayoorappa... (Yesudas), 'Enthenthu mohangal aayirunnu...' (Susheela-Yesudas), 'Thankamkondoru kottaram' (Suseela), 'Marakkumo enne marakkumo...' (Yesudas-Susheela) and the comedy number 'Kayyil ninne kittiyal oru...' by Pattam Sadan were the other hits from the film.

Pokkiri Simon

■ Pokkiri Simon is produced by Srivari Films of Krishnan Sethukumar and directed by Jijo Antony. The lead roles are handled by Sunny Wayne and Prayaga Martin. Nedumudi Venu Gregory, Sharath, Bitto, Asokan, Shammi Thilakan, directors Dilish Pothan, Sajid Yahya, Baiju Kurup, Renuka and Baiju. Dr K Ambadi wrote the screenplay while Gopi Sundar scores music to lyrics of Hari Narayanan.



Pathirakkalam

■ It is produced by Murali Mattummal for Aaj Film Productions and Priyanandan writes the story and also directs. Mythili, Kalesh Kannat, Babu Annur, J Sailaja, Rajitha Babu, Srijith Ravi, Indrans et al appear in various characters. P N Gopikrishnan wrote the screenplay and dialogues.



Sachin Son of Viswanathan

■ It has a background of, as rightly guessed, cricket linked to romance. S L Puram Jayasurya wrote the story, screenplay and dialogues and Santosh Nair directs it. Jude Agnel Sudhir and Jubi Ninan jointly produce it for J J Productions. Dhyani Srinivasan, Anna Reshma Rajan, Aju Varghese, Ranji Panicker, Lalu Alex, Harish Kanaran, Ramesh Pisharody, Balaji, KPAC Lalitha and Rashmi Boban are the main actors. Shan Rehman sets music to the lyrics of Manu Manjith.



Kalyanam

■ Kalyanam draws attention of the film goes because Shravan, son of actors Mukesh and his former wife Sarita is its hero. Varsha is the heroine. Mukesh, Srinivasan, Harish Kanaran, Gritty, Soubin Shahir, Sharaffudin, Sudhir Karamana, Indrans, Dharmajan Bolgatti, P Balachandran, Manoj Guinness, Nazir Sankranti, Sasi Kalinga, Ramesh Pisharody, Mala Parathi et al are also in it. The screenplay is jointly written by Rajesh R Nair, Sumesh Madhu and Govind Vijayan. For Via Films and Sathyasai Arts, K K Radhamohan, Dr T K Udayabhanu and Rajesh Nair produce this film. Lyrics are written by Rajiv Nair, Aslam, Manu Jagath and Linku and they are composed by Prakash Alex.





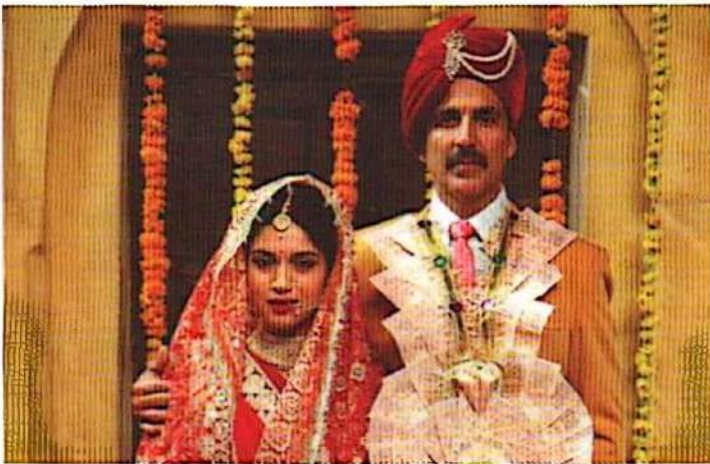
Toilet-Ek Prem Katha

■ **Starring:** - Akshay Kumar, Bhumi Pednekar, Anupam Kher, Rajesh Sharma

Toilet - Ek Prem Katha traces the love story between a simple man Keshav (Akshay Kumar) and progressive Jaya (Bhumi Pednekar), set in two villages near Mathura.

Keshav and Jaya are from two villages near Mathura, where at least 80% of households are without any access to a lavatory. Conflict comes knocking on the first day of their marriage, when Jaya leaves Keshav's house for good, after discovering that there is no toilet in the home. Distraught and desperate, Keshav sets out on mission to win back his love-by battling against the age old traditions, mind-set and value system of his country

Release Date: - 11th August 2017



Haseena Parkar



■ **Starring:** - Shraddha Kapoor, Siddhanth Kapoor, Ankur Bhatia.

Haseena Parkar is an upcoming Indian biographical crime film directed by Apoorva Lakhia and produced by Nahid Khan.

HASEENA PARKAR is a true story based on the life and times of the sister of India's Most Wanted Man-Dawood. The film charts her journey (AAPA's journey) from a young girl to a mother of four to the Godmother of Nagpada across four decades in the Maximum City.

Release Date: - 18th August 2017

Bareilly Ki Barfi

■ **Starring:-** Ayushmann Khurrana, Kriti Sanon, Rajkumar Rao.

Directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Bareilly Ki Barfi is a romantic comedy with a story that revolves around three lives. Set in the small-town of Bareilly, Bitti (Played by Kriti Sanon) is a free-spirited young girl who lives life on her own terms and refuses to be pressurised into getting married. Her life takes a shift when she meets Chirag Dubey and Pritam Vidrohi. Watch out for how this love triangle ends up.

Release Date: - 18th August 2017



Sniff



■ **Starring:-** Sunny Gill, Surekha Sikri, Sushmita Mukherjee.

Sniff is India's Bollywood's first kid's action adventure movie written & directed by Amole Gupte. An eight-year-old Sunny Gill has always had a blocked nose and therefore, no sense of smell. A freak accident gives Sunny the most refined sense of smell ever. The entire dog squad of the country's police force cannot sniff what he can. Sunny & his friends start with tracing a single missing car in the housing society & end up busting the heftiest car racket in the country.

Release Date: - 25th August 2017

A Gentleman

■ Starring:- Siddharth Malhotra, Suniel Shetty, Jaqueline Fernandez.

Sundar, Susheel, Risky is the story of a Gaurav (played by Siddharth Malhotra) content with his 'same shit different day' routine and dreaming about settling down with the girl of his dreams, Kavya and having his 'happily ever after.' Kavya (played by Jaqueline Fernandes) on the other hand prefers someone more risky and adventurous perhaps someone more like Rishi. When a case of mistaken identity rocks Gaurav's life, he stands to lose everything he has worked so hard for. What follows next is a roller-coaster ride, complete with action, romance & laughter.

Release Date:- 25th August 2017



Baadshaho



■ Starring:-Ajay Devgan, Vidhut Jammwal, Emraan Hashmi, Ileana D'cruz, Esha Gupta
Baadshaho is inspired by real-life events during the Emergency in 1975 and revolves around stolen gold, a thief (Ajay Devgan), an undercover cop (Vidhut Jammwal), a character inspired by Maharani Gayatri Devi (Ileana D'Cruz) and an army officer (Emraan Hashmi) who is entrusted with protecting the country's treasure.

Release Date:- 1st September 2017

Medical camp and blood donation drive

■ Borivali Malayali Samajam in association with the Rotaract Club of Borivali Heights, Rotary Club of Borivali East and Wockhardt hospital organised a medical camp and blood donation drive on July 1 at the Samajam's VK Krishna Menon Academy and junior college. The blood collected from the Blood donation drive was for the treatment of thalassaemia

children. 1st July being Doctors day, Samajam felicitated the Doctors and medical staff present. President A.K.G.Nair and Secretary Rakhee Sunil spoke on this occasion. Managing Committee members along with Vanitha Vedi members were present and supported in the success of the medical camp and blood donation Drive.



Camp in progress



Participants of the medical camp



Kerala in Mumbai

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