

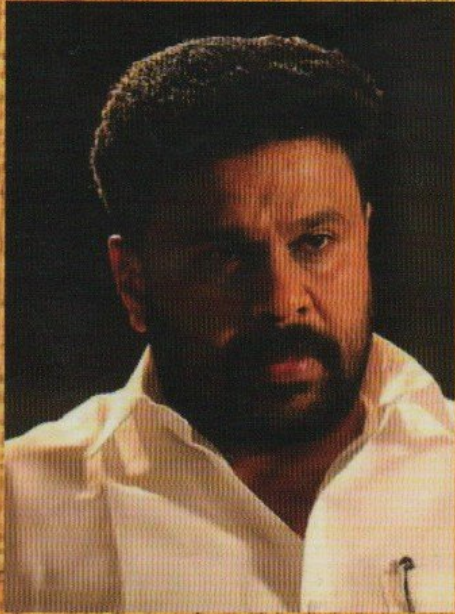


Merry Christmas

■ Vol. 8 No. 9 ■ Price Rs. 70 ■ December 2017

Kerala in Mumbai

The Only English / Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees



**FROM SUSPECT
TO CULPRIT**

**PRATHEEKSHA TRUST
FULFILLING
EXPECTATIONS**



RAJA RAVI VARMA: FATHER OF CLASSIC INDIAN ART

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Signs of Revival?

For the last few years the Malayalam stage plays were witnessing a downward trend as the audience were keeping away from such events. The surge of modern entertainments especially the ever expanding empire of television channels and multiplexes gave the people a cheaper alternative for their entertainment. The round the clock television programmes of one's liking and from forenoon to midnight movies in the nearby multiplexes fed to their theatre aspirations. In such climate the stage plays had no escape route for survival. We all saw the theatre on the intensive care unit and solely depending on ventilator.

Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi brought a new breeze in the atmosphere when it decided to hold a drama contest for the pravasis and the contest for the western region was held in Nerul in our metropolis. Five plays were selected and they were made to compete among themselves. In this scenario, though winning is important, more relevant is exhibiting a spirit of participation and stay in the environment. The Agri Koli Auditorium is no medium hall but could hold a good number of viewers. What was surprising was that contrary to the recent history, the hall witnessed a houseful crowd since morning till the entire event was complete in late hours of the day. Malayalis of this metropolis have not seen such a response in recent times. The enthusiasm exhibited by the audience certainly reached the artistes and other theatre enthusiasts. This new genesis was visible in the performance of the actors as well as surcharged atmosphere.

Selection of the plays and preparations thereon for the stage as well as behind it demanded a lot of hardwork and financial backing. The way the plays were presented indicated that a new era has indeed emerged and the plays were truly competitive.

Out of the five plays presented, 'Idiot' was distinctively the forerunner. It did not mean other four plays 'Choothattakkaran', 'Devootty Tyres', 'Naam Mazhayathu Nirthiya Chilar' and 'Swapnayatra' were substandard. It is to be remembered that at the top only one has the space to stand.

Like the new generation Malayalam movies, directed by directors unheard till now, scoring high above the old world movies, new contemporary themes and new methods of presentation attract drama lovers to the theatre. People are agreeable to new techniques and subjects. It is like M F Hussein scoring over Raja Ravi Varma. The trend may change but till then we have to be on our toes. We should listen to the pulses of audience taste. There is no harm if we remember the old line, "He that is down needs no fear fall."

We are sure that this new awakening would encourage writers to create more meaningful ideas into theatre and the directors would find new avenues to experiment. This would undoubtedly breathe a new life into Malayalam stage. Unlike cinema, stage plays have the power of transforming constantly. The play may be old but the stage is always new. Every opportunity gives the actors another chance to improve one's performance.

Kudos to Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi for bringing this new change in the Mumbai theatre as well as in the hearts of the pravasi Malayalis! One can only wish that the change that came here would remain for a long time. We do not forget the saying, "What is constant is Change!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Malayali Attitude

On October 31, Kerala completed 61 years as a full fledged entity and on November 1, it celebrated its 62nd foundation day. For the first time in modern history, it was in 1956 that Malayalis had a composite state to call their own with definite geographical boundaries, with a highly evolved culture and a distinctive language, while previously this community was fragmented and lived separate existences.

Over the past six decades Malayalis have carved a niche of their own. This community has a strong sense of democracy having discarded their tradition of feudalism. Practically every person is educated and has an independent opinion which is unlike the rest of India where illiteracy, feudalism and sheep-like following is very common. Consequently there is a high level of social awareness, justice and empathy. There is very little of blind worship of leaders. Universal education has helped Malayalis get a deep understanding of social, economic and political issues. Malayalis have welcomed art and artistes from other states and enriched their culture. Like Maharashtra, Kerala also has a single official language

while in other parts of India, languages and dialects keep on differing according to region, religion, caste and communities. Kerala is the only state in the country where all the four practices, namely Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Marxism are more or less balanced with little scope for majoritarianism or minority feelings. While in the rest of the country, there is a feeling of suppression among creative and non-compromising artistes, Kerala is one state which gives unfettered freedom for the expression of creativity. It has also preserved its ecology.

BIJU CHERIAN
Vasai Road

Live up to the name

Kerala in Mumbai is growing fast and living upto its name Kerala In Mumbai. As a reader since its inception, I am following its coverage. I have no hesitation to state that there is hardly any periodical published outside Kerala covering Kerala in its past glory and present hiccups. November 1 is the birthday of Kerala and we all Keralites need to celebrate it as we celebrate Onam, Vishu or Deepavali. Yet, that is not enough and we have to do much more to

make our state shining much more than other states.

When India became free from the alien rule, we had numerous bureaucrats in Delhi working in all sorts of departments but today our share, I am told, is meagre. If true, it shows we are sliding down. The trend is to be reversed. A university for Malayalam and a classic status for it will not take our language much far. We all have to collectively strive to better its status among other languages. If reporting in TV channels and dialogues in Malayalam movies are of any indication, Malayalam is struggling to survive. While some reporters struggle to find words, others overcome it by inserting English words in Malayalam sentences. Similar trends are rare on other Indian language channels. Channels should appoint only people who know the language well. Avoiding slangs, we should strive to talk good Malayalam so that anyone who is learning Malayalam could comprehend fast and clearly. We should give more importance to grammar and pronunciation instead of scoring brownie points by showing off our proficiency in local dialects.

Satish Menon
Dombivli

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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PRATHEEKSHA TRUST

FULFILLING EXPECTATIONS

For the past fifteen years, Pratheeksha Trust headed by Utham Kumar has been rendering invaluable social service to the needy and deserving people in Mumbai, in and around Vasai as well as tribal areas in Palghar District. True to its motto, it is a beacon of hope for the hopeless.



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

■ From childhood, Utham Kumar, was interested in helping others.

"Maybe it was the upbringing I had as a child," he says.

At a young age he joined RSS as a swayamsevak and got training at the RSS shaka in Kerala.

"The training at RSS taught me discipline, respect for others and a helping attitude and this led to my love for social work," he says.

From 2012 Utham Kumar is President of Vasai BJP Unit. Earlier he was Convener (Malayali Cell) of Mumbai District.

He was former Vice President of Bassein Kerala Samajam, Committee Member of Sabarigiri Ayyappa Temple in Vasai and involved in several social activities.

Native of Paippad in Changanacheri Taluk in Kottayam District, Utham Kumar's parents are the late Malliyat Bhaskaran Pillai and the late C G Santhamma."

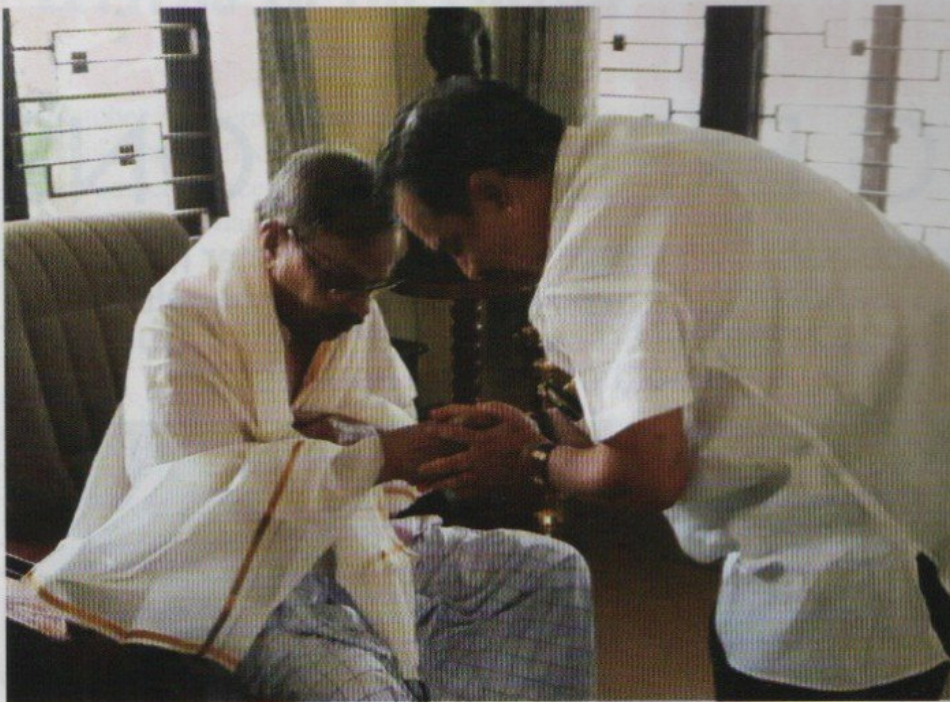
Pratheeksha Trust and Utham Kumar

Utham Kumar is Chairman and Founder of Pratheeksha Trust in Vasai. Since its inception in 2002, it has been distributing note books and study materials to needy schoolchildren in all Jillah Parishad schools in Vasai Taluk. It is one of the most important activities of the Trust.

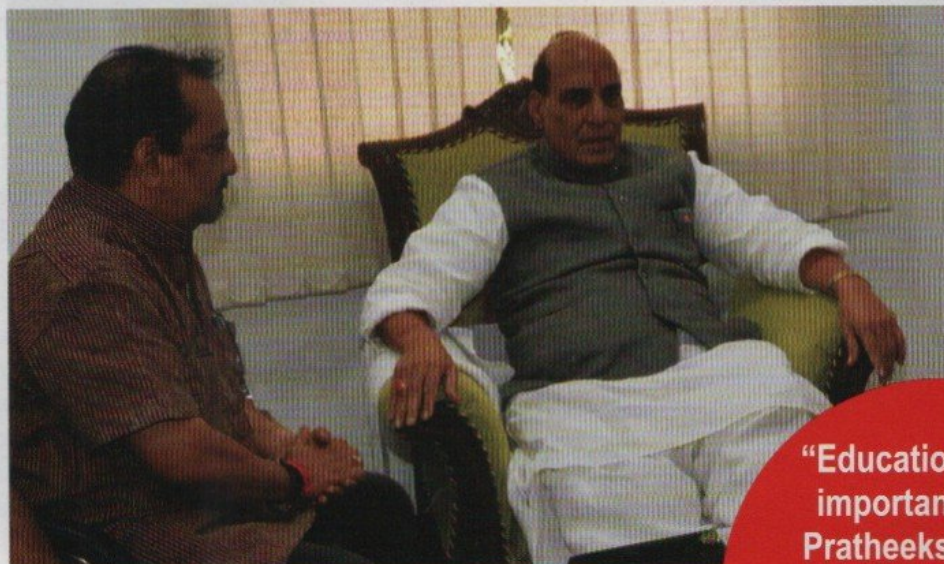
"Education is very important in life. Pratheeksha Trust extends all



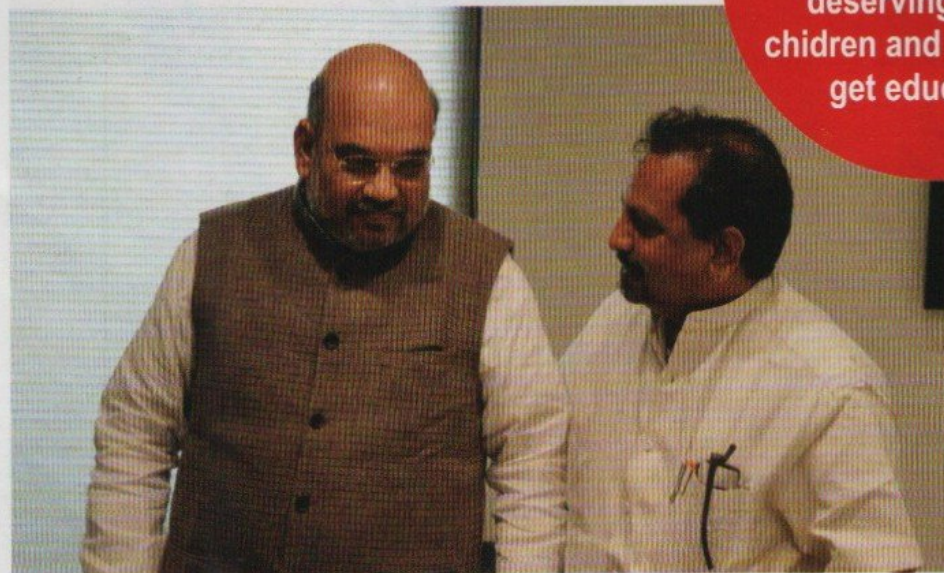
Utham Kumar



Utham Kumar with Jnanpith Award winner M T Vasudevan Nair



With Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh



With BJP President Amit Shah

help to deserving adivasi children and orphans to get educated," says Utham Kumar.

Medical help by way of conducting free check-ups, etc is another important activity of the Trust. It also extends monetary support to poor patients in Government hospitals. During the disastrous floods in July 2005 in Mumbai, Pratheeksha Trust was in the forefront to distribute free medicines and food kits to all flood affected areas in Vasai. When tsunami hit the Kerala coast, along with several other Mumbai based organizations the Trust took the lead and arranged transport of a lorry full of essential items including medicines from Mumbai. Utham Kumar personally went to Kerala and co-ordinated the distribution of the items.

It has organised many cultural and social programmes on various occasions.

"It has always been my endeavour to organize programmes and honour deserving personalities. With the support of the Leela Group, Pratheeksha Trust co-ordinated and celebrated the Late Travancore Maharajah Uthradam Thirunal's

ninetieth birthday along with the late Captain Krishnan Nair's ninetieth birthday at a ceremony in Mumbai which both of them attended. The Trust Celebrated 50th anniversary of Kerala Piravi for a whole year with various programmes on a grand scale."

Finding out new talents among Malayalees both in Kerala and Mumbai and

giving them a platform to help nurture and develop their inborn talent is another aim of the Trust. Many programmes showcasing Kerala art forms have been arranged by the Trust with the performers coming to Mumbai from Kerala and getting a wider exposure and recognition.

Pratheeksha Awards are a set of prestigious Awards bestowed annually to personalities in different

"Education is very important in life. Pratheeksha Trust extends all help to deserving adivasi children and orphans to get educated,"



Activities of Prateeksha Trust

fields in recognition of their dedicated service in their chosen field.

Some of the dignitaries who have attended Trust's programmes include film stars, Bharat Gopi, Padmashri Sukumari, Jagathy Sreekumar, Nandu, NL Balakrishnan, Suresh Gopi, Kishore Satya, Urmila Unny, Santhosh, IAS officers Dr Babu Paul, R Ramachandran Nair, Jiji Thomson, Dr Anand Bose, Rishi Raj Singh (IPS), V V Augustine, Jitesh (cartoonist), P J Kurien (Rajya Sabha Dy Chairman), late G Karthikeyan, K Raman Pillai, K Surendran, P K Krishnadas, V Surendran Pillai, (Former Youth Welfare Minister), C K Padmanabhan, Shripad Naik (Union Minister), Vishnu Savre, (Maharashtra Minister), Chintaman Vanga (MP), Gopal Shetty (MP) and many others.

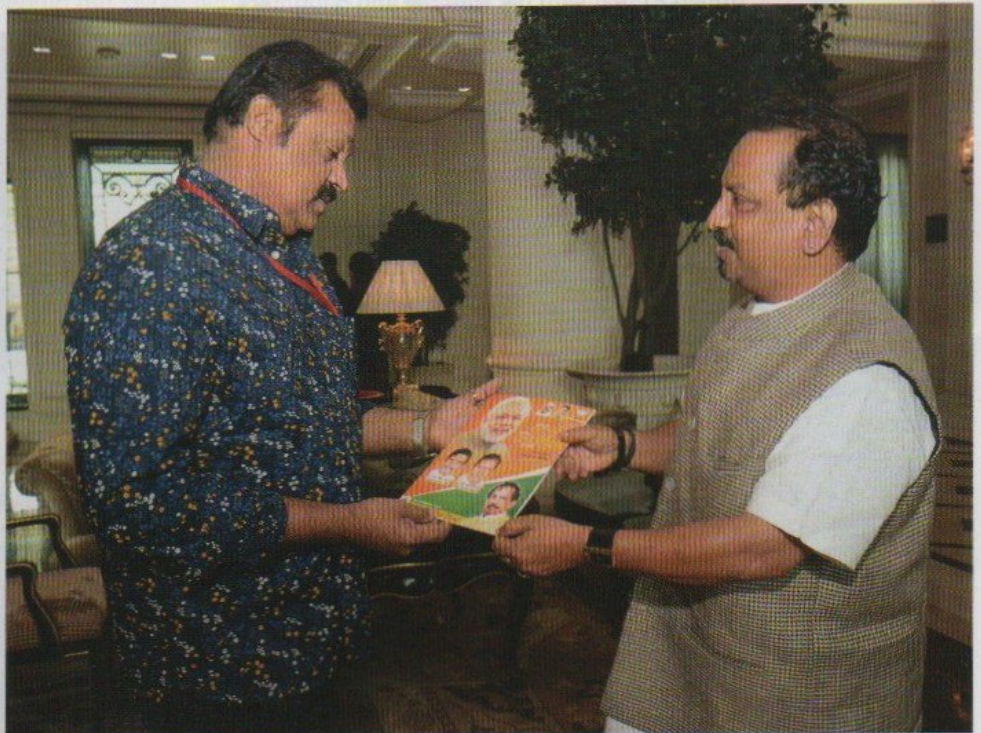
"I am happy to say that eminent personalities have attended these programmes," Utham Kumar says. "They include IAS and senior Government officers, film actors, veteran artistes and many more personalities. I am grateful to all of them for attending the Trust's functions."

Pratheeksha Trust's important task is spreading the Government's social welfare scheme among the common people and helping them receive the benefits of the schemes. It also helps with online registrations for these projects. It has helped several people to get their Aadhar cards, senior citizens cards etc.

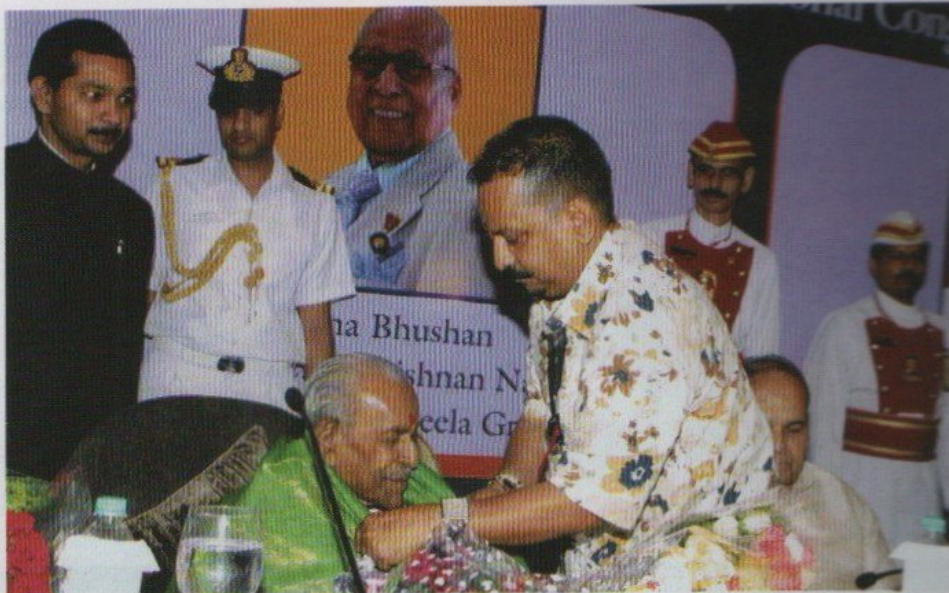
Utham Kumar acknowledges with deep respect his gratitude to large hearted companies like Leela Group of Hotels, Chemtrols, Charms Group, Carmel Classes in Vasai, Akbar



Utham Kumar with Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao and MP Richard Hay



With Suresh Gopi MP



Late Maharajah of Travancore Uthradom Thirunal being honoured by Utham Kumar during the former's navathi celebrations in Mumbai.



Utham Kumar with his wife Siji and daughters

Travels and many more organisations, without whose support he would not have been able to carry out the Trust's philanthropic activities.

Future plans

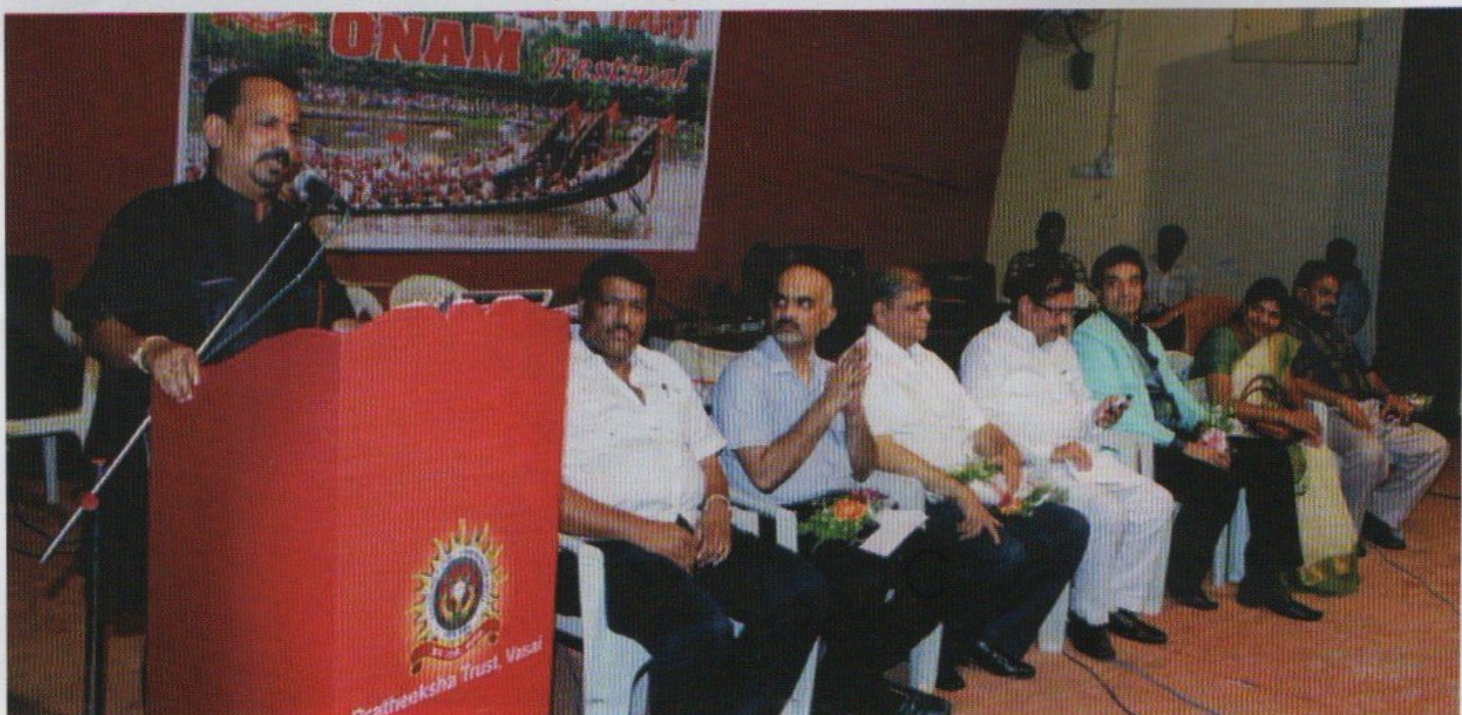
The Trust has plans to set up a charitable hospital and oldage home in Vasai and talks are on with the Government for obtaining suitable land for this proposal.

The other Executive members of Pratheeksha Trust are Ritesh Satyanathan, Jyotish Nambiar, AR Arunkumar, Ramanujam, K R Shindarkar and Vinodkumar and they all work sincerely towards fulfilling the social welfare objectives, according to Utham Kumar.

The youngest of five siblings, Utham Kumar came to Mumbai after completing his education and got employed as a photographer, later owning his own photo studio.

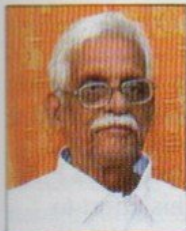
Utham Kumar is married to Siji Nair, a native of Chengannur, who was brought up and studied in Mumbai. She is working in a private company. They have two daughters Gayathri and Gowri.

"My wife has always been a source of strength to me. She has encouraged and stood by my side in whatever I do. I also owe a lot of gratitude to my elder sister Padma Divakara Kurup and her husband Divakaran Kurup who have supported me always. They also live in Vasai," he says. ■



Utham Kumar addressing the gathering during Onam celebration

ONE SEED THREE FRUITS



**Prof M R
Chandrasekharan**

When compared to M T Vasudevan Nair's '*Naalukettu*', '*Asuravithu*' and '*Kaalam*', his novel titled '*Manju*' (Mist) is not much significant. Yet, the strong recognition received from the readers, this small novel rose to much higher status. MT has written another novel, '*Vilapa yathra*', not much bigger than *Manju* but it did not receive the same amount of attention.

Manju has certain features. One of them is that it is written in the style of a telegram. Like a puzzle, MT was saying a story in minimum words but leaving so much to the reader to think of. Throughout its narration we feel a kind of tenderness, felt in an intimate poem. Vimala is the most important character in this novel. Nine years ago, her lover betrayed her by robbing her virginity before vanishing without any trace. She was still nursing his thoughts, with patience, tendering to her mental bruises.

Vimala is a teacher. She is also the warden of the boarding house adjacent to her school. It was vacation and the boarding house is deserted. Yet Vimala is not going anywhere during vacation. Her house is not far away. It takes three hours to reach her house. Her mother, brother and sister are staying there, besides her father who is sick and bed ridden. She thought of him as 'a rat snake that was hurled and thrown away by young shepherds.'

Vimala still remembers the big establishment in the middle of a potato farm where her strict and disciplinarian father was employed, before he became ill. He held a high position in that establishment. He was a Keralite and they left Kerala when Vimala was only five. Her memory about her village is linked to a dilapidated temple close to their house. She had her education and employment outside Kerala. For the last nine years, Vimala was teaching Zoology in the Nainital School.



M T Vasudevan Nair

The waiting

Nine years ago Sudhir-kumar was doing research on international relations when he entered Vimala's life. It was an unforgettable experience of her life. She could not shake herself free from those memories. The mind is like a monkey jumping from tree to tree, she realises. Any incident of her life ultimately takes her to those memories.

Vimala could have ignored her contact with Sudhirkumar as a temporary phase and could have proceeded in life as it came. She did not do that. She is waiting. There is no expectation that he would come one day. Yet she waits. A waiting in solitude!

Experience of Vimala is like that of old Shakuntala. Sudhirkumar is her Dushyanta. Shakuntala was pregnant. She gave birth and brought him up. She never expected Dushyanta to come back to her life and yet lived to fulfil her duty to bring up her son. She belonged to the old world but the woman of today is intelligent. Instead of son, she tended to her mental wounds. In her life she had only solitude, numbness, waiting and self torture. Vasudevan Nair painted a

woman of the new world.

Intelligence and wisdom

Let's imagine that Vimala was pregnant and gave birth to a child. What would she become? She would have become Rachael Thomas of '*Pani Theeratha Veedu*' (The unfinished house) of Parapurathu. Rachael's father was a senior officer like Vimala's father. Daughter of this highly placed person of Kerala also did not have any idea of her native state. Rachael was born when her father was working in Karachi. After independence, father became an officer of the rank of a government secretary in Calcutta. When she was studying in a college, she fell in love with the son of a big industrialist. He was Ashok Mitra. When father came to know about his daughter's affair, he asked her, "You bring him home. Let me have a look at him." He was not against her love. He just said this much: "You may love him but you should be a woman of intelligence and wisdom."

This warning from father did not come to save the life of Rachael. She eloped with her lover. They stayed in a city hotel for one night. Next day he left her to bring money but never returned. Rachael's father and brothers came in search of her and took her home. We come to know that the lover boy was prevented from leaving home and he was made to change his mind.

Rachael was pregnant and gave birth to a daughter. Her father died. She did not like to continue staying at home. She was neither willing to go to her native place. She lived like a widow and became a teacher in St Clare's School in Nainital. Daughter Roshni made her life meaningful.

Similarity

Author Parapurathu tells us that Rachael who brings up her lover's daughter never grieves about losing her virginity. In Vimala too, we see the same attitude. Its stamp is that waiting. She is never remorseful about her. Yet she



wishes to 'simply see Sudhir Mishra just once.'

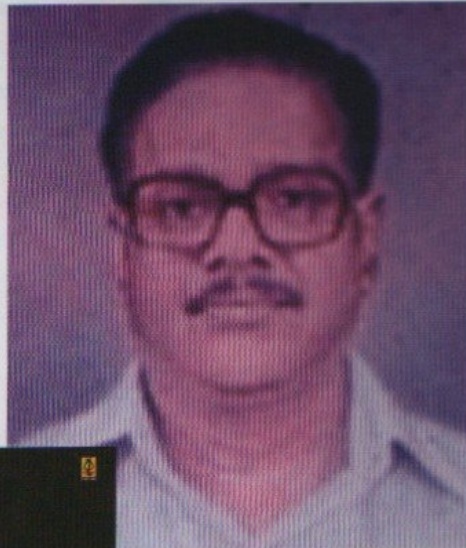
Simply to see once- will a woman think so? Here we see the stamp of time and that is 'waiting.' Even if it is not in Vimala, Vasudevan Nair's pen has it. Writers put not only their feeling into the character but also their own line of thinking. The winter in the mind of Vimala is the winter in the mind of the author. The difference between Vimala and Rachael is the difference between Vasudevan Nair and Parapurathu.

Teacher in Nainital; abandoned by lover; away from native place; daughter of a highly placed government officer; Mitra is Bengali and Mishra could be from Bihar. Mishra tells Vimala that his native place has no greenery and women are bringing water from a place three miles away. Body of story indicates the important elements. They could be characters or main incidents. In this context the novels of Vasudevan Nair and Parapurathu bear similarity.

Unique stamps

After his first marriage, Vasudevan Nair has spent some time in Nainital. Parapurathu was a clerk in defence service in Nainital. When I asked them soon after the publication of their novels, each one of them maintained that they had not read the other's novel. It may be true. Nevertheless, there is reason to believe that each of them was dependent on the same basic story. Not necessarily the basic story but to the basic main character, if that could be said.

Solitude, timidity, waiting they are the stamps of the unique art of Vasudevan Nair. They are romantic too. In all stories of Parapurathu, one can see his own family problems. He merges his family problems with those of the country. Civilian clerk transforms to a soldier carrying gun. During the developmental activities, war erupts. Family problems have not found solutions. Thus Parapurathu linked the affairs of country and family, his desire to fight for the country etc to the story of Rachael. In Parapurathu's novel, Rachael's story is a part. In Vasudevan Nair's novel, Vimala's story is a share. This is the basic difference between these two novels.



Parapurathu

A character of Parapurathu Jose saves Rachael from drowning in a lake. Such an adventure is absent in *Manju*. There is a Sardarji in *Manju*, who says, "Death is a joker without any sense of timing. In *Pani Theeratha Veedu*, Jose is his equivalent. Parapurathu likes adventure where Vasudevan Nair is fond of timidity.

Pani Theeratha Veedu and *Manju* were first published in 1964. They are independent works. No one could accuse them of plagiarism. It is yet not impossible to state that both chose the same basic story.

This statement is not specific only for these novels. All novels are based on some incidences of the past. It could be a story of a woman who was trapped in a romantic adventure; story of a Malayali woman. May be such a story was existing in Nainital. When two Keralites happened to reach Nainital, that story reached the readers of Kerala.

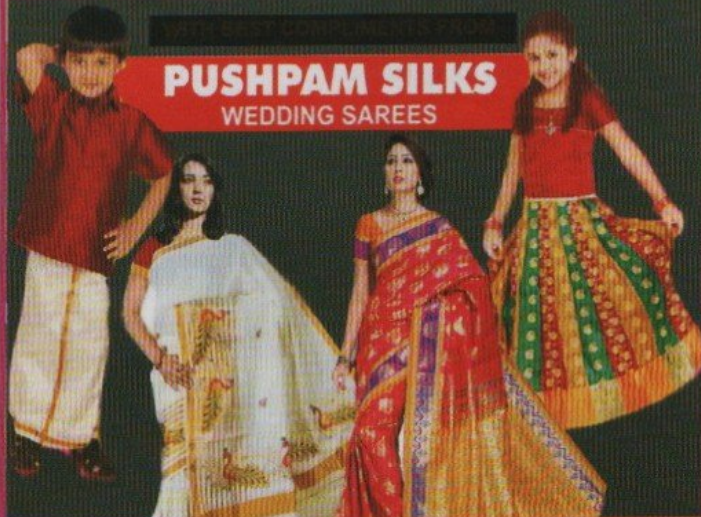


Novel is not only a mere story but also the document of a region. Both these parts got fused in Nainital. Then come the issue of a language. Vasudevan Nair uses the language of waiting or sadness and Parapurathu that of earnestness or courage. Malayalam language benefitted, we got two good novels.

Mucheerpan

Changes are inevitable in Malayalam novels. The success of Vasudevan Nair as a novelist and the popularity of *Manju* made Thakazhi Sivasankara Pilla uneasy and intolerant. In his effort to belittle and deride Vasudevan Nair, Thakazhi, the uncrowned novelist of Kerala wrote a novel, '*Aakasam*.' What is the relation between mist and Vimala? Is it her internal winter that represents mist? May be. What Thakazhi saw in *Manju* is mere emptiness. He must have observed it a fraudulent attempt. So he attempted to include all these in the title *Aakasam* (Sky). How it was received by the readers of Kerala is another matter.

Imitation even if it is in negation, is admiration. Thakazhi wrote *Aakasam* just to prove that he too could write like Vasudevan Nair. Story of *Aakasam* is nothing but imitation of that of *Manju*.



PUSHPAM SILKS
WEDDING SAREES

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

മാമുമാജ് ദോരത്തി, മുണ്ടുകൾ, റെഡിമെയ്ഡ് ഷർട്ടുകൾ
"ഓട്ടിപ്പോ കെട്ടിക്കൊ വെൽക്രോ ദോരത്തി പോക്കറ്റ് ഉൾപ്പെടെ"
ഫാക്ടറി വിലയിൽ ലഭിക്കുന്നതാണ്

No. 2, Matunga Mansion, Opp. Post Office, Bhandarkar Road,
Matunga (C.R.), Mumbai - 400 019.
Tel: 2418 1025, 2410 5293, Mob: 98920 67581

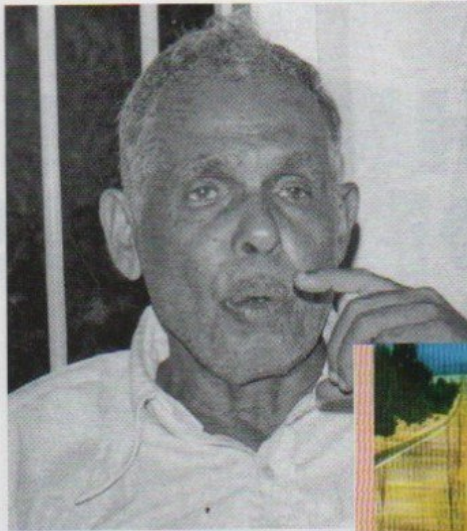
The story of Aakasam revolves around the marriage of Kumudam, born in Punjab, with Yesodharan. The man behind the marriage is a painting artist. The marriage was not a happy one. The girl of Punjab did not like the traditions of a Malayali family. She therefore left for her father's house. Her father sends a bill to the son in law towards the money spent by him for the upkeep of his daughter at his house. It is an extraordinary act. What Thakazhi tries to prove in the novel is that the person known as her father is not her real father and her real father is someone named Ranbir Singh a Punjabi.

Strange Men

Thakazhi brings in several strange men in his novel. One of them is Karottu Karanavar. He marries unwed pregnant girls. Koppan Nair, another character, marries women who give birth to unknown person's children. Thakazhi establishes that Karottu Karanavar is Kumudam's father and Koppan Nair is Yesodharan. Artist Viswanathan is a ridiculed character in it. This novel is a classic example of how a competition in literature reduces to dirty thinking, violence and character assassination.

Kochu Devaki

It is true that however bad his intentions are, novel written by Thakazhi would have some elements of



Thakazhi

literary glow. What else we could say about the character of Kochu Devaki! She is a customary bride of Yesodharan. She remained so even after his marriage with Kumudam. She took upon herself to care for him. After the departure of Kumudam, she comes closer to him. That is the basis of her observing 'Puthiruvatira.' When Kumudam commits suicide, author tells us, the house becomes restless. Devaki says, "I thought both will be here." Kochu Devaki is one of memorable characters of Thakazhi.

The sky has very little to do in Thakazhi's novel. For those who do not know the background of this book, it

would be a puzzle. Even in the mind of such readers, Kochu Devaki would live for long.

Nainital

Tal means lake. Nainital is the lake of Nainadevi. The well known tourist centre Nainital is situated on the northern border of Kumaon valley of

Uttar Pradesh. It is a city of waiting. During May and June tourists reach Nainital. It is during this period that the city really lives. The city thus waits for these two months during the remaining period.

There is propriety in the selection of Nainital by Vasudevan Nair to tell the story of waiting. He could have modified the story of Vimala to suit Nainital. Anyway, there is aptness between Vimala's life and

Nainital.

Rachael is not waiting, she absorbs her sadness but Roshni brings brightness in her life. Parapurathu is such an author that he never puts out the light of life.

Novel of Thakazhi has no connection with Nainital. He talks about Punjab and Ranbir Singh. They enter the story under the shadow of anger. Kochu Devaki is the daughter of Kerala. That character is like a flower bloomed in unclaimed land. ■



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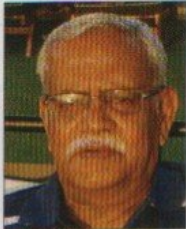
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A CHRONICLER OF BIRDS



K R Narayanan

■ In June, 2009, commemoration programmes were organized by the Trivandrum-based 'Warblers and Waders' as part of the 17th death anniversary of the bird-watcher

writer K.K. Neelakantan, better known as *Induchoodan*.

The programmes included power point presentations and photo exhibitions on the birds of Kerala. Photographs of about 200 bird species found in Kerala were displayed at the exhibition, held at the Museum Auditorium in the city.

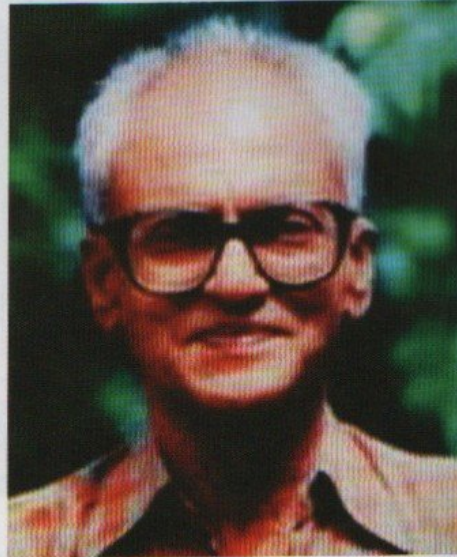
These included snaps of rare and endemic birds of Kerala, belonging to various habitats, like wetland, high ranges and forest. It also marked the 50th anniversary of the monumental Malayalam book, '*Keralathile Pakshikal*'. The programmes focused on the birds of Kerala and *Keralathile Pakshikal* (Birds of Kerala), from K. K. Neelakantan or 'Induchoodan'.

In 1963, '*Keralathile Pakshikal*' (The Birds of Kerala) was one among the three titles that were selected from India for WWF recognition. First published in 1958, it is considered to be a classic in Malayalam science literature. It is a unique work in Indian Ornithology, with illustrations and descriptions of 261 birds found in Kerala.

There were many similar commemoration programmes and ceremonies in India to honour Kerala's late bird watcher-writer, Induchoodan.

Induchoodan in Malayalam Science Writing

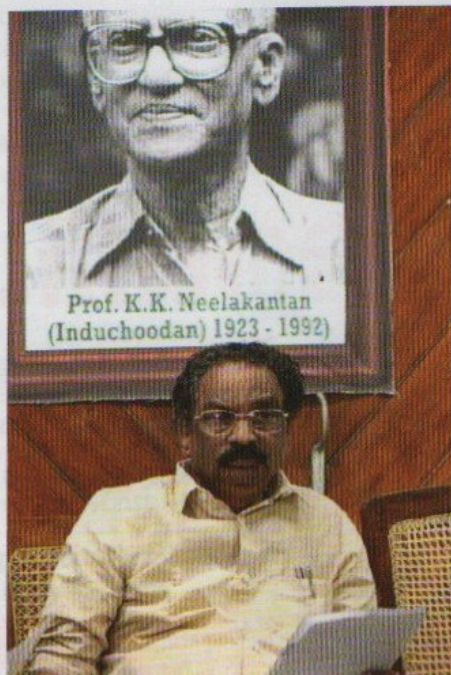
During the fifties of the twentieth century, when science writing in Malayalam was in its infancy, the then leading Malayalam weekly of Kerala, *Mathrubhoomi* Weekly came out with a series of very informative scientific articles on the fauna of the Western Ghats of Kerala. One of them was



Prof. K.K. Neelakantan

"Keralathile Pakshikal" (Birds of Kerala) written by Induchoodan, and the other was *Keralathile Visha Pampukal* (Poisonous Snakes of Kerala), by Prof. K G Adiyodi. These two monumental documents were perhaps the most important milestones in Malayalam science writing.

Remember, that was the time when



Minister A K Balan at the centenary celebration of Prof. K.K. Neelakantan

science writing in Malayalam was just born and the *Shastra Saahithya Parishad* was yet to be born.

It was only subsequently that Mathrubhumi published many articles on space research, lunar mission and the like. A translation of Desmond Morris' '*The Naked Ape*' also appeared in this magazine, under the title *Nagna Vaanaran*. Similarly, many articles by Prof. Achuthan and Prof. Vincent Paul, on civil engineering too were then published in this magazine.

As a student of natural history, I used to take great interest in the articles on the birds and snakes of the Western Ghats. Also, I have had many opportunities to come in contact with, to live in and observe the Western Ghats, with particular reference to its fauna, from close quarters, during my school/college days. Induchoodan's serial articles in the vernacular on the birds of Kerala used to be of great assistance, on this account. My later life, in Western India, brought me in closer touch with the Bombay Natural History Society, where again, I came in contact with Induchoodan's research papers on the birds of Kerala.

Bird Watcher-writer Induchoodan

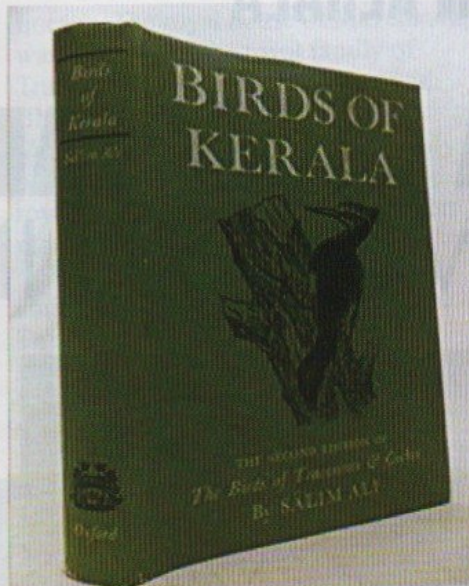
Readers of Malayalam, very often, confuse the bird watcher-writer Induchoodan with the popular Malayalam writer V T Induchoodan. Very few know that they were different. Induchoodan is the *nom-de-plume* (pen name) of a Professor of English literature, who took great interest in the birds of Kerala and grew up in that field to become a member of "World Wild Life Fund" and member of the Conservation Committee of the Silent Valley. His real name was Prof. K K Neelakantan (1923-1992).

Induchoodan *aka* Neelakantan was a native of Kavasseri village in Palakkad and was born there in 1923. His father was a veterinary surgeon under the then Mysore Government in Chithradurga. Neelakantan had his primary education

in Chithradurga and different places in the then Malabar Province.

He completed his Intermediate in the Malabar Christian College, Calicut, and his B.A.(Hons) - at par with the present M.A. in English literature in the Madras Christian College, Tambaram (1944). Thereafter, he taught English language and literature in the American College, Madurai, Loyola College, Madras, Brennen College, Tellichery, and Victoria College, Palakkad, till 1947. Thereafter, he continued as a professor in the Government College, Chittoor, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, and the University College, Trivandrum. In 1978, he retired as the Professor and Head of the English Department of the University College, Trivandrum.

Though Neelakantan was not a student of Malayalam literature nor of Ornithology, his interest in birds made him study the birds of his region, with great interest and acumen to become a master of Ornithology and whatever he observed and studied, he could convey through his articles and documents very expressively. This, in fact, created



interest among the common people in the birds and their environment. The result of his very many articles was his magnum opus - *Keralatthile Pakshikal*. (1958).

Later, Induchoodan wrote many popular articles and scientific papers on bird watching, environment and ecology. Another book under the title

"*Pullu Thottu Poonaara Vare*" bagged the award for scientific writing in Malayalam from the State Department of Science & Technology and I. C. Chacko Endowment Award of the Kerala Sahithya Academy. His book on bird watching, titled *Pakshikalum Manushyarum* (Birds and Men) bagged the Children's Book Trust Award, and the Govt. of Kerala Award.

When Macmillan Publishing Company requested him to write anything of his choice at their cost, Induchoodan preferred to write a book on bird watching for the children.

Induchoodan was the chairman of the Nature Conservation Commission and was the leader of the Silent Valley Conservation Agitation of 1979. Besides that, he was the founder of the Kerala Natural History Society, and the member of the World Wildlife Fund in Kerala.

This great bird watcher-writer succumbed to the inevitable at the age of sixty-nine, and, with this, a life dedicated to bird studies and nature conservation of Kerala came to an end. ■

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RAJA RAVI VARMA

FATHER OF MODERN INDIAN ART

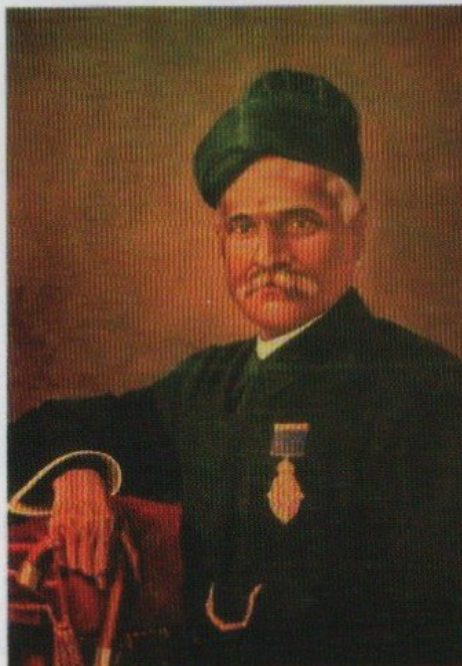


V N Gopalakrishnan

■ Raja Ravi Varma, is considered as one of the greatest painters in the history of Indian art for aesthetic and social reasons. He is one of the few painters who have managed to

accomplish a beautiful unison of the Indian traditions with the techniques of European academic art. His works are among the best examples of the fusion of European techniques with a purely Indian sensibility. He was notable for making affordable lithographs of his paintings available to the public and his lithographs increased the involvement of common people with fine arts. The title 'Raja' was conferred as a personal title by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

His depictions of Hindu deities and episodes from the epics and Puranas have received profound acceptance from the public. He attained fame and recognition for portraying scenes from *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* and his dazzling oil paintings of India's glorious past became highly popular. His works were exhibited in major exhibitions



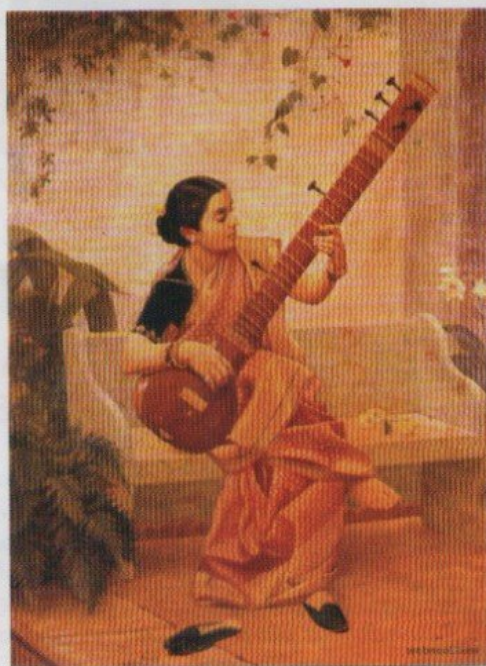
Raja Ravi Varma

across the globe for which he received numerous awards.

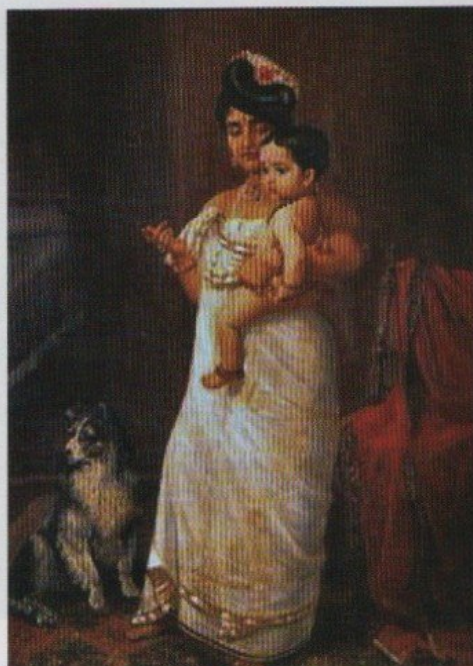
Ravi Varma was born in Kilimanoor on April 29, 1848. As a child, he would sit on his mother's lap, rapt in the melody of the hymns she sang and the sonorous flow of the *Mantras* his father chanted. Soon he was able to recite the

Soundarya Lahiri, the *Swayamvara Mantra* and all the *Dhyana slokas* and these he recited all the days of his life. As a child of seven years, he unveiled his painting skills on the walls of the Kilimanoor Palace in Kerala with the help of charcoal. Recognizing the inborn ability of the child, his parents sent him to study under the patronage of Ayilyam Thirunal when he was only 14 years. It was Raja Raja Varma, his uncle and a Thanjavoor artist realized young Varma's potential and resolved to tap the creative skill and began formal training. He learned water colour painting from Rama Swamy Naidu, the palace artist and oil painting from Theodor Jensen, the portrait artist of Dutch origin. Theodor Jensen visited Travancore Court with a letter of commendation from Sir John Lawrence, the Viceroy. He had come to paint the portrait of Ayilyam Thirunal and his consort Nagercoil Ammachi. Theodor Jensen has provided the critical link between Thanjavoor School and Western academic realism.

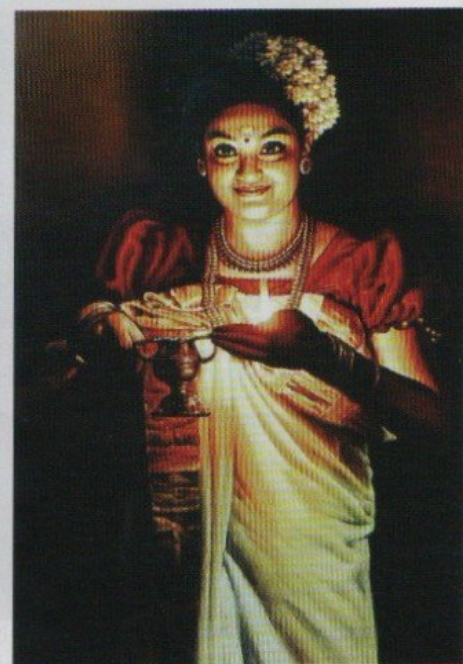
During his times, oil painting was a new medium and only Ramaswamy Naicker of Madurai had the knowledge of its techniques in Travancore. But he refused to teach him the art of oil



Lady playing Veena



Mother and child



Lady with a lamp

painting as he saw him as his potential rival. It was Arumugham Pillai, a student of Naicker who taught him the nuances of oil painting much against the wishes of his teacher. This knowledge was then supplemented by some more information from Theodor Jenson. Interestingly, Ravi Varma's painted portrait of the royal couple far excelled the one done by Theodor Jenson. Instead of using the conventional paints, Ravi Varma opted for indigenous paints made from leaves, flowers, tree bark and soil. It is said that the Kilimanoor

lineage. The royal house of Mavelikara was a branch of the royal family of Travancore. Due to his marriage with Bhageerthi Bayi Thampuratty, Ravi Varma's connection to the royal family became very close. His children were royal by birth as they belonged to their mother's family.

The couple was blessed with five children, two sons and three daughters. The daughters were Mahaprabha Amma, Uma Amma and Cheria Kochamma. Their elder son, Kerala Varma was spiritual-minded and

canvas.

On the advice of T. Madhava Rao, then Dewan of Travancore, Ravi Varma started a lithographic printing press in Mumbai in 1894 and later shifted it to Malavli near Lonavla in Maharashtra in 1899. The oleographs produced by the press were mostly of Hindu gods and goddesses in scenes adapted mainly from the *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana* and the *Puranas*. These oleographs were very popular and continued to be printed in thousands, even after his death.

The Ravi Varma Press managed by Ravi Varma's brother, Raja Varma was the largest and most innovative press in India at that time. By 1899 the press was deeply in debt and two years later, it was sold to Fritz Schleicher, his printing technician from Germany. Schleicher continued to print Ravi Varma's prints and also broadened the products to include commercial and advertisement labels. The press continued successfully until a devastating fire destroyed the press in 1972 including the original lithographic prints.

The British Administrator Edgar Thurston made significant efforts in promoting the careers of Raja Ravi Varma and his brother Raja Raja Varma. In 1873, a Fine Arts Exhibition was held in Madras under the patronage of Lord Hobart, the Governor and Ravi Varma sent two entries. At the Exhibition, Ravi Varma bagged the first prize, the Governor's Gold Medal. He also received widespread commendation after he won the first prize for his paintings at the Vienna Art Exhibition in 1873. His paintings were also sent to the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893 and was awarded three gold medals.

In 1904, Lord Curzon, the Viceroy on behalf of the British Emperor, bestowed upon Ravi Varma the *Kaiser-i-Hind* Medal. A college dedicated to fine arts was also commenced in his honour at Mavelikara, Kerala. A High School at Kilimanoor was named after him and many cultural organizations throughout India bear his name. In 2013, a crater on Mercury was named after Raja Ravi Varma. Considering his vast contribution to Indian art, the Government of Kerala has instituted an award called "*Raja Ravi Varma Puraskaram*", which is awarded annually to people who show excellence in the field of art and culture.

Ravi Varma's oleographs of Shivaji Maharaj were a rage in Maharashtra. Brahmins visited his studio to "gaze in wonder" at his splendid canvases, and



Hamsa Damayanti

Palace was forced to put up a post office in order to settle the countless painting requests that arrived daily from everywhere.

Ravi Varma was closely related to the royal family of Travancore. Later in his life, two of his grand daughters were adopted into the royal family. Ravi Varma had three siblings, a sister named Mangala Bayi and two brothers named Godha Varma and Raja Varma. As a painter Raja Varma worked closely with Ravi Varma. Bharani Thirunal Lakshmi Bayi, his sister-in-law and Senior Rani of Attingal adopted Varma's granddaughters.

Ravi Varma was married to Bhageerathi Bayi Thampuratty (Kochu Panki Amma) of the royal house of Mavelikara at the age of 18 and his spouse was 12 years old. Bhageerthi was the youngest among the three sisters, and both her elder sisters were adopted into the royal family of Travancore in order to carry on the



Devi Mahalaskshmi

renounced the world in 1912. The younger son, Rama Varma, studied at the JJ School of Arts, Mumbai and inherited his father's artistic talent. He was married to Gowri Kunjamma, sister of Dewan Unnithan.

Ravi Varma travelled throughout India in search of subjects and often modeled Hindu goddesses on South Indian women. He spent the later years of his life in Mysore, Baroda and many other cities in India. This exposure helped him in broadening his outlook and sharpening his skills to become a mature painter. His paintings can be classified into three categories: Portraits, Portrait-based Compositions and Theatrical Compositions based on myths and legends. His representation of mythological characters has become a part of the Indian imagination of the epics. His early works depicted the basic elements of Tanjavur painting, which essentially comprises of demonstrating the feminine emotion on

poorer homes acquired prints of gods they worshipped. There is splendour and beauty in Ravi Varma's mythological creations like 'Damayanti'. The auction of *Damayanti* in New York fetched for \$1.6 million (around Rs.11 crore). Many of his fabulous paintings are housed at Laxmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara.

It is fair to say that the afterlife of Ravi Varma's images has been as eventful as his own. Celebrated widely as the 'first modern Indian painter' during his lifetime, the years after his death saw a dramatic change in the reception of his work by the community of artists. In the first decade of the 20th century, the Bengal School had established itself as an *avant-garde* movement that proclaimed an 'authentic' modern Indian art and the realism of Ravi Varma's works was seen as derivative, inspired by Western academic sources.

In 1993, renowned painter A. Ramachandran and the art conservator Rupika Chawla curated a major exhibition of Ravi Varma at the National Museum in New Delhi, and it announced a renewed interest in the

artist at a time when the art world was just beginning to embrace popular culture. Two books on Ravi Varma adopted a different approach, examining the aesthetic value of his oil paintings and his career as a 'gentleman artist.' The book by Rupika Chawla is a well-researched biography featuring 436 paintings in rich colour. She has meticulously gathered archival materials on Ravi Varma such as letters, newspaper clippings and conversations with experts. The book is rich in details about the palace intrigues involving Ravi Varma's royal patrons revealing the complex place that an independent painter in the late 19th century occupied *vis-à-vis* his benefactors.

In comparison, Christopher Pinney's *Photos of the Gods: The Printed Image and Political Struggle in India* is a compelling account of Ravi Varma's images being drawn into the vortex of nationalist theatre. The criticisms against Ravi Varma are recounted and summarily dismissed and Rupika Chawla's biography becomes an exercise in connoisseurship, eschewing politics for aesthetics.

Raja Ravi Varma had few critics as

well. Stalwarts like E.B. Havell, Principal of the Government School of Art, Kolkatta and Ananda Coomaraswamy dismissed his works as extravagant and theatrical. The cardinal sin of Ravi Varma, according to Havell, was his lack of poetic feeling in illustrating Indian poetry and allegory. J. Swaminathan criticized him for his "vulgar naturalism. Raja Ravi Varma has also been criticized for being too showy in his paintings. His paintings are condemned for overshadowing traditional Indian art forms, especially the ones depicting Hindu gods and goddesses. His approach is said to lack the dynamism of expression seen in the traditional paintings. Critics have also disapproved of his rejecting the traditional models of representation of deities and reducing them to the level of mortals. His romantic Indian themes, immersed in mythology, were one reason for his immense popularity but "the appeal of his heroines lay in the fact that they were not iconographic types, but palpable, desirable human beings". Critics branded him as "the progenitor of fair skin as an ideal of feminine beauty in Indian popular visual art".

Deepanjana Pal's book *The Painter: A Life of Ravi Varma* is more forthright in acknowledging the criticisms against Ravi Varma. Her dramatised biography pays keen attention to Ravi Varma's female subjects, both on canvas and in his life. The genre of the dramatised biography necessitates taking certain liberties with documented facts.

Despite Ravi Varma's widespread popularity, the literature on him has remained resolutely obscure on his personal life, his drives and his desires. The "Father of Modern Indian Art" breathed his last on October 2, 1906 at the age of 58 in Kilimanoor leaving behind his legacy of amazing paintings. His second son Rama Varma and his daughters served as his inspiration for his paintings and continued his artistic creativity through their offsprings and grand-children. ■

Wedding



Marriage of **Anurag Janardhanan** S/o Colonel Prof Dr Kavumbayi Janardhanan and Dr Major Nalini Janardhanan with **Sneha Prabhakaran** D/o Mr Prabhakaran and Ms Yamuna Prabhakaran was held on 15 Oct 2017 at Panjiwadi Banquet Hall, Kanjur Marg, Mumbai.

Left to right: Dr (Major) Nalini Janardhanan, Anurag Janardhanan, Dr (Miss) Anupama Janardhanan, Sneha Prabhakaran and Colonel Prof Dr Kavumbayi Janardhanan.

A Year has passed since MGK Passed Away

[The modern renaissance Scientific-India thoughtfully remembered Professor MGK Menon on his first death anniversary. Infosys Narayana Murthy delivered the first memorial lecture and Dr Manju Sharma received the first memorial award. Distinctively but diversely described as Statesman-Scientist, Scientist of Scientists, Architect of Policy and Technology Thought Leader, a year after his death on 26th November 2016 Professor MGK Menon's memory evokes lovely images of Powell, Russell, Leonardo da Vinci and Richard Feynman.]



Dr A P Jayaraman

■ Mambillikkalathil Govind Kumar Menon affectionately called Goku by his mentors, Dr Homi Bhabha and Dr Vikram Sarabhai, was a genius and a colossus of two

cultures. Sir CP Snow's dichotomy theory was falsified by MGK by his mastery of physical sciences and humanities in depth, breadth and stretch. To crown it all, he had the creative felicity of expression in English language with chiseled expressions of semantic exactitude. Thus Menon occupies a singular space in the scientifico-cultural heritage of the intellectual world.

Early Education

Goku was born in Mangalore on 28 August 1928, into the family of Kizhakkepat Shankara Menon and Mambillikalathil Narayanikutty Amma. His father was a District and Sessions Judge in transferable judicial service. Owing to frequent relocations, Goku's primary education took place at Kurnool and Cuddalore. Then the family moved to Jodhpur and he matriculated from the Punjab University in 1942. He took his Bachelor of Science degree from the Agra University in 1946. For a while he toyed with the idea of prosecuting a career in medicine.

Raman Effect on Menon

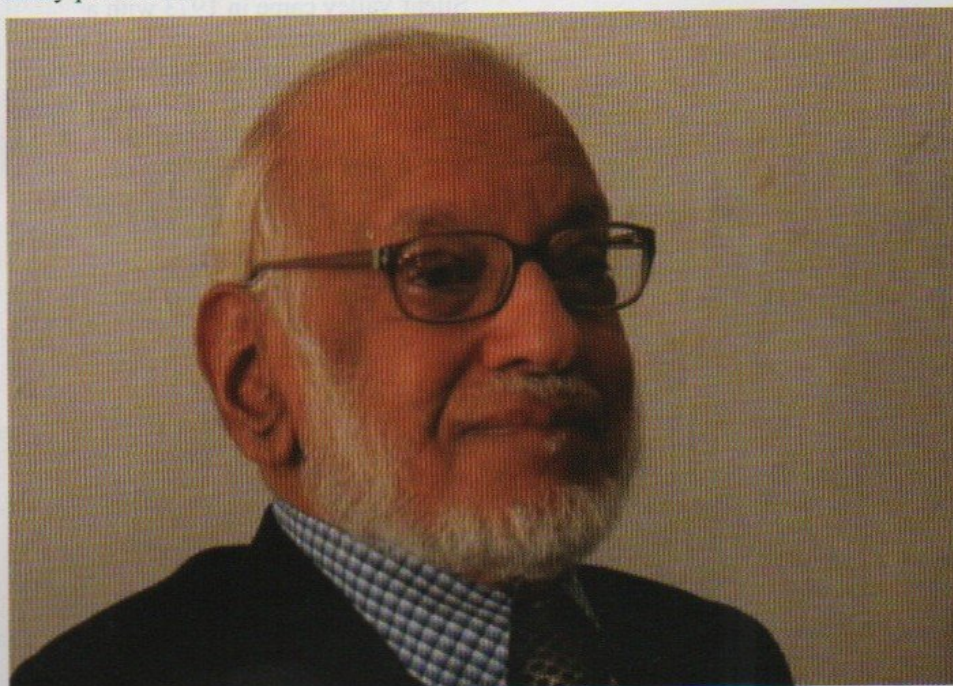
Goku loved science and the bright spark that kindled his imagination in deep blue sky research was provided by

physics Nobelist C V Raman. Shankara Menon had invited Raman for dinner. Conversation about higher education sprang up. Thumping the dining table, Raman said the greatest thing for Goku to do in life would be to do science and suggested physics.

Menon then moved to the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay where he obtained the Master of Science in physics. He joined the group of Nobel laureate Cecil Powell, at the University of Bristol, took his PhD in particle physics at the age of 25. Working in Powell's group, Menon developed methods to use large photographic emulsion stacks for the measurement of cosmic rays at high atmospheric altitudes. He discovered extraordinary particles like K mesons in cosmic ray decay processes.

Balloons and Gold Mine

Back to India in 1955, Menon joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research at the invitation of its founder, Homi Bhabha. Menon was part of the team which developed the capability for high altitude studies of cosmic rays using huge helium balloons. The team also conducted experiments on particle physics and cosmic rays using detectors deep underground. The famous Kolar Gold Fields was the site. These were internationally path breaking studies of neutrinos deep underground in the 1960s, as well as experiments to investigate proton decay in the 1980s. For his fundamental contributions to particle physics, Menon was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1970.



Dr MGK Menon

Particle Physics

In my college days we used logarithm tables and the brand was Clark's Table. Usually only the first few pages are used but one day I decided to go through the full table. Then I found Meson decay and Menon in the table. That was my first scientific information report on Menon. A year later I was in the Scientific Officers Training School of the Atomic Energy Establishment which gave me access to Menon in his lectures and meetings. Menon instantly became my ideal model of perfection in content and communication. Till then that space in my mind was solely occupied by Bertrand Russell. As Menon became FRS in 1970, the two intellectual giants dominated my thinking space. I also visualize Leonardo da Vinci in Menon.

Visible Celebrity Scientist

A scientist of great drive, passionate energy and impeccable attention to detail, Menon was a faithful follower of the holy grail of the Scientific Method. He was a transformative and charismatic leader in scientific community. Dr Bhabha had nurtured him to be the Director of the TIFR. Steadily his presence in Scientific India which he helped to create was visible. These included memberships of the Planning Commission, Chairmanship of the Indian Space Research Organization, Scientific Advisership to the Prime Minister (1986-89), Minister of State for Science and Technology and Education and many other prominent positions.

Menon had the rare distinction of having held the position of the Presidencies of the three major academies of science the Indian Academy of Sciences; Indian National Science Academy; and National Academy of Sciences, India. He was also the Founding Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy.

Architect, Designer and Builder

Menon played an important role in supporting the development of scientific facilities in the country, such as the Ooty radio telescope and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope. Throughout, he laid great stress on national self-reliance, indigenization of technology, and an uncompromising



Narayana Murthy

focus on excellence, as evidenced, for example, by his role in the preparation of the Technology Policy Statement of 1983. Being primarily an experimentalist himself, he was keen that the infrastructure for experimental science in India be developed to world-class standards, to attract the best and brightest young scientific minds.

Silent Diplomacy

Kerala and India owe a big Thank you to Menon for his strategic role in preserving the Silent valley. The dense tropical forest, occupying about 30,000 ha in the Western Ghats of Kerala has a rich and rare heritage of flora and fauna. It is an Eldorado of biodiversity signifying the evolutionary pinnacle of plant life. Primitive nomadic tribes live along its outskirts. The threat to the Silent Valley came in 1973 with a Kerala Government plan to build a dam across the Kunthipuzha River, which will flood a significant fraction of the Valley. Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad spearheaded resistance movement. Benefits were hyped that the project will provide the opportunity for generating about 250 MW of hydroelectric power and irrigation to 10,000 ha of land in Palakkad district and Jobs for many but unspecified number of people.

It was the Man versus Monkey discourse. As the power lobby became menacingly vocal, Menon in cool calibrated logic persuaded Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Valley became a National Park. It is only fitting and proper as Dr. M S Swaminathan suggested that the Valley should be named after Menon.

Sustainability

In a Foreword to a book on Sustainability, Menon wrote, "I regard an understanding of sustainable development as the *overwhelming question* that we face today." This phrase comes from T.S. Eliot's *Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

"To lead you to an *overwhelming question* ...

Oh, do not ask, 'What is it?'

Let us go and make our visit."

Menon found most meaning in Brundtland Report and quoted: "Human survival and well being could depend on success in elevating sustainable development to a global ethic." and emphasized that as the need of the hour.

Japanese Flavour

1970 Expo'70, Senri Hills, Osaka Banpaku, Maiden World fair in Japan. Dr Sarabhai decided to showcase India's vision on Atomic Energy, Space Technology and Total Scientific development. I was given charge of this assignment. Menon visited Expo for three days. I accompanied him to the pavilions of other countries. At Greek pavilion Menon gave me a briefing of the displays there. Director of the pavilion and his staff gathered around Menon to hear his brilliant exposition of Greek culture. As a VIP I can get a dedicated guide to accompany Menon to brief but Menon's briefing was the ultimate. I had the rich and rare privilege of a great exposure to the wisdom, knowledge and information of a beautiful mind and a brilliant brain.

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Particle Physics

In my college days we used logarithm tables and the brand was Clark's Table. Usually only the first few pages are used but one day I decided to go through the full table. Then I found Meson decay and Menon in the table. That was my first scientific information report on Menon. A year later I was in the Scientific Officers Training School of the Atomic Energy Establishment which gave me access to Menon in his lectures and meetings. Menon instantly became my ideal model of perfection in content and communication. Till then that space in my mind was solely occupied by Bertrand Russell. As Menon became FRS in 1970, the two intellectual giants dominated my thinking space. I also visualize Leonardo da Vinci in Menon.

Visible Celebrity Scientist

A scientist of great drive, passionate energy and impeccable attention to detail, Menon was a faithful follower of the holy grail of the Scientific Method. He was a transformative and charismatic leader in scientific community. Dr Bhabha had nurtured him to be the Director of the TIFR. Steadily his presence in Scientific India which he helped to create was visible. These included memberships of the Planning Commission, Chairmanship of the Indian Space Research Organization, Scientific Advisership to the Prime Minister (1986-89), Minister of State for Science and Technology and Education and many other prominent positions.

Menon had the rare distinction of having held the position of the Presidencies of the three major academies of science the Indian Academy of Sciences; Indian National Science Academy; and National Academy of Sciences, India. He was also the Founding Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy.

Architect, Designer and Builder

Menon played an important role in supporting the development of scientific facilities in the country, such as the Ooty radio telescope and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope. Throughout, he laid great stress on national self-reliance, indigenization of technology, and an uncompromising



Narayana Murthy

focus on excellence, as evidenced, for example, by his role in the preparation of the Technology Policy Statement of 1983. Being primarily an experimentalist himself, he was keen that the infrastructure for experimental science in India be developed to world-class standards, to attract the best and brightest young scientific minds.

Silent Diplomacy

Kerala and India owe a big Thank you to Menon for his strategic role in preserving the Silent valley. The dense tropical forest, occupying about 30,000 ha in the Western Ghats of Kerala has a rich and rare heritage of flora and fauna. It is an Eldorado of biodiversity signifying the evolutionary pinnacle of plant life. Primitive nomadic tribes live along its outskirts. The threat to the Silent Valley came in 1973 with a Kerala Government plan to build a dam across the Kunthipuzha River, which will flood a significant fraction of the Valley. Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad spearheaded resistance movement. Benefits were hyped that the project will provide the opportunity for generating about 250 MW of hydroelectric power and irrigation to 10,000 ha of land in Palakkad district and Jobs for many but unspecified number of people.

It was the Man versus Monkey discourse. As the power lobby became menacingly vocal, Menon in cool calibrated logic persuaded Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Valley became a National Park. It is only fitting and proper as Dr. M S Swaminathan suggested that the Valley should be named after Menon.

Sustainability

In a Foreword to a book on Sustainability, Menon wrote, "I regard an understanding of sustainable development as the *overwhelming question* that we face today." This phrase comes from T.S. Eliot's *Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

"To lead you to an *overwhelming question* ...

Oh, do not ask, 'What is it?'

Let us go and make our visit."

Menon found most meaning in Brundtland Report and quoted: "Human survival and well being could depend on success in elevating sustainable development to a global ethic." and emphasized that as the need of the hour.

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development.

As we stood before the time capsule to be opened after 2000 years from then Menon was eloquent on the future that technology will create.

A Sit in Fine Dine in a Kyoto restaurant enabled me to have an exotic journey into the cultural undertones and culinary overtones of Japanese food. As we retired for the night I wondered and why I wondered was that the divine taste of the food was due to *Umami* or Menon effect on me.

Etched in Memory

Forty five eventful years have rolled by. Yet I can refresh and recall my memory of those extra scientific episodes that enriched my life. In the Mother Teresa Award presentation to Dr. Sarada Menon at Chennai, I could not resist mentioning MGK as I looked to my right there is Dr. Swaminathan FRS and Dr. Sarada Menon (elder sister of MGK). I referred to the seminal quest of MGK for physical reality and the search for reality in schizophrenic minds by his elder sister. She was visibly moved. On November 15, 2016, Dr Sarada Menon wrote to me, "It was wonderful meeting you and hearing to know of your association with my dear brother. I was so happy when you talked about him during the felicitation."

Years later when Menon family was connected to my wife's family, I again met Menon in private family settings. I felt I am with a genius who was continuously setting higher standards for oneself when none in the comparison zone.

Marriages and nonmarriage

Dr Sarabhai from Gujarat married a Keralite, Mrunalini. Professor Menon from Kerala married Indu from Gujarat. Dr Bhabha remained a bachelor. That was the state of affairs of the trinity of Indian science.

Clear Nuclear Thought

In 1974 India conducted a peaceful Nuclear Experiment in Pokhran, Rajasthan. Menon had intellectual ties with Powell and Russell and was the voice of Pugwash Movement. Menon defended the Pokhran event as a means to explore enhanced mining techniques and other feats of large-scale underground nuclear engineering. Paraphrasing Indira Gandhi, Menon asserted, "What we want is not to make

deserts but to make deserts bloom." In the interview for War and Peace in the Nuclear Age: "The Have and Have-nots," Menon offers reflections on the dynamic and visionary nuclear physicist Dr. Homi Bhabha.

An asteroid '7564 Goku Menon' was named in his honour in late 2008. Today that shining scientific star of post-independent India has joined the

cosmos to be remembered for ever for his contributions in making India an IT super power and a power house of science and technology. It is only fitting poetic justice that the doyen of Indian IT industry, Narayana Murthy delivered the first memorial lecture and exhorted the nation to re-engineer education, a dream close to Menon. ■

POEM

Butterfly...

Beautiful sights for the eyes in line
Fragrance covered all
over with an effect like wine
Lilies, roses, tulips, jasmine divine
I wish the place could be mine

Suddenly I see beautiful patterns
Flying like kites looking like lanterns
Yellow, blue, white, red and so
more that your heads shall turn

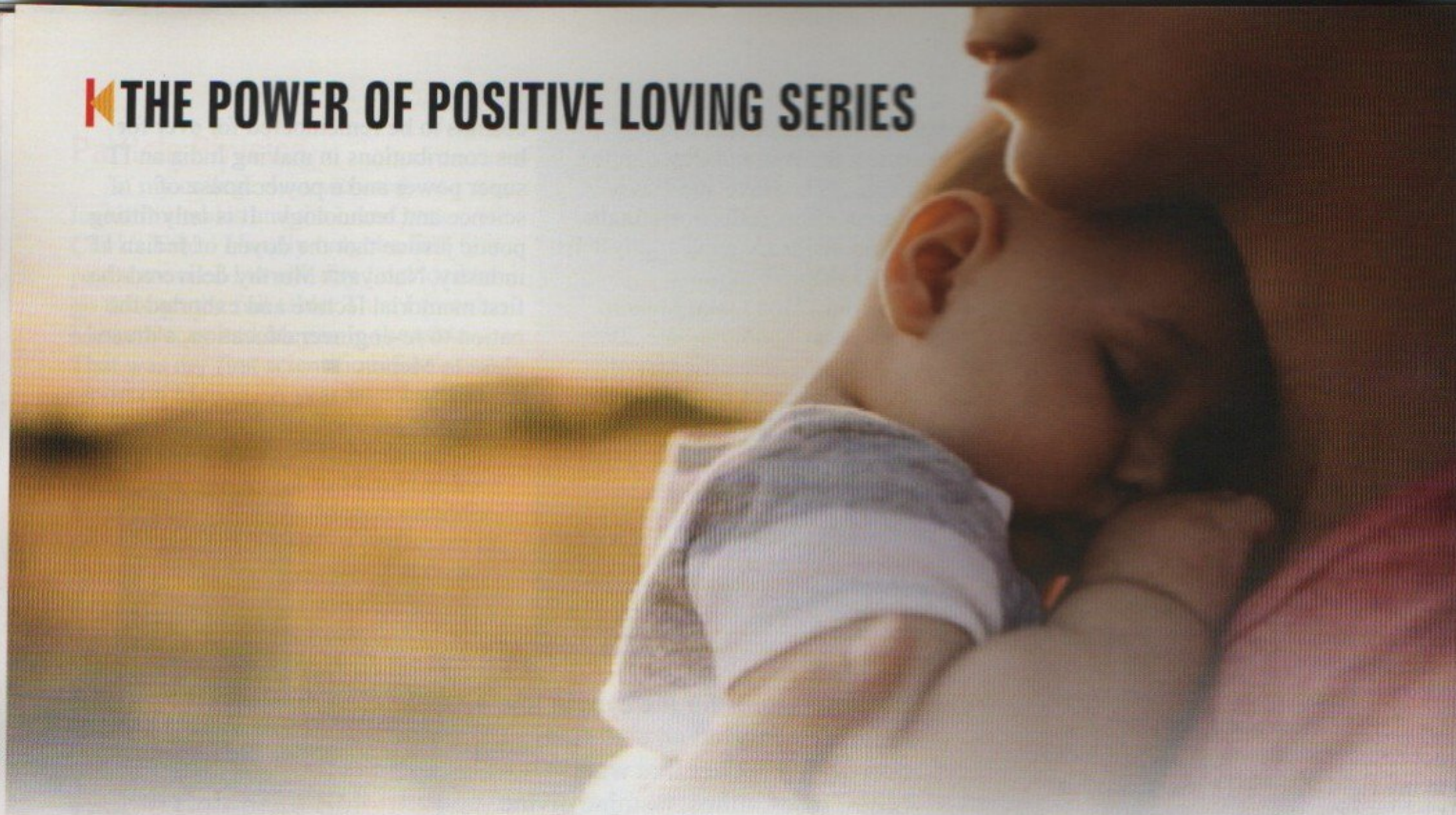
Call it magic or an illusion it was a sight
Beautiful with its wings they flew with might
Cuddling in each flower pushing
each other for the nectar to fight

I could not take off my eyes as it outfly
My eagerness to touch it was let by
Such eternal creation of god to simplify
Which is called a butterfly.



Anisha Nair





MOTHERS

GOD COULD NOT BE EVERYWHERE, SO HE CREATED MOTHERS

The Mother is everything she is our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery and our strength in weakness. She is the source of love, mercy, sympathy and forgiveness. He who loses his mother loses a pure soul who blesses and guards him constantly. - Khalil Gibran



Prof Dr John
Mathews Vazhappilly

■ When you are pushed against the wall, it is your beloved mom that stands by you like a rock to give all the strength and solace. She walks with you when others walk out of your life. She is there with you through thick and thin. She is there to share your passion, sing your song, and dance to your favorite tunes. Mothers of today are smart, intelligent, educated, fashionable, up-to-date, tech-savvy—they are at par with their kids.

Maternal love envelops a child so fully that no love in the world can come anywhere near what she feels for an infant. Nowonder, Aristotle placed maternal love at the top of the pyramid of human affections. See how beautifully Lord Macaulay captures the sweetness of maternal love:

Children, look in those eyes, listen to that dear voice, notice the feeling of even a single touch that is bestowed upon you by that gentle hand! Make much of it while yet you have that most precious of all good gifts, a loving mother. Read the unfathomable love of those eyes; the kind anxiety of that tone and look, however slight your pain. In after life you may have friends, fond, dear friends, but never will you have again the inexpressible love and gentleness lavished upon you, which none but a mother bestows.

In the animal kingdom, mothers are the fighters for their offspring, whom paternity often abandons. On the human level, life would be dull if through every beat of its existence one could not look back in gratitude to a mother who threw open the portals of life to give life, and then sustained it by the one great, irreplaceable love of each child's universe.

God knows that a mother needs fortitude and courage and tolerance and flexibility and patience and firmness and nearly every other brave aspect of the human soul. But I find casualness as an essential attribute of maternal love. It seems to me the rarest of virtues. It is useful enough when children are small. It is important to the point of necessity when they are adolescents. The young on their way to maturity long for privacy, physical and spiritual. They resent being too well understood, and they abhor having their emotions dragged into the light. Mothers who can forbear to pry and question, who have the self possession to let children weather their own storms, who, above all, respect confidence but do not demand them, will find those same confidence being given without demand. And their children will be stronger persons, or so one hopes.

The Mother who can be truly proud of her children is not the indulgent mother. Instead she is one who is firm, but fair; one whose love and affection for her family commands respect; one who is willing to sacrifice only when the purpose is worthy of sacrifice. She will not be a mother to give them everything they want, but one who will be ever mindful of what they need. Her children may even think she is a hard mother, until they grow old enough to understand. And when that time comes they will be the kind of children who will always remember her with the deepest affection and the utmost respect, not only on Mother's Day but on every day.

Maternal love is the supreme example of unconditional love. A mother gives love and care with no expectations. Coleridge was aware of the sanctity of maternal love and wrote:

A mother is a mother still,
The holiest thing alive.

-Coleridge, *Three Graves*

When God Created Mothers

When God thought of fashioning a mother, he must have been thrilled at the thought of creating such a masterpiece of marvelous human affection so rich, so deep, so divine, so full of soul, power, sensitivity and beauty. A good mother is a blessed gift from heaven, sacred and delicate, with affections so deep and rich, fashioned to refine, soothe, lift, elevate and enrich home, society and the world.

Many years ago I read an interesting and humorous description of how God created Mothers:

When the good lord was creating mothers, he was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said, "you are doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specifications on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic....have 180 movable parts all replaceable.... Run on black coffee and leftovers....have a lap that disappears when she stands up....a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair....and six pairs of hands."

Mother the Image of Transcendence

Mother is essentially an image of transcendence and eternity. A wife is essentially a creature of time, for even

while she lives she can become a widow, but a mother is outside time. She dies, but she is still a mother. She is the image of the eternal in time, the shadow of the infinite on the finite. Centuries and civilizations dissolve, but the mother is the giver of life.

Mother the Preserver of Equity in the World

The mother, too, is the preserver of equity in the world, as man is the guardian of justice. But justice would degenerate into cruelty if it were not tempered by that merciful appeal to excusing circumstance which only a mother can make. As man preserves law, so woman preserves equity or that spirit of kindness, gentleness, and sympathy, which tempers the rigors of justice. Vergil opened his great poem by singing of "arms and a man" not of women. When women are reduced to bear arms, they lose that specific quality of femininity; then equity and mercy vanish from the earth.

Culture Derives from the Mother

Mother is the transmitter of culture for had she not taught her children to talk, the great spiritual values of the world would not have passed from generation to generation. After nourishing the substance of the body to which she gave birth, she then nourishes the child with the substance of her mind. As guardian of the values of the spirit, as protectress of the morality of the young, she preserves culture which deals with purpose and ends, while man upholds civilization which deals only with means.

The Invisible Mothers who build Cathedrals

In an article on the cathedrals of Europe I discovered four life changing truths:

1. No one can say who built the great cathedrals; we have no record of their names;
2. These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished;
3. They made great sacrifices and expected no credit and
4. The passion of their building was fuelled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.

Mothers are like those architects who built the great cathedrals of

Europe. Mothers build great cathedrals of human achievements and accomplishments. No one notices these great architects of human lives. No one sees the great sacrifices they make.

There is a story about a visitor who saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the side of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof, No one will ever see it. And the workman replied, because God sees everything. No act of kindness a mother has done, no cupcakes she has baked, nor any of the daily chores she does are earth-shaking events. But these mothers are building great cathedrals that cannot be seen right now what they will become. And one day, it is possible that the world will marvel, not only at what they have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifice of invisible mothers.

Some Great Men on their Mothers

All that I am I owe to my angel mother

Abraham Lincoln on his step-mother.

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.

-Abraham Lincoln

It seems to me that my mother was the most splendid woman I ever knew....I have met a lot of people knocking around the world since, but I have never met a more thoroughly refined woman than my mother. If I have amounted to anything, it will be due to her.

-Charles Chaplin

She is my first, great love. She was a wonderful, rare woman you do not know; as strong, and steadfast, and generous as the sun. She could be as swift as a white whiplash, and as kind and gentle as a warm rain, and as steadfast as the irreducible earth beneath us.

-D H Lawrence

I did not have mother long, but she cast over me an influence which has lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time, in my experience, I should never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber, I should have

turned out badly. But her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness, were potent powers to keep me in the right path. My father was the making of me, the memory of her will always be blessing me.

-Thomas A Edison

The Loss of a Mother

My mother! When I learn'd that thou wast dead,
Say, wast thou conscious of the tears I shed?

Hover'd thy spirit o'er thy sorrowing son,

Wretch even then, life's journey just begun?

Perhaps thou gav'st me, though unseen a kiss;

Perhaps a tear, if souls can weep in bliss

Ah, that maternal smile! It answers Yes.

-Cowper, *On the Receipt of My Mother's Picture*

The onset of autumn always makes me feel closer to my own mother. Under my feet there lay a heavy cushion of fallen leaves, and the bright sun, shining through the bare branches, cast strange silhouettes on the ground. I looked up wistfully through the trees at the celestial regions where my parents live in blissful felicity. The memory of my mother made my eyes mist over.

The loss of a mother is one of the most poignant experience in life. Her absence irrevocable, her loss irretrievable. It is as if a big branch has been cut from the tree of life, leaving a big vacuum in the sky of one's life.

The loss of a mother is always severely felt: even though her health may incapacitate her from taking any active part in the care of her family, still she is a sweet rallying point, around which affection and obedience and a thousand tender endeavors to please, concentrate; and dreary is the blank when such a point is withdrawn. All these fine sentiments about the loss of a mother are exquisitely captured by poet Robert Lee Straus:

Before my Mother taught me how to pray,

I trusted her in all things great and small:

My guardian by night, my guide by day,

The constant angel waiting for my call.

Now she is gone, and I must search the sky

For grace and judgment in my anguished pleas.

O, could I know the heavenly reply

That smiled assurance at Mother's knees

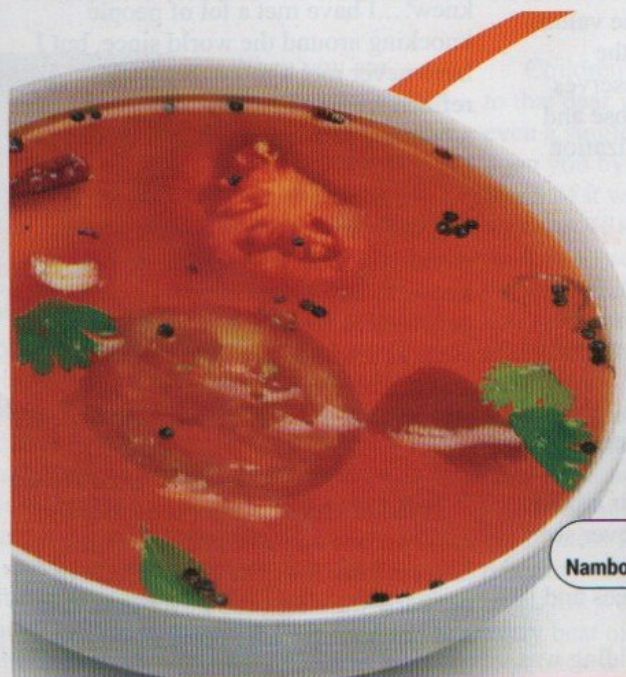
-Robert lee Straus

Some fine instances of Maternal Love

In Louisianan, USA, a train crashed into a bridge and fell into the river below. The carriages began sinking rapidly as water flooded into them. Rescue teams arrived shortly, by water had already reached chin level. One young couple was trapped with their cerebral palsy- afflicted child. Rescuers reached into the compartment to pull the couple out. Instead, they handed over their baby and perished as their compartment submerged. An act of heroism or foolishness? Both views can be argued vehemently. But arguing changes nothing. For that particular couple, there existed no other option.

-Anon

In a New Orleans cemetery there is a monument which has created much interest. It represents a ship in the midst of a storm tossed sea; a mother and child clinging together on the vessel. On the base is an inscription saying they were drowned on July 4, 1900. They were sole survivors of a large estate, and the question was under whose name should the estate be administered, the name of the mother or the daughter. The court decided it should be in the name of the child, reckoning that she would have gone down last because the mother would try to save her to the end. ■



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A NIGHTMARE AROUND MUMBAI METRO

(A true story)

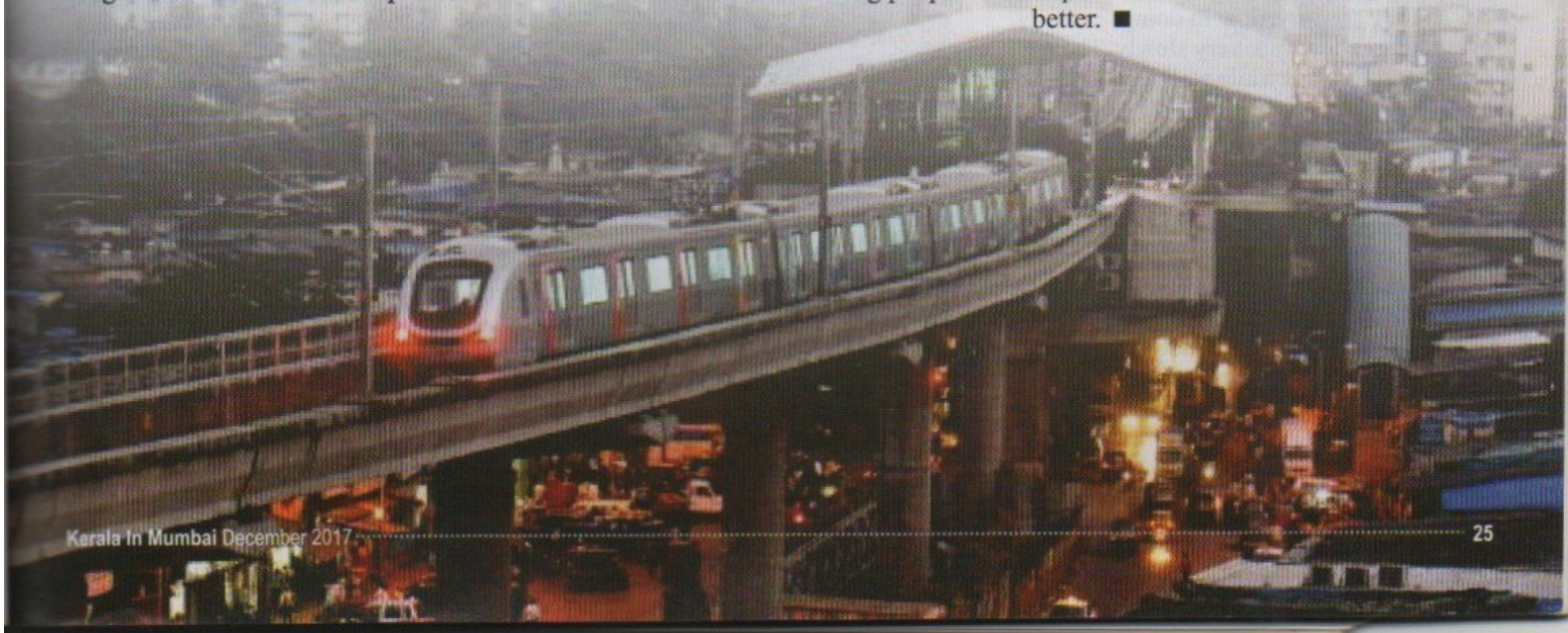


Damodaran Unny ■ It was a warm evening at Mumbai. I was returning from Four Bunglows, Andheri to Mulund after visiting my daughter. My daughter accompanied me to Mulund. We decided to take a Metro train from D. N. Nagar station upto Ghatkopar and then proceed to Mulund by the Mainline. When the Metro train reached Ghatkopar and we reached the main gate, we were shocked to find that a young lady was lying unconscious in one corner. The crowd was curiously looking for a minute and then proceeding to their respective destinations. There was a young man sitting near the lady and was looking very nervous. From the appearance and dressing they looked like officegoers. I told my daughter that we should not leave soon but wait for a while and find out what happened and try to help them out. She readily agreed. We asked the young guy what was the problem and assured him not to worry and we were ready to help in whatever way we can. He said that he and the concerned lady were working in the same office and while travelling by metro she felt giddy and when the train was almost approaching Ghatkopar Metro station she fell unconscious and with great difficulty he brought her and made her lie in a corner away from the crowd. My daughter and me with the help of the

colleague of the girl asked for a stretcher and 2 lady constables and a male constable from the authorised person at the Ghatkopar (Metro) station and our request was immediately acceded to. We soon arranged for a van and my daughter accompanied by the colleague of the girl and constables rushed her to the nearest hospital in Ghatkopar East and I followed them in an auto. Within 15 to 20 minutes, she was admitted to ICU. We decided to stay back in the hospital till she was out of danger. The colleague heaved a sigh of relief and we found that she was responding to the treatment. He informed the lady's sister who was a resident of Ghatkopar (West). She came to the hospital at about 10.45 p.m. By the time the patient regained her consciousness. It transpired that she had accumulation of water in her chest and that is why she became unconscious.

After the arrival of her sister and assuring ourselves that she was out of danger, (we entered the ICU and were happy to see that she was smiling with gratitude in her sparkling eyes) we left the hospital after 11 p.m. Next day morning my daughter got a thanksgiving call from her and family members for our prompt and timely action and we thanked God that our humble efforts did not go in vain. Our nightmare thus ended. The purpose of writing about this incident is not to exhibit our humanitarian approach but to create an awareness among people

that our timely help can save a life. To be frank, we were determined to help her because she was accompanied by her colleague who was a witness to the whole incident. Further, timely help was available because it was a metro station and not suburban section where a lot of time is wasted before the patient is shifted to the hospital thereby severely jeopardising the chances of recovery/survival of the critical patient. One can see people clicking video of the incident to display in whatsapp/ facebook as if some entertainment is going on. Of course some of them may be genuine so as to create a documentary evidence of the accident. It is therefore high time that the Govt. or the concerned lawmakers/ authorities should take a firm decision not to question the people who are willing to help failing which, in a city like Mumbai where nobody has anytime for others, will be unwilling to take a risk simply because of the fear that he/she may be harassed for no fault of his /her philanthropic attitude of helping others. Even if one is willing to help, he/she will invariably do it reluctantly for they are afraid whether the law will protect them in the event of something untoward happening to the victim. I understand that something is being done to streamline this issue, so that more and more people will come forward for timely help fearlessly eventually leading to saving precious lives. The earlier this important issue is streamlined, the better. ■



UNCONTROLLED SHAKING COULD IT BE PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

Medicine has two goals: to prevent death and to make life wonderful. Let us talk about the second goal today. There are many neurological diseases like Epilepsy and Parkinson's disease which can be completely treated. Treatment of these diseases can transform a person from a disabled, sad patient to an independent, vibrant and happy individual.

Let us talk about Parkinson's disease today. Above all, it is very important to know the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, because these symptoms are commonly missed by relatives and sometimes even by physicians.

1. What causes Parkinson's disease?

Our brain runs on electricity and chemicals. If there is too much or too little of a particular chemical in your brain, it causes a disease. Parkinson's disease is caused by the reduction of a chemical called "Dopamine" in our brain.

In Parkinson's disease the cells in the midbrain producing Dopamine gradually die. No one quite understands why this happens. The net effect is that the movement centers of the brain don't communicate well with one another, and this produces the various symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

2. What are the symptoms of Parkinson's disease?

The most common symptom is uncontrolled shaking of a body part, frequently the hands.

There are many other symptoms in patients with Parkinson's disease and recognizing them is very easy:

1. Their muscles are often stiff and become inflexible, but they often do not complain about it. They may complain that they are not able to do some things such as comb their hair.

2. They are very slow in doing everything. They walk very slowly. They often bend forward while walking.

3. They have difficulty turning around when they are walking.

4. Sometimes they can get "stuck" in one position. Often this happens while walking, but may happen while doing something else.

5. In later stages, they can fall frequently.

6. Their friends may notice that their face has become "expressionless", and they just appear to stare off without blinking into distant space.

Some patients experience just the shaking of hands; other people



Dr. Siddharth Kharkar

experience just the muscle stiffness and so on.

3. Does giving dopamine reduce the symptoms of the Parkinson's?

Providing extra dopamine to the brain is one of the best ways to make the symptoms better. There is a long list of medications, but it is worth highlighting two of them:

- Levodopa is the oral form of dopamine. It is converted into dopamine when it goes inside the brain. This is usually the first medication that is started.

- Young patients with very mild symptoms of Parkinson's disease are given a different kind of medication initially. These medications are called dopamine agonists. There are 3 dopamine agonist medications: Pramipexole, Ropirinoles, and Rotigotine.

Often, Parkinson's disease progresses as patients grow older and new symptoms start appearing. Medications need to be changed as the disease progresses.

4. Do the medications need to be changed over time?

Parkinson's disease often progresses as patients grow older. Some symptoms change and become less prominent but on the whole the symptoms become more severe.

Based on the symptoms that develop, the dose of Parkinson's medication may need to be changed, or new medications may be given. For example, if the beneficial effect of levodopa is not lasting for as long as it used to, the doctor may ask you to take Entacapone with the Levodopa.

5. What if medications "stop working"?

I think it is vital for patients to

understand this... Frequently, with the right combination of medications the patient can get better even at this stage with medications alone. Patience is essential.

Sometimes, inspite of repeated adjustments, a good combination of medications cannot be found. This situation usually arises 10-20 years after the Parkinson's symptoms have been detected. If the right combination of medicines cannot be found even after many trials, then patients should consider a surgery called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

5. What is "Deep Brain Stimulation" (DBS)?

This is a brain surgery, but a relatively minor one. Through a small hole in the scalp, a small wire is pushed into a small part of the brain called the "sub-thalamic nucleus". These wires are then connected to a small battery (a square of approx. 3 inch) that is kept in the skin below the chest. No part of this device can be seen from the outside, and any scars on the head are usually covered by hair in a few weeks.

The device is usually turned on 4 weeks after the surgery. On an average, most batteries last for about 5 years, and can be replaced when required.

6. How effective is "Deep Brain Stimulation" (DBS)?

It is important to have realistic expectations from the surgery. The improvement seen after surgery is not the same for every patient. Some patients are dramatically better. On an average, patients get 5 extra hours of "excellent" functioning during which time they can walk, talk, go around and in general have a better life. The other hours also become more tolerable.

The 5 "excellent" hours may not seem like much. But these patients frequently don't even have 4 hours of good functioning before the surgery. This surgery enables them to take care of their daily activities like bathing, dressing, going out for shopping or for movies. In general, DBS makes a significant part of their life more "wonderful" and this is one of the oft-forgotten primary goals of medicine.

Article by:

Dr. Siddharth Kharkar

Consultant- Neurology

Wockhardt Hospital, Mira Road

For Appointment- 8108181044

RECIPE



Dr Geeta Madhavan

CORN LADDOO

(Laddoos made of corn puffs)

INGREDIENTS

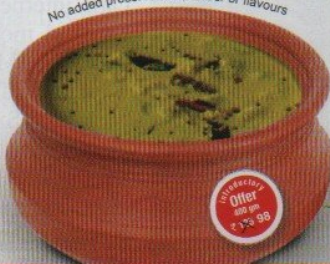
Corn puffs / poha – 4 cups
Jaggery -1 cup (grated / powdered)
Desiccated Coconut Powder – 1 cup
Nutmeg powder – ½ tsp
Ghee – 1 tbsp

METHOD

1. Roast the corn puffs for 10 mins.
2. Add the coconut powder and roast further for 5 mins.
3. Powder coarsely in a mixer.
4. Add jaggery, ghee, grind once more and roll them into laddoos.
5. Cool and store.

Courtesy: Southern Twist
by Dr. Geeta Madhavan

No added preservatives, colour or flavours



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ESAF Small Finance Bank opens 60th Branch in MIDC

■ Thrissur based ESAF Small Finance Bank opened its 60th branch in MIDC, Andheri East in Option Primo building near Vijay Nagar-MIDC bridge. Former Chief Secretary Johny Joseph inaugurated the branch on November 22. Oscar Award winner Rasool Pookutty and MD of Mudra Bank Jiji Mammen wished bright future to ESAF. Now the bank has 56 branches in Kerala and 3 in Tamilnadu.

ESAF was earlier engaged in micro financing and it got licence from Reserve Bank last March.

Very soon this number would touch 145, according to Managing Director and CEO K Paul Thomas. The bank is said to have a deposit of Rs 1043 crore from 18.43 Lakh depositors. The amount lent to the public is Rs.2934 crore.

About ESAF Small Finance Bank

The journey of ESAF began in a small house named 'Little' at Thrissur in 1992. Contrary to what the name sounds, ESAF Society was launched with a bigger vision of sustainable holistic transformation of the poor and the marginalized. The success of Grameen bank in Bangladesh reinforced the vision of K. Paul Thomas the Founder and Managing Director of ESAF. In 1995, he launched Micro Enterprises Development (MED)



Johny Joseph inaugurates the ESAF Branch

services and it resulted in the formation of ESAF Microfinance and Investments Pvt. Ltd., in 2008. The increased focus on microfinance was inevitable as the founder was clear in his understanding of the importance of financial component in holistic economic development of the poor. Gradually, ESAF Microfinance earned its place among the top ten Microfinance institutions in India.

In 2015, the Reserve Bank of India, the financial regulator in the country has

granted in-principle license to ESAF to launch a Small Finance bank. ESAF Small Finance Bank was one amongst the ten NBFCs to receive an 'in principle' approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up a Small Finance Bank in the private sector. In November 2016, the final license was issued by the RBI. ESAF Small Finance Bank was incorporated on May 05, 2016, with its registered office in Thrissur.

Though the bank is specialising in serving small clients, it provides all banking services such as ATM, Safe Deposit locker, cash counter, debit card, internet banking, mobile banking, SMS Banking, RTGS, NEFT, CTS etc are also available. Services at door step, skype and Hrudaya Deposit plan etc are also available here.



MD & CEO K Paul Thomas addresses the gathering

Suresh Gopi MP in Vasai

■ Only Malayalees stationed outside Kerala could get closer to the cultures of other regions and that is a great blessing for them, remarked Suresh Gopi MP. He was addressing the audience assembled to celebrate Onam and Deepavali jointly organised by BJP Vasai Mandalam Committee and Pratheeksha Trust. All Malayalees should without fail enrol their names in the voters' list and be prepared to absorb the local political developments, he said.

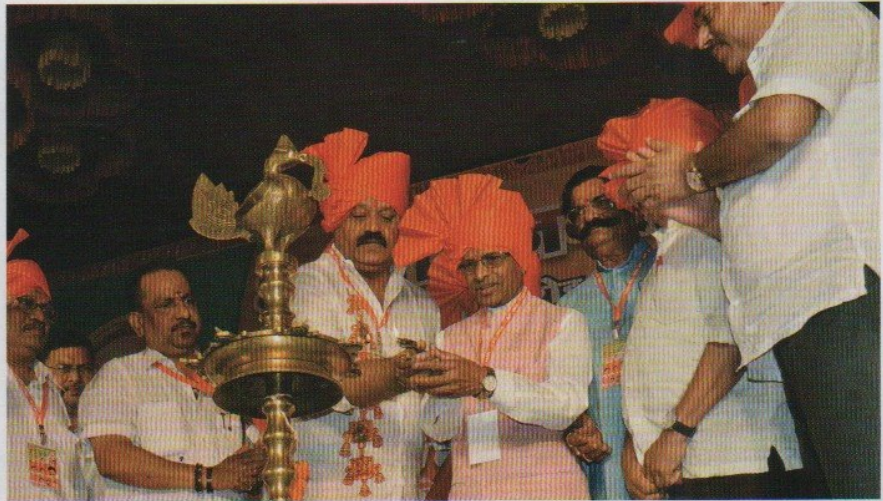
Vasai Virar area is lagging behind in development and to overcome that status, BJP should come into administration, said Vishnu Savre, Minister in the Fadnavis ministry. Dr Heena Bhatt, Adv Chintaman Wanga

Dance Tributes For The Mentor

■ Kalasadan Cultural Society celebrated the Guru Abhivadan Divas with dance programme and also felicitated selected personalities. The programme was held at the Mysore Association auditorium in Matunga.

Kalasadan is one of the premier dance institutions and among the foremost to start Bharata Natyam dance classes in Mumbai for which the credit goes to the founder- director Guru Mani. As a mark of tribute to the founder mentor, Bharata Natyam was performed by senior disciples of Kalasadan and three personalities, Prasanna Nambiar for classical dance, Surekha Joshi for music and Sanskrit and CR Krishna for instrumental music were honoured.

Kalasadan dancers who performed were Anju Sashidharan, Anushka Padmanabhan, Chandni Chandran, Gauri Shankar, Greeva Shah, Kira Vakaharia, Manjari Madanan, Nandini Ganesan, Santha Bala, Sri Harshita Polampalli, Sujata Chawda and Swati Chandrasekhar. The dancers performed 'Jai Jagadesh Hare' incorporating Dashavatara. The dancers received fine orchestral support from Guru Sharda Ganesan on the nattuvangam, Sriram Narainswamy and Aparna Kannan for vocal, Natrajgopal for mridangam, Narayanan for flute and Ganesan for Morsing. On the whole it was a pleasing performance and a suitable tribute.

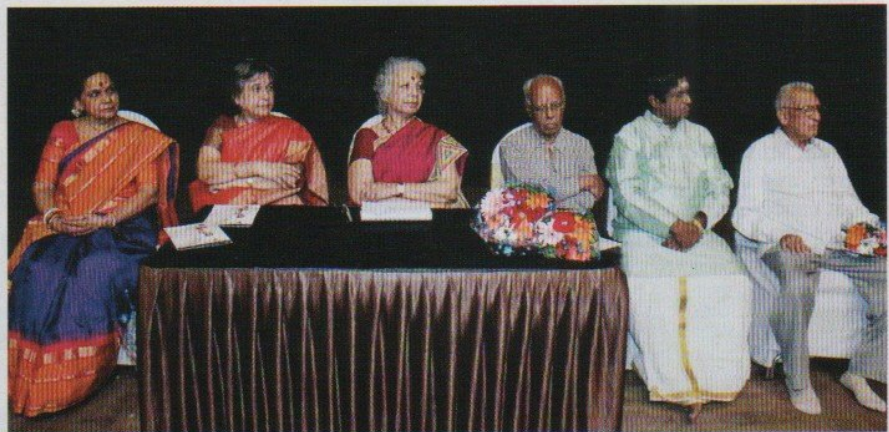


Lighting the inaugural lamp

MP, Hemendra Mehta, Subhash Sagur, Rajan Naik, Abhijit Rane and many leaders participated in the celebrations.

The event started with homage before the photographs of BJP workers

killed in Kerala. Pratheeksha Awards and prizes to Sarvajanic Ganapati contest winners were distributed. Uttam Kumar welcomed the audience and Ramanujam proposed vote of thanks.



Dignitaries on stage



The dancers were pleasing and effective in the portrayals of the incarnations, Swati Thirunal's Ramayana was also presented with a lot of devotion and involvement.



Sahrudaya Charitable Foundation inaugurated

■ Sahrudaya Charitable Foundation founded with the objective of mercy Mission has been inaugurated by Oncologist Dr V P Gangadharan in the presence of Chief Guest Raveendra Chavan, Minister of Maharashtra. There was a session to create awareness about cancer at the venue Holy Angels School, Dombivli. Dr Gangadharan asked the audience to be always cautious about the disease and to seek expert help of doctors in case of suspicion. He asked people to desist from smoking and drinking and also to increase of intake of vegetables and fruits for food.

Anil Nambiar, actress Urmila Unni, oncologist Dr Anil Harur, Fr George Abraham, Dr Roy John Mathew, Crime Branch Inspector Sanju John et al were guests of honour. President Paul Parappilli presided.

The event witnessed dances by Urmila Unni, musical programme by



Dr V P Gangadharan lighting the lamp at the inauguration

members of golden voice of Amchi Mumbai and short film *Poraattam*. The trustees of the Foundation are Dr Oommen David, Paul Parappilli, Roy J

Kottaram, P N Suresh, C P Babu, Premlal, Sabu Cherian, E P Vasu, Sunilkumar, Rajan Panicker and Anil Nambiar.

Entries invited for Sukumari Memorial Award

■ Tru Indian Information and Guidance Society has invited nominations for this year's Sukumari Memorial Award. This award is instituted by the Society in memory of late Malayalam actress and danseuse Sukumari. The upper age limit of the nominee who has excelled in classic dance is 40 years and they can be residing in India or abroad. Parents, guardians, dance teachers, NGOs or dance institutions can send the nominations. The award consists of a



plaque with Sukumari's picture inscribed, a citation and cash. The award will be presented in the last week of February 2018 at Sarvesh Hall of Dombivli East. There will be dance recital by the award winner during the event. Last date for receiving the nomination is Dec 15, 2017. For details please contact on 9320986322 or 8422007013 or email:truindianinfo@gmail.com.

Street Children of Maharashtra in Wayanad

■ The Maharashtra and Kerala wings of All India Malayali Association and Smart Wings jointly organised a study cum holiday tour for the children under the centres of Snehalaya and Vishwa Balak Kendra. These children are rescued from the streets and looked after by the centres. A group of 38 children were sent off by Thane MLA Sanjay Kelkar and officials of the above voluntary organisations at Thane Railway Station.

At Wayanad they were given a hearty reception by the Wayanad Collector Suhas. The collector spent a considerable time with the children on Oct 27. Next day they were taken to Tourism spots by the Wayanad Tourism Promotion Council and Dozo Wayand. The children were given a public reception at Vaithiri Saitkunnu with entertainment besides providing gifts. They were lodged at the Guest House of Wayanad District Administration.

The children visited the Gokulam Public School and toured entire Wayanad. The children returned to Mumbai on Oct 30. The tour was organised to make the public conscious that these children should not be neglected and they too have their rights and privileges in this country.



Send off to children at Thane Railway Station



Kerala Piravi

■ Kairali Cultural Association celebrated the birthday of Kerala State along with silver jubilee of the Association, with a colourful procession through the town on Nov 12. The procession that started at 5 pm ended only at 9 pm. The procession was inaugurated by Sanjay Kelkar MLA, Milind Patankar (Councillor), Fr Thomas Mathew, ATMA President G K Pillai and Adv Prema Menon. Chendamelam, OttanThullal, Maveli

and traditionally dressed women with auspicious Thalam etc were part of the procession. Kaikottikkali, Margamkali, Mohiniattam and Oppana at street junctions were added attractions. At the concluding stage Rajan Vichare MP also participated. Prabhakaran Nair, Padmanabhan, Mohan, Ajit, Prakash, Jinachandran, Unni, Sajin Ramesh, Sreejit, Swati, Jaya, Rajani, Nambiar, Prasad and Shekhar provided leadership. Tresa George and E Ramachandran were the presenters.



Navarasa Dance Academy students' performance

30th Annual Celebration

■ Navarasa Dance Academy, Nerul conducted its 30th annual celebration at Agri Koli Auditorium Nerul on 14th and 15th October 2017, when more than 320 students between 4 and 55 years performed on stage under the guidance of Guru Sushama Gopinath. The Chief guest at the event was Dr. Geeta Jayaraj, Principal of Jondhale College of Engineering. Sunil Prabhakaran was the guest of honour.



'Anuragamanjari', a compilation of romantic songs was released during the annual day of Layasagara Kalapatashala.



Dr. John Mathew was felicitated for his work during Sahrudaya charitable foundation programme by Cancer specialist Dr. VP Gangadharan.

Library inauguration at Sakinaka

■ The prize distribution function in connection with the Onam celebrations of Progressive Arts Club and the inauguration of the library of Malayalam Mission, Mumbai was held at the Samajam's office in Sakinaka was held at the hands of Novelist Balakrishnan, President of Malayalam Mission Mumbai. Fr Philip Pulipara was the chief guest. Students who secured 60% or more marks in the 2017 examinations of SSC or HSC were felicitated during the function.



The Procession

Snehasangamam

■ Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti of Ulhsnagar-Ambernath-Badlapur units organised a joint Get Together of all members at Suryodaya Hall of Ambernath East. Procession by taking the picture of Guru Sree Narayana, cultural programmes and musical programme of Saptaswara were the main events. President of the Samiti N Sasidharan presided. Film actress Nimisha Nair, Dy. Commissioner of Income Tax Jyotis Mohan, Dr Balaji Kinicker MLA, Kabir Gaikwad, M I Damodaran, N Mohandas, N S Salimkumar, O K Prasad, M G Raghavan, A K Venugopal, K K Susmeran, P Prithwiraj, M K Soman, K Gopidas, P P Sadasivan, Secretary of Kerala Samajam T V Ratish, NSS Office bearer Chitira Vijayan, office bearer of Ayyappa Seva Sangham A B Menon et al participated.



Dy Commissioner of IT Jyotis Mohan inaugurates the Get Together.



Murali Mattumal was presented with Jwala award

Mandala Pooja at Marol

■ Shree Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham is celebrating Mandala Pooja at Blossom Grounds from Dec 15 to 17. The following are details of programmes: On Dec 15 at 5.30 am Ganapathi Homam followed by Ushapooja, Vilakku pooja and ucchapooja. In the evening there will be Geeta chanting, Deeparadhana and 'Bhavayami' a fusion of music led by singer and ace violinist Roopa Revathy, music director T S Radhakrishnan and flute maestro P R Murali. Dec 16 will witness Sampoorana Narayaneeyam, bhajan and 'Kaliyuga varadan Ayyappan', a dance ballet by disciples of Guru Geeta Vijayshankar, besides normal rituals. Last day will have Annadanam, procession with Thalappoli and Panchavadyam. Mahadeeparadhana will be the last ritual.

Pambungal Publications celebrates annual aplomb

■ Around 300 publications in their kitty, Pambungal Publications celebrated their illustrious 23rd annual day on Nov 25 at V K Krishna Menon Academy, Borivli West. The head of Pambungal Publications Mundoor Rajan welcomed the audience and social activist Adv Padma Divakaran presided. The event was inaugurated by Borivli Malayali Samajam President A K G Nair.

Adv padma Divakar was felicitated on the occasion of 70th birth day by noted writer Girijavallbhan by presenting her a golden shawl and Col Dr Kavumbai Janardhanan presented a memento. Medical practitioner, author of many books on issues to health, poems and stories, feature writer and singer Major Dr Nalini Janardhanan was presented Vanitha Ratnam Award by last year's awardee Smt Radha Guptan and Adv Padma Divakar presented her a Golden shawl. Mundoor Rajan presented her a purse that goes with the award.

Six books were released on the occasion. They are 'Dharavi,' a thriller by Sureshkumar Kottarakkara, 'Gurudevasandeshangalute Kaalikaprasakti' by Nirmala Mohan, 'Amma Nammute Amma' by



K. Rajan releases K.R. Narayanan's Kadal Anubhavangal, handing over copy to Kochukunju Pilla

Charummoodu Radhakrishnan, 'Mazhayilekku Thurakkunna Jaalakam' by Sindhu Ulhas, 'Attoor Vazhikalil Veentum' by V U Surendran and 'Katal Anubhavangal' by K R Narayanan. They were released by Girijavallabhan, Ramakrishnan, Meghanadsn, Unni Variyath, Govindanunni and K Rajan

respectively. The first copies were received by Meghanadan, RakhiSunil, Rajendran Patiyoor, Omana Sudhakaran, TKC Jose and Erumakkuzhi Kochukunju Pillai respectively. Valsala introduced the books to the audience.

Sureshkumar Kottarakkara was the presenter of the event.

Fourth Anniversary of Nanma Charitable Foundation

■ Nanma Charitable Foundation based in Kalyan celebrated their fourth anniversary in Savitribai Phule Hall in Dombivli East. The event was inaugurated by the Senior Divisional Manager of LIC of India, Thane Division, Puneetkumar. Foundation President Sunil Raj presided. Eminent social activists Adv Padma Divakar, Adv Prema Menon, Balachandra Menon, E Preman, Paul Parappilly, O Pradeep Nair, C P Babu, Prakash Padikkal, K Vijaykumar, Dr Oommen David, Sunilkumar, Sudeesh Kumar, Dr Shalvi Gaikwad, Rajesh Shringarpure et al were present.

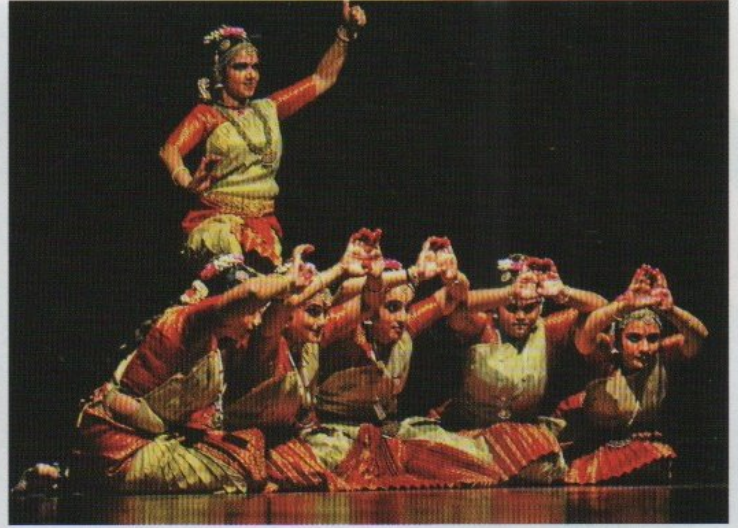
During the event, Nanma Foundation felicitated persons working to better the life of those Adivasi Children of Vehloli Village suffering from lack of nutritious food. Puneetkumar released a souvenir by presenting a copy to Pradeep Nair. It was followed by a musical programme by blind singers and dance programmes

of A J S Group of Mumbai. Dr Abhay Gaikwad proposed a vote of thanks.

Sapna Sreekumar was the presenter of the event.



Puneetkumar inaugurates the fourth anniversary of Nanma Charitable Foundation.



Upaasana presented Dasavataaram Ballet as a part of Sri Shanmukhananda Sabha's 4 day long classical dance festival 'Mumbai Bharatha Nritya Vizha'



Participants of the skit 'Aalakapuri' with its Director KVS Nelluvai

Onam celebrations

■ Vithalwadi Malayali Samajam celebrated Onam in Mahila Aadhar Kendra. The members after a sumptuous feast, presented a variety of cultural programmes. Students of Malayalam Mission of Vithalwadi Malayali Samajam presented a skit by name 'Alakapuri' written and directed by KVS Nelluvai. The 17 actors were of the age group between 10 and 28. During the programme, Kalasri Nambisan was felicitated for his multifaced contributions to the Mumbai cultural fields.

Kalasri Nambisan being felicitated





Bombay Keraleeya Samiti Malad and Kavil Ayurveda jointly organised a free Ayurveda Checkup camp. Dr Veena Vinod examined the patients and provided free medicines. Many personalities from the socio-cultural fields participated in the camp.



Distributing Sweets to Adivasi Children for Deepavali at Thakurwadi. Upendra Menon Central Committee member with Children as part of Giants group of Thane city project



Guru Vijay Shanker received the Maharashtra Samaj Bushan award for his contribution in the field of classical dance and journalism in the presence of Mahadev Jankar, minister for milk and fishery development, Dr. Rajendra Gowai of Republican Party, Ashokrao Chavan of YB Chavan Patishthan, Dr. Asha Jagtap of Shankarrao Jagtap Shaushinik and Samajik Probhodini (Satara) on 25th October at Sachivalya Gymkhana in Mumbai.



Ms. Omana Sudhakaran was presented with Jwala Award



The awards instituted by Pratheeksha Trust were presented to Sathyan Kunnil, Sister Jesmi, Mukesh Nair, Suja Cherian, Varun Sreenivas and Silpa Nair on October 29. Actor Suresh Gopi M P presented the awards.



Cartoon fest in 10 states

■ The 60th birthday of the state of Kerala was celebrated by Department of Information and Public Relations of Kerala in conjunction with All India Malayali Association, other collectives of Keralites and Language Learning Centres. The event was marked by a Cartoon Fest titled 'Kannirukki Kaalam' (Period of Winking) and was organised in ten states. The Fest started on Nov 1 and ended on Nov 16

SEAL Organises Charity Fest

■ SEAL Ashramam presented a Charity Fest in Tandel Grounds in Seawoods. Musicians Steven Devassy and Flautist Navin Kumar presented musical items. Children also presented cultural items. Charity Fest was in aid of the Ashramam to look after the

abandoned sick and old; since the last 17 years the Ashramam has been doing yeomen services in this field.

The Ashramam is aiming to open a hospital with 35 beds and 1000 inmates.

Former Minister Ganesh Naik,

Manda Mhatre MLA, Sandeep Naik MLA, Navi Mumbai Mayor J D Suthan and former Mayor Sudhakar Sonavane were present during the fest. Nearly 8000 people participated in the Fest, according to organisers.



Former Minister Ganesh Naik addressing the gathering



Book release of Dr Major Nalini Janardhanan's 'Kaumara Penkuttikal Ariyendathellam' (Published by Olive Books Calicut) by H.H. Krishnananda Saraswathi during Cultural Festival on 28th Oct 17 at Shree Ramadasa Ashram, Ramagiri, Badlapur

Mumbai Keraleeya Samiti felicitates Shweta Warriar

■ Mumbai Keraleeya Samiti Malad felicitated Ms Shweta Warriar for being selected for the Dance India Dance programme of Zee TV. Around two lakhs of aspirants were subjected to audition at 15 centres during the last months and Shweta was among the 18 selected from them. Shweta is the lone Malayali among the eighteen contestants nominated. President of the Samiti Adv Padma Divakaran presided over the felicitation ceremony.

In the congratulating address, Adv Padma Divakar stated that Shweta became eligible for the selection because she realised the importance of contemporary values while treading with the tradition. The combined effort of Shweta and her classical dance guru Ambika Varasiar created a fusion of Bharatanatyan and Hipop dance and that resulted in this nomination. Former dance star of Hindi movies Mithun Chakraborty is the grand master of the Zee TV show that being telecasted on Saturdays and Sundays at 9 pm. Malayali Mini Pradhan is also among the jury.

Jogeshwari Malayali Welfare Associations's Madhusoodanan, Bhayander Malayali Association's president Jayantan Nair, Borivli Samajam Secretary Raakhi Sunil, AIMA's T A Khalid, Rajan Thekkummala, L N Venugopal, Vinod



Vaidyan, Achuthan Nair, Muralidharan, Sunil Thankappan, Rajendran Padiyoor,

Ramakrishna Pillai, V Mukundan et al spoke congratulating Shweta Warriar.

Akshara Sandhya Annual

■ Akshara Sandhya, a literary Collective, celebrated its annual day. The event started with paying homage to Punathil Kunhabdulla and I V Sasi. Poet Srijith Ariyallur spoke on the subject 'Ezhuthum Kaalavum'. Narayanankutty and P R Sanjay presented a few poems of Srijith. Novelist Balakrishnan inaugurated the discussions. Siby Satyan, Mathew Thomas, Deepak Pacha, Wilson Kuriakose, Sriratan Nanu, Prakash

Katakkata, Devan Tharappil, Francis Thottungal et al participated in the discussion. Valsan Moorkoth, P S Suresh, R K Maroor, Santhosh Pallassana, Rukmini Sagar, Kanakkoor Sureshkumar, Sumesh Kaimal, Dr Vivekanandan, K A Kurup and K T Nair participated. Writer Manasi was the moderator. President S Kumar presided. General Secretary Anil Prakash and Convenor T V Ranjit addressed the gathering.

Prakash Padikkal recognised with Award for his social service

■ Confederation of Residence Welfare Association (an All India Body) has instituted an award for those who had excelled in the area of Social Work, where large number of people living in housing societies is benefitted. Noted social worker Prakash Padikkal has been chosen for their first award for his exemplary work in the field of social welfare.

Prakash Padikkal is one of the founder members of Fight for RERA, which relentlessly campaigned for the enactment of Real Estate Bill getting passed in the Parliament. His NGO put up a brave fight with opposition and ruling party to get this bill (which was delayed for several years) passed. Later it formed a pan India NGO called as Forum For People's Collective Efforts (FPCC) to help people with the new bill, how to use it against the builders who do not keep up their commitment. This program is sponsored by Housing Ministry (GOI) and supported by AGNI (NGO) and MAHASEWA.



Prakash Padikkal receives the citation

Obituary



Smt. Ratnabai Pillay

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Ratnabai Pillay (Janu), 83 years on 14th November 2017. W/o Mr.

K.S.A. Pillay,

M/o Lathika and Pradeep

MIL / o K Venugopal

Gr. M/o Abhishek, Karthika, Sujith,

Gaurav and Reshmi

Great Gr.M/o. Advait

7/1, Blossom Society, Marol,

Mumbai 400059



President Giants group of Powai Receiving award from Upendra Menon Central Committee member.



Inauguration of Onam Celebration at Palghar Malayalee Samajam



During the SNMS Medical Camp

Medical Camp

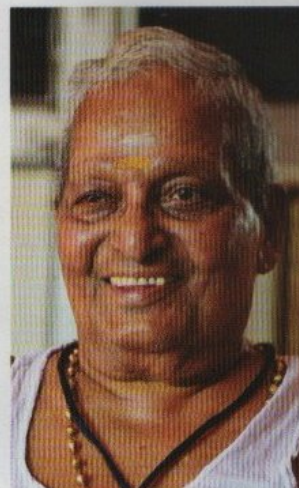
■ Under the auspices of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti, Indian Cancer Society and AIMA jointly organized a free Cancer detection camp in their Chembur Complex on November 25 and 26. About 200 patients took advantage of the camp. The services of ENT surgeon, general practitioner and gynecologist were also available at the camp.

KSNAP Drama contests

■ When the Drama competition conducted by the Western zone of Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi for Pravisis concluded, Panvel Malayali Samajam's 'Idiot' won the first place. Sreejit Mohan who enacted the role of Bulbul in this play was adjudged best actor and Shruti Mohan who played the roles of Jyoti Sarkar and Natasha became the best actress. Sreejit and Shruti are siblings. Five plays were presented in the competition held in Agrikoli Auditorium of Nerul West. 'Choothattakkaran' (Gambler) of Anushakti Nagar TTFC, 'Idiot' of Panvel Malayali Samajam, 'Devootti Tyres' of Vadodra Malayali Samajam, 'Naam Mazhayathu Nirthiya Chilar' of Kharghar Malayali Samajam and 'Swapnayatra' of Matunga Keraleeya Samajam were the plays presented. Prasad Ponnani presented ghazals during the intervals between the plays. In the concluding session, Kerala MLAs Ayesha Potti, Pratibha Hari, C K Asha and N Jayaraj were present. All participants were given certificates.



P Jayachandran



Kalamandalam Gopi



Methil Devika

Mandala pooja at Hiranandani Estate, Thane

■ Hiranandani Estate, Thane will celebrate Mandala pooja from December 10 onwards for eight days. Playback singer P Jayachandran (Dec 10), Kuchipudi dancer Meghna Arun (Dec 11), Kamaal Vijayan (Dec 12), Wajid Khan (Dec 13), Pullankuzhal maestro Krishnakumar Menon (Dec 14), Kalamandalam Gopi (Dec 15), danseuse Methil Devika (Dec 16), singer Veeramani Raju et al will present programmes during these days. Managing Director of Hiranandani Group Niranjan Hiranandani will be the Chief Guest on the first day. There will be discourses by eminent speakers



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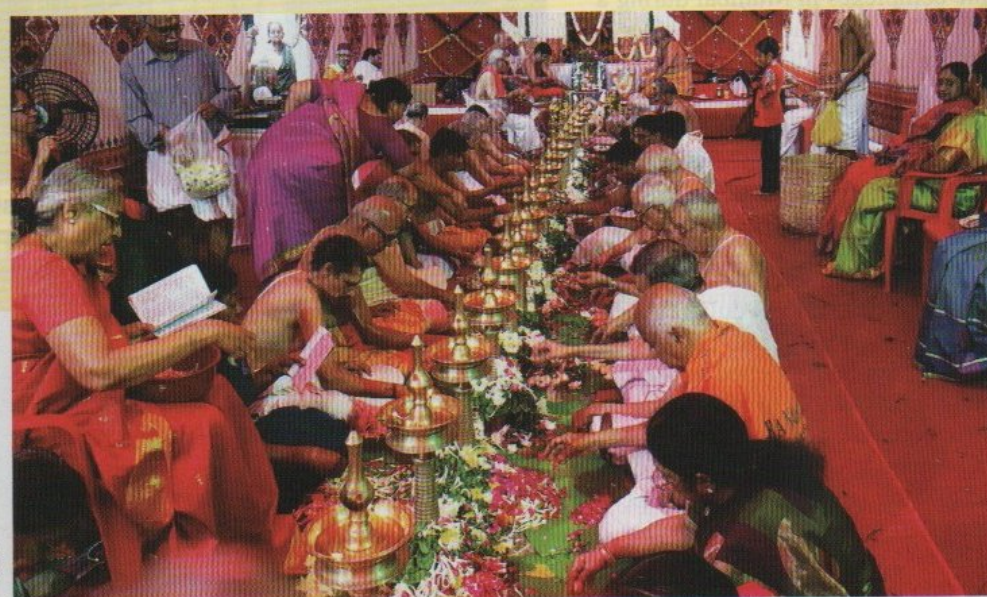
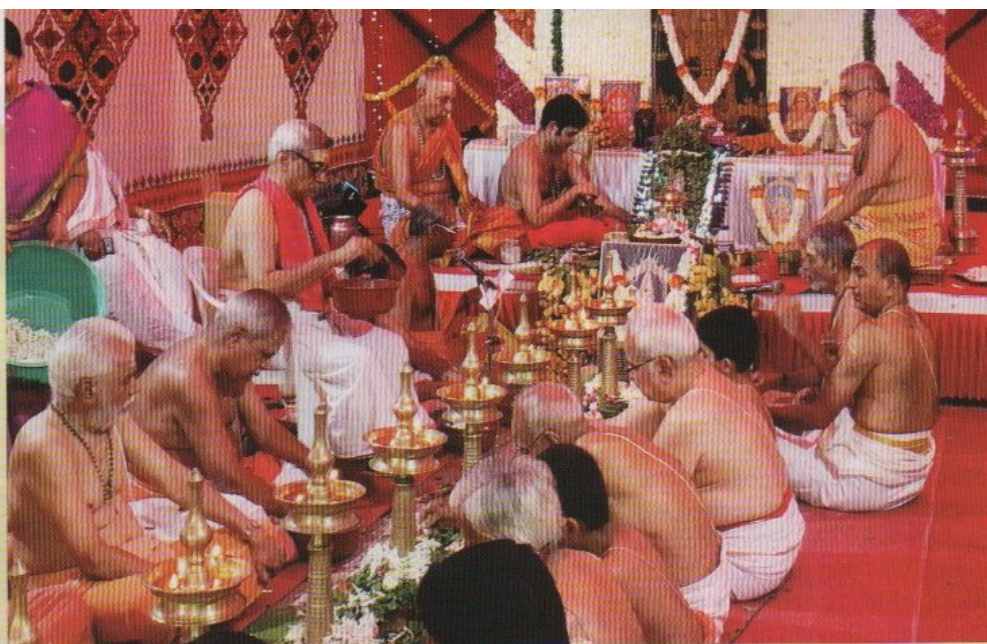
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Mandala Pooja in Soubrathra Nagar

■ Soubrathra Nagar friends circle at Sion comprises of buildings Panchavati, Gokulam and Suryalaya had conducted their 2-day 27th Mandala Pooja celebration from November 25 in a grand manner. On the first day evening there was recitation of Devi Mahatmyam then Bhagavati seva followed by Lalitha Sahasranama ashtothram and Thrisathi archana. The second day started with Ganapathy homam, Rudrabhishekam, Shastha pooja and Sastha Preethi in the morning and bhajan by Hariharaputra Bhajana Samaj Babu and party in the evening.



Thane's Ishika Prakash Chattikal wins medals in int'l karate championship

■ Ishika Prakash, who trained karate as a hobby at a young age, won a silver medal in Solo event and bronze in team event at the International Karate Championships at the age of nine.

Ishika the younger daughter of Prakash Narayan working as Senior Technician in Naval Dockyard and Bindu Prakash working with ONGC, lives in Saket Complex, started practising Karate at the age of 4 years, and takes regular lessons of Karate from Santosh Bhor of Force Academy, Thane. She got inspired for



karate training, when she won bronze medal in a small karate competition for the first time. Ishika represented India in the group below 10 years of XIX World Karate Championship 2017, which was held between 26th to 29th October 2017 at London. She had beaten United Kingdom in the semi finals, but lost against Portugal in the Finals held in London. Ishika received a silver medal in Solo event and a bronze medal in team event.

She is currently studying in fourth standard in D.A.V. Public School, Thane. She has also won four gold medals in the National Level Championship and two silver medals in the Asian Championship so far. Apart from karate, Ishika has been passionate about the badminton game, and she has been training for Badminton in the TMC's Syed Modi Badminton Academy for the last two years.

First Mahalakshmi Temple of Kerala nearing completion

It was sixteen years ago that some senior citizens of Mumbai resolved to build a monument to Kanakadhara Stotram of Jagat Guru Adi Sankara. Kanakadhara stotram is believed to be the first poetic work of Snakaracharya as it was recited when he was a mere boy. The reason behind this resolution was that they happened to witness a tableaux depicting the origin of Kanakadhasthavam in one of the temple complexes in Mumbai during a festival. They approached the owner of the land where this divine incidence is believed to have happened more than 1200 years ago. The owners belonged to Swarnath Mana, the earlier name being Karunthuruthi Mana of Punnorkode, near Aluva. When the people of Mana agreed to hand over a portion of the land for constructing the monument, a trust was formed and got duly registered and the land was taken into possession. Till 2006, nothing happened as there was no fund available to initiate the construction. Ashtamangala Devaprasnam was held in 2006 and found that the land was waiting for work to start and the initial activities were carried out. On Oct 31, 2008, foundation laying ceremony was held but the first phase of work of construction of a Gopuram to house the meditation hall and other emergency facilities was completed only in 2013.

On Aug 23, 2017 the work of the Mahalakshmi and other upadevatas was initiated with Kumbhasamarpanam in presence of a large crowd. Notable among them was Giriraj Bhattar of Bhima Jewellery who dedicated the navaratnas to the Goddess Mahalakshmi. The very next day the work of the Temple complex consisting of the temple for Mahalakshmi, Maha Ganapathy and Jagatguru was started. The detailed photographs are provided. Simultaneously the work on creating the idols is also on. The consecration of the temple is expected around by March 2018.

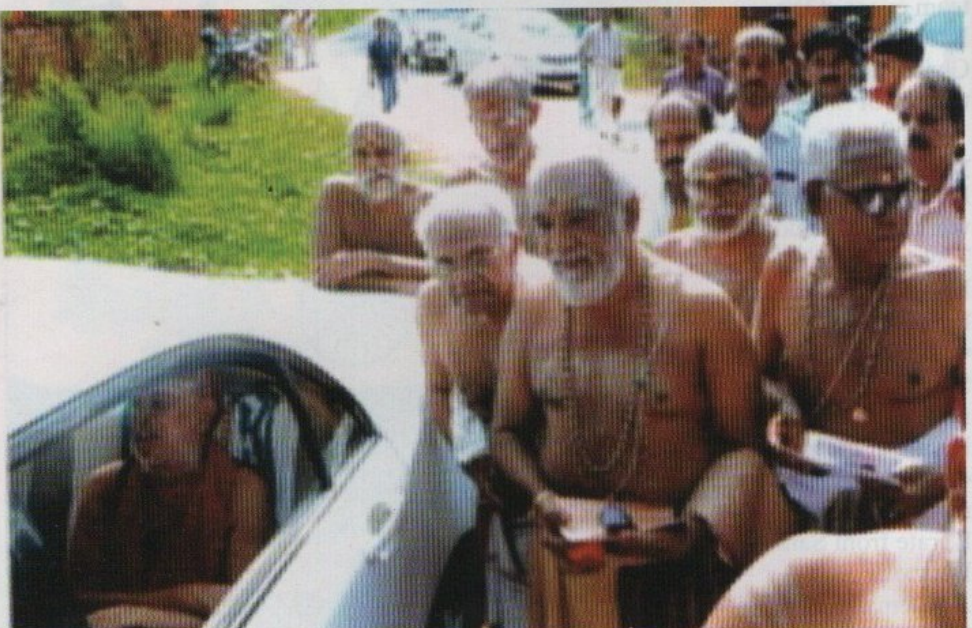
Sri Adi Sankara Kanakadhara Smruti Trust is inviting interested Mumbaikars to join the project and make the effort a grand success. Interested people may contact the Secretary Satyanath on his mobile number 98336 77962.



Artist's view of Mahalakshmi Temple



Mahalakshmi Temple under construction. (L) side view (R) aerial view



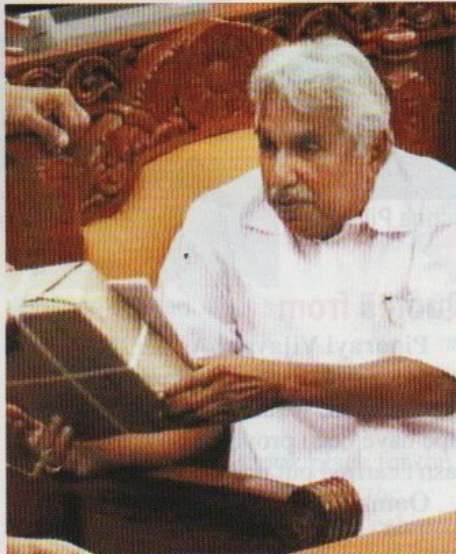
Pontiff of Kanchi Kamakoti Jayendra Saraswati visiting the site

The political storm in Kerala

Left Democratic Front came to power in Kerala last year after promising the citizens that once LDF came everything would become alright. Once they are firmly saddled on the chair, people had a sigh of relief, hoping an era of Maveli would usher soon. After the Utopian dream about Maveli and the promised brave new world of Karl Marx stirred some fire in our imagination, everything fell into the same position. If not the absolute equality, at least the people deserved a world free of corruption and injustice.

November starts in Kerala with celebrations of bringing in the birthday of the state. This year the month was filled with several incidents that shook the state with varying degrees of tremors. The last years of Oommen Chandy's government were shuddering with allegations of corruption and moral misdeeds. Though the Chandy Government did several pro-people initiatives, these allegations nullified all benefits and created a negative impact. The Chandy government itself appointed an enquiry committee to look into the gravity of allegations. The committee submitted its report to the Pinarayi government one day prior to the day of by-election in Kuttipuram. On the day of by-election, all morning newspapers splashed the details of the report though officially the findings were not revealed, giving an edge to the LDF candidate. There were allegations and assumptions about the involvement of leaders of UDF. A special session of the legislative assembly was convened and the report was duly placed before it. Contrary to the expectations, there were hardly any fireworks in the proceedings. When LDF leaders like VS, Kodyeri et al demanded resignation and asceticism from the concerned UDF leaders, the latter stated that they have nothing to fear as they did no wrong. It is for the second time, Kerala Assembly was shaken because of one woman. Earlier it was Chacko but this time many personalities were said to be involved. Only time can tell the outcome.

Though there are reports that further enquiries would not merit legal sanctity, state government has asked DGP



Oommen Chandy receives his copy of report.

Loknath Behra to conduct discreet enquiries. Government had sought legal opinion from former Supreme Court Justice Arijit Pasayam. UDF leaders insisted that the solar case did not cause any financial loss to the government, LDF argued that the money spent on the enquiry was a financial loss to the government.

Saritha's version

Oommen Chandy: She took his help for the solar projects. The photograph showing her whispering into his ear was taken when she went to tell him



Saritha S Nair

about her souring relationship with co-accused and partner Biju Radhakrishnan. According to Oommen Chandy, he knew her but as Lakshmi Nair.

K C Venugopal: She met him several times at Alappuzha when he was the Union Minister of State for Power to discuss solar projects. They continued to share good rapport even after his portfolio was changed. They did not have an illicit relationship. According to Venugopal, she never discussed any projects with him or approached him for any help.

R Balakrishna Pillai: Pillai offered mental support but denied that he helped her because his son Ganesh's name appeared in her yet to be released 22 page statement. According to Pillai, he did not possess her statement but a relative of Saritha told him that police were attempting to implicate her in cases which she had already settled by paying money.

K B Ganeshkumar: She shared a good rapport with him but there is nothing more to it. Contrary to rumours, she denied playing a role in breaking the former forest minister's marriage.

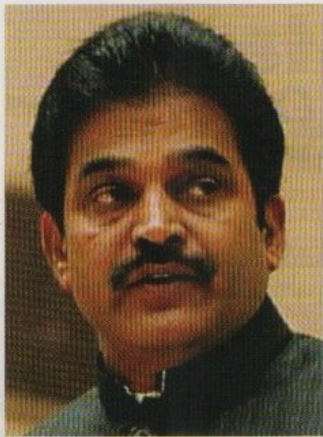
P C George: George was the one responsible for her plight. He threatened to send her to jail for refusing to let him use her for political gains. According to George, there was no truth in the charge.

A P Abdullakutty: He raped her when she met him at a hotel to discuss a project. According to Abdullakutty, the allegation is false.

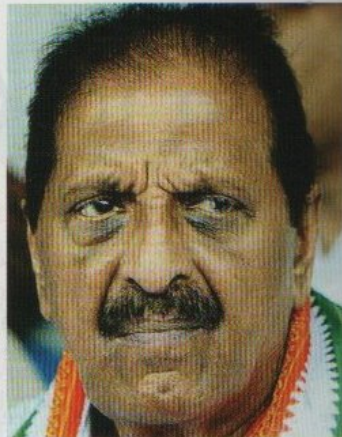
Saritha Nair expressed happiness over getting justice. She hailed the Pinarayi Vijayan government for initiating investigation against former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and others in the scam. She was also thankful to the Commission for hearing her side.

Commission Findings

Oommen Chandy directly and through personal staff members extended favours to Team Solar and Saritha Nair to dupe customers. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan illegally



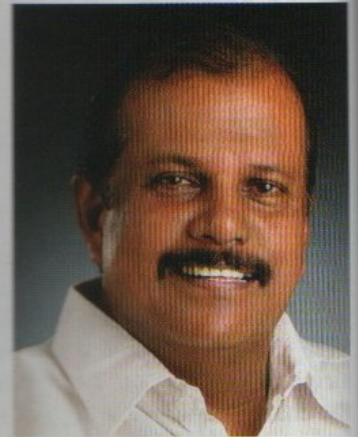
K C Venugopal



R Balakrishna Pillai



K B Ganeshkumar



P C George

influenced the police officials. Aryadan Muhammed extended illegal favours to Team Solar.

Advice: Since Chandy directly and through others collected bribe, a vigilance case can be registered under section 7, 8, 9 and 13 of the prevention of corruption act. A criminal case can

Quotes from

Pinarayi Vijayan: As per the evidence and disposition before the Commission, sexual harassment and rape have been proven. But the SIT hasn't carried out probe into this aspect.

Oommen Chandy: A limping LDF

this is an opportunity to strike hard and prove myself.

V S Achuthanandan: In view of the Solar Commission Report, Oommen Chandy and other UDF leaders against whom allegations were raised, should apologised to the people and end their public life. Congress and UDF have lost their face. Such leaders should not continue their public life.

V M Sudheeran: The charges levelled by the Solar Commission in its report were 'grave.' Since these are the findings of the commission appointed by the UDF Government, their significance has only intensified. I will comment on it only after going through the report.

Kodieryi Balakrishnan:

With the report, the true colours of Oommen Chandy have come out. The AICC and Congress

president Sonia Gandhi should make their stance clear in the Solar issue. Politically, legally and ethically, Solar report will have far reaching consequences.

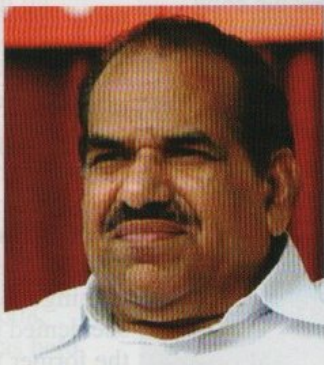
K C Venugopal: The allegations contained in Saritha's letter are false and I have filed a case before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Court. The case is under the consideration of the court. Political rivals have been using the letter for the past four years to dent my image.

Kummanam Rajasekharan:

The KPCC office, which has turned into an asylum for corrupt politicians and culprits in sexual harassment cases, should be closed down. The report has destroyed the virtue of 'khadi' in the state. The LDF is trying to save the culprits in the scam and sexual harassment case.



Pinarayi Vijayan



Kodieryi Balakrishnan

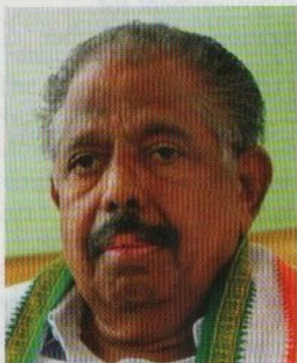


V S Achuthanandan

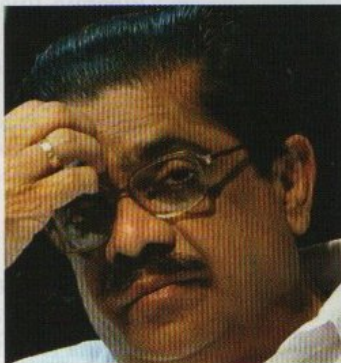
be registered against Thiruvanchoor. Similar action as in the case of Chandy and Thiruvanchoor can be taken against Aryadan.

Decision: Vigilance cases to be registered against Chandy and the staff involved under PC Act. Criminal case to be registered against Thiruvanchoor.

Government has made a wrong political move in a bid to collectively browbeat Congress and UDF... I will quit politics if there is even 1/100 truth in allegations. .. If anyone is under the notion that the UDF can be tied down politically, that too on Vengara by-poll day, they will have to repent. For me



Aryadan Muhammed

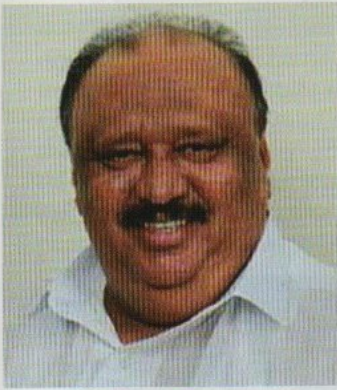


V M Sudheeran



Kummanam

Fall of third wicket



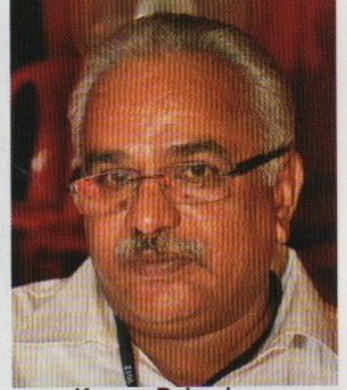
Thomas Chandy



Pinarayi Vijayan



E Chandrasekharan



Kanam Rajendran

An old turn coat from Congress now in NCP, business magnet turned cabinet minister Thomas Chandy was accused of violating several laws to make illegal gains by encroaching government land for a resort in Kuttanad. To placate the public fury, Collector of Alapuzha T V Anupama was asked to enquire about the deeds leading to the allegations. She did a wonderful job without succumbing to the pressures from diverse directions. The accused Chandy denied the charges and the Chief Minister took the stand that the coalition partner NCP should take a decision about the continuation of the minister in the cabinet. The Revenue Minister E Chandrasekharan from CPI and his party's state secretary Kanam Rajendran took the stand that the concerned minister should quit, as in the cases of Saseendran and E P Jayarajan. They were compelled to quit the cabinet

following allegations of sexual overtures and abusing ministerial position respectively.

An unusual event took place for the first time in India. One party in the coalition decided to boycott the cabinet meeting if the accused minister attended it. Their four members held a meeting in minister E Chandrasekharan's cabin and informed the CM about their intention of boycott. This move forced the CM to ask for the resignation of Thomas Chandy from the ministry. As usual the culprit claimed that he submitted his resignation by his own free will and requested the CM to accept it. It is another matter that after the cabinet meeting and submission of resignation, he left the secretariat in the official car.

The entire episode brings to memory a similar episode in the 1967 EMS ministry. After the return of the CM EMS Namboothiripad from USSR after

a medical treatment, one of his ministers B Wellington was accused of corruption. Since the CM soon after the swearing in ceremony had promised that if any allegation of corruption was raised by not less than five MLAs, enquiry would be ordered into. Along with the enquiry against Wellington, EMS also ordered enquiry against veteran CPI ministers M N Govindan Nair and T V Thomas and they too were forced to resign. MN soon coordinated with four other coalition partners and ensured the silent support of Congress. Overconfident of majority, EMS was willing to face a non-confidence motion moved by the Congress but his government was defeated. The import of C Achutha Menon, a Rajya Sabha MP then, spoiled his apple cart and EMS never became a CM later.

Political analysts are watching if a similar scenario would occur again.



The views of the Lake Palace Resort involved in the allegations

The turner TV Anupama

TV Anupama took charge as the District Collector of Alappuzha district only in August 2017. Soon she shook the political arena with a report that exploded on the Pinarayi Vijayan's state cabinet.

Alappuzha Collector Anupama became the instrument to bring in this change to the pleasure of UDF, upset by a recent adverse report tabled in the state assembly, in connection with the Solar Energy Case; and shock waves in LDF because it brought the rift between the CPI (M) and CPI as the report could turn to be a repetition of what had happened during the second tenure of EMS Namboothiripad's government.

Thanks to the report of Collector Anupama on the alleged land encroachment by Transport Minister Thomas Chandy, and the adverse terse comments of the court, a war of words erupted between the rival Communist parties, and led to a reduction of the impact of the report against former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and his colleagues.

Now Thomas Chandy is between the devil and the deep sea. If the further enquiry ordered by the government into the encroachment case confirms the guilt, the chances of Thomas Chandy escaping unscathed are remote.

Anupama points out the existence of a violation of a few state acts in Chandy's case. For those who have followed Anupama's bureaucratic career, however, this would come as no surprise. Anupama's actions now show much the same tenacity and determination with which she approached her dream of becoming an IAS officer, and the same upright work ethic she has abided by through her career thus far.

A new role model

A young girl from Ponnani in Malappuram district had always nurtured a dream of becoming an IAS officer. Even as she entered the Goa campus of BITS Pilani one of India's premier engineering institutions she held on to her dreams of joining the civil services. She worked round the



Alapuzha Collector T V Anupama

clock, and moved one step closer to her dream every day. In 2010, Kerala woke up to a proud moment TV Anupama had secured the All India Rank 4 in the UPSC examinations.

Soon after this big win, Anupama said, "Aim high. There is no end to what you can achieve. I certainly would have written the examinations again if I did not get IAS."

Anupama also told eager interviewers that she had spent 11 months preparing for civil service exams. During that time, she spent 13 to 16 hours a day with her books and journals, and never slept for more than six hours.

Holding the bull by horns

It was in 2014 that the young IAS officer caught media attention when she filed a complaint at the Medical College Police Station against Murali, the then CITU convener. Anupama had decided to take on the union for demanding gawking wages or *Nokkukooli* money paid to union headload workers to simply watch privately hired labourers load or unload goods.

When Anupama and her family moved into a home, CITU convener B Murali and his associates had demanded money from her, because her family had unloaded their home appliances by themselves. When Anupama protested

that the workers could not demand wages for gawking, Murali forcibly unloaded her washing machine, and demanded money for the work. He scribbled his phone number on a wall in front of her house, and told her to call him and tell him when he would get the payment.

But things did not end there the group continued to threaten the officer's family. On Anupama's complaint, Murali was arrested and remanded for 15 days.

Food Safety Commissioner of Kerala

No year was as eventful as 2015 for this plucky IAS officer. Anupama was made the Food Safety Commissioner of Kerala and shot to public popularity soon after. The IAS officer carried out multiple raids on dealers, and sent thousands of samples for testing, exposing high levels of adulteration and rampant use of pesticides.

The investigation led by her revealed that several categories of foodstuffs were often contaminated with as much as 300% of the allowed level of pesticides.

Even as thousands of vegetable and fruit samples were submitted to the court and many dealers arrested, what created a furore was that many of

these perishables were being bought from Tamil Nadu.

Anupama then carved a niche for herself by urging Keralites to start organic farming and home gardening to produce the vegetables required for their families. A Quint report says that under the campaign promoted by this officer, the state government delivered free seeds and saplings to people and helped them install drip-irrigation and bio-gas facilities at their residences.

As a result of her efforts, the state which used to get 70% of its vegetables and fruits from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka now natively grows a majority of its own produce.

Anupama had then told journalists, "We were only a part of it. We spoke about it, presented in the meetings about it but rest was done by the government or public. People started becoming so aware, we continued lifting samples (from check-posts and markets)."

What was most commendable about all this was that Anupama had faced an uphill struggle of making the Food Safety Department, which had only come into existence in 2011, taken strong decisions that would impact trade with a neighbouring state.

Anupama had explained the

challenges she faced heading the newly set-up department.

"For established departments, there is precedence for everything and you just have to follow it. If there is a specific issue, you need special intervention. In the case of food safety, there was a total lack of resources. No proper office, no sufficient human resources, not enough vehicles," she said.

Not surprisingly, her work earned her the wrath of the pesticide lobby, which filed many cases against her for the various reports filed by her department.

Action as Alappuzha collector

In August 2017, Anupama took charge as the 48th District Collector of Alappuzha. Immediately after taking charge, she had told media that she would study the problems of people and make all efforts to solve them.

But Kerala Transport Minister Thomas Chandy, a businessman-turned-politician, probably did not dream that Anupama's plans for the district would create so much trouble for his political career.

It took the fiery IAS officer only months to submit a report to Revenue Principal Secretary PH Kurian against

Chandy. The report stated that portions of Marthandam Lake in Alappuzha had been levelled for building the Minister's Lake Palace Resort. The report also said that a paddy field was levelled to build a parking lot for the resort. It also pointed fingers at various officials for aiding the Minister in violating the Kerala Paddy Land and Wetland Act, and for building and paving a road for the resort.

Though caught amidst a mountain of allegations, Thomas Chandy has remained unfazed, challenging the investigative officers.

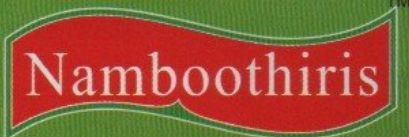
The Minister told the media, "If the opposition can prove that I have encroached on the lake I will resign as both MLA and Minister and sit at home. I challenge them, but they are not ready to take up the challenge."

Though the chorus calling for the Minister's resignation grew louder, he remained unmoved, and the LDF continued to drag its feet over the issue.

Whether or not Thomas Chandy would be held guilty remains to be seen, but one thing is already clear: in TV Anupama, Alappuzha and Kerala have got an IAS officer determined to do her job as she sees fit, no matter who or what stands in her way.

ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ഏറ്റവും രുചിയുള്ള
സ്നേഹം പുട്ടുപൊടി ഇപ്പോൾ
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The bloody political killings in Kerala

The violent killings of political rivals seem to have no end if the political murders in Kerala especially in the northern part of Kerala are any indication. The earliest murders of rivals, employees of government also would fall under this category, were reported from the Kannur region even before independence and then the people found guilty were then Congress workers K P R Gopalan, C A Balan (both of them were sentenced to be hanged but Mahatma Gandhi's last intervention with Viceroy saved their lives. On release, KPR became a tall popular Communist leader while Balan became a film actor. It is to be noted that these bloody political murders never occurred between Communist and Congress workers. It should be an irony that two organisation formed in the same year became violent political rivals. Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) and Communist Party of India are believed to have been formed in 1925 (some believe CPI was founded in 1920 and for some other Communists it was in 1912) and the war of annihilation continues even today. Thousands of followers from both the organisations have been killed and the guilty are seldom punished. During the sixties, a section of the Communists believed that CPI was not revolutionary enough and left the party to form a Marxist group, CPI(M) in 1964 and some in it again felt that revolution was not substantial and left CPI(M). They left the party in 1969 and formed CPI (ML), the Marxist Leninist group. When Communists were stronger in many states, its support base is now getting reduced. At this rate, Communism may survive only in Kerala. Recently, well known literary critic Padmashree Dr M Leelavathy wrote that Communism would not die as long as starvation among people existed.

Last month a 28 year old RSS worker Nidesh was attacked near Thalassery allegedly by CPI (M) supporters. The victim's hands and legs were injured after he was attacked around 5.30 pm on a road near Muzhuppilangad Beach, according to the police.

Kannur has been the hotbed of political clashes in Kerala. According to the police, there were 69 political murders in the district between 2000 and 2016, with 31 victims from the Sangh and 30 from the Left party. According to PTI, the BJP's National General Secretary Saroj Pandey said next day that if her party workers continued to be killed or targeted in Kerala, then the "eyes of the attackers

will be gouged out". She said the purpose of the BJP's Jan Raksha Yatra was too let the attackers know this.

Pandey claimed that the party has 11 crore members around the world, and that more than 300 workers between 20 and 25 years of age were killed in Kerala. "Everybody has the right to present their thoughts, but I believe politics should not be done like this," she said.

On October 3, the BJP launched the Jana Raksha Yatra from Kannur, blaming the CPI(M) for the political violence in the state. Party National President Amit Shah had held Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan directly responsible for the attacks. While leading a march in Delhi on October 8, he had said that "politics of violence" was in the nature of communists.

On November 12 early afternoon another RSS worker Anand was brutally stabbed in the Guruvayur region and the temple town started freezing. Next day Guruvayur and Manalur observed 'bandh' and even the Thrissur city experienced its impact as all people coming from the Guruvayur declared a holiday for themselves. It was reported in some newspaper that a devotee of

Guruvayurappan made an offering to his beloved god pleading nothing should cause a calling off of the bandh.

Protesting the blood bath in Kannur, on November 11 more than a lakh of students supporting ABVP assembled in Thiruvananthapuram protesting against the Pinarayi Government. Students from all over India poured to Kerala for this show of strength.

Though a Kerala Bandh was called for November 16, not much impact was visible.

It has become a normal thing that followers of both organisations issuing challenges and threats of deaths but there is no interference from the government or police. This indifferent attitude sends a wrong message to the people. If the state government is incapable of maintaining law and order, the public has to look elsewhere to find capable people. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "If eye is for an eye, the whole world would become blind one day." India has a heritage and tradition and it is time to stick to those time tested measures. CPI (M) has to take an initiative in this regard since the power is now vested with them.

POEM

The Cry of the Soul

The enemy came in surreptitiously,
Entrenched itself within our territory,
Our soldiers taken a little aback,
Rushed to the border,
To answer the call of the motherland,
To drive and flush out the uncalled visitors.

But our aged political leaders,
Wearing bigger shoes than their feet could hold,
Are busy announcing newer parties,
Unabashedly, all under the cover of social service.

Surely, this country could do without these politicians
Who instead should be sent to the border,
Not to fight out among themselves,
As they had so often done in Parliament,
But against the external enemies- once for all.



Rajan Mundayat

Script for a future film

Since February 17 incidence of sexual assaults by a group of vagabonds or hired goons of a Malayalam actress, slowly a script was ravelling that had all the characteristics of a thriller. Though the climax is known, the necessary steps leading to it were missing and slowly they are also becoming clearer.

The major attraction was the transformation of the hero into villain gives the script a new twist. Yet the people associated with it are not sure of the outcome and many short incidences are added to it to make it gripping. The opening shot was the sexual assault on the famous heroine with all culprits (junior artistes) were apprehended within a week of the incident but the name frequently heard at intermittent timings made the concerned people cautious, (here they are the personnel of department of police) and they pleaded before the judiciary that a theory of conspiracy cannot be ignored and more time was needed to collect more evidences. All evidences that cropped up were unexpected.

It started with a WhatsApp message from a co-prisoner of Sunilkumar (Pulser Suni) to Dileep via Kavya's textile shop in which there was a hint the quotation originated from the actor. It was followed by a phone call from to Dileep's close aid Appunni requesting some money. This call was made on a mobile of a policeman while he was being taken to court.

A complaint from Dileep to DGP stating Sunil was blackmailing him for money. While the complaint mentioned an amount, the evidence submitted did not have any mention of amount. A matter of unguarded moment! When Vishnu, the co-prisoner of Sunil was questioned, Dileep's involvement was indicated.

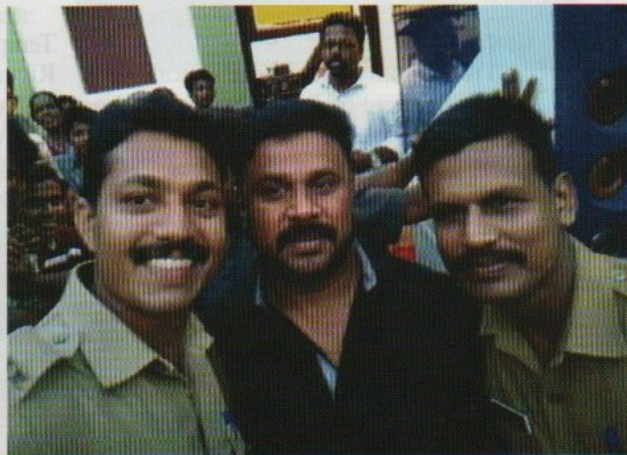
When Dileep denied any link or previous contact between Sunil and him, a photograph came up in which Sunil was shown behind Dileep. The evidence came from the people seen in the photograph when they were questioned.

The theory of conspiracy first came from Manju Warriar, ex-wife of Dileep.

This led to the investigations into the family affairs of Dileep. The contradictions in the statements given by Dileep and his close friends tightened the screw of suspicion and led to the arrest of Dileep on July 10.

The secret evidences obtained from 33 witnesses allowed the police to prepare a strong Crime report to be submitted to the court.

The advocates are supposed to be officers of the court but Adv Pratish Chacko (Sunil's advocate) was arrested for destroying evidence. His junior Raju Joseph was also arrested soon. Many attempts to obtain bail by Dileep were foiled by police by arguing that he would influence witnesses and destroy evidences. He was however granted a



Selfie with hero

very brief bail to attend the rituals connected with the anniversary of his father's death. Now High Court has granted Dileep bail for six days to attend the opening ceremony of his restaurant in Gulf though the prosecution was adamant to get the bail order cancelled. It had submitted before the court that he already tried to influence six witnesses. However the court has rejected their plea and allowed Dileep to go.

It is reported that police has got evidence of Dileep giving Rs.1.40 lakh advance to Sunil for the quotation. Sunil deposited this money into his mother's bank account on the same day. It is believed that the quotation is kept at Rs.1.5 crore. It is also believed that police recorded evidence from unusually a big number of witnesses fearing that some of them may change sides during the time of trial.

Though Angamali Magistrate court has received the criminal petition, it is going through the evidences threadbare and once satisfied with it, would handover them to the Sessions Court. The latter would decide who would conduct the trial. It could be either the Sessions Court or Additional Sessions Court dealing with the crimes against women. The prosecution is keen to hold the trial at the earliest fearing witnesses changing sides and may approach the High Court for favourable decision. Once these matters are decided, summons will be issued to all witnesses.

Though Dileep is not involved in the action, police states that his was an act of revenge. Even after the alleged main culprits were arrested, he was found to have worked to tarnish the image of the actress to prevent her getting married. While Dileep is shown as the eighth culprit, Kavya, Nadirshah, Manju and Appunni are likely to be presented as witnesses.

Before the divorce petition of Dileep and Manju was filed in the court, Dileep felt that this actress was responsible for spoiling his married life. It is interesting to note that this issue was detected by the police from the petition of Dileep submitted to the family court for divorce from Manju

Warrier. But the victimised actress did not reveal to the investigating agencies any issue connecting the family life of Dileep and Manju Warriar.

The criminal report, submitted by investigating office Circle Inspector Baiju Paulose, contains evidences from 355 witnesses and 413 documents. There are 33 secret evidences given before a magistrate. The report consumes 1452 pages. There are 50 witnesses from the cinema world. Two culprits were made approvers. They are P K Anish, a civil officer working in armed police wing, who gave phone to Sunilkumar to talk to Dileep, and P V Vipinlal who helped Sunil to write to Dileep. Some of the sections under which they are named invite rigorous imprisonment upto 20 years or life imprisonment. It is also alleged that from start to finish, the conspiracy took four years to accomplish.

Rathotsavam at Kalpathy Village



K A Viswanathan

■ Curtains fell on the three-day car festival (Rathotsavam), at Kalpathy Village in Palakkad district with all six temple chariots of the four temples moving one behind the other and formed

“Ratha Sangamam” in front of the Viswanatha Swami temple. This also marks the beginning of chariot festivals in temples associated with 18 of the 96 agraharams established by the Tamil Brahmins in the 14th century.

The highlight of the festival was the carting of huge, intricately carved, beautifully decorated chariots, through the streets of Kalpathy and Chathapuram villages by thousands of devotees with Panchavadyam and chanting of Vedic hymes by vedic scholars and students. It is said the Kalpathy car festival is one of the biggest festivals of its kind in the country, and next only to the Puri Jagannath Swamy temple car festival and it attracts tourists from all over the



world.

Traditionally, the village of Kalpathy has a settlement of Tamil Brahmins who migrated from Mayavaram, Kumbhakonam and in and around Tanjoor District to the villages in the 14th century. The Viswanathaswamy

Temple by the side of the Kalpathy River Neela Nadi is the nerve centre of festivities and temple was built in 1425 A D and is considered to be the oldest Siva temple in South Kerala. The Kalpathy chariot festival was also the biggest of festivals in the Malabar



region, when the region was under the Madras presidency during the British rule. Kalpathy is also known as Dakshin Kasi or the Varanasi of the South.

This year the Rathotsavam began on November 14 with the main deities Goddess Vishalakshi and Lord Viswanatha Swamy being taken out in chariots in a procession around the villages along with Lord Vigneswara and Lord Subramaniya Swamy. Thousands took part in the ritual of tugging the chariots. On the second day the deity of Mandakara Maha Ganapathy of new Kalpathy was taken out. On the third day the Sree Lakshminarayana Perumal of old Kalpathy and Sree Parsanna Maha Ganapathy of Chathathapuram were taken out in the morning. During the evening Chariots of all four temples belongs to Chathapuram, Old Kalpathy and New Kalpathy moving one behind another and formed Sangamam in between and then returned to their base. After abhishekams, the deities were



Wedding



Dr. Lokesh son of Mrs. Uthara Sreedharan & Mr. M Sreedharan (Shetty) got married to **Dr. Saroja** daughter of Dr. Indira Padmanabhan & Mr. M V Padmanabhan on Monday 6th November at Kannur, Kerala followed by reception on 11th November at Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai.

decorated and taken out in a floral palanquin and this marks the end of entire celebrations.

The salient feature of the festival was the part played by the youngsters of the villages in decorating the chariots and helping in processions, said 80 year old resident of New Kalpathy K V Ganesan who was associated with the festival for more than six decades. "Unlike earlier days when only villagers used to take part in such festivals, with the improvement of transport systems, government support and media publicity has attracted people from all over the world like U.S, UK and Gulf countries besides people from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore have come to witness the festival."

The president of the organizing committee K K Venkateswaran said that they replaced the chariot's large wooden wheels with cast-iron wheels and only one elephant was present to push the chariot as and when required, symbolically.

On all days the village deities were decorated in different forms like Mooshika vahanam, Ashwa vahanam, Gaja vahanam and Garuda vahanam and taken around the villages in the evenings. It is no wonder that devotees from around the world throng to see the festival every year. ■

മുംബൈയിൽ മലയാളിയുടെ പിടി അയയുന്നു



V Balachandran

■ മുംബൈ നഗരത്തിൽ മലയാളികളുടെ സാന്നിധ്യവും പ്രാധാന്യവും വളരെയധികം ശക്തമായിരുന്നു കുറച്ചു കാലം

മുമ്പുവരെ. തൊഴിലന്വേഷകരായി എത്തി ഈ നഗരത്തെ ഇന്നു കാണുന്ന രീതിയിൽ രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിൽ മലയാളികൾ വഹിച്ച പങ്ക് മഹാരാഷ്ട്രയിൽപ്പോലും മതിപ്പുള്ളവായെന്നു വിധത്തിലുള്ളതാണ്. മഹാരാഷ്ട്ര സംസ്ഥാന രൂപീകരണത്തിനു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പ്രക്ഷോഭത്തിൽപ്പോലും കാര്യമായ പങ്കു വഹിക്കാനും അങ്ങനെ സ്വന്തം ചരിത്രം ഇവിടെ എഴുതിച്ചേർക്കാനും മലയാളികൾക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

തൊഴിൽ സംബന്ധമായി എല്ലാ മേഖലകളിലും മലയാളികളുടെ ആധിപത്യമായിരുന്നു ഇവിടെ. ഉന്നതമായ ഔദ്യോഗികപദവികളിൽ മലയാളികളായിരുന്നു, ആദരവും അംഗീകാരവും പിടിച്ചു പറ്റിക്കൊണ്ട്, വിരാജിച്ചിരുന്നത്. ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ, മലയാളികളെ മാറ്റിനിർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുള്ള മുംബൈ ചിന്തിക്കാൻപോലും ആവാത്തതായിരുന്നു.

സാമൂഹ്യ, സാംസ്കാരിക, രാഷ്ട്രീയമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലും പത്രപ്രവർത്തനരംഗത്തുമൊക്കെ മലയാളികളുടെ ശക്തമായ സാന്നിധ്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. സമാജം, സംഘടനാപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലും മലയാളികളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം മാതൃകാപരമായിരുന്നു. ശിവസേനയുടെ ആവിർഭാവത്തോടെ ശക്തി പ്രാപിച്ച മണ്ണിന്റെ മക്കൾവാദത്തെ അതിജീവിക്കാനും സ്വന്തം കഴിവുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ എതിർക്കുന്നവരിൽപ്പോലും മതിപ്പു നേടാനും മലയാളികൾക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞു.



Gateway of India

മലയാളിയുടെ കയ്യാപ്പു പതിയാത്ത ഒരു മേഖലയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല എന്നുവേണം പറയാൻ. ചെറുകിട ബിസിനസ്സിലായാലും മലയാളികൾക്കു വളരാനു പറ്റിയ വളക്കൂറുള്ള മണ്ണായിരുന്നു ഇവിടം.

വ്യവസായരംഗത്താകട്ടെ ക്യാപ്റ്റൻ കൃഷ്ണൻനായർ, ഗുഡ്നെറ്റ് മോഹൻ തുടങ്ങിയ ഉജ്ജ്വല നക്ഷത്രങ്ങൾ ഉദിച്ചുയർന്നത് മുംബൈയുടെ മണ്ണിലാണ്. ഉജ്വല രാമചന്ദ്രനും ഇവിടെ വെനിക്കൊടി പാറിച്ചു.

വിവിധരംഗങ്ങളിലായി ജി പി നായർ, എ ബി നായർ, ചെറിയാൻ, മേയർ മാധവൻ തുടങ്ങി ഇനിയുമൊട്ടേറെ പേരുകൾ ഇപ്രകാരം ചൂണ്ടിക്കാട്ടാൻ സാധിക്കും.

ഈ ലേഖകന്റെ സ്വന്തം അനുഭവം

വച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഔദ്യോഗികപദവിയിലുള്ള കാലത്ത് പല മലയാളികൾക്കും നിയമാനുസൃതമായി സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. വ്യവസായ സംരംഭങ്ങൾക്കും വ്യക്തിപരമായുമൊക്കെ ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സഹായങ്ങളിലൂടെ അവർക്കുണ്ടായ ഉയർച്ചയിൽ എന്റെയും കയ്യാപ്പു പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടാകുമെന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ കൃതാർത്ഥതയുണ്ട്.

ഇന്നത്തെ അവസ്ഥ

ഇന്ന് മലയാളികൾക്ക് കാര്യമായ സ്വീകാര്യത മുംബൈയിൽ കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നു വേണം കരുതാൻ. അതിന്റെ കാരണങ്ങൾ അന്വേഷിച്ചാൽ പല വഴികളിലായിരിക്കും നാം ചെന്നെത്തുക. ഒന്നാമതായി, തദ്ദേശീയരായ ആളുകളും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു പ്രാധാന്യം നൽകിയതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ അവരിൽ അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യരുടെ എണ്ണം കുടി. അതോടെ ഔദ്യോഗിക തസ്തികകളിൽ അവരും പ്രബല ശക്തിയായി മാറി. ശിവസേന, മഹാരാഷ്ട്ര നവനിർമ്മാണ സേന പോലുള്ള രാഷ്ട്രീയപാർട്ടികൾ ജോലികളിൽ മറാഠികളെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാട്ടി പലപ്പോഴും പ്രസ്താവനകൾ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കാറുണ്ട്. ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ ഇത് പ്രക്ഷോഭങ്ങളിലേക്കും നീങ്ങുന്നു. മലയാളികളുടെ കുത്തകയായിരുന്ന നഴ്സിംഗ് മേഖലയിൽ ഇന്ന് അവർ ന്യൂനപക്ഷമായി മാറിയിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഇതുപോലെത്തന്നെയാണ് മറ്റെല്ലാ മേഖലകളും.

മലയാളികൾക്ക് ഗവൺമെന്റിൽനിന്ന് പഴയപോലെ കാര്യമായ സ്വീകാര്യത കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നാണ് ഇതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ചില അന്വേഷണങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് വ്യക്തമായത്. ഇത് ബിജെപിയുടെ ഭരണകൊണ്ടു സംഭവിച്ചതാണോ എന്നു ഉറപ്പിച്ചു പറയാൻ കഴിയില്ലെങ്കിലും കോൺഗ്രസ് ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ കാലത്ത് ലഭിച്ചിരുന്നതുപോലുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോൾ മലയാളികൾക്ക് കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നുവേണം കരുതാൻ.

വ്യവസായമേഖലയിൽ മലയാളികളുടെ പ്രാധാന്യം താഴ്ന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്.



Flora Fountain

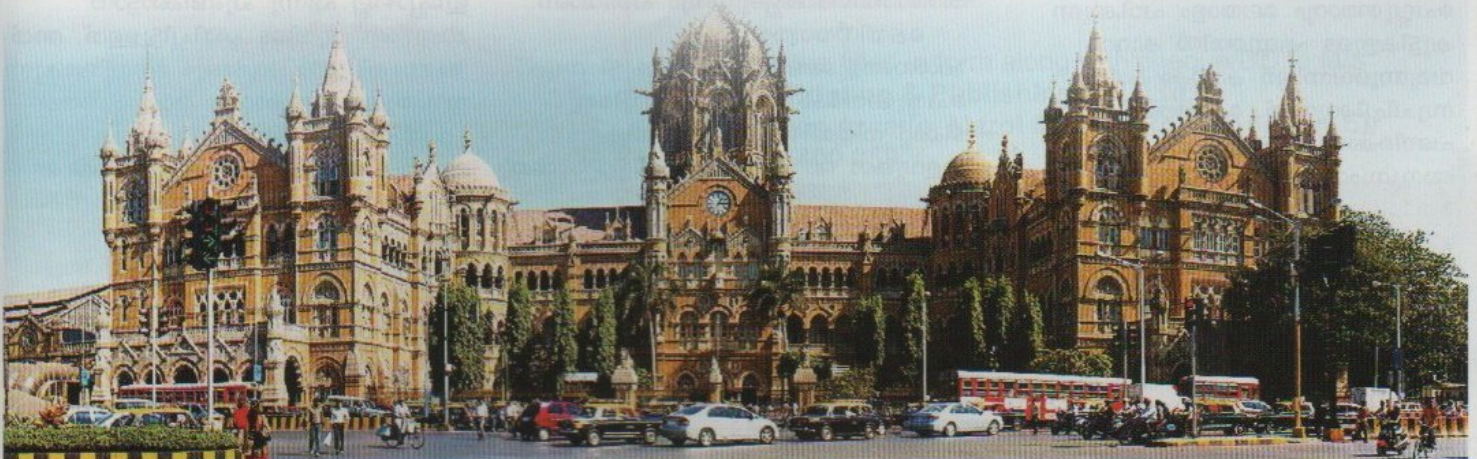
പുതിയതായി ആരും പൊങ്ങിവരുന്നില്ല. ശക്തമായ ഒരു വോട്ടുബേങ്കല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ രാഷ്ട്രീയക്കാരാരും ഇപ്പോൾ മലയാളികളെ പ്രാധാന്യത്തോടെ വീക്ഷിക്കുന്നില്ല. സി ഡി ഉമ്മച്ചൻ, ആനി ശേഖർ തുടങ്ങിയ മലയാളികൾ നിയമസഭയിൽ പ്രതിനിധികളായി എത്തിയിരുന്നെങ്കിലും നിലവിൽ എംഎൽഎ ആയി മലയാളികളായി ആരും ഇല്ലെന്നതാണ് സത്യം. മുനിസിപ്പൽ കോർപ്പറേഷനിൽ മത്സരിക്കാൻ വ്യക്തിപരമായ സ്വാധീനം കൊണ്ട് ചിലർക്ക് സീറ്റു കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും കൂടുതൽപ്പേരും പരാജയപ്പെടുകയാണ് പതിവ്. നിലവിൽ മൂന്നു മലയാളികളാണ് കോർപ്പറേറ്റർമാരായി ഉള്ളത്. മലയാളികളുമായി കൂടുതൽ ഇടപഴകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടല്ല അവർക്ക് സീറ്റു ലഭിച്ചതും അവർ വിജയിച്ചതും എന്നതിനാൽത്തന്നെ ഇത് മലയാളികളുടെ വിജയമായി കാണാൻ

കഴിയില്ല. മലയാളികളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ കാര്യമായി ഇടപെടുകയും പ്രശ്നപരിഹാരത്തിന് ശ്രമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ലോകസഭാംഗമണ് ഗോപാൽഷെട്ടി എന്നതും എടുത്തു പറയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്.

മലയാളി കൂട്ടായ്മ

നഗരത്തിലെ മലയാളികൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള പരസ്പര സൗഹാർദ്ദവും സഹായമനുബന്ധിതവും കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നാണ് അനുഭവത്തിൽനിന്ന് ബോധ്യമാകുന്നത്. സുഹൃദ്ബന്ധങ്ങളിൽപ്പോലും പഴയ ഊഷ്മളതയില്ല. വാട്ട്സ് ആപ്പ് ഗ്രൂപ്പും ഫെയ്സ്ബുക്ക് ഫ്രണ്ട്ഷിപ്പുമൊക്കെ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും ആ ബന്ധങ്ങളെല്ലാംതന്നെ ഉപരിപ്ലവമായ ചില വാചക

കസർത്തുകളിൽ ഒതുങ്ങുന്നു. സംഘടനാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലും കാര്യമായ ഭേദഗതികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. പൊങ്ങച്ചസംസ്കാരം അവിടേയും പടർന്നുപിടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരേ അച്ചിൽ നിർമ്മിക്കപ്പെട്ടപോലെയാണ് നഗരത്തിലെ എല്ലാ മലയാളിസമാജങ്ങളിലേയും പ്രവർത്തനം. ഓണാഘോഷം, എസ് എസ് സി-എച്ച് എസ് സി ഉന്നതവിജയികളേയും അംഗങ്ങളിലെ മുതിർന്ന പൗരരേയും ആദരിക്കൽ തുടങ്ങിയവയിൽ അവ ഒതുങ്ങിപ്പോകുന്നു. മലയാളികളുടെ ജീവിതത്തിലേക്ക് ഇറങ്ങിച്ചെന്ന് കണ്ണിരാപ്പാനും ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതിൽ സഹായമെത്തിക്കാനും ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന സംഘടനകൾ വിരലിലെണ്ണാവുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ കാര്യമായ സഹായമൊന്നും സംഘടനകൾവഴി മലയാളികൾക്കു കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നുവേണം



CSMT Railway Terminus

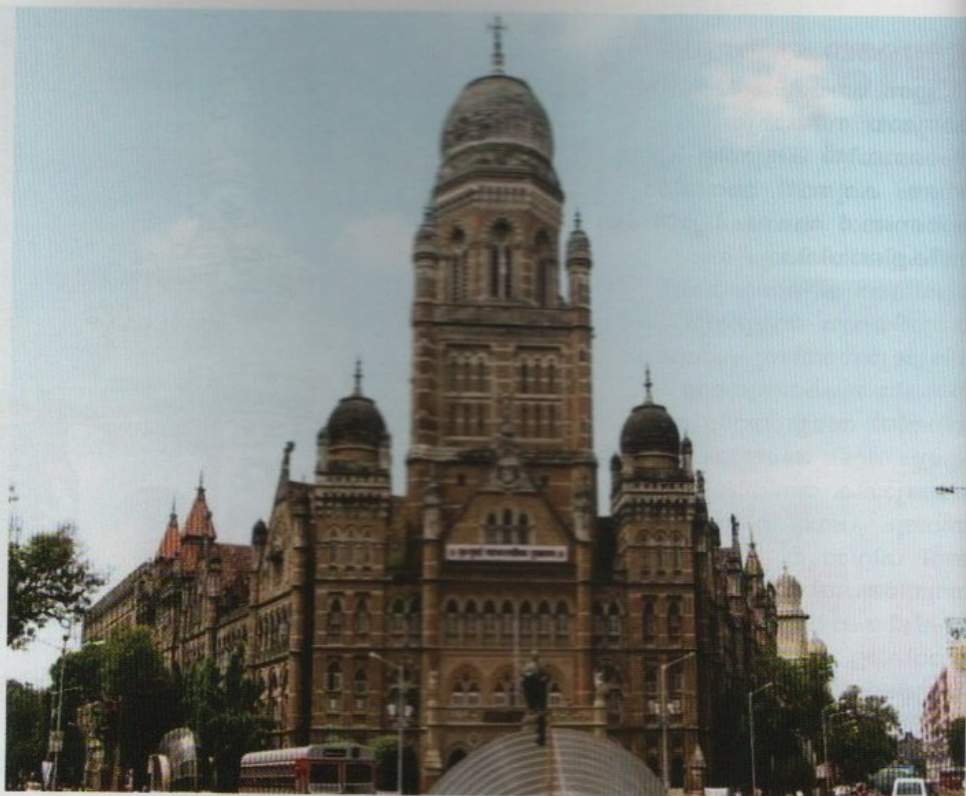
പറയാൻ. പത്രത്തിൽ പേരുകെട്ടിയവരിൽ
എന്നതിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ളതിലൊന്നും
താല്പര്യമില്ലാത്ത മട്ടിലാണ് പല
സംഘടനകളുടേയും അവയുടെ
പ്രവർത്തകരുടേയും കർമ്മപദ്ധതികൾ.

കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഇങ്ങനെയൊക്കെ
ആണെങ്കിലും മലയാളികൾ ഇപ്പോഴും
ഇവിടെ പിടിച്ചു നിൽക്കുന്നു.
പുതുതായി മലയാളികളാൽ
അവസരങ്ങൾ തേടി മുംബൈയിൽ
എത്തുന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും ഇവിടെ വേർ
പിടിച്ചവർ മറ്റേങ്ങും
പോകാനില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ
പ്രയാസങ്ങൾ സഹിച്ചും
കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നു. ചേരികളിൽ
റീഡവലെപ്മെന്റ് വന്നതോടുകൂടി ചില
മലയാളികൾക്ക് ലോട്ടറിയടിച്ചതുപോലെ
അപ്രതീക്ഷിതധനം കരഗതമാകുകയും
അങ്ങനെ പലരും രക്ഷപ്പെടുകയും
ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നിരുന്നാലും
ഇപ്പോഴും, വാടകവീട്ടിൽ കഴിയുന്ന
മലയാളികളാണ് നഗരത്തിൽ
ഭൂരിഭാഗവും.

മാറ്റങ്ങൾ സംഭവിക്കുന്നു

മലയാളികളുടെ ജീവിതരീതിയിലും
മാറ്റങ്ങൾ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.
ഇന്റർകാസ്റ്റ് വിവാഹങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചു.
നഗരത്തിൽ ജനിച്ചവളെന്ന കുട്ടികൾ
വിവാഹപ്രായമെത്തുന്നതോടെ
മലയാളിയെത്തന്നെ
ജീവിതപങ്കാളിയാക്കാൻ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നില്ല.
അവരുടെ ഇഷ്ടത്തിന്
വഴങ്ങിക്കൊടുക്കുകയേ
മാതാപിതാക്കൾക്ക് നിർവാഹമുള്ളൂ.
അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവർ അവരുടെ വഴിക്കു
പോകുമെന്നതാണ് അവസ്ഥ.
വ്യക്തിജീവിതത്തിൽ മലയാളം,
മലയാളി എന്നീ വാക്കുകൾക്ക് അവരിൽ
പ്രാധാന്യമില്ലാത്ത അവസ്ഥയായി.
കേരളസർക്കാരിന്റെ മലയാളം
മിഷൻപദ്ധതിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട്
നഗരത്തിൽ മാതൃഭാഷാപഠനം
നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അത് എത്രമാത്രം
ഫലപ്രദമാണെന്ന്
തെളിയാനിരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. വർഷം
ചെല്ലുന്തോറും മലയാളം പഠിക്കുന്ന
കുട്ടികളുടെ എണ്ണത്തിൽ കുറവു
വരുന്നുവെന്നാണ് കണക്കുകൾ
സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. കേരളത്തിൽ
പണിക്കെത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള
അന്യസംസ്ഥാനക്കാരായ
തൊഴിലാളികളേയും അവരുടെ
മക്കളേയും മലയാളം പഠിപ്പിക്കാൻ
കേരളസർക്കാർ മുൻകയെടുത്ത്
പദ്ധതികൾ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു
എന്നുകൂടി ഇതോടൊപ്പം
കുട്ടിവായിക്കണം.

മുംബൈയിലെ മലയാളികൾ
അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ



BMC Headquarters

പ്രധാനമാണ് യാത്രാക്ലേശം.
കേരളത്തിലേക്ക് യാത്ര ചെയ്യാൻ
ട്രെയിനുകൾ അപര്യാപ്തമായി
ഇപ്പോഴും തുടരുന്നു. യാത്രാക്ലേശം
പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനായി റെയിൽവേക്ക്
നിവേദനം കൊടുക്കലും
പ്രക്ഷോഭങ്ങളും നിരന്തരം
നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും
മലയാളികളിപ്പോഴും ശുഭയാത്ര
കരഗതമായിട്ടില്ലതന്നെ.
അതുകൂടാതെയാണ് കൊങ്കൺവഴിയുള്ള
ട്രെയിനുകളിൽ മലയാളികൾ നിരന്തരം
മോഷണത്തിനിരയാകുന്ന അവസ്ഥയും.
പോലീസും കള്ളന്മാരും ചേർന്നുള്ള
ഒത്തുകളിയാണോ ഇത് എന്നു
സംശയിക്കേണ്ട വിധത്തിലാണ്
മോഷണങ്ങൾ പെരുകുന്നത്. പരാതി
സീകരിക്കാൻപോലും തയ്യാറാകാത്ത
റെയിൽവെ പോലീസ്
അധികാരപരിധിയുടെ കാര്യം പറഞ്ഞ്
തർക്കത്തിലേർപ്പെടുന്നതും പതിവാണ്.

ട്രെയിൻയാത്രയിൽ
പ്രശ്നങ്ങളുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മുൻകൂട്ടി ബുക്ക്
ചെയ്യുന്നവർക്ക് വിമാനയാത്രയിലെ
ടിക്കറ്റ് നിരക്കിൽ പല കമ്പനികളും
ഇളവുകൾ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ലോ
കോസ്റ്റ് ഫ്ളയിംഗ് പലർക്കും
സാദ്ധ്യമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ
മുംബൈയ്ക്കും കേരളത്തിനുമിടയിൽ
വിമാനയാത്രക്കാരുടെ എണ്ണത്തിൽ
ഗണ്യമായ വർദ്ധനവ് ഇക്കാലയളവിൽ
ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൊങ്കൺ റെയിൽവെ
പ്രവർത്തികമായതോടെ
ട്രെയിൻയാത്രാസമയം കുറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ

മുംബൈ മലയാളികളുടെ
നാട്ടിലേക്കുള്ള പോക്കിന്റെ എണ്ണം
കാര്യമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മറ്റു
ഭാഷക്കാരും കേരളത്തിലേക്ക് കൂടുതൽ
യാത്ര ചെയ്യാൻ തുടങ്ങി.
സ്വന്തപദ്ധതിയായിരുന്ന കൊങ്കൺ
റെയിൽവെ സാക്ഷാത്കരിച്ചതിൽ
മലയാളിയായ ഇ ശ്രീധരന്റെ പങ്ക്
എടുത്തുപറയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്.
അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഇച്ഛാശക്തിയിൽ
പടുത്തുയർത്തിയതാണ് മലയാളികൾക്ക്
വളരെയധികം

പ്രയോജനകരമായിത്തീർന്ന ഈ പാത.
അതിനദ്ദേഹം തീർച്ചയായും
അഭിനന്ദനവും ആദരവും അർഹിക്കുന്നു.

ഇത്രയൊക്കെ പറഞ്ഞതിൽനിന്നും
മലയാളിക്ക് പാർക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്ത
ഇടമായി മുംബൈ മാറിയിരിക്കുന്നു
എന്ന അർത്ഥമില്ല. മലയാളിക്ക്
മുന്യുണ്ടായിരുന്ന തരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രതാപം
ഇപ്പോഴില്ല എന്നു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാട്ടാൻ
മാത്രമാണ് ഇവിടെ ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അത്
അന്വേഷിച്ചാൽ ആർക്കും മനസ്സിലാകുന്ന
വസ്തുതയാണുതാനും. അഭയം തേടി
എത്തുന്നവരെ വാത്സല്യത്തോടെ
മാനോടു ചേർക്കുന്ന മുംബാദേവിയുടെ
അനുഗ്രഹം ഇപ്പോഴും മലയാളികൾക്ക്
കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽത്തന്നെ
പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ എന്തൊക്കെയുണ്ടെങ്കിലും
അതെല്ലാം അതിജീവിച്ച് മലയാളികൾ
ഇവിടെ സുഖമായി കഴിയുന്നുമുണ്ട്.

വി ബാലചന്ദ്രൻ

മുംബൈ മുനിസിപ്പൽ കോർപ്പറേഷൻ
ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി കമ്മീഷണർ (റിട്ട.)

IMPROVE YOUR DRESS SENSE



Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

■ We always wish to look beautiful and attractive especially when we go out. The secrets of being attractive are to choose a dress that reflects your personality and wearing the right dress at the right time. The

saying "dress makes a man" is applicable for women also!

Always try to choose your clothes carefully to complement your face and figure. The most important line of your dress is your figure. When people look at you from a distance, they see only your clothes. When they come closer, they observe other lines of your cloth like neckline, waistline etc.

Neckline of a dress is important. A neckline can make your face appear longer, narrower, shorter or broader. It can make your neck appear longer and thinner or shorter and thicker. Neckline also affects the narrowness or width of shoulders. Broadly, necklines can be divided into three groups- round, U shaped and square. While choosing a neckline, we must consider the shape of neck and face. If your neck is short and thick, dresses without collar or flat collar will suit you. If your neck is long and thin, then wear collars that fit close to the neck.

Remember that the dress should be properly fitted (but not tight) to show your figure. By selecting the most suitable lines for your figure and by applying the principle of good design

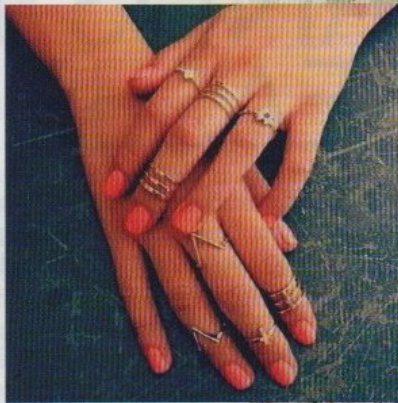


and fashion, you can improve the featuring of your figure.

Choosing colours of clothes is also equally important. The first thing you usually notice about clothes is their colour. If you are young, you may wear more different and brighter colours than your mother's clothes. Even then, there are some colours more suitable to you than others. While selecting a colour, find out what is the colour of your hair, eyes and complexion.

Then decide what is your most attractive feature complexion, eyes or hair. Whatever it is, choose a colour to make that feature more noticeable (but also to make your unattractive features less noticeable.)

The colours you choose in your clothes can make you look heavier or shorter. For example you may look heavier in red colour as it is a warm colour. Bright colours make you appear much larger than dull colours do. Colour has an energy which affects us on a deeper level. The colours you wear may change your mood also. Some colours make you happy and cheerful while some may depress you! You must also consider your



wardrobe, present occasion, fashion, design and season while selecting clothes for yourself.

Choose clothes carefully to complement your face and figure. Generally churidaars rather than salwars add height to the body. If your arms are flabby, avoid sleeveless dresses. If you are short and bulky, avoid bold large prints or horizontally striped prints. Delicate prints will make you look better. With clever clothing techniques you can make yourself look taller, shorter, fatter or thinner. Select the outfit best suited for you.

Accessories can be used to highlight good features or cover flaws. If you have beautiful arms and fingers you can draw attention to them by wearing pretty bangles and rings. Lovely feet can be highlighted by wearing anklets, toe-ring and beautiful sandals. If your neck is thick, avoid 'chokers', use chains with pendants or long necklaces instead. Those who use spectacles should avoid flashy earrings. Tops or small rings look good on them. If you have a round face, avoid round bindis, oval or elongated bindis look better on round face.

Of course "Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder". But the right selection of clothes, make up and accessories which suit us goes a long way in presenting an attractive and well groomed appearance.

Wear what suits you. You neednot imitate somebody else's dressing style because you are you and yours is a unique personality!



WASH YOUR HANDS TO PREVENT DISEASES

Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardanan

Keeping our hands clean will help us to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Germs are different types of microbes that can cause diseases. Germs can spread from dirty hands to food, drinks and our body. So we can stop the spread of germs by washing our hands well and keeping them clean. Hand washing helps to reduce respiratory illness like common cold and other illness like diarrhea or dysentery. We should clean our hands regularly. We must know the technique of washing hands and also when to wash hands.

How to wash hands properly?

- Wet your hands with clean running water. Turn off the tap and apply soap, liquid soap or soap in gel form.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together. Don't forget to lather the backs of hands, in between fingers and under the nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse your hands using a clean towel or air dry them. It is better to close the tap with a disposable fresh towel.

When to wash hands?

- Always remember to wash your hands well
- Before eating food.
 - Before and after caring for someone who is sick
 - Before, during and after preparing

food.

- Before and after dressing a cut or wound.
- After using toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used toilet.
- After blowing nose, coughing or sneezing.
- After touching garbage
- After handling pet food.
- After touching animals, animal feed or animal waste.

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce germs on hands. But if soap and water are not available, we can use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Sanitizers cannot eliminate all types of germs. But they can reduce the number of germs on hands. Hand sanitizers may not be effective when hands are very dirty or greasy. Hand sanitizers may not remove harmful chemicals like heavy metals or pesticides from hands.

How to use hand sanitizers

- Apply the product to the palm of one hand.
- Rub your hands together
- Rub the product over all surface of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

As a part of Infection Prevention and Control this year in May, WHO initiated a campaign on hand hygiene. WHO's global annual call to action for health workers is "Save lives; clean your hands." Posters are also made saying that "Fight antibiotic resistance- It's in your hands."

This campaign aims to stress on the

importance of hand hygiene in health care. It also helps to bring people together in support of hand hygiene improvement globally and fighting antibiotic resistance.

So hand washing is definitely an easy inexpensive and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and keeping people healthy. Hand washing can be a family activity. For children, washing hands can be a fun and entertaining activity. Parents can help in keeping their families healthy by:-

- Teaching them good hand washing technique.
- Reminding kids to wash their hands.
- Washing their own hands with their kids.

Simple hygienic measures like hand washing, improved, safe water supply, always using latrines instead of defecation in the open and food hygiene help to reduce transmission of diseases like diarrhea or dysentery. Health education about environment sanitation and domestic hygiene is also important. Health workers and doctors can help prevent infections by educating people about hand hygiene, pure water, safe food and environment sanitation. Personal hygiene includes bathing, wearing clean clothes, care of body, hand washing and clean habits. We can prevent infections and diseases upto a great extent by proper washing and cleaning of our hands. Parents also can help to influence their children adopt a healthy life style. Family health depends on hygiene and healthy habits. So let us clean our hands regularly to prevent diseases. ■

DRY DRUNK SYNDROME



Dr Sujatha Nair

■ Consumption of alcohol results in a mood alteration and a behavioral change. The sense of judgement and rationality go for a toss resulting in a reduction of

inhibitions, a magnification of all existent emotions. The resultant behavior will be a manifestation of that either in an excessive emotional outburst or uninhibited behavior. Addiction to alcohol which takes a long duration and quantum of consumption results in an identification with the personality that surfaces after drinking. The person can be impulsive, irrational, emotional, excessively manipulative, lying, isolating oneself from family and friends in order to drink. As a consequence he would have lost out on jobs, businesses, financial debts, there could be criminal cases against him, there could be strained family relationships with the spouse, children, parents, siblings et al. His health would be affected.

When a person addicted to a substance decides to stop drinking on his own, he needs to go into detox first as he can go through withdrawals. Trying to detox at home can be dangerous as a person can get into delirium tremens or other complications. He needs to be in a clinical environment under medical supervision to get beyond the withdrawals.

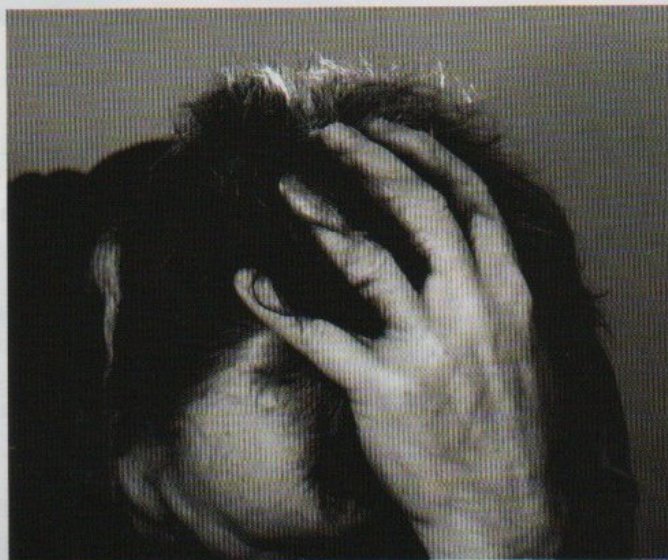
After the person completes detox and continues to manage to remain in abstinence due to circumstances that prevent him from drinking, without help of a rehab or counseling and tries to "wing" it on his own. This person who is staying away from alcohol for all practical purposes but has not been able to bring about a change in the character, behavior and personality that continues like that of one when he was drinking. Such a person is said to be in

a Dry Drunk state.

The characteristics of the person who is a dry drunk are

Egotistical- he considers that he has done something great by stopping consumption of alcohol. And he behaves as if he has done some favor on the rest of the family and friends by abstaining. Hence they should be at his beck and call and listen to his demands.

Obstinate- He wants everything to resolve and be fine immediately, as in his suspension should be revoked from the job, his father should trust him with the business and financial dealings just



because he has stopped drinking.

He remains self-obsessed.

The resentments towards family and others remain the same and affect him more. There is constant anxiety and fear of relapsing.

The inability to manage emotions is the same.

The volatility of emotions makes the family feel as though they are walking on eggshells around him.

The same manipulateness and lying continues.

He feels deprived of something he thought he enjoyed so much by not drinking. He also becomes jealous of friends who do not have addiction issues.

The person can get into substitute

negative addictive behaviors like gambling, food, sex etc

The person who is like this many times has relapsed in his mind and is looking for excuses to re-start drinking again and can eventually get the bottle in hand.

However others can remain abstinent but keep suffering from the emotional pain and behavioral issues that plagued him when he was drinking as he never learnt the tools to enable him to deal with his emotions and work on oneself to transform oneself to be a better person, realistic and balanced.

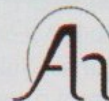
True recovery from addiction means transforming oneself completely from within outward, breaking the identification from the person he was when drinking, resolve emotional issues, change one's lifestyle, change old friends and societal associations. To do this alone, without support of a rehabilitation treatment program and counseling, where in the past the alcohol was a crutch in every situation, can lead to the development of the dry drunk syndrome.

Treatment

It is very essential for such a person to enter a rehab program and seek counseling. The family and loved ones can encourage the person to do so to

enable the person. To stay sober and be happy and joyful in doing so. This can happen in an environment that is all accepting, non-judgmental and wherein tools are shared like meditative techniques, introspective writing in a particular manner, sharing, counseling etc in an environment that is conducive to transformation and hence, sobriety.

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പ്രേമോദാരനായ്...

Premodāranay ...
Film: Kamaladalham (1992)
Lyrics: Kaithapram
Music: Ravindran
Singers: Yesudas, Chithra
Rāgam: Kamboji

പ്രേമോദാരനായ് അണയു നാഥാ.. (2)
പനിനിലാവലയിലൊഴുകുമി
അനൂലരാസരാത്രി ലയപൂർണ്ണമായിതാ
പ്രേമോദാരനായ് അണയു നാഥാ..

Premōdāranāy Anhayū nāthā.. (2)
Paninilāvalayilozhukumī
Anagharāsarātri layapoomnnhamāyithā
Premōdāranāy Anhayū nāthā

ഹംസദ്വതിലുണരും നളഹൃദയതാളമോടെ
ദമയന്തിയാടുമാലോല നടനവേഗങ്ങൾ തുകുമഴകിൽ (ഹംസ..)
കരിവിളക്കിന്റെ തകനാളങ്ങൾ പുത്തു നിൽക്കുന്നിതാ (2)
തിരയിളക്കുന്ന മഞ്ജുവേഷങ്ങൾ നൃത്തമാടുന്നിതാ.. (2)
(പ്രേമോദാര..)

Hamsadūtilunharum nalhahrudayathālhamōte
Damayanthiyātumālōla natanavēgangal thūkumazhakil (Hamsa..)
Karivilhakkinte thankanālhangaḷ pūthu nilkkunnithā (2.)
Thirayilhakkunna manjuvēshangal nruttamātunnithā... (2)
(Premodāra..)

ദേവലോകമുണരും നി രാഗമാകുമെങ്കിൽ
കാളിന്ദിപോലുമാനിലരാഗമോലുന്ന ചേലിലൊഴുകും
ദേവലോകമുണരും നി വേണുവുതുമെങ്കിൽ
കാളിന്ദിപോലുമാനിലരാഗമോലുന്ന ചേലിലൊഴുകും
ഗോപവൃന്ദങ്ങൾ നടനമാടുമി ശ്യാമതീരങ്ങളിൽ (2)
വർണ്ണമേലങ്ങൾ പീലി നീർത്തുമി സ്നേഹവാടങ്ങളിൽ (2)

Devalōkamunharum nee rāgamākumenkil
Kālhindipōlumānīlarāgamōlunna chēlilozhukum
Devalōkamunharum nī vēnhuvūthumenkil
Kālhindipōlumānīlarāgamōlunna chelilozhukum
Gopavrundangal natanamātumī shyamathīrangalhil (2)
Varnhamēghangal pīli nīrthumī snēhavātangalhil (2)

പ്രേമോദാരനായ് അണയു ദേവി
പ്രേമോദാരനായ് അണയു നാഥാ
പനിനിലാവലയിലൊഴുകുമി
അനൂലരാസരാത്രി ലയപൂർണ്ണമായിതാ
പ്രേമോദാരനായ് അണയു നാഥാ

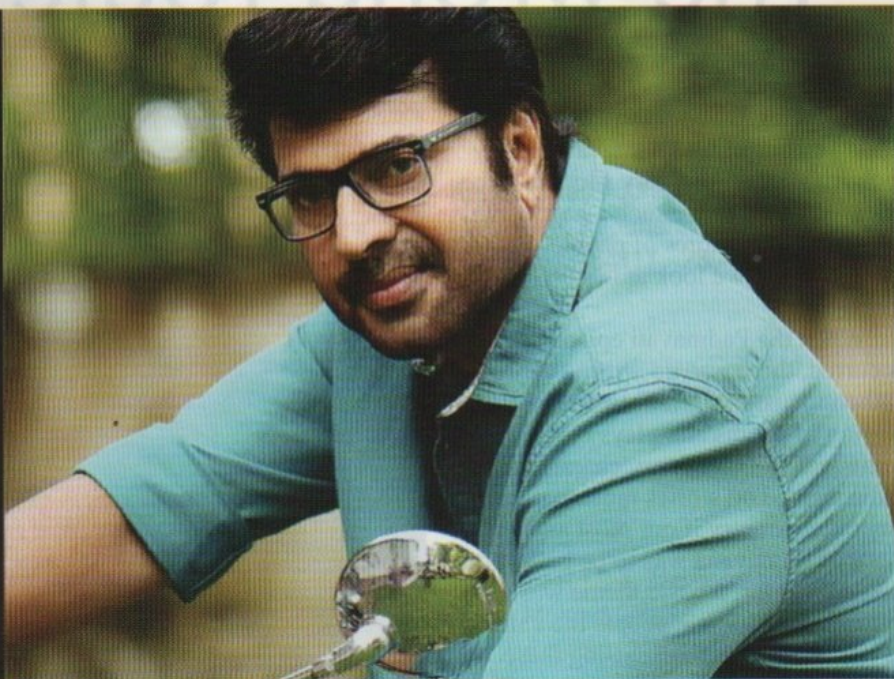
Premōdārayāy Anhayū devī
Prēmodāranāy Anhayū nāthā
Paninilavalayilozhukumī
Anagharāsarātri layapūnnhamāyithā
Premōdāranāy Anhayū nāthā

Produced by Mohanlal for Pranhavam Arts and directed by Siby Malayil, Kamaladalham was a superhit movie. Main actors were Mohanlal, Vineet, Murali, Nedumudi Venu, Mamu Koya, Bindu panicker, Monisha, Parvathy, Sukumari, Santhakumari, Santhadevi, Valsala Menon, oduvil Unnikrishnan, Kunchan, Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair, Alammmoodan et al. Lyrics were written by Kaithapram Damodaran Namboothiri and music was composed by

Ravindran. K J Yesudas, K S Chithra, M G Sreekumar, Latha Raju, Kanhangad Ramachandran, Ravindran and Sujatha Mohan lent their voice to the songs. Johnson provided the background music. Story, screenplay and dialogue were written by A K Lohithadas. There were eight songs besides the above one and they were Sayanthanam, Ananthanatanam, Sumuhurthamayi, Kamaladalham and Alaipayuthe..

Master Piece

■ C H Mohammed produces Master Piece on behalf of Royal Cinemas and Ajay Vasudev directs it. Varalakshmi Saratkumar, Mahi Manasiar and Punam Bajva are the heroines. Mukesh, Unni Mukundan, Gokul Suresh Gopi, Magbu Salman, Divya Darsan, Vijayakumar John, Kailesh, Kalabhavan Shajohn, Nandu, Capt Raju, Pashanam Shaju, Bijukuttan, V K Baiju, Jayce, Arjun Nandakumar, Amar Niyaz, Ashwin, Joji, Sunil Sugata, Santhosh Pandit, Kijan, Shaibu et al are in the cast. Udaykrishna writes the screenplay, and lyrics are scribed by Rafiq Ahmed,



Ira

■ Director Vaishakh and screenplay writer Udaykrishna jointly produce Ira, to be directed by Baiju S S. Unni Mukundan and Gokul Suresh Gopi come in pivotal roles. Other actors are Mia George, Niranjana Anoop, Neeraja Das, Sankar Ramakrishnan, Kailesh, Lena, Alansia, E A Rajendran, Pashanam Shaji, Nirmal Palazhi, Manju Satish, Merina Michael, Kottayam Pradeep and Jayan. Navin Jose writes the screenplay and Gopi Sundar sets the tune to the lyrics of Hari Narayanan.

Nazria returns

■ Nazria Nazeem returns to movies. After her marriage to Fahad Fazil, she had withdrawn from the movie scene. She will be paired with Prithviraj in Anjali Menon's unnamed film. Anjali Menon wrote its screenplay. It is produced by M Ranjith for Visual Media jointly with Little Films. Nazria's last film was Anjali Menon's Bangalore Days. Other actors are Parvathy, Atul Kulkarni, Roshan, Siddharth Menon and Mala Parvathy. M Jayachandran along with Raghu Dikshit provide music.



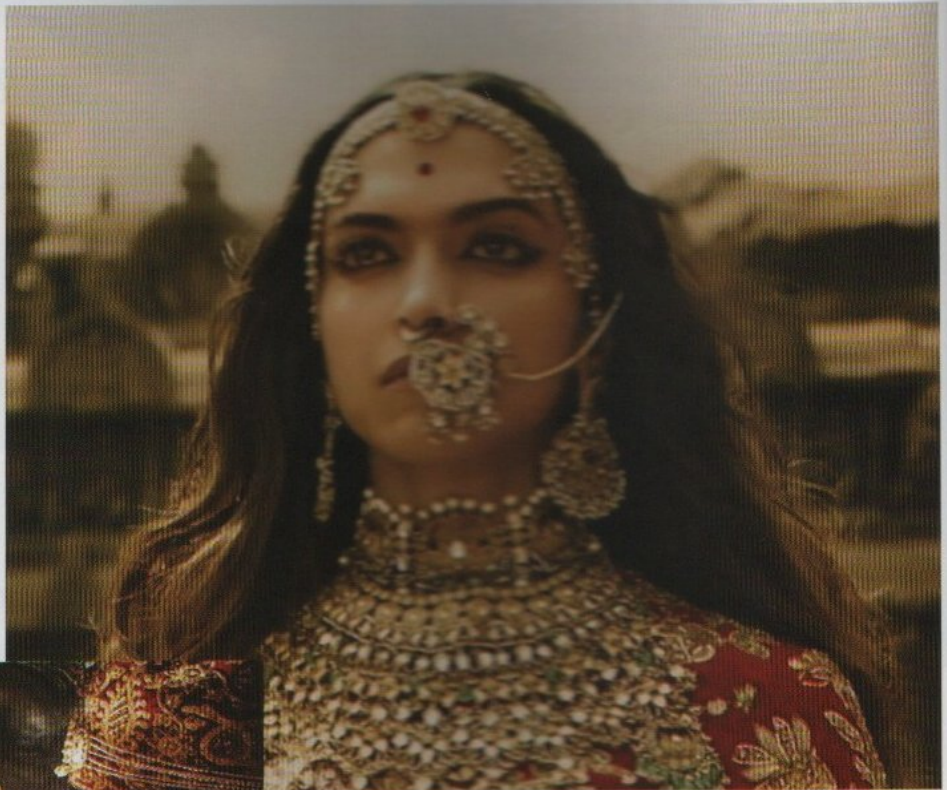
The wrong route to power

The gravest crisis India now facing is about the exhibition of a Hindi film *Padmavati*. It may look trivial if an ordinary film yet to be released could cause such a havoc in a country of 125 crores of people. Yes, it can; provided we look at it with little foresight.

When the *Padmavati* episode occurred, there was no writing of authentic history in India except some writing of poems and plays based on some real and imaginary characters. India thrived on stories much before any other country if our most ancient story of *Ramayana* was to be believed. Like all stories, a basic theme was used to teach the illiterate people the values of life by ancient Rishis using these stories and if any one believed that what is read really occurred, he must be living in a special paradise.

The story of *Padmavati* was originally written by a Sufi poet Mallick Mohamm ad Jaisi in 1540. We have no

evidence to cite the truth of story depicted. Nevertheless a cluster of agitators now say that they would not allow to sully the character of a Rajastani princess at the hands of a Muslim aggressor. Had the poet who wrote the original story really kept the character of Padmini or *Padmavati* (we do not even know her real name, do we?) at a high pedestal or had he painted the character of the Muslim aggressive king at a lower ebb? We do not know. We doubt anyone in India really knows the fact. The movie is yet to be released and none among the agitators has seen it and yet they did not want to see it. They may have the calibre to see the character without seeing the person behind it. Probably they might have seen the old Telugu and Tamil movies on this particular character and decided not to see this



new Hindi film for fear of changing their mindset.

During the 80's, Shyam Benegal in his tele-serial *Bharat Ek Khoj*,

depicted the story of *Padmavati* with her watching the singing and dancing the *ghoomar* of women while Alaudin Khilji watching from ramparts and Raja Ratan Sen doing the same from another pavilion above. If the agitators now say that those days Rajasthani women did not have dances and songs, will the agitators demand the withdrawal of that teleserial from the archives of Doordarshan and ask Benegal to be put in a prison? What steps would they take to erase the memories of those scenes from the minds of viewers who viewed it more than thirty years ago? Will they chop the nose of Vyjayantimala (she is still alive) who enacted the role of Padmini in Tamil movie with Sivaji Ganesan?

We should be sensible enough that the characters from history are larger than life and so they attract us. If we

think that they are real, we are fools. Before *The Illustrated Weekly of India* was folded forever, it had published a series of stories depicting the character of Shivaji Maharaj not exactly in glorifying terms but it did not attract violent agitations, though Balashaeb Thackeray was alive then but today no one would dare to touch the story of Shivaji to make a movie. We are the losers.

It all points to one thing. There is a political agenda behind all these moves. Election in Gujarat is around and soon in some states too. The leaders of the agitators are misleading them to form a group to emotionally unite them on the basis of community so that these leaders can piggy ride on them. It is surprising that the union government and some state governments are doing nothing but continue to remain mute spectators. They are not doing what they are supposed to do, that is, to uphold the freedom of expression enunciated in our constitution. The silence on these happenings and the encouragements given by some leaders of these groups to the agitators who had not seen this film, affirm our fears.



Kerala in Mumbai

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