



Vishu - Easter Greetings

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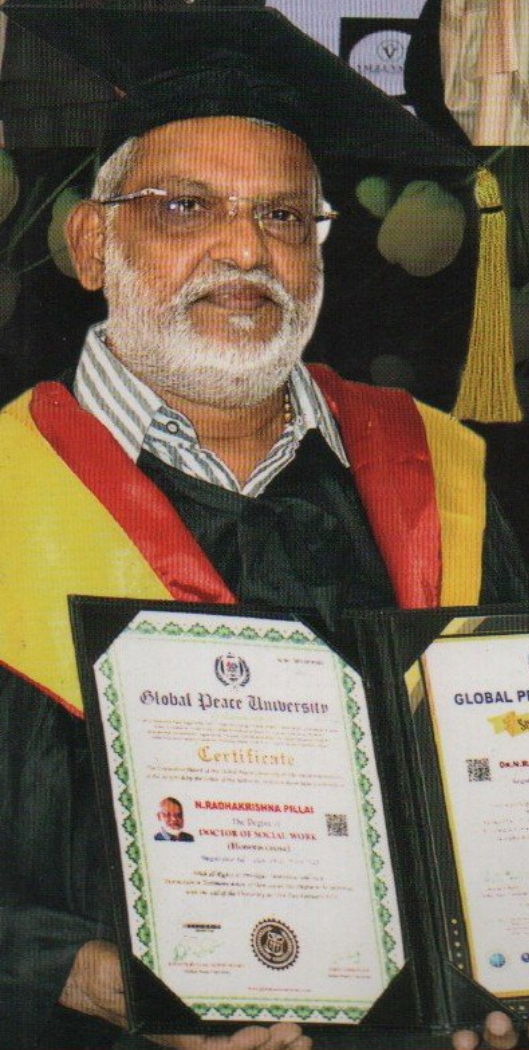
Kerala in Mumbai

The only English / Malayalam Bi-Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees



Raagalaya & KIM Annual Celebrations

Social Crusader



Talented
Artiste



■ MBWA: Giving Back Event ■ Budget: An Overview

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Youth need to come forward

India became a free country seventy two years ago by getting rid of the foreign rulers and since last sixty seven years we are electing people on whom we trust to protect us from external forces and internal foes. History has taught us about the dangers that could be expected from external forces so we have to remain vigilant. What are we going to do to safeguard our interests from internal dangers? We do not know. Our future and safety lie with us alone, for certain.

When India became free, we had 36 crores of people and now we have 130 crores. Our average life span was 27 years and now it is 72. India has seen all round development, though at a slow rate, in all directions and it could have done much better. If the progress is not matching our expectations, we alone are to be blamed; for, we tolerated corruption, practiced corruption and thought we are least affected. We make complaints and ask for action only when we are personally affected. India has in its psyche one sore point that we are inclined to be blind when negative aspects occur around us. Indirectly we encouraged them to flourish. We are not living in Maveli land.

In our private life, we borrow money only to save our lives and a trait of charity is built into our culture. Over the years, Indian administrators never thought that they could spend more than what they could generate. We never practiced deficit financing in the past unless we were on a suicidal mission.

India's greatest contribution to the world is that we showed them all that democracy could prevail in spite of many contradictions. Most of the countries which became free along with India, lost their freedom to their defence forces or to their autocratic leaders though foreign forces are out of their borders. We do not have to look far away but to our neighbourhood.

The old generation is losing interest in politics unless they are to be beneficiary. They lost touch with the history of the nation and major issues associated with it. This state of affairs calls for urgent measures and the young generation has to take major initiatives. They have to remind the elders what they are losing and if the trend is allowed to continue, it would reach a stage of no return.

Our youth are educated, knowledgeable, wise and capable of taking the country forward. They know their responsibility towards their motherland and we hope they would not forget their duty at this juncture. The previous generation had no access to the latest technology nor they had the inclination. We are seeing the elderly people seeking guidance from their teen-aged progenies for small manoeuvres on their mobile phones etc. This age belongs to the youth. They have to come forward and lead the country to prosperity.

The youth should prod, provoke, propagate and promote idealism among the elders and push them to the electoral booths on the declared day to exercise the right to express their wish about the choice of rulers for the next five years. It is time to assert themselves lest another five years of your life would go waste.

Our political parties promise many things before the national or state elections, fully knowing that budgetary provisions are not provided before they announce their SOPs nor they know where funds could be found. Some money they would divert from already provided for other projects and distribute a small fraction before election to prove their sincerity but after election, if they grab power, they would blame other factors for their inabilities. Educate your seniors what is right for them and the country and accompany the members of your family and the neighbours to the polling booth on the appointed day.

EXCELLENT EVENT

The fifteenth Raagalaya and ninth Kerala in Mumbai Anniversary Celebrations on February 9, 2019, held at Zaverben Papatlal Auditorium Ghatkopar was an excellent one. It was wonderful to see Jerry Master in person on that day. He has given us many evergreen melodious Malayalam film songs and your Raagalaya Orchestra rendered an exquisite performance of his popular numbers. When Jerry Amaldev performed on the piano, it was a feast for musical lovers in the Hall. All the Raagalaya singers, Vjaykumar, Madhu Nambiar, Deepa, PreethiWarrier sang very well. Jerry Amaldev truly deserved the Lifetime Achievement Music Award. Though he left Malayalam film music field for some years, now that he has made a comeback, we hope we can hear more of his melodious compositions in future Malayalam films as well as in other language films.

G Natarajan, Nerul

KUDOS TO YOU

The Anniversary Celebrations of Raagalaya and Kerala In Mumbai was organized in an excellent manner and the orchestra programme during the event was a feast for the ears with perfect synchronisation and sound system. Compering by Ashish Abraham was well executed. All the KIM Achievement Awardees truly deserved them. For they are all eminent personalities who have contributed much to the metropolis they live in.

*Prasad Kumar
Chembur*

THE SOCIAL FACET OF MALAYALI GROUPS

One message from Malayali Samajams, Kerala media, political formations, cultural organisations and religious denominations from God's own country is that, in an emergency, someone from our side will be with you within a short time. This was demonstrated very dramatically during the floods that created havoc in Kerala, and also after that for the rescue, relief, restoration and rehabilitation of its people. Groups close to Kerala chose to bring alive the scale of their network worldwide by focusing on collecting funds and transporting materials.

As for now, for Malayalis as a whole, having groups to depend on in a crisis is really comforting. To use such a crisis as a measure of social network is remarkable, for it showed what their influence is.

In traditional Kerala, various groups were not impersonal devices or club-like meetings that merely functioned as social meetings points. These groups were, and are, still at the center of Kerala's existence. Personal and social lives were part of an organic whole without sharp boundaries. Entire families were involved in these groups and roles shift fluidly. Marriage relationships were handled effortlessly. One's word was a cherished commodity and personal reputation was everything. Oral contracts were inviolable, and flexibility was shown in accommodating each other's needs. Disputes were dealt within the group itself using informal mechanisms since the overall purpose was to advance the cause of the community. At the heart of these

groups, lay the valorization of leaders who were seen as deliverers of community and humanitarian services.

At present, armed with voices on social media, these groups are pushing businesses and political parties to involve with social concerns. Now corporations and parties are waking up to their social role and professing a deep interest in Kerala.

*Biju Cherian
Vasai*

Technology and Children

It is indeed a sorry state of affairs that today children are addicted to computer and mobile games and prefer texting to direct talking. The blame lies entirely with parents. Even as a six month old infant, the mother or father shows her or his child a cartoon or nursery rhyme on the TV or mobile while giving food to the child. In nuclear families the child sits in front of the TV while the mother does her household chores. All this damages the development of the child. And he does not learn direct interaction with other children. True, mobiles and computers and technology have now come to stay. The solution is to keep an eye on what the child watches in the TV or Mobile and keep a check on their internet surfing so that it does not become a habit. Also parents must indulge in conversation with children and take an interest in their school and other activities. Only then can they raise their children to be good citizens.

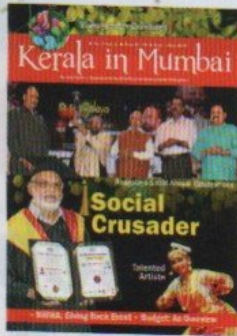
*Rajeswari
Matunga*

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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66 A poetic commentary

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Roslin Kuuri

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Roslin Kuuri

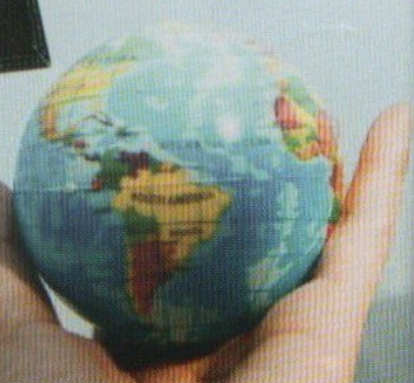


Dr. NRK PILLAI

Overseas Jobs Provider and Social Crusader

Dr N R K Pillai is a guiding star for millions of men and women who are seeking employment outside the country. For the past twenty six years, bi- weekly

Assignments Abroad Times published by his Aiswarya Publications Mumbai is the most sought- after journal that they turn to for employment outside the country mainly in West Asian countries.





Lakshmi Venkatachalam

■ Assignments Abroad Times CMD & Publisher N R K Pillai was conferred Doctorate for Social Work by the Global Peace University, US, a unit of the Education Panel registered under

Niti Aayog, Indian government. The Doctorate was awarded by the Evaluation Board of the Global Peace University on the recommendation of the faculty for Dr Pillai having performed excellent contribution as Peace Builder in the global mission of the United Nations Academic Impact.

Dr Pillai also participated in the international seminar on the topic 'Establishing Global Peace', organised by the Global Peace University in association with Global Achievers Council. The convocation was held in Chennai in March 2019.

In December 2018, N R K Pillai received the prestigious P N Panicker Foundation Award. The event conducted by Digital Library for the Masses, a programme initiated jointly by Ministry of HRD, Government of India and National Digital Library of India was held on 6th December, 2018 at Kanakakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram. The programme was inaugurated by Governor of Kerala Justice P Sathasivam.

These honours and awards are not overnight miracles. They are the result of the continuous efforts of one man to do something for the job seekers who want to earn a living abroad. And he is Editor, Publisher, and Printer of Assignments Abroad Times.

Dr N R K Pillai is a guiding star for millions of men and women who are seeking employment outside the country. For the past twenty six years, bi-weekly Assignments Abroad Times published by his Aiswarya Publications Mumbai is the most sought-after journal that they turn to for employment outside the country mainly in West Asian countries. Dr N R K Pillai has helped legions of ambitious young men and women, find a job and settle down in life through his publications.

Assignments Abroad Times is an eight page broadsheet published on Wednesdays and Saturdays and carries advertisements of hundreds of employers who are looking for right personnel - who are qualified, skilled



Dr NRK Pillai receives his Doctoral Degree in Social Work



Receiving Ravuthar Federation Award from Premachandran MP



Minister Kadakampally Surendran hands over Award for Social Work



NRK Pillai felicitating K J Yesudas and S P Balasubrahmaniam during Raagalaya Music Award functions held in Shanmukhananda Hall, Mumbai



and new or experienced professionals. It generally carries three to four pages of display advertisements offering placements for a wide variety of jobs in almost all the Gulf countries. Many of them are from Indian placement agencies who have been in this business for many years.

Dr Pillai launched Assignments Abroad Times 26 years ago with the mission to serve the overseas jobseekers by offering an effective medium for job search and the recruiting community a resourceful and cost-effective publication to reach out to thousands of candidates from all over the country.

Today, this 26 year old newspaper has established itself as the most sought-after medium for both overseas jobseekers and recruiters.

According to a Mumbai based placement agency, the journal has as much pull as the more established dailies that charge double or even three times the advertisement rates of Assignments Abroad Times.

Through Assignments Abroad Times, Dr Pillai has been instrumental in deploying abroad millions Indians, thus changing for better the lives of millions of families and indirectly helping the country to earn millions in foreign exchange by way of remittance from those employed abroad, which propped up the Indian

economy in difficult times.

Like many other Malayalis, Dr NRK Pillai, native of Mavelikkara, but brought up and educated in Thiruvananthapuram, completed his graduation and came to Mumbai in search of a job. He worked for thirteen years with the Response Department of Bennett & Coleman, proprietors of the Times of India group of publications.

But he was ambitious and wanted to set up his own business.

In 1986 he started his own advertising agency, Aiswarya Advertising & Marketing and tapped into the goodwill contacts he had made while working with the Times of India. In 1991 he launched his Aiswarya Publications and in 1993 he started Assignments Abroad Times as a weekly. The paper was a success and a boon for job seekers and very soon it became a bi weekly. The paper filled a void in the employment market; the young job aspirants could get access and apply for a suitable job vacancy within the paper's classifieds.

The news content in the paper is job oriented. It carries apart from job vacancies, features on employment opportunities in the Gulf and other countries, visa rules details, economic status in countries abroad, etc.

Dr NRK Pillai's wife is Jyoti and they have a son and a daughter. While his daughter Lakshmi is married and settled in Dubai, his son Suraj who is also married, has joined his father's business.

Dr Pillai is a committed social worker as well and he has been felicitated and honoured by the Government and several social organizations.

He was recently felicitated by Kadannappally Ramachandran, Minister for Ports, Museums, Archaeology

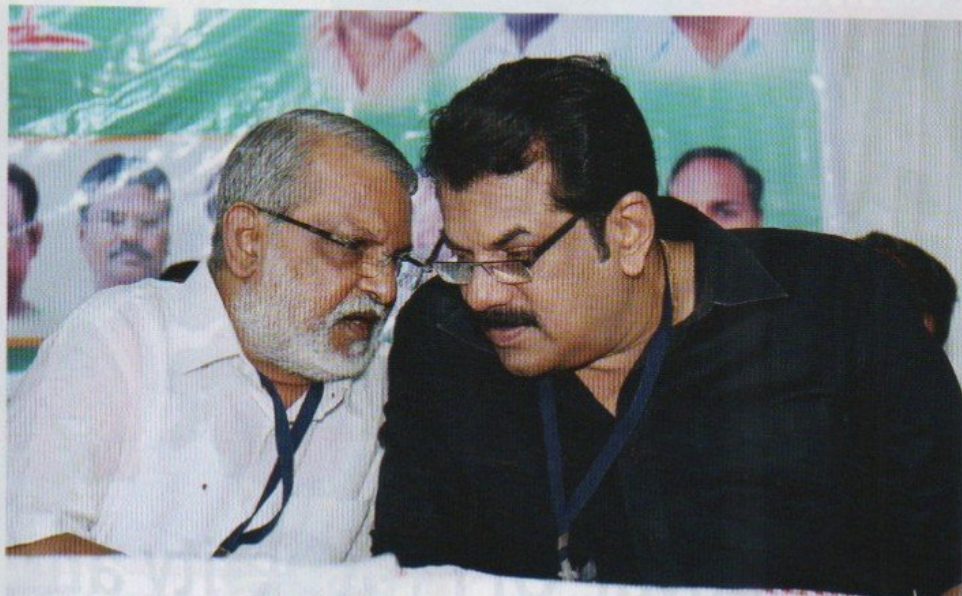


With Shashi Tharoor MP

and Archives on behalf of the Government of Kerala for the charities being done by him. The function was inaugurated by Kadannappally Ramachandran, Cherian Philip, Co-ordinator of Nava Kerala Mission, Government of Kerala; P Ashok Kumar, Rural Superintendent of Police; A K Venugopal, Retired Superintendent of Police; C G Rajan; Shantamma Mathew and Rev Dr Shibu were among other dignitaries who had participated in the function.

He was honoured at the family get-together of Ex- NRI and Pravasi Welfare Association, Thiruvananthapuram. At this function, cash was distributed to more than 50 deserving cancer patients.

He received Ravuthar Federation's Award for Best Printers and Publishers from N K Premachandran, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha. He also received award for Social Welfare Activities from Kadakampally Surendran, Minister for Co-Operation, Tourism and Devaswom, Government of Kerala.



With Mukesh MLA

Dr NRK Pillai has always been a pillar of strength for Raagalaya Annual Music programmes and many other such charitable events.

Dr NRK Pillai has won many laurels and accolades for the exemplary work

he has done to the society through his business. But he wants to give more to the society and will continue to be a guiding star to job aspirants in the years to come. ■

Kottakkal
ayurveda

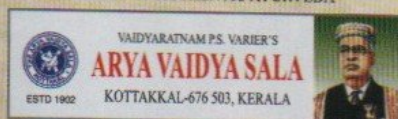
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VISHU

Festival Of Prosperity and Happiness

- KIM News Bureau

The first day of Medam, Malayalam month or the period between April and May as per the Gregorian calendar, is celebrated as Vishu. It generally falls on April 14 or 15. This Hindu festival, considered as the advent of the astrological Malayali New Year and the harvest festival, symbolises the movement of the sun to the Mesha Rashi (Aries). It is the time from which the farmers begin the ploughing of land and other agricultural activities.

The festival signifies prosperity and is a festival of harvest. On the Vishu day the Sun enters the Aries Rashi and there is equal amount of day and night time.

It is believed that this transit of the sun has an effect on the good and

bad happenings in nature and human existence during the period of one year from one Vishu to the next. This is called Vishuphalam.

Vishu is the second most important festival to Malayalees, the first being Onam. We may well infer that while Vishu marks the beginning of harvest season, Onam signifies its conclusion.

Both Vishu and Onam are festivals of joy celebrated by Malayalees in Kerala and in other parts of the country as well as the world.

The Vishu day celebrations start with 'vishukkani' the first auspicious thing that people set their eyes on, as soon as they wake up early morning. The colour yellow symbolizes happiness and the items displayed in the Vishukkani have an abundance of this colour. The yellow konna poovu, (Indian Laburnum or cassia fistula), gold coins, val kannadi, a special type of metal mirror with a long and thin handle, and a starched kasavu mundu folded and pleated fanlike and placed on a yellow coloured brass uruli (round-bottomed vessel), kani vellari (ripe yellowish green cucumber), yellow bananas, yellow flames from the two halved coconut shells, Lord Krishna or

Guruvayurappan's picture clad in yellow dhoti, holy books like Sreemad Bhagavatam or Ramayanam, rice grains mixed with yellow turmeric emanating a yellowish hue, brightly polished kandi (spouted puja vessel) chandanam, aracanet and betel leaves, lighted brass nilavilakku reflecting these items, are part of the vishukkani. The family members wake up early and come to the puja room to set their eyes on this auspicious items displayed in the room. By seeing auspicious items first thing on the morning of Vishu day, the belief is that our new year will usher all good things into our lives and we will attract positivity and prosperity into our lives.

Another tradition is the giving of Vishukaineettam. Elders give money to the younger members of the family who in turn fall at their feet and get the formers' blessings. Vishukaineettam is given to the extended family and servants as well. The belief is that by giving others, we will be blessed with prosperity and happiness in our lives as well, as days unfold in the coming year.

Family members wear new clothes, children burst crackers and the whole day is spent in joy and mirth. This is followed by a traditional Kerala lunch

or Vishu Sadya that all family members partake together. Palpayasam Lord Krishna's favourite prasadam is generally prepared on that day.

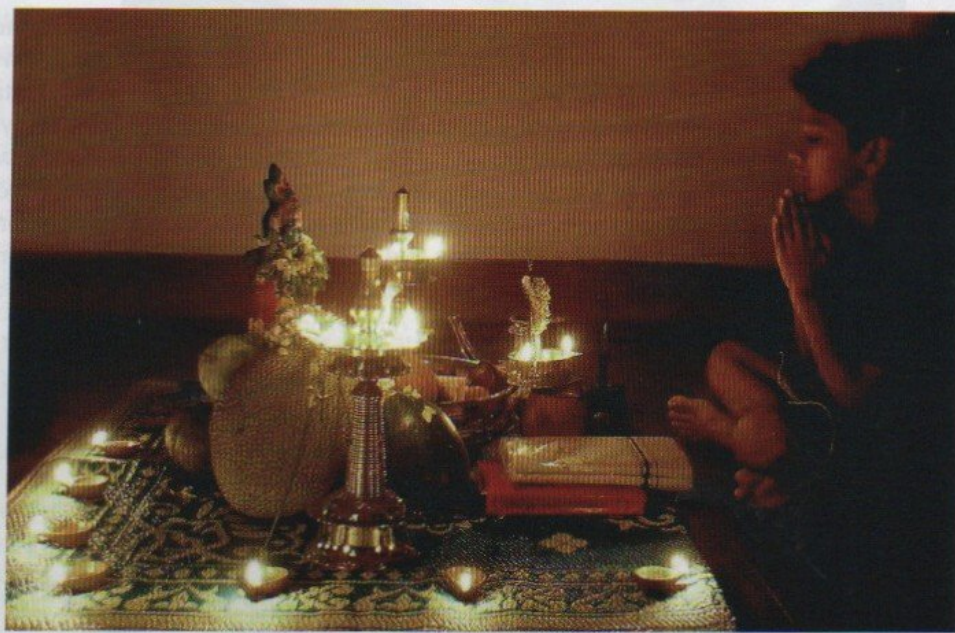
Vishu is a festival of hope and cheer, a time for family bonding.

Today's reality may be different. Vishu in modern times very often is a day when there is no leave for the office goer in states other than Kerala. And

can shop to his/her heart's content. For the avid movie-goer there are always special Vishu film releases.

But every cloud has a silver lining. Today, Vishu may have become commercialised, a tale told by grandmothers to grandchildren, about rituals and customs of a bygone era when joint families was the norm and agriculture was the main source of

income in tharavadus. But Malayalees still want to be in touch with their roots and culture and inculcate in their children the customs and traditions that is their birthright. So in whatever part of the world he lives, he celebrates with fellow Malayalees through samajams and associations, the Festival on a Sunday or a holiday that follows the Vishu day, co-ordinates Vishu programmes of dance and music, and organizes a Vishu Sadya. Moreover on



Vishukkani

he/she can not afford to take leave. School children also do not have a holiday on that day. So for the housewife and retired people who are at home, Vishu is like any other day but with a difference. They get to watch special Vishu programmes on various Malayalam TV channels at home, see Malayalam film hits that they missed seeing on the big screen, watch interviews with famous personalities etc. For the shopaholic, Vishu is festive discount sale season and he/she

Vishu day several Sree Krishna and Ayyappa temples in Mumbai and other places outside Kerala display Vishukkani, conduct special pujas and distribute Vishu kaineettam. And many Malayalees with their families devotedly go to these temples and pray for their family's welfare. Thus he keeps a little part of Kerala within his heart notwithstanding which part of the world he is living to eke his livelihood. And the spirit of Vishu will live as long as he holds on to this tradition. ■



EASTER

Tidings of Hope and Life

While Christmas celebrates the joy in the birth of Infant Jesus who heralds peace and goodwill on earth, Easter is a festival with more religious undertones and reminds the believers of the Lord who gave up His life on the Cross to redeem mankind and rose from the Dead on the third day thereby giving them Hope of Resurrection and Life.

- KIM News Bureau

Easter, is an important festival for Christians and is celebrated by Malayali Christians with as much devotion and customs like their counterparts in other parts of the world. It celebrates not the birth but the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and the faith that the Lord

who resurrected His Son would resurrect every one of his believers.

Easter is the oldest and most important festival of Christians, as old as Christianity itself.

Easter in Kerala Churches have four distinct phases, beginning with Lent, the 40 days of fasting and preparation for the Resurrection of

Christ. Then comes the Holy or Passion Week that is the last week of Lent.

The Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday, (Oshana Njazarazhcha or kuruthola perunnal), where the faithful take a ceremonial procession around the Church with the priest holding palm leaves and worshippers singing hosanna. It denotes Jesus' triumphant



Palm Sunday Procession

entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday or Pesaha denotes Jesus' last meal and His washing the feet of His disciples, His institution of the Holy Eucharist, His praying at Gethsamane, Judas' Betrayal of Jesus and His arrest by Roman soldiers. The important ritual here is breaking of pesaha appam at the Church while some denominations break the pesaha appam at home.

Good Friday is a day of fasting, penance and prayers to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Services in churches are conducted throughout the day. In most churches, 'nagarikanikal' ritual is carried out in the evening either within church premises or on the streets, where the crucifix is carried in a procession. A solemn moment of Good Friday services at the church is partaking of Choruka, (a decoction made of bittergourd juice and vinegar) by all who attend good Friday Services in remembrance of the soldiers who



Easter breakfast in Kerala

mocked Jesus by giving Him vinegar when He was on the cross and was asking for water.

In some churches, after the service, kanji (rice gruel served with pulses and mango pickle) is distributed to those who are present there.

Dukha Sani is the day He rested in the tomb. Qurbana or holy Mass is held, the dear departed are remembered and prayed for, followed by sprinkling of holy water (puthenvellam) and baptismal vows are renewed by believers in churches.

Easter Sunday is the high point of the Catholic Church's religious calendar. It denotes the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Candle lit procession, special midnight mass, singing hymns, church decorations and scripture reading are all parts of Easter celebrations.

The Easter fast is broken on Easter Sunday with a heavy breakfast. In Malayalee households, Easter breakfast consists of appam, paalappam or kallappam, mutton or chicken stew, steamed

bananas, eggs and cakes. Families meet together and share the Easter breakfast with joy.

The message of Easter is one of hope and life. The Lord who rose from the dead will resurrect His believers as well. ■



Carrying Cross to Malayattoor Church

THE DISTANCE OF A JOURNEY



Prof M R
Chandrasekharan

■ This is about a journey I undertook with former editor of 'Deshabhimani' long time ago. From my native village across a paddy field is Kolazhi. From a

hiding place there, going to Mulakunnathukavu station to board a train to Vettikkattiri station (Now Vallathol Nagar), walking to Vallathol's house on the bank of Bharathapuzha and not finding Balakrishna Kurup whom Devadas wanted to meet, we were standing there shocked. After some time an employee of Vallathol Press recognised us and Devadas alone was taken there, leaving me to return home. The substance of that return journey is the sum and substance of this note. Before that I shall tell you about the interaction Devadas and I had between us.

Attractive personality

Since I started reading *Deshabhimani* in 1946, I liked the name Devadas. Not only his name but his personal look too attracted me. Who else was in Communist Party as attractive as Devadas those days? From among important leaders P Krishna Pillai, E M S Namboothiripad, A K Gopalan, C Unniraja, K Damodaran et al picture of A K Gopalan is attractive. In the early photographs, he had a manly disposition. Devadas had a feminine charm. His fair, flat and big face would remind you of the moon. Those days, during 1946-47, there were frequent government action against *Deshabhimani*. Once arrested, photo of Devadas would appear in the paper. Another photo that appeared along with his, was that of P K Balakrishnan (Balettan), printer



A K Gopalan

and publisher, who looked a person lean and dry. The photos of above leaders appeared quite frequently. I always felt that the Communists were very fond of pushing their photos either connected with arrests or as a decoration along side an article. These days publishing photos is not expensive but those days it was an expensive affair.

I knew he was highly educated. His adherence to idealism was well known. He lost his senses following a failed love affair and ran away. I also knew that AKG brought him to India when he was employed in Malaya, then under British rule. An aristocratic, highly educated and handsome too was that adorable Communist leader. I admired him much more than other leaders.

I happened to meet him and get acquainted with him because of Ranadive's 'Calcutta revolution.' Party activities were conducted quite secretly and all leaders, unless they were behind bars, were hiding. It was difficult to work while being underground for a person like Devadas. Wherever he was, Devadas deserved a second look. There were two people who had this problem.



Achutha Menon

They were Devadas and C Achutha Menon. If they live without exposed to sunlight and wind, what would be their complexion? Purified gold or silver? I had opportunities to serve both when they were underground.

Those responsible for their upkeep would never reveal that they were coming to stay under ground. All of them would haveonyms such as Embran, Kartha, Ambi, Menon, Kuriyappan etc. What to conclude from those names?

One day, late into the night, I was entrusted with Devadas. I could immediately recognise him. I never asked his name nor he revealed it. Fortunately, the shelter that was assigned to him was a good one to stay comfortably and peacefully. (By the way Cherukad gave this name 'Shelter' to his newly constructed house in Pattambi, thus making it famous.)

Two-storeyed house

I had a relative, who could be called 'Cheriyachhan', by name Ayyappan who had left home and came back much later. He got married and settled down. His

hair was fully white. He had a double storeyed house in the middle of a compound full of betelnut trees. Only a few members stayed there. His elder son, like him, left home to some unknown destination. His both daughters were married and were staying in their husbands' houses. A little away from the portico there was a jackfruit tree with full of fruits (Devadas was fond of them). Ayyappan was earlier in Malaya and could speak Malay fluently. Like two close friends who could not meet for a long time and met accidentally, they became very close. My job was considerably reduced. Ayyappan looked him after like a member of family.

Pet name of Devadas was Babu. I knew that he was called by that name since his childhood. Babu stayed in this shelter for three or four months. I was a student of second year Intermediate class when high tempered controversies were going on in Progressive Literary Movement. I was a member of the group that argued in favour of the supremacy of Communist Party in progressive literary movement. Babu's support gave me tremendous impetus and courage. We held many discussions about this view point. I took upon myself the responsibility of collecting references for his articles.

'Pravaham'

At this point of time Communist Party was running a magazine titled 'Pravaham.' How many Communists of today know about this publication? It was the most beautiful magazine managed by the Party. It was C J Thomas who helped designing its cover page. When C J and T N Namboothiri responsible for its publication were discussing inside the Communist Party office in Thrissur Rounds, I was listening to their discussions by the side. C J Thomas started distancing himself from Communist Party since the Thrissur Conference (1948) of Progressive Literary Movement. C J who authored a book titled 'Socialism' and wrote praising EMS Namboothiripad in *Mangalodayam* Magazine, could not have digested the programme of Immediate Revolution of Communist Party. Communist policy enslaving literature made the intelligentsia move away from the Party. However, when *Pravaham* was started he did not discontinue co-

operating with the Party.

One of the articles Devadas wrote for *Pravaham* was 'Purogamana Sahityavum Thendivarga Sahityavum.' It was me who reached that article to the Party office to hand over to T N Namboothiri. He also thought of writing a book 'Premavum Purogamana Sahityavum' while staying in Ayyappan's house. The use of the word 'Thendivargam' later became a burden to Devadas and the party. When the above article appeared in his book 'Purogamana Sahityathinte Pariprekshyam', the title was changed to 'Purogamana Sahityavum Adhama Sahityavum' (Progressive Literature and Backward Literature). By *Thendivargam* he meant 'lumpen'. The Communists used to say that it was the lumpen who had a major share in destroying Paris Commune. Following this view, Devadas called the writings of those who argued that life also includes love, lust and romance besides revolution, as 'Thendivarga Sahityam'.

Heat of revolution

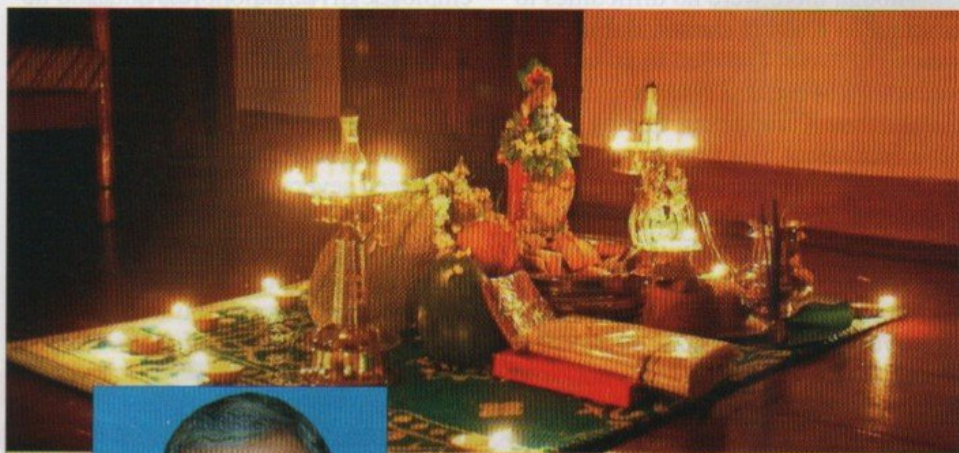
Devadas was a saint like an indigenous cow. Yet when he lifted his pen for the Party, his anger would boil up. The words coming out of his pen were sharp and incisive.

During the tempo of revolution of 1948-'49 the arguments of Devadas and

roaring of PS (the pen name EMS) were essential to brighten the fire of revolution, I thought like other Communists. It was not only Marxism and literature that he thought of during his Kolazhi days, but the thoughts of his wife and children also occupied his mind. The state of love earlier mentioned was dormant in his mind and he never forgot them. There is enough evidence to this aspect that he fondled these memories. In his autobiography titled 'Jeevithathinte Thalhukal' (The Pages of Life) he called the last chapter 'Manasarani' (Queen of Heart). He called his beloved 'Usha Devi' (not necessarily the real name). Usha Devi was a Thamratty of Manakkulam Royal Family. Those days Namboothiries used to keep a relationship with the ladies of palaces and it was called 'Sambandham'. Though born to a Tamburan, Devadas was a Manathazhathu Menon. Their love was mutual. Usha Devi had pledged that she would never accept a Namboothiri in an arrangement of *Sambandham*. Devadas called their love 'progressive and idealistic love.'

Dream of Ambalapuram

I can assure you that Devadas throughout his life fondled his Ambalapuram (where Manakkulam royal family live) dream. During his underground days he did not reveal this



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to me. Yet when I called on him last time he loosened his tongue. Among many things he touched his love life also. "I discouraged her. But she was insistent that she has to carry my child in her womb." I was shocked when he told me this. When he revealed this he was bound to bed after a surgery on his prostate gland with a tube and a bottle under the cot. When he was talking to me, Ramachandran, history lecturer of NSS College of Dhanuvachapuram was present. While returning I was immersed in thoughts. His appearance was totally different. I did not realise that it was our last meeting. After a few days Devadas passed away.

When he was talking to me in Kolazhi shelter, his wife was present in her Mannathazhathu house, in Naikkanal, Thrissur. He wanted me to enquire about her wellbeing. That was against the rules of Party discipline and underground activities. Besides, it was dangerous too. Her house might be under police surveillance. Police could follow my path and reach his shelter. I tried to refuse but finally agreed to be his messenger. I met Babu's mother and wife. I told them that Babu was doing fine. Soon I left. I was restless and scared for many days afraid of police raid.

The journey

Though there were no difficulties to continue in Kolazhi shelter, Babu wanted to leave. I wanted to go to Vallathol's house and consult Balakrishna Kurup about finding a secured hideout. But how to go? There is about 20 miles from Kolazhi to Cheruthuruthy and there was no money. After a lot of thinking, finally I decided to go by train. Early morning there was a train from Mulakunnathukavu. Then from Vettikkattiri two miles to Vallathol House in Cheruthuruthi. I was not familiar with that region. But I could not refuse Devadas' order. The only way was to walk but it would be tiresome for Devadas to do. One day before sun rise, he bid adieu to Ayyappan and started walking through fields, canals, walkways and possible deserted places and reached the railway station. We had just enough money for trainfare. We might get some money at Cheruthuruthy for my return journey. Babu assured me at the destination. We boarded the train and there were only a few passengers. It

was a pleasant journey.

In Cheruthuruthi

We got down at Vettikkattiri. Babu was worried. There could be someone who could recognise him. Vallathol House was a centre for not only to Communists but other politicians also to meet others. We walked along the railway track. Luckily no one saw us. There was no danger. What was left to do was to see Balakrishna Kurup. Everything would be fine.

We walked a little beyond Vallathol House. Devadas sat on the edge of the track as if he wanted to urinate. I went to Vallathol House and asked for Balakrishna Kurup. He was not present. As per Babu's instruction I asked for Achutha Kurup. He too was not in. Only Madhava Kurup was remaining but my instruction was not to see him. Meeting the poet was not in our agenda.

When I returned and informed the outcome, Babu was deeply disappointed. Kolazhi was safe and now he was nowhere. When we were pondering over the issue, someone was watching us, a little away. We were a little worried, was he a messenger of danger? No idea. When we were hesitating, that stranger came near and asked, "Why are you standing here? Whom you want to meet?"

He then clarified that he was an employee of Vallathol press and said he could recognise Babu. "You may wait inside the Press. Balettan would come soon."

He might be a Communist cadre or a knowledgeable labourer. He might have seen several people facing our plight.

We felt like winning a lottery. I was gratified that I could reach Babu at some secured place. Babu was also seen content. We did not talk further. "See you," I walked away.

Yes, I walked away. Before me a long a distance of more than 20 miles between where I stood and my village Pottur, near Kolazhi. There was not even a pie inside my pocket. Though I had heard and read about Communism and revolution, I did not have an iota of idea what one should do in a distant place without a pie. I started realising the gravity more and more as I moved on. I started my journey at 4 am and started my return journey around 8 am. Besides hunger and tiredness, I was

burdened with fear of long walk.

There was no escape from this walking and hence I continued. The road was covered with metal. Tarring was not started then. I started walking at a slow speed and after some distance I could no more continue. In this summer season, the road was very hot and I had no umbrella to protect myself.

Now I am unable to recall how I overcame each obstacle. When one has no money, even a glass of water would not be available. One would get only contempt and ridicule when water is sought from any tea shop. However, I could walk without any scare in strange locations. By sunset I crossed Mullurkkara, Wadakkancheri and reached Athani. I am a familiar person in this locality. I did not want to appear a tired man before them. I slowed down. At some places I sat down to rest. I had decided to reach home only after night was set.

How people had come to know about my misery that I just mentioned? None at home knew it. To the Party leaders these are silly affairs. I have not told Devadas about this betrayal. After this incidence I saw him in Vallathol Press in Thrissur in 1950. He was having rice mixed with milk though he had stomach ailments. It was not an occasion to sit near and talk to him. Even otherwise how does it matter to him? His experiences could have been much more severe than mine. The number of people who lost their life and health in connection with Calcutta Revolution was not small.

Devadas later never joined *Deshabhimani*. He joined Pandalam NSS College as a lecturer and left the job as a highly respected English professor. He moved to Thiruvananthapuram and taught English to students.

How many Variers?

When Communist Party split, Devadas remained with CPI. This faction was loyal to Soviet Russia. CPI undertook a project to translate the three volumes of Lenin's Selected Works. He was the editor of the project. Those days I was working for Kerala State Language Institute. Once we met at Statue Junction. He was staying in Vazhuthakad. We talked for some time while waiting for bus. He told me about the translation project. The translation job was entrusted to members of CPI

and what he received was not worth printing. He believed in honesty and dedication even while talking and writing. I presume he shifted to CPI (M) because of this entanglement of translation.

For him I translated some pages of Lenin's work. When we were talking, he suddenly asked me, "Chandrasekharan, in Language Institute how many Variers are there?"

"Why are you asking?"

"I heard there are more than a dozen Variers. That Krishna Varier will appoint only Variers."

I felt like telling him that what he heard was true. Language Institute had a nick name 'Variyam' those days.

Both of us got down at Vazhuthakad. Then we moved into some interior part behind Super Market. Before moving away, I told him, "People would believe whatever Babu say. They are certain that you wouldn't lie. I told you 'you are right' but that is not true. N V Krishna Varier-one, P A Varier-two, A V Sankaran-another Varier. You may not know him, He too

is a Varier. And the fourth Varier is me."

He who stayed in my uncle's house may not have any doubt about my Varier status. But the public considered me also a Varier. When I was working in Christian College, C P Sreedharan introduced me to another person working in UC College, Aluva as, "Chandrasekharan, a writer."

Friend immediately asked, "You are a Varier, right?"

"Except 'Yes' what answer can I give?"

After listening to my explanation, Babu stood thoughtfully for some time and then responded, "Right. The jobs are few but the needy are more. Those who could not get the job, pacify themselves by saying something that would comfort them."

Outcome of past acts

I had been to Devadas' home. When I met his wife in Thrissur, she was young and energetic. When I met her at Vazhuthakad, she appeared desolate and weak. One day she opened her bundle of complaints before me.

"Many people made their lives. They had high positions. My man got nothing. Those depending on them should also be lucky..." she concluded.

I knew Devadas wanted to get a job in Language institute. When Institute came into existence, Babu was with CPI. By the time C Achutha Menon became Chief Minister, he was away from CPI. I recently read a book 'Mohabhangangal' by Prof M Krishnan Nair in which he wrote positively about Devadas.

People may not remember what was written about him. Yet, I have no doubt that his two books, 'History of World Communist Movement' and 'Selected Works' published by Kerala Sahitya Akademi, would remain as reference books in politics and literature.

Devadas deserved appreciation among Communists. His education, background and training were apt for this. However, he was compelled to use his pen for those who were bent on trapping our freedom and literature in chains.

Crookedness of past acts might lead to this outcome. ■

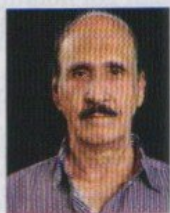
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V. Balachandran

FOUR BUDGETS AN OVERVIEW

1. The Union Budget

The Union Government's Interim Budget 2019-20, presented by Finance Minister Piyush Goyal on February 1, 2019, is notable for four features viz.

1. Tax concessions.

2. Relief to farmers from debt and distress.

3. The manner of presentation; highlighting the highs and the lows of the economy.

4. The Vision Programme.

The estimated total expenditure in 2019-20 is Rs. 27,84,200 crore. The expected fiscal deficit is Rs. 7,03,999 crore representing 3.4% of the GDP. The fiscal deficit is well within the norm of 4.5%.

1. Tax concession

(i) The tax exemption limit for individual tax-payers is raised from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. Even persons having gross income up to Rs. 6.50 lakh may not have to pay any tax if they make investments in product funds, specified savings, insurance etc.

(ii) Currently, income tax is payable on the notional rent of a second house if one has more than one self-occupied house. This notional rent is now abolished.

2. Relief for farmers

Reports of farmers' suicides from 12,000 to 15,000 a year from 2010 have rightly caused widespread alarm in the country. What should have been tackled at the State-level was allowed to grow with the blame being flung at the face of the Centre. A few States, under great pressure (e.g. Maharashtra), have declared loan-waivers. This form of relief is considered undesirable as it



Piyush Goyal

encourages improvidence and indifference to repayment obligations.

The Centre has now provided for direct cash support at the rate of Rs. 6000/- a year for vulnerable landholding farmer families having cultivable land up to two hectares. This amount will be credited to the bank account of the beneficiary farmers in three equal instalments of Rs. 2000/- each. Around 12 crore small and marginal families are expected to benefit by this. This scheme of assistance is called 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' (PM-KISAN). The estimated annual expenditure is Rs. 75,000 crore under this head. The Opposition's criticism that this provision works out to Rs. 17/- per day and that this is an insult to the farmer is unfair as averages have no relevance to the context.

There is, however, one unanswered question: How many farmers who committed suicide were less-than two-hectare holders? Newspapers often reported that the debts per head of those who ended their lives ran into lakhs. There is need for more vigilance at the Panchayat level. The panchayats should be made the basic reporting agency.

3. The manner of presentation of the Budget

There was an admirable clarity in the presentation of the Budget unlike in the case of the Economic Surveys during the past few years. The points highlighted were:

(i) There was macro-economic stability, leading the country to the sixth place in the world economies. The growth rates at constant prices (2011-12) were: 2014-15 7.4%; 2015-16 8.2%; 2016-17 8.2%; 2017-18 7.2%; 2018-19 7.2%; 2019-20 7% plus expected.

(ii) Inflation was kept low at an average rate of 4.6% during 2014-19 as against 10% during 2009-14.

(iii) Fiscal deficit at 3.4% in 2018-19, which is much below the norm of 4.5%.

(iv) Foreign Direct Investment surged to 239 billion during 2014-19.

(v) Substantial steps were taken to bring down the banks' liability of non-performing assets (NPA). The banks have been re-capitalised with an investment of Rs. 2.6 lakh crore.

(vi) 5.45 lakh villages were declared 'Defecation Free' under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

(vii) Electricity connections ensured to all willing families (There are few villages without electricity today).

(viii) Healthcare involving free medical treatment extended in rural areas under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

(ix) The Goods and Services Act has come into operation which, in essence, is financial (or fiscal) national integration a counterpart of national political integration. (The Budget is silent on demonetization as it is not relevant. But it needs to be said that it has 'formalised' the economy. The parallel 'black economy' has been weakened if not totally eliminated.

4. Vision Programme

The Budget envisages the following long-term developments:

- (i) Five Trillion Dollar economy in the next five years.
- (ii) A Digital India will emerge.
- (iii) India will become pollution-free with 'green earth and blue skies.
- (iv) Rural industrialisation will receive a fillip.
- (v) The rivers will run clean.
- (vi) Improvement in the conditions of living of the people in the coastal areas who subsist on fishing and other avocations.
- (vii) Expansion of space programmes.
- (viii) Making India self-sufficient in food while seeking to meet the food needs of other countries.
- (ix) Measures to make people healthy (Health Insurance, Pension etc.).
- (X) Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.

The 'compulsive contrarians', who criticise the Budget as 'election-oriented', do not carry conviction. The Budget may well be described as a 'Welfare Budget'.

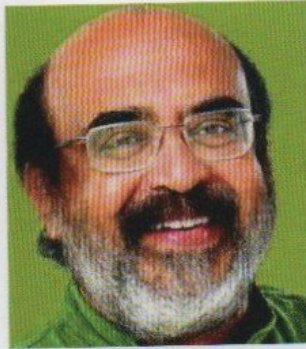
II. The Kerala Budget 2019-20

After the Deluge of August 20-30, 2018, one naturally expected that the focus of the State's Budget 2019-20 would be on re-building (nava-nirmanam) and not mere rehabilitation. The Budget that Dr. Thomas Isaac presented on February 28, 2019, is according to expectations.

The estimated expenditure is Rs. 1,24,125 crore and the revenue deficit is Rs. 877 crore. The fiscal deficit is Rs. 26,290 crores.

After making allotments to various sectors (health, education, pension, petro-chemical park, garbage disposal etc.), the Finance Minister has announced a special package of 25 schemes (Rs. 4700 crore) for 'Kerala Nava-nirmanam'.

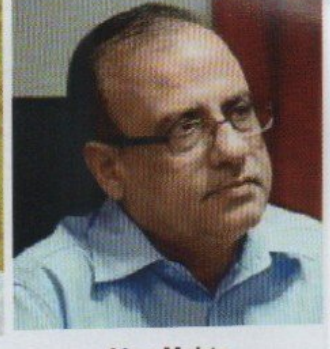
Welcome as the package is, it appears that the schemes are not well-integrated; just a list not organically linked. Most of them are of a long-term nature. Only the following may be expected to be immediately beneficial to the victims of the disaster viz. (i) Financial assistance to people who shift their residence 200 meters away from the coast. (ii) Houses for those who



Dr Thomas Issac



Sudhir Mungatiwar



Ajoy Mehta

have necessarily to live on the coast.

Does the package tackle the problem of the vulnerability of the State to natural disasters? The problem certainly needs to be studied in depth by a committee of experts, so that an integrated plan is evolved and implemented.

Among the new imposts, the 1% cess on GST has evoked criticism. But as this is confined to luxury items and liquor and is expected to fetch Rs. 600 crore, there is no need to cavil at it. The FM has his constraints viz. a remittance economy, high wage-levels, low or little private investment in manufacturing.

The way the people of Kerala quickly switched over to large-scale demonstrations and wrangling against the SC ruling on the entry of women of 15-59 to the Sabarimala Shasta temple shows that they have got over the woes of the Deluge.

III. The Maharashtra Interim Budget 2019-20

The Maharashtra Govt. Budget 2019-20, presented by Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar on February 27, 2019, shows a deficit of Rs. 19,784 crore (Expenditure Rs. 3,34,273 crores as against receipts of Rs. 3,14,489 crore). As this is only an interim budget, only Rs. 1,47,435 crores will be spent during April July, 2019.

The large deficit is mainly due to the additional burden of Rs. 24,000 crore imposed by the need to implement the recommendation of the 7th Pay Commission. The drought conditions prevailing in most parts of the State call for extra expenditure for mitigating the misery of the people. The State's debt will be Rs. 4,14,411 crore which is well within the 25% GDP norm. The budget proposals mainly relate to agriculture and rural development. An otherwise prosperous State with a per capita

income of Rs. 1,03,991/- (national-average Rs. 86,660/- in 2017-18), the problems mostly arise from inadequate rainfall and coalition politics.

IV. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Budget 2019-20

With an estimated population of about 12.6 million (city, suburbs and extended suburbs) within an area of 437.7 sq. km., it is natural that civic administration is a Herculean task. Pot-holes are a perpetual headache; encroachment by slum-dwellers and shop-keepers and unauthorised constructions pose problems of eviction, rehabilitation and demolition; flood-prone areas (about 200 of them) need constant vigilance and precautionary measures. Political pressures add to the worries of civic officials. The field-staff is large and so is the cadre of officials at different levels.

It is not, therefore, surprising that about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the budget expenditure goes towards meeting establishment charges. The Budget 2019-20 provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 30,692 crore. The capital expenditure is estimated at Rs. 11,480 crore. No new taxes are proposed or the current rates enhanced.

The main source of income of the corporation is the Government. This is supplemented by property tax and Development Plan levies. This year the Corporation has necessarily to dip into its reserves to the extent of Rs. 5702 crore. Two areas are to be given special attention viz. flood-control and pavements.

A word of praise is due to the activists who keep the civic administration on its toes. More power to their elbow.

To conclude: The Centre, the two States and the BMC have done their best in the present circumstances. ■



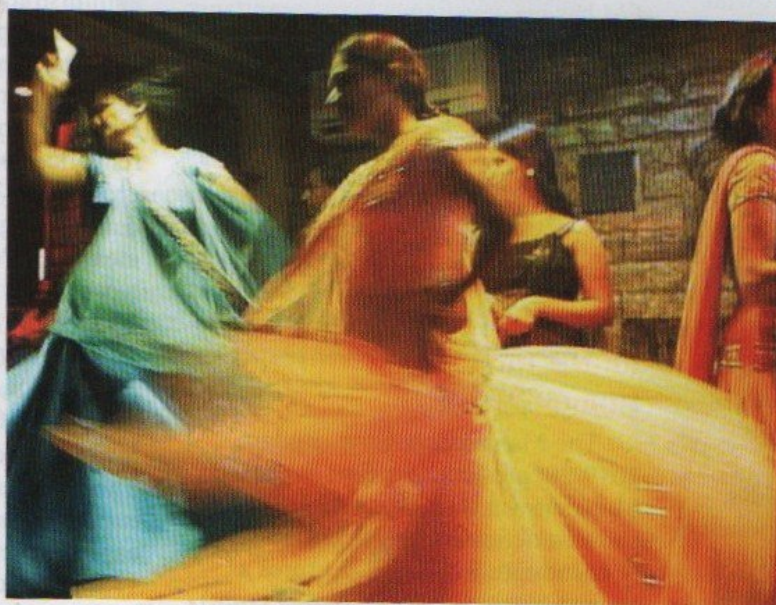
P.R. Krishnan

Closure of dance bars in Maharashtra held illegal

The Supreme Court of India on 17th January 2019 came heavily against Maharashtra government's licence raj on dance bars in the state. By this order, the apex court has set aside most of the stringent terms imposed by the state administration in the licences for running dance bars which hampered the business that led to closure of dance bars in Maharashtra. Striking down such terms by the top court will help bar owners to restart their business which in turn will become a big source of relief to them as well as the employees. Restarting of the business will generate more revenue to the exchequer as well. The present order is of a two judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising of Justice A.K. Sikri and Justice Ashok Bhushan. The judgement has come after 12 years when it had upheld a Bombay High Court order in 2006 which struck down government ban on dance bars in Maharashtra. The order has a background history of legal battles spread over a span of 15 years.

The government of Maharashtra since 2005 had made three attempts to ban dance bars in the state. On all the three occasions, the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court had to intervene to protect the rights of bar owners and dance bar girls. Making a departure, the language used this time in the judgement of the Supreme Court is harsher and stronger. The bench in its judgement minced no words when it said, "the state under the garb of regulation has

imposed conditions which are virtually impossible to adhere to and run the business. The state thereby is aiming to achieve something indirectly which it could not do directly." Thus stating, the court quashed the draconian provisions contained in the licence to bring bars under CCTV surveillance and ban on serving liquor. The court while removing those conditions has observed, "such terms are totally disproportionate, unreasonable and arbitrary." With regard to the condition for mandatory installation of CCTV



cameras at the entrance and other places of the dance bars, what the court has said is that "this is totally inappropriate and amounts to invasion of privacy." Another condition imposed in the licence was separation of dancing area from the bar area by placing a non-transparent partition. In regard to this, the court made it clear that there is no necessity for such a separation.

One of the arguments made by the government of Maharashtra in this case before the Supreme Court was "prohibition in serving alcohol beverages in dance bars and other measures is necessary to check

nuisance." The government's further stance was that "the state, in public interest, is, within its powers to impose such conditions in the licences, and there is no need for the court to interfere in such matters." Repelling these submissions, the bench observed. "It seems that the state is more influenced by moralistic overtones under the wrong presumption that persons after consuming alcohol will misbehave with dancers." The observation further recorded in the judgement is that "if this is so, such presumption would be

equally applicable to bar rooms where alcohol is served by women waitresses. The facts however are such conditions have been held to be unreasonable by the courts in the country." The court also said that "there may be aberrations or sporadic incidences of this nature which can happen not only at work places where dance performances are staged but at other places including bar rooms and even main restaurants."

The court has however agreed with the state in allowing functioning of the dance bars only between 6 pm to 11.30 pm. The court has also allowed the plea of the state to ban the practice of showering currency notes and coins on the dancing stage. The Dance Bar Owners Association has welcomed the judgement. However, the association has stated that it will again approach the Supreme Court to get the stipulated time for functioning the establishments between 6 pm to 11.30 pm extended. This, according to them, is necessary, because of the night life needs of Mumbaikars.

It was the Congress NCP government which had initiated ban on

dance bars in Maharashtra in August 2005. The state government brought the ban by making changes in the Bombay Police Act. The ban imposed was in regard to performance of dance in bars, eateries and permit rooms below 3 star categories. There were 300 dance bars in Mumbai region. They employed about 80,000 workers including dance bar girls.

Since the government decision amounted to violation of fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution, the bar owners, dance bar girls groups, women rights groups and civil society groups moved the Bombay High Court in September 2005, seeking revocation of the order. The High Court after lengthy hearing of the case struck down the government ban in April 2006. The High Court in its order then had stated that "if women other than dancers can work in the prohibited establishments and if that does not amount to exploitation, we do not see as to why, when, women dance to earn their livelihood, it becomes exploitation."

But the state government challenged the High Court judgement in Supreme Court in May 2006. In the petition the state government had asked for interim stay of High Court order but the apex court refused. After hearing the case further, the Supreme Court in July, 2013 upheld the High Court order. While rejecting the government appeal in that order, the Supreme Court had said: The expression "the cure is worse than the disease. To completely discontinue the livelihood of a large section of women, eking out an existence by dancing in bars, they will be left to the mercy of other forms of exploitation."

But, undeterred the state government came out with a new provision of section 33A to the Maharashtra Police Act banning dance performance in all restaurants and bars in the state. This was immediately challenged by bar owners and other petitioners in Supreme Court. The apex court after hearing the parties in that case gave interim relief to the bar owners by staying the newly brought section 33A. But the state government remained, unperturbed and unrelenting. Accordingly it brought an amended Act in the state assembly in April 2016 and got it passed with no opposition. This amended bill is titled Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar



Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (Working therein) Act, 2016. This is the bill which was challenged in the Supreme Court, in which, the apex court has now passed orders on 17th January 2019. Referring to the grounds highlighted by the government for striking down this law the Supreme Court has observed "this legislation which is the 3rd bid to rein in dance bars was given the "cloak" of regulatory regime, but conditions stipulated were impossible to fulfill, leading to closure of all dance bars. It is for this reason that not a single establishment has been issued licence under this Act even when it was passed in 2016."

The 100 page judgement in the case is written by Justice A.K. Sikri. Therein, with regards to the conditions laid down in the regulations for issuance of licence, the court's observation is that the stipulation to ban opening of dance bars within a radius of one kilometer from educational and religious institutions has been incorporated without taking into consideration the ground realities particularly in Mumbai, where it would be difficult to find a place that meets the criteria. Such a prohibition therefore amounts to fulfilling an impossible condition and the effect thereof is that at no place, licence would be granted. The court accordingly held that such a condition is unreasonable and hence quashed. However the court has given liberty to the state to prescribe the distance from educational and religious institutions which is reasonable and workable.

The rule passed by the government

for granting licence also became a subject matter for criticism in the judgement. Setting aside that portion of the regulation which prohibited customers from tipping bar girls directly, the judgement has pointed out that "state cannot impose a particular manner of tipping or handing over of notes to the dancers personally is not inappropriate." Going further the court observed that "the condition that only a person with good character was eligible to get a licence is similarly required to be struck down." The reasoning given by the court for that was, "such a condition is capable of any interpretation and shall prove to be misused by officials." The court accordingly asked the state to allow opening of bars and consider granting licences more objectively and with open mind."

Still another ground put up by the government in defence of the law was the necessity to maintain morality. The observance of the court in this regard is: "It appears from the history of legislative amendments made from time to time that the respondents have somehow developed the notion that such performances in the dance bars do not have moralistic basis." It may here be noted that when the debate took place in the state assembly on this bill in 2016, one legislator had said "it was better for a woman to commit suicide than dance in bars; while another argued that all dancing, except *bharatanatyam* and *kathak*, was, vulgar and should be banned." That is how the state tried to thrust its notion of morality upon society. As per Times of India: dt. 18-

01-2019, one study at that time showed that 80 % of the dance girls were sole bread winners for their families. Many of them may have been pushed into penury and prostitution when their work was capriciously reclassified by male legislators' as illegal

For large number of people in a city like Mumbai, the spaces of dance bars had become an integral part of leisure industry. It was in the seventies that witnessed arrival of dance bars in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra. As it began flourishing, the nineties saw its large-scale modernization. They also became the places for discussions of underworld activities and planning. The dance bars became favourite haunt of diamond merchants and other business lobbies for meetings and discussions of business deals. They became gathering spots and places for foreign tourists as well as domestic tourists.

Dance bars as stated herein above, were direct sources of employment to more than 80,000 employees including dance girls. This was a big relief to their families for payment of house rent, meeting educational expenses of children and medical needs etc. The neon-lit dance bar industry had been feeding many others on its periphery such as garment cum tailoring business, sequined Ghagra cholis, zari-laden dresses and other garments. The shut down brought miseries to not only the direct employees of dance bars but for the employees in the dependent industries as well. Many of the bar girls were trafficked to Gulf countries or South East Asian countries for sex work. Others slipped into domesticity to do odd jobs or became private sex workers. The argument that dance bars make the city life unsafe also proved to be wrong. Because, the records show the crime graph has been on the increase.

But from the reports appearing in the press after the judgement, it seems that the BJP-Shiv Sena government may not go for corrective steps to allow functioning of the bars in the state. Instead, it has decided to go for review of the judgement. The Congress and NCP have blamed the state government attributing failure in conducting the case effectively in the Supreme Court. They have also alleged collusion between the BJP chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and Bar Owners Association. ■

poem

Sweet and sour of Redevelopment



Rajan Mundayat
Matunga

*For years and years
Nothing great changed much
With the passage of time
For the inhabitants of our old building
That arose a century earlier
During the time of British reign.
Unpretentious and peace loving
God fearing and lovable
Their life went on satisfied
Unhindered and unchanged
For decades with little comforts
Until a few years ago, when
News of the arrival of a developer
Made them dream
To make castles in the air
Their minds till then
Had very seldom
Dreamt anything unholy.*

*But their buildings
Being redeveloped becoming a reality
Words went around
To weave dreams*

*Only to fade
When the Sun set in the west.*

*Spreading veiled threats and confusions
Giving wild assurances
Hiding facts and jumping processes
The developer through his coterie
Caused a mob euphoria
That drew the uninitiated tenants
Into his trap one by one
Leaving him no option
But to sign the consent first
Then the agreement and
Then to vacate the room
With a heavy broken heart
Cursing himself for not bargaining
For not realizing his strength
For being selfish and treacherous
For betraying the common cause
And not realising
That unity is strength for all
That unity is beneficial for all
That paves the way
For a fruitful redevelopment
For both the tenant and the developer...!*



GIVING BACK

Our Duty to our Fellow Human Beings

Malayali Businessmen's Welfare Association (MBWA) in association with Warriar Foundation organized a mega event 'Giving Back' on 24th March, 2019 at Mahakavi Kalidasa Auditorium, Mulund. The proceedings of the fund-raising event were directed towards the charitable projects in India.

Malayali Businessmen's Association (MBWA), registered under The Public Trust Act and based in Thane, was formed in 2008 by a group of like-minded Mumbai businessmen and today it has many members from other districts of Maharashtra as well. MBWA's vision is "to study the problems faced by Malayalees in small scale business ventures, to help and facilitate the new entrepreneurs

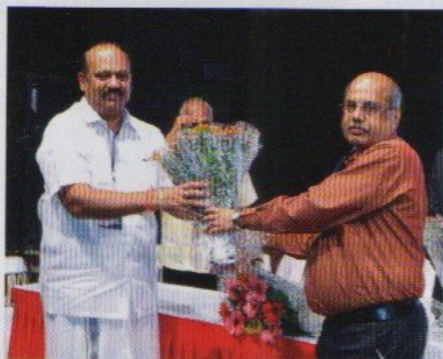
and to provide a collective solution to numerous problems faced in small scale business". With this vision it has organised various training programmes, Personality Development Seminars, Workshops on business legalities, exhibitions cum open markets.

On social development side, MBWA has extended its helping hands for the welfare of society. The united efforts of its members have transformed MBWA from a private self-contained

organisation to an entity with its focus on the absolute prosperity of all. One of its main objectives is to help young entrepreneurs with tradable skill that would lead to a better society.

K P Dinesan is the President, Ramesh Vasu, the Secretary and Muraleedharan Kutty is the Treasurer of MBWA. M P Varghese and Venugopal K are Vice Presidents, Venugopal P K and Abhilash Tulasi are Jt. Secretaries and Vasudevan K is the Jt Treasurer. Committee members include Kunhiraman K V, Vijay S Nair, N O Stephan, M Mohandas, Ajitkumar V, Anoop Jose, P J Babu, Rajan K V, Pavithran and K Ajit Kunayil and Ramesh Pillai is the Internal Auditor.

Warrior Foundation is a non-profit organization that educates thousands of under-privileged children and undertakes projects like 'Home for the Homeless' and 'Right Writing' all over India. Founded by A S Madhavan senior businessman and philanthropist, the Foundation runs Balamandirs at Panvel



Guest of Honour Suresh Nair with MBWA Treasurer Muraleedharan Kutty



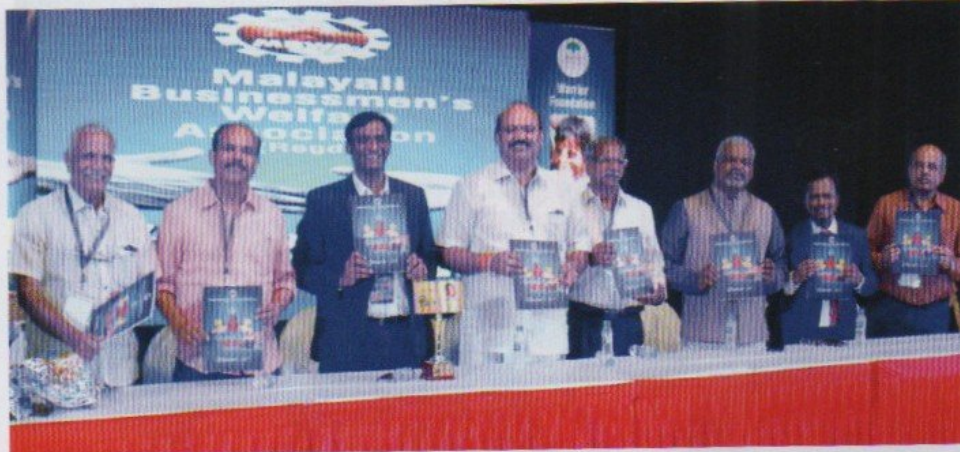
Dr. Pillai with Chief Guest Adv Sadasivan Nair

in Navi Mumbai, Thirunavaya in Malappuram District, Mazhuvannur in Ernakulam District and Njana Seva Kendra at Anaikatty in Palakkad district having 15 acres plot with medicinal plants, vegetation plants, meditation hall, 50 rooms for stay and an auditorium. Children are taught regular studies as well as Vedic studies if they want to. There is a Universal Centre for Individual Integration (UCII) at Thirunavaya. With the co-operation of Right Writing Team co-headed by Ramesh Vasu Secretary of MBWA as well, it conducts handwriting programme in schools all over India.

Chief Guest of the event and Dombivli Keraleeya Samajam Chairman, Adv Sadasivan Nair, in his speech sketched the growth of the Samajam from being an association of a few Malayalees to the present strength of more than 5000 members. It is the largest social organization of Malayalees in Asia today, has a capital of about 500 crores, runs two schools, a junior college and plans to construct a multi - speciality Hospital. The Samajam is an example of what a union or collection of people together can achieve. He visualised such a future for MBWA as well.

Guest of Honour Suresh Nair, DGM, SME SBI, Mumbai stated in his speech that the future of business in India is now with the SME sector and not in the hands of corporate companies. As the years roll by, it will only increase in strength and power. This is because the younger generation is one of entrepreneurs and start up wizards. Online platforms, ecommerce artificial intelligence, have changed the face of running a business, he said.

Dr Chanakya Radhakrishnan Pillai, Dy Director, Dept Masters in Leadership Science, University of Mumbai and best - selling author, delivered an inspiring and motivating talk on how to start a business, establish it, create wealth out of it and finally to give back to society through deeds of philanthropic activities. He cited the shining example of Rockefeller the billionaire cum philanthropist and his Rockefeller Foundation, one of the largest NGOs worldwide. He encouraged the youth among the audience to confidently start a business



Release of MBWA Souvenir

if they have a dream and passion to venture into it. He also advised them to take advice from a mentor if they so desired and put their wholehearted effort to start and sustain the business. An organization like MBWA would be ready to help them in their initial stages, he assured.

Ravi Kumar MD of Flyjac Logistics stressed the importance of being passionate about one's work and also to

Association and to build up relation with society."

Ramesh Vasu spoke in detail about MBWA's activities. The Secretary spoke on the importance of giving back to society while earning one's livelihood. The MBWA always has thought of what it can give back to society. Even a donation of Rs. 300/ will help in meeting a deprived child's school fees, he reminded the audience. Rs 30,000

donation would cover a child's education, food and stay needs for an year and Rs 4,00,000/ would help a homeless person get a house to live in. Right Writing project is his way of GIVING BACK to society by helping school children to improve their handwriting and thus their future. He thanked all those who had given support in releasing the MBWA Souvenir by way of advertisements.

The MBWA Souvenir was released and its website was officially launched by Dr.



Ratheesh

nourish and nurture one's passion. He is a businessman and also a sound illusionist and he entertained the audience with spot dubbing, during the event.



Ramshi

MBWA President K P Dinesan delivered the Welcome Speech. He pointed out that the aim of MBWA has always been to help its companions for the betterment of society. On behalf of the Association he expressed his gratitude to A S Madhavan of Warriar Foundation for having joined MBWA and organizing the mega event of 'Giving Back', thus being a part of a humble and noble gesture for the less privileged. The release of the first Souvenir of MBWA was a marvellous moment, he said, "the first one of its kind for the betterment of the

Radhakrishnan Pillai,

Mr. A S Madhavan proposed a Vote of Thanks.

There was a musical programme of melodious film and folk songs coordinated by Ashish Abraham and the singers included Ratheesh who is blessed with a voice similar to Yesudas, and Vishwanathan, whose voice sounds like SPB, Ramshi, the Kerala folk singer and Madhu Nambiar, and Soumya.

The whole programme was hosted by Ashish Abraham, a talented and brilliant youngster. The aim of this well organized event was to spread awareness about entrepreneurship with a pinch of fun and entertainment. And it turned out to be exact way the committee wanted it to. ■



to learn dance from the age of three and has learnt Bharatanatyam and Mohiniattam as well. She acknowledges with humility her gratitude to her gurus Payyannur Krishnan Mash, Shubha Rajam, Raju Mash and Jisha Mathamangalam.

"Without their blessings, I would not have reached this position today," she says. Even now when she goes to Kerala she learns new dances from Dr. Dhanusha Sanyal in Kodungallur.

After completing her studies, Archana got married and came to Mumbai about fifteen years ago with her husband Babu Marar who is employed here. He belongs to Mathamangalam in Kannur. She continued her dance

performances. She is well versed in Bharatanatyam, Mohiniattam, Kerala Natanam and folk dance performances as well. At the Badlapur Ramadaasa Ashram Kalotsavam she played a key role in organizing the cultural activities of music and dance since its inception.

Archana Marar Multi Talented Artiste

- Lakshmi V

With her expressive eyes and graceful movements, Archana Marar is a popular dancer in Mumbai's cultural scene. She is one of the few artistes who has introduced and promoted Kerala Natanam at Mumbai and is an expert exponent of this dance form.

Kerala Natanam is a very old dance of Kerala which is a type of Kathakali dance but without mask and elaborate headgear. Veteran dancer of Kerala the late Guru Gopinath revived and promoted this dance in Kerala.

Archana Marar, a native of Cherukunnu, Kannur is a versatile dancer who has given several performances on stages in Mumbai

and Kerala in social organizations and temple festivals. Her parents are Thangamani and late Mr. Gokulnath.

This Shivaratri she performed Mohiniattam at Taliparambu Rajarajeswara Shiva temple which was an 'exhilarating' experience, according to her. She started



On February 24, 2019, Tru Indian Information & Guidance Society conferred on Archana Marar, the Sukumari Smaraka Bahumugha Pratibha Puraskaram for her contribution in the fine arts field of music and dance. She received the Award at the hands of the noted film Star of yester years K R Vijaya.

In 2017, Tru Indian Society bestowed on her 'Snehachilanga' Award as a classical dancer which she received at the hands of noted Film Director Hariharan.

However Archana is not only a dancer. She is multi talented and sings well. She has sung for dance performances and Malayalam dramas and participated in folk music, kavithalapanam, kathaprasangam competitions organized by cultural and social associations in Mumbai and won prizes. Recently she has sung for a music album that is yet to be released. Also she judged various dance



Archana Marar

competitions conducted in and around Mumbai.

She was felicitated by Malayala Bhasha Pathashala Payyannur by its Director T P Bhaskara Poduval recently.

Archana is an active member of Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Sangham, Kannur Welfare Association, Mumbai



Archana performing Kerala Natanam

Marar Association, all based in Mumbai and involved in their activities.

Babu and Archana have two children, Aditya studying in Std VIII and Lakshmi studying in Std III. Aditya has learnt edakka and chenda and sometimes performs on stage. Archana has performed along with her son's edakka playing on stage. Lakshmi is learning Bharatanatyam since last few years.

Archana's passion is to improve her dancing skills day by day and aspires to be a world famous dancer in the future. With this dream in her mind, she regularly practises every day and attends dance workshops and sessions. Also she is planning to join higher studies in dance helping her to explore the mesmerizing world of dance.

She is happy with the appreciation and love she receives from her audience who come to watch her programmes. "I owe a lot of gratitude to my friends in Mumbai who have motivated and encouraged me to pursue my passion for dance and given me opportunities to perform on the stage, both in Mumbai and Kerala. My husband and children have also co-operated and given me space to pursue my dreams. I want to spread the fame of Kerala's graceful dances all over the world," she says. ■



Marar Family



Malayala Bhasha Pathasala Payyannur felicitating Archana



BUREAUCRAT WITH PASSION IS PLANTS

Sunil's balconies are full of flowering and ornamental plants, vegetable and fruit bearing ones as well as herbs and creepers. This is apart from indoor plants that are placed aesthetically inside the rooms and passageways.

For a lover of flowers and plants, a bit of open space, fertile soil and water is all that he needs to create a garden. And this is exactly what Sunil Kumar and his family have done. The three balconies of their flat in Sion where they reside, are decked with different plants, green leaves, multi-coloured flowers, and succulent vegetables. While creepers adorn the balcony grills of his sixth floor flat, refreshing indoor plants exude warmth and peace within the rooms.

Sunil's balconies are full of flowering and ornamental plants, vegetable and fruit bearing ones as well as herbs and creepers. This is apart from indoor plants that are placed aesthetically

inside the rooms and passageways.

Roses, orchids of several varieties, multi-coloured lilies, marigold, shoe flower, jasmine, bougainvillea, aloe vera, spider flower, *chethi*, *mogra*, *nandyarvattam*, *brahmakamalam*, *krishnakamalam*, *gandharajan*, *kalyanasouganthikam*, *raat rani*, are some of the flowers that grow in his balconies. Peppers in creepers, bush pepper, betelnut bush, green chillies and kanthari mulaku, tomatoes, musk melon, beans (*payar*) and curry leaves and dania herbs as well as ornamental plants like crotons adorn his garden. There are more than thirty varieties of plants in his house.

The most attractive sights in his balcony garden are the mangoes and the black peppers which is grown





Sunil's balcony adorned with flowers

abundantly throughout the year on the creepers as well as on the bush pepper variety. For the past three years, during the season the mango tree has flowered and produced sweet fruits.

How does he manage to nurture and grow a mango tree within the confines of a balcony?

"There are some varieties of mango tree that are smaller in height, just two feet. These are from Thailand and Malayasia as well as Kerala. Along with the rich fertile soil from Kerala, I personally bought dried cowdung from tabelas in Kurla and mixing them both, I used it for potting of the mango plant. The mangoes that have blossomed and ripened are very sweet in taste," he said. Two varieties of mango plant, one from Thailand and the other one moovandan, recently flowered.

Sunil personally prepares the manure for all his flowers and vegetable plants.

"The soil used for all the plants is prepared by mixing mainly cow dung and raw vegetable wastes that is normally thrown in garbage by others," he says.

This mixture is made in a 200 litre plastic water drum and is kept for a few days for composting before it is actually used for potting. The compost is prepared in the same floor (sixth floor), where he lives.

"My vegetables and fruits are all organically grown," he adds with pride.

For Sunil nurturing and growing a garden is a family affair. The whole family including his wife Suja and daughter and son Sruthi and Shlok help him in watering, preparing manure and potting the plants. "It is family bonding time," he says.

The family uses the green chillies, pepper, tomatoes and curry and dania leaves in their cooking and sometimes give them to their friends.

Sunil is Secretary of his Housing Society and under his initiative and leadership, the Society has maintained a garden in pots on the water tank since there is no open space available there. Plants like coconut palms, Christmas

tree, *raat rani*, *mogra*, *anant* (*kalyana sougandhikam*), promogranate bush, mint plant, tulasi plants, rose bushes of different hues adorn the Society garden.



Pepper and mangoes

The village pink rose with a very sweet fragrance brought from Kerala and lovingly nurtured here is the queen

of the garden, according to Sunil.

"Its smell is so pleasant that when we open our balcony sliding window, it spreads its fragrance in our rooms as well as our hearts," he says.

Sunil Kumar is a dedicated Government servant working as Superintendent Air Customs, Mumbai and gardening is his hobby and passion. He finds time to tend to his garden in the middle of his hectic shift schedules at the international airport, and various social and welfare associations with which he is involved actively like Bombay Keraleeya Samaj where he is a trustee, New Hope Foundation an NGO of which he is Chief Co-ordinator, the Sion Sri Krishna Temple and others. On the official front he has been honoured with Best Officer for the month of January 2019. This is displayed at the Mumbai International Airport.

"Tending and nurturing my plants is my way of relaxing after a hectic day at office. It is de-stressing and I feel a sense of peace and calm within myself and around me when I am with my flowers and fruits," he says humbly. ■

MAY PEACE & PROSPERITY PREVAIL WITH PIETY AS THE GUIDE



KiM

കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങൾക്കും ബന്ധുമിത്രാദികൾക്കും
വിഷ്ണു അഭയംസകൾ

സ്നേഹത്തോടെ
V. Balachandran



Parur S. Ganesan

My Motherland

..... divinity personified

While the seven continents across the world are mere geographical entities, India, that is Bharat, stands out as a subcontinent with a unique divinity. You are the Mother of 125 crores of people, spread over a land mass of about 32 million sq.kms, and who worship you as their mother Goddess.

During Vedic times India was known as Bharat Varsha, named after Bharata a legendary king, of the lunar dynasty who unified the entire territories from mount Meru/ Himalayas in the North to Kanyakumari in the South and from the sea on the West coast to the ocean of the East. The name itself is of emotional appeal invoking nationalism and national pride. Very aptly, Article 1 of the Indian Constitution refers to India as Bharat!

The grand concept of Motherland, so unique to the nation remains the sheet anchor of all cultural movement from Vedic times to modern days. There has been always a sense of oneness awakened by the expansive geographical horizon.

Indian history dates back at least to 10,000 years with an equal antiquated philosophy rightly described by Dr S Radhakrishnan, former President of India as "the civilization of India is an effort to embody philosophical wisdom of social life."

High mountains, vast seas, countless rivers and streams, dark forests, sandy deserts... all offering exceptional diversity with bold climatic and geographical features, largely determine the pattern of India's life and history. Added to these is over 200 languages, in addition to several hundreds of spoken dialects. Yet, some kind of a dream unity has occupied the minds of Indians since dawn of civilization. It was not a unity imposed from outside, but stands a standardization



An old Bharat Matha Painting

of unwritten codes or even beliefs.

Unlike America where there is a dual citizenship, in India every one is a citizen of India- one mother's children- irrespective of where one lives.

Something peculiar about India is the concept of Bharat Matha - unique in its spiritual and sentimental appeal. Bharat Matha is the national personification of India as a mother Goddess. The concept found its expression in 1873 when a play "Bharat Matha" was performed eulogizing her as the protector of India. This was further adopted by Bankim Chandra Chathopadhyay in his novel "Anandamath" (1882) where he introduced a reverential hymn 'Bande Matharam' composed by him, which became the song of the emerging freedom movement in India. Rabindranath Tagore portrayed Bharat Matha in his painting as a four-armed Hindu Goddess in saffron coloured robes, holding Vedas, sheaves of rice, a mala and a white cloth. The image was an icon to create a nationalist feeling during the freedom struggle. Sister Nivedita lauded this concept as indicative of a loving mother providing knowledge, food, dress and spiritualism

to her dear children. A Temple dedicated to Bharat Matha was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi at Kashi in 1936, while another one in Haridwar dedicated to Bharat Matha was inaugurated by Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1983.

There is no country anywhere in the world upholding such a high and reverential stature deifying a country as in India. Apart from its inspirational content during the freedom struggle, this has attained a national status and recognition further unifying the nation through one invisible divine medium.

This takes us to the concept of "Mera Bharat Mahan". Bharat is not a fly by night nation; nor is it an accident of history arising out of a Norman Conquest or a Columbus discovery. It is as old as humanity itself when God created man with his semblance and intellect. It is a story, a saga of culture and civilization with a backing of millions of years, the story of a highly intellectual race. In fact, the cultural history of India, is the proud reckoning of a peoples' amazing story of simple living and high thinking, now spreading worldwide.

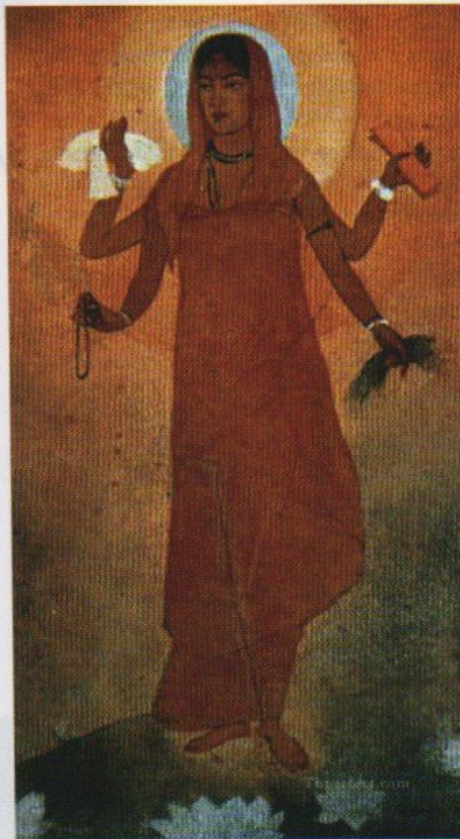
Vedas are the oldest written literature. Apart from prayers addressed

to Almighty, they cover all areas of knowledge from ethical governance to holistic development of the individual. The thought process of ancient India was not, as is generally believed limited to spiritualism and philosophy but covered a wide spectrum covering every facet of life. Aryans brought with them local institutions and judicial councils and rules for domestic life. While Panini came out with grammar in Sanskrit, Charaka administered herbal treatment and Sushruta performed surgeries, bone setting and even cataract and caesarean operations. Added to this Patanjali introduced the science of Yoga (now popular worldwide) as a remedy for all ills. Velocity of light, laws of reflections, gravitation, geometry and calculation of Sun's movements were well known in this era. Surrogacy, transplantation of foetus, abortion, space travels and so on were also all well known in this period.

When ancient India was the fountain of knowledge and wisdom and our philosophers were busy writing Artha Sastra, Neeti Sastra, Natya Sastra, Kama Sastra, Jyothisha Sastra, Yoga Sasthra and disseminating knowledge and wisdom through Epics like Ramayana, Mahabharatha etc, the key message being adherence to truth and dharma, the Westerners were a primitive race, walking nude, eating berries, roots and raw flesh. These barbarians were governed by the Laws of the jungle- "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" or the law of the water of the big fish swallowing the smaller ones.

While powerful empires and civilizations have come and gone, there is an unbelievable durability associated with Indian civilization. It is not just a matter of survival, but it flourished through literature, arts, music, sculpture, trade and commerce, politics and economics. Speaking of India's glory, as early as in 1908, Mahatma Gandhi observed:

"I believe that the civilization India evolved is not to be beaten in the world.



Bharat Mata by Abanindranath Tagore

approach between spiritualism and materialism. It is not a religion in the modern sense with a set of dogmas. Nor is it 'founded' by anyone or the product of a prophet or a set of dogmas prepared by a particular section. It is a way of life of a highly progressive and advanced community. Its cardinal principles are: Non-violence, Socialism, Respect to environment, Tolerance and mutual respect, Freedom of thought and expression Sentiments, Value systems, Mutual respect, Self-discipline and self-enforcement and above all attribution of divinity to all elements constitute the basis of Indian ethos.

A very striking concept peculiar to India is respecting and worshipping nature - the mountains, the sea, the rivers, trees, birds and animals. Indians are the only people in the world, who link and worship mountains and rivers, sea and places with God and worshipped. There are as many as 100,000 legendary stories around Himalayas and Ganga; similar mythological stories abound Vindhyas, the Western Ghats, the holy rivers Yamuna, Saraswathi, Kaveri and so on. These stories carried from one generation to another are part of the body, mind and soul of every Indian deeply imbibed into the belief system.

Indians have given the nature a divine status calling them "*Pancha Maha Bhootas*" every matter is made up of five elements- solid, liquid, gas and space, represented by the earth, water, fire, wind and sky respectively. These elements are revered as manifestation of God and the origin and culmination of every life, particularly of man linked with it. This point is well established through the story of Prahlada, who when accosted by his father Hiranyakasipu fearlessly remarked that "the Lord is

omnipresent... He dwells every where... in pillars as well as in tiny particles." No other religion or scripture in any part of the world has anything parallel to this fundamental and eternal truth enunciated in Veda Vyasa's Srimad Bhagavatham.

In contrast, there is not even a single



Bharat Mata by M F Hussain

Nothing can equal the seeds sown by our ancestors; Rome went; Greece shared the same fate; the might of the pharaohs was broken.... But India is still some how or other sound at the foundation."

Hindu philosophy is a balanced

story on Mount Alps, Niagara Falls, River Thames or the Pacific Ocean. To the Western world these are just lifeless geographical features - at best a tourists' attractions. To quote Sister Nivedita "had Niagara been situated on the Ganges, how different would have been its valuation by humanity !!"

India which is the world's oldest civilization is governed by a philosophy of sentiments, value systems, mutual respect, self - discipline and self-enforcement and above all attribution of divinity to all elements- animate, inanimate or even man made..

The Hindu culture passed on from generation to another generation takes pride in being an Indian with a proud lineage traceable upto the ancient Rishis. We are the only people who can boast of a 'Gothra' and link it with several millennia past.

Unlike our neighbouring countries,

India is proud of a strong and uninterrupted democracy managed by committed leaders for the last seven decades, ever since she attained independence from the British rule. It has made great strides in overall development, particularly in human development and technology excellence, elevating herself as a role model for community development world over.

The growth story of Hindu spirituality in the West in the recent past is indeed mind boggling. To the directionless youth of the West, the Hindu spirituality has become a beacon showing the right path for growth, inner peace and bliss. The thousands of Hindu temples and spiritual centres which have of late come up globally add testimony to India's hegemony. Indians are considered a tradition bound and spiritually strong yet progressive

and intelligent race.

The glory of India never had a full stop and it continues to fly higher and higher.

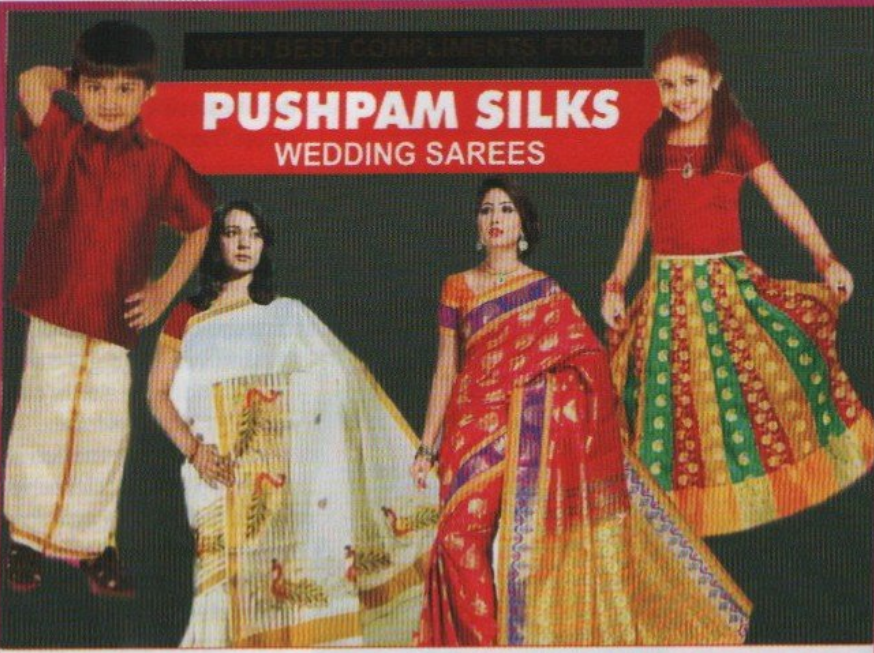
In recent times, Indian Diaspora numbering 25 million spread over 130 countries worldwide feel elated that they have globally shown their mettle and are excelling in modern world's hi-tech areas.

Indians are credited as creators of many of modern world's high-tech, high thinking products like Micro systems, Pentium chips, Hot Mail, E-mail and so on. Many Indians are occupying enviable positions in commerce and business and have created a niche for themselves world wide- in USA, UK, Africa and Singapore. Among all the ethnic groups in America Indians are the wealthiest, even faring better than the whites and the natives. IN US where the Indians account for just 1.5% of its total population, it is creditable that 38% of doctors, 36% of NASA scientists and 12% of general scientists are Indians, not to speak of those holding top executive positions. Even in UK among the richest 500 immigrants as many as 230 Indians have the Midas' touch- Hindujas, Mittals, Jatania to mention a few and several Patels are in the billionaire club. The general image of India as at one time used to be described as a land of snake charmers, rope walkers and naked sadhus is fast fading and Indians are viewed with awe and respect as a tradition bound, yet progressive and intelligent race all over the world.

If ancient India was donned by Rishi Valmiki, followed by Veda Vyasa, Manu and others, spiritual luminaries continued to dominate India through successive centuries and the flow continues unabatedly even now, of course with a global flavor - offering peace of mind and solace to the Western, Middle East and the Eastern continents. The flow of Indian spirituality has been perennial through several millions of years and the fountain of Hindu wisdom even now continues to spout on humanity, worldwide perhaps with added force.

Mother India! You have indeed a womb of gold!! I prostrate before you!!!

(The author retired from the Indian Economics Service (IES) and has to his credit a number of publications).



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WEDDING SAREES

D. S. CUTPIECE & R. M. SHOPPING
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RAMRAJ DHOTI, MUNDUKAL, READYMADE SHIRTS, VELCRO DHOTI WITH POCKETS AVAILABLE

രാമരാജ് ദോത്തി, മുണ്ടുകൾ, റെഡിമെയ്ഡ് ഷർട്ടുകൾ
“ഓട്ടിച്ചോ കെട്ടിക്കോ വെൽക്രോ ദോത്തി പോക്കറ്റ് ഉൾപ്പെടെ”
ഫാക്ടറി വിലയിൽ ലഭിക്കുന്നതാണ്

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Tel: 2418 1025, 2410 5293, Mob: 98920 67581

Suresh Warrier

A DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT CEO

Uzhuthra Warrier

"Great men do not feel great and small men do not feel small", "Still waters run deep", these adages crossed my mind when I met Shree Suresh Warrier in his cabin when he was CMD of the illustrious Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd, one of the few profit-making Public-Sector Undertakings prior to his superannuation on 30th November, 2017. Needless to add that this being a consistently profit-making core Public Undertaking it is the prerogative of seasoned technocrat or senior Civil Service bigwig to head this undertaking. It would be pertinent to add here that but for fulfillment of some pure technical formalities it meets all the prerequisites of *Navarino* status. His elevation to such a coveted post, therefore, brought pride and honour to Malayalees. What deserves special mention is none of the air or pretensions have gone to his head or his comportment which ought to have happened to any man of such a status. What I quoted at the outset befits our Suresh. He is still the same Suresh whom I have seen nearly a decade ago. Suave, self-effacing and reserved without any qualms to mix with us as one amongst us, to sit on the floor if no chair is vacant, that too in a corner squeezing himself if the space is limited whenever he attends our gathering for the monthly Chit Fund draw. When he became Director (Finance) once I felt compelled to tell him about such extreme humility as it would have been unbecoming of the post he occupied. In Armed Forces the code of conduct enjoins that though a senior should forget that he is senior in social gatherings, a junior should be fully conscious that he is junior. Since most of us especially those not accustomed to the government

departments, do not observe such Rubicon, they fail to be within their limits and court the displeasure of the seniors. What I am stating could be perhaps irrelevant or superfluous now. I had served in office of the Accountant General where one could not sit before the Section Officer unless permitted by him, which of course was a hangover from the pre-independence days. Also, one was not supposed to put his hands in his pockets while standing before him. All the same some elementary etiquettes and manners are must,



Suresh Warrier with Dr Devadatta

howsoever, the world has changed. In this context, let me mention an incident which would certainly be unbelievable. A colleague of mine was found whistling while coming out of the staff toilet by an Assistant Accountant General, who was himself coming out from the adjacent Officers' toilet. My friend went to have a cup of tea before taking his seat. There was a gap of hardly ten minutes. But there was a memo on his table for unruly behavior within the office premises. No doubt all such rigidities were vanquished by 1960.

All the recognitions and rewards sit lightly on the shoulders of Suresh. After all it is an empty vessel which makes

great noise and Suresh is filled to the brim.

Coming back to Suresh Warrier, he rose from the position of a Junior Officer in Finance step by step often overtaking his seniors by sheer dint of unimpeachable integrity, consistently immaculate performance as well as exemplary behaviour. Each and every bit of information about the whole gamut of the industry is on his fingertips. He is an authority on "Fertilizer Subsidy" and has to keep in touch with all the Fertilizer Companies, Fertilizer Co-ordination

Committee, Ministry and now in Additional charge of FACT which was once, the Model for the fertilizer companies, though now shorn of the past glory like other Industries in Kerala. Because of the unavoidable travels in and out of India he has very little time to be with his family. Still he makes it a point to attend the small gathering for the Chit Funds of the small group of our community in New Bombay. By the way, as soon as he became Director (Finance), he has to grace social Functions as Chief Guest, and now he has to stretch further and further.

Born on 25th of December 1957 to A V Govindankutty Warrier (*Aiyloor Variam*) and Thankam Varasiar (*Kannadi Variyam*) Suresh had his early education in Nangal where

Govindankutty Warrier was serving in Nangal Fertilizers. Higher studies were in Delhi. After college education he joined Indian Air Lines for a short while during which period he completed ICWA which is a tough course. As most of us know the syllabus covers diverse subjects like Mathematics, Engineering, Statistics, Banking, Economics and of course, Advanced Accounts, Taxation etc. A Cost Accountant in fact is more of an Economist and Engineer than an Accountant. In earlier days it had not gained its importance when there was no competition as such. To my knowledge it was considered compulsory in Ordnance Factories. Private companies avoided for

fear of divulging their price structure. When politicians in U S A started raising their voices about the prohibitive cost of drugs and exposed their manufacturers making two hundred or even more percentage of profit, hue and cry started world over to statutory control over their prices. In India the manufacturing sector resisted Costing, on the plea that they had to keep voluminous records and consequently unproductive manpower which in turn would increase the prices. In this context I recall a friend of mine who was doing costing in a pharmaceutical company that with the advent of computers there was no problem to adopt costing which they actually do clandestinely for internal consumption.

With his diploma in Costing there was no difficulty to get appointment as a junior officer in Accounts Department in R C F which started operations in 1963. With his hard work, passion for diving deep into the details caught the attention of his superiors. A man of quiet efficiency with ideal behaviour he did not have any difficulty to earn his richly deserved promotions despite the all-pervading pulls and politics. And now he has reached the present position. I am sure none will bear any grudge at his rise.

Coming to heading a profit-making PSU, I can swear that it is one of the toughest jobs. Hanging like a Sword of Damocles is Ministry headed by politicians who has to feather his nests, often bereft of any scruples, Public Accounts Committee, Parliamentary Undertaking Committee, C AG, Vigilance, CBI which can chase one to the grave even on an anonymous complaint. These are the bodies which have no responsibilities, often without any knowledge about the functions of the industry and cause simply waste of time and money of the organization.

Competing Employees' Unions fetter any action against any dereliction of duty, naked insubordination, let alone removal from service. No doubt, the officer at the cutting-edge level is the sacrificial goat in such cases. "Uneasy lies the head which wears the crown" befits the precarious position he was perched in.

To be shortlisted for the post of previous post itself he was to stand rigorous and long viva-voce lasting for over more than an hour before the

Bureau of Public Undertaking consisting of Secretary level officers. At the end of the day they found him to fit the bill out of the five who are invariably tested. Eventually after clearances from vigilance and other extraneous things like any allegations, last minute infiltration of somebody as a bolt from the blue out of political or other undue influences, appointment has to be approved by the Prime Minister.

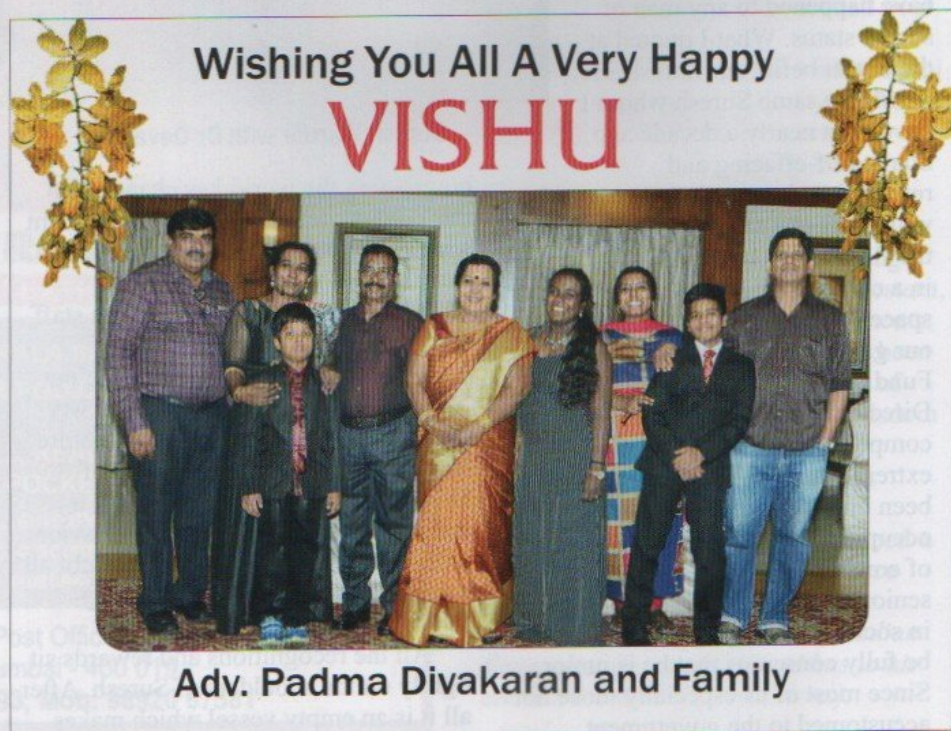
Normally a man who undergoes such hurdles get infected with at least some condescension if not complacency, let alone conceit and according to me, rightly so. Otherwise, rank and file are likely to cross the limits and create unseemly behaviour and embarrassment before others. However, Suresh is a rare exception, probably his mettle deserves a higher assignment. Though he has been offered a suitable assignment in the Ministry in view of his thorough knowledge about Fertilizer Subsidy allocation to the fertilizer Companies and other matters connected therewith, he has declined the offer as he did not like to move out of Mumbai along with family lest Dr Devadatta has to give up her roaring practice and her social service in her line, which benefits the poor and the needy. He doesn't want to accept the lucrative offers from the private sector companies before the cooling period of two years. So, he has chosen to have his

well-earned rest and devote his time for social service.

As the saying goes behind every successful man there is a woman. Pretty, petite, full of energy and enthusiasm Suresh could not have found a better partner than Dr Devadatta. Like Suresh she contributes a lot to society, in general, and Malayalees, in particular, by holding health-checkup camps under the aegis of WCW. She has been regularly attending the hospital catering to the Mathai workers daily commuting from RCF residential complex at Chembur to Airoli. She is also presiding over the Ladies' wing of Officers' club in RCF. She is equally unassuming and helpful. Incidentally, I knew her as a babe-in-arms when her late father was Executive Engineer at Naigon Telephone Circle. She hails from a renowned family, settled in Thrissur. Her mother was well read and hospitable. I used to relish wholesome lunch whenever I visited them. It used to be a rare treat for me when I was staying in a bachelors' chamber where nine members were stacked like sardines.

They have two intelligent sons, Siddharth who is employed in Packaging and is well employed. Younger son, Rohan is doing his Masters in Engineering in U.S.

With best wishes for both of them for a long life and good health and happiness! ■



Adv. Padma Divakaran and Family

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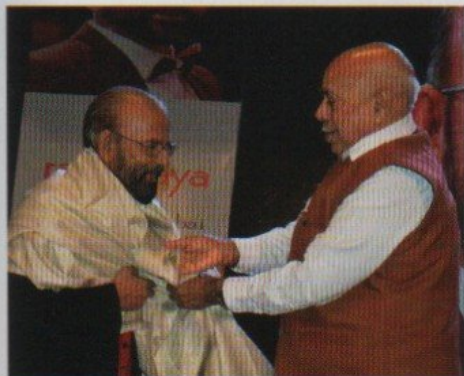




RAAGALAYA & KIM Anniversary Celebrations

Kerala In Mumbai and Raagalaya Academy of Music And Arts celebrated its ninth and fifteenth Anniversary respectively on February 9, 2019, at Zaverben Popatlal Sabahgrah in Ghatkopar. Raagalaya Lifetime Achievement Music Award 2019 was bestowed on Maestro Jerry Amaldev.

The Raagalaya Lifetime Achievement Music Award 2019 was bestowed to Maestro Jerry Amaldev during the event. Jerry Amaldev is a renowned Malayalam film music Director, western classical exponent who has specialised in choral music and done research on Gregorian chant. He is also well versed in Hindustani music who has learnt under stalwarts of Hindustani music and worked with Hindi film Music Director Naushad. Presently he lives in Kochi and has his own choral group 'Sing India With Jerry Amaldev' that performs concerts within India and abroad and conducts music classes. He holds musical workshops, is Visiting Faculty in music colleges and composes film music, devotional and secular music albums. He has travelled to



Lion Kumaran Nair, D R Nair and V Balachandran felicitating Jerry Amaldev



Dance performance by disciples of Geetha Vijayashankar



Jerry Amaldev handing over Awards to A S Madhavan, Adv Padma Divakaran



the US and Europe to complete higher studies in western classical music. He composed evergreen Malayalam super hit film songs in the eighties and nineties.

The ninth Anniversary issue of Kerala in Mumbai was released at the hands of Jerry Amaldev. The event was attended by prominent Mumbai Malayalee businessmen, artistes and KIM readers and subscribers.

Raagalaya Academy had conducted its Annual Light Music Competition on February 3, and the winners received their prizes at the hands of Jerry Amaldev during the Anniversary function.



Adv Malbin Victor



Guru Geetha Vijayashankar

Along with the Raagalaya Achievement Award, Kerala in Mumbai felicitated a few outstanding Malayalees of Mumbai who have achieved excellence in their field of expertise. A S Madhavan, businessman and philanthropist, Adv Padma Divakaran, champion of social causes, Adv Malbin Victor, businessman and activist, Guru Geetha Vijayashankar, noted Mohiniattam dancer and teacher, lyricist and actor J Sreekantan Nair and tabla Master T Kumar were bestowed the KIM Achievement Award.



J Sreekantan Nair



T Kumar

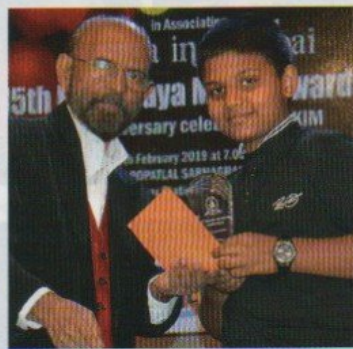
The evening started with a dance programme of Guru Geetha Vijayashankar's students. There was a musical programme of the popular films songs composed by Jerry Amaldev sung by Raagalaya Orchestra led by its Director P V Vijaykumar. They included the state award winning film song *manjani kumbil...*, *mizhiyoram...* from the film *manjil virinja pookkal* and other film songs for which Jerry Amaldev had composed the music. The

singers included Vijaykumar, Baburaj, Madhu Nambiar, Deepa and Preeti Warriar. Vichoo Iyer and team provided the background support.

Jerry Amaldev in his speech referred to the importance of live music being played by the orchestra for a musical programme. He strongly lamented that in the current scenario even internationally famous Indian singers have the deplorable tendency to record earlier their orchestra consisting of numerous musical instruments and synchronise with artistes while the singer sang on stage, all the while propagating that the orchestra was live. There was a lot of hard work and creativity that goes into a song that we see and hear on the screen, he said. Right from the poet who wrote the lyrics to suit the situation in the story, to the composer who evokes the tune to bring out the mood and emotions of the song, to the singer who actually sings it in the film, there is a lot of creativity in the making of song and credit should not be given just to the playback singer who brings it to the listeners.

Another important point Jerry Amaldev stressed was the urgent need of the Government to take action to promote and encourage budding musical talent. There are many youngsters who have music in their genes but

Winners of Music Competition receiving prizes at the hands of Jerry Amaldev



Section of Audience



Release of KIM Anniversary Issue

are unable to nurture and develop their talent because of lack of finance. The Government must take steps to find out and help these unpolished gems, give them scholarships etc and make stars out of them. The icing on the cake was Jerry Amaldev's performance on the piano that enthralled the audience.

Ashish Abraham compered the event.

The event was organised in association with BPCL, LIC Housing Finance, Valluvanad Construction and Bank of India.



Raagalaya Orchestra team with Jerry Amaldev and Ashish Abraham

Krishnan looks backwards

Ashwathi

The latest book of political activist and trade union leader P R Krishnan is true reflection of his convictions and character. The book is a historical account of his acquaintances with divergent views on political, social and cultural affairs. It is a matter of common knowledge that people generally do not pursue books of this genre. If they do, the ideas shared in the book do not stay in their memory. However, books of this nature should be bought and preserved to refresh one's memory and also educate the next generation. The author therefore deserves gratitude of this period for his perseverance.

The issues covered in this book were earlier published in various periodicals across the country. Hence, it is a compilation of those articles, of course selected for their relevance. The only drawback is that it is in Malayalam and hence is restricted to a small fraction of the population. Had it been in English, much more people could have accessed to it and thus benefited.

The book is divided into three sections. They are (1) personal, (2) political and financial and (3) legal. The first section covers personal ties the author shared with personalities across a spectrum of fields. Though Krishnan is known for Communist inclinations, his acquaintances are all from different, sometimes even with opposite idealism, shades. He does not restrict friendship only with people of similar views, unlike his party leaders. This trait often made him to undergo disciplinary action from his party but those punishments were not enough to break those links. We cannot suppress our chuckles when he mentions about those suspensions imposed on him by the leaders for visiting their political foes. How mean those leaders, we wonder.

E M Sankaran Namboothiripad, Vajpayee, Sudha Chandran, Dr K K Damodaran, Justice V R Krishna Iyer, M V Raghavan, G Karthikeyan, O N V Kurup et al are some of the personalities mentioned in the section.

The section deals with analyses of various elections to Indian parliament,

state assemblies and by-elections etc, not only of India but Bangladesh too. Krishnan analyses them, both victories but defeats also. To give conviction to them, he seeks the statistical data for reinforcement. He also discusses the impact of globalisation on development, business and NPA of banks, Narendra Modi, Jayalalithaa, the emergence of BJP, autocracy in democratic system, success of Aam Admi Party, turning points in the relationships between India and US and also between India and Bangladesh, Death trap of Kerala, solar case of Kerala, rise of Niteesh Kumar and many more issues.

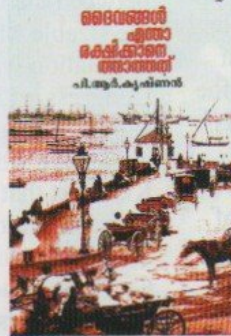
The book is titled 'Daivangalantha Sahayathinethathathu' (Why Gods do not come to aid us?). It is about the massive death of pilgrims at Mecca on September 24, 2015 in which 77 Indians including 9 Malayalees, also met their end. Krishnan has a question to Gods. Can't they save the pilgrims who come to house of Gods and pray to them? Are they running away to safety?

The third section tells about the cases fought by Krishnan defending the rights of unorganised employees of Christian cemeteries of Mumbai and also of ISKCON against famous advocates of Mumbai courts. He succeeded in doing so in spite of not being a regular lawyer. The last article is about raising objection to the appearance of an advocate in an industrial dispute. Krishnan tells us that both the judge and defence lawyer C J John questioned Krishnan's objections. When the latter read out the clause 36 of Industrial Disputes Act and demolished their objections. When the defendants approached the High Court in appeal, there too they had to concede defeat.

However, Krishnan tells us that he does not revel in his success as it would lower the status of the legal practitioners leading to a reduction to their income.

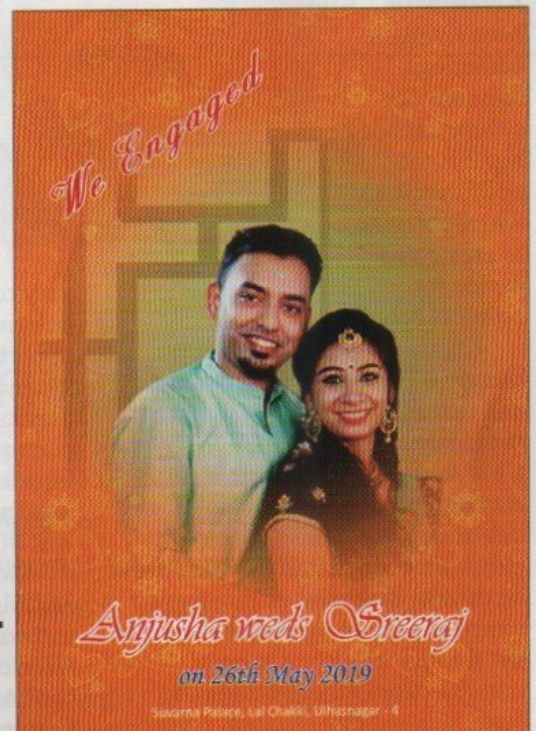
The book carries a well written Introduction by Dr C N N Nair.

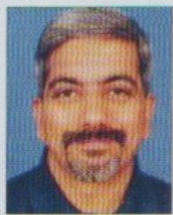
['Daivangalantha Sahayathinethathathu' by P R Krishnan, published by Currents Books Thrissur. Pages 283 and priced at Rs.300/-]



Wishing You All
A Very Happy
VISHU

**Krishnan Kutty Nair
(Unni)**
Ulhasnagar





Sriprakash Menon

Shifting voting trends of Keralites only mar growth and development in the state

When Pinarayi Vijayan took over as the chief minister of Kerala, he created tremendous interest and hope among Malayalis not only in the state but outside Kerala especially among the business tycoons and industrialists. With election around the corner, many in Kerala feel will the voters spring a surprise or is it the turn of Congress led UDF again. It's a bit early yet BJP's aggressive foray in to electoral politics in Kerala will not give even the UDF a cakewalk this time.

However, the LDF focused more on checking the growth of RSS and BJP with a SC directive on Sabarimala

coming very handy to politically control the Hindu surge in the state. People of Kerala have been living in communal harmony for several decades but it is the political class which is trying to create this divide for political benefits.

Kerala despite being highly literate is one of the most communal and casteist state. The UDF led by the Congress and the LDF led by the CPM have for decades have encouraged such divisive politics cultivating vote banks for electoral gains. Election plan in Kerala should be development and employment aimed at generating revenues locally not through electronic money transfers from other countries or state. It is sad that electoral politics in Kerala is influenced by religion,

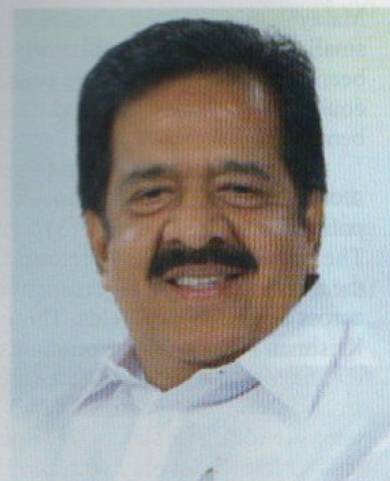
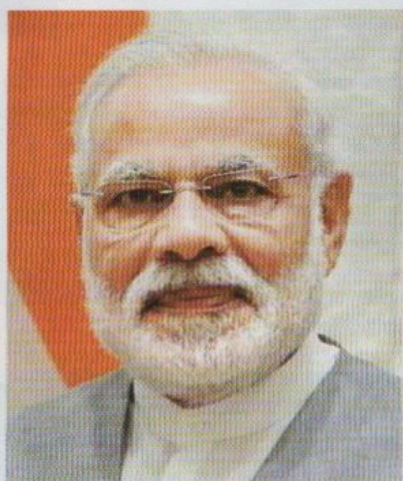
caste rather than development.

The upper class Hindus were divided between the Left and the Congress while the sizable Muslim and Christian population were mainly with the Congress with a few percentage supporting the left as well. The advantage which minorities have in Kerala is that in a few pockets they have their community based parties as well like the Muslim League and Kerala Congress. The upper caste Nairs also tried their best to figure in the electoral politics to show their relevance but had to return to the Congress fold to politically survive.

It is in such a socially fragmented society, the entry of BJP had become

literature, cinema and so on hence they were always supportive of the political mentors. In Kerala, the media including the TV channels are also so politicised that they pretend to be balanced with a strong underlying bias.

Congress and the left have an edge in Kerala politics not because of their performance or work but because the Hindu community is badly divided among themselves. This feature is more unique to Kerala than else where. The voter in the state is least bothered about why the state is at the bottom of the GDP growth, why there are no jobs for the youths, why the agriculture sector is performing so badly or how the NRIs returning from the Gulf will be



very relevant in Kerala yet the highly polarised Hindu voters got an opportunity to consolidate themselves. The good work done by the RSS and Sanskar Bharati among the larger community in Kerala was no doubt threatening the left's dominance on one hand and the rising popularity of the BJP was of a great concern.

Most intellectuals including writers and film makers talk about secularism and communal politics but these are directed mainly against the Hindu community. The Congress and the Communists have for decades patronised people from the field of art,

rehabilitated.

After the worst floods in Kerala since independence, the whole world turned towards the CM offered help in cash and kind to rebuild 'God Own Country' but the LDF focussed its attention towards religious and gender issues when there were several pressing economic issues before the state after the floods. The LDF government's priority should have been economy of the state and gender equality in politics than in spiritual field.

Matters of faith need not be always resolved, legally. In India, tradition, religious practices and rituals are

equally important for the Hindus as it is for other religions. Unlike in West Bengal, communists in Kerala have opposed Hindu beliefs in the past and have taken the community for granted because bulk of their population were either leftists or Congress supporters. The division of Hindu votes and the consolidated votes of the minorities have always ensured the political survival of LDF and UDF in the elections. But such a strategy may not work at all times. It is another matter many leftists who have supported Sabarimala agitation may vote the communists again.

Kerala's higher education is still lacking. There are hardly any college of excellence where students from other states can come and study, the fact is even today, students from Kerala go out for higher and better education outside the state. Opening of malls or one more airport would not generate huge employment opportunities for the youths, it may only encourage aspirational consumerism amidst growing unemployment.

Kerala known for coconut, spices, rubber, marine products and tourism industry does not have a single well known university or college with R & D facilities to attract students from across the country. The government should have focused on creating conducive climate for enterprise and small scale industry for the NRIs returning to Kerala. A rail coach factory long promised during prime minister late Indira Gandhi's regime did not happen despite several Congress MPs at the centre under various Congress ruled governments.

Finally, the shifting voting habit of Malayalees between the UDF and the LDF has not helped the state to financially and economically grow. The remittances from outsiders Kerala has been helping both the people and government for decades. With no jobs in the Gulf and tight economic conditions elsewhere, soon Keralites will have to turn to blue collared jobs in their home state which lakhs of outsiders from Kerala are now serving the state population in various service sector. Voting for a stable government with a strong economic policy can alone bring prosperity and economic self reliance. Remittance and money transfer economy cannot go for ever to sustain Kerala, the earlier the voter realised the better it's for them. ■

DANCE OF THE ENCHANTRESS

One of the most popular multi arts festival which is organised every year in South Mumbai is Kala Ghoda festival organised by Kala Ghoda Association. This festival is unique for it exposes varied art forms, folk and classical dances, and other performing art forms like music and drama and the visual arts too attended by a large section of the population of Mumbai.

In the performing arts section a presentation which was unique for its content and structural quality, the performance of Mohinattam entitled "Sringara - The Essence of Mohinattam" was

staged by renowned Mohinattam exponent Dr. Geeta Radha Krishna and her disciple Manjula Manoj for a select audience of the festival. The performance was scintillating for its structural and elegant lyrical concept based on the lasya style of dancing.

Dr. Geeta Radha Krishna is internationally acclaimed for her Mohinattam performances both in India and abroad, and is credited for her two authoritative books on

Mohinattam known as "Mohinattamadavus" and Mohinattam The Dance Of The Enchantress. The performance commenced with an extract from Nritta Swara Manjari performed with precise and graceful movements by Manjula Manoj.

As a tribute to the pioneer and veteran mentor of Mohinattam Kalamandalam Kalyani Kutty Amma, Geeta performed her beautiful romantic composition "Varika Varika Sakhi" that exposes the predominant emotion of Sringara and its varied aspects pertaining to the

love relation of the heroine and her lord. Besides Manjula's 'Sarala' performance, the highlight of the programme was the enaction of twenty four mudras from Hasta lakshana Deepika which is a poem written by Geeta exploring the gestural and philosophical aspect of Mohinattam. On the whole it was an entertaining and informative programme.

- Guru Vijayshanker



Dr. Geeta Radha Krishna and Manjula Manoj

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Impact of Retrograde Saturn (Vakri Shani) on all ascendants from April 30th to September 18th 2019 (142 days)

(Intensity may vary according to planetary position in the natal chart as well as in case of Madha dasha / antar dasha / pratyantar dasha of Saturn in the natal chart).



Aries:

On the positive side, businessmen can certainly look forward to a better period ahead. A growth for those in cosmetics / entertainment / luxury items business is strongly indicated. Opponents shall bite the dust. On the other side, a slowdown in many activities would be witnessed. While luck won't remain that supportive, flow of income shall remain unaffected. You would succeed in clearing off long standing debts however, savings won't be possible. Relationship within family and close friends may get adversely affected. A relationship with someone close (especially females) may abruptly end. Health of father would also warrant attention. Many would resort to taking the spiritual recourse during this period.



Taurus:

Farsightedness, premonition regarding future events will significantly increase during this period alongwith a sudden interest in hidden sciences / new academic pursuits. An ideal period for those intending to pursue any spiritual course / activities. Rise in social status / support from higher authorities is indicated. Important activities would keep moving albeit at a slower pace. This period certainly indicates some sort of struggle and would call for a lot of hard work. New business / big investment plans should be put on hold as losses are likely. It would be wise to avoid any kind of legal issues during this phase as it could lead to getting isolated from all corners.



Gemini:

Existing line of business is likely to remain unaffected



however, certainly not a good time to get into anything new. Plans of entering into a new partnership business should be kept on hold during this period. Adversities and difficulties would surround you from all sides but you would remain afloat. Overall a good time for new academic pursuits and overseas dealings. Anxiety and uneasiness would prevail for major part of the period. Unexpected expenses are very likely to come up frequently leaving your budget shattered. Internal family conflicts and poor health of spouse would compound your worries and expenses. Be wary of getting into a new romantic relationship as it could destabilize your existing situation.



Cancer:

With the formation of Vipreet Rajyog during this transit, you would be easily able to repay old debts and consolidate your financial position. However, ensure that you don't get into a new debt cycle again. New partnership business should be avoided. While enemies would try their best to harm you but they would be eliminated with considerable ease. It would be wise to keep away from any type of disputes / controversies during this period. Long distance travel would deliver good

results. On the other side, big expenses are likely to come up. Differences with spouse could deepen and could potentially lead to separation. Try to preempt the situation or else things could assume a legal shape. Health would remain fine.



Leo:

A good phase for professionals and those in employment as rise in position is indicated. An average period for those in business. Those intending to enter into partnership business may go ahead. However, the very thought of making quick money by unfair means should be strictly warded off. Many singles could get into an inter-faith love relationship. Those entangled in marital disputes can have a sigh of relief as issues are likely to subside / get resolved. However, expenses related to children may bother you. Pregnant ladies are advised to exercise caution as any negligence could cost them their happiness. Students intending to go abroad for higher studies would succeed in doing so.



Virgo:

Businessmen should hold on to their cash and avoid making big investments during this period. It would be wise to pay off old debts now as improvement in your liquidity position is seen. Those in the field of transportation might face some losses as theft / damage to vehicles look possible. Those in employment may get relocated which could unsettle your professional as well as personal life for the time being. Don't take any big decision in haste or else you would repent. Long standing disputes / court related issues would be successfully resolved in your favour now. Students would fare well. Those already suffering from some ailments need to remain careful as it might aggravate.

**Libra:**

A favourable time ahead with many positive aspects in almost all the spheres of life. A period of stability for businessmen / professionals and employees alike. Increase in determination and self-confidence levels would help you in taking decisions calmly and wisely. You would receive co-operation from all sides, much beyond your expectations and Increase in social fame would also be witnessed. Improvements in relationships, within family and outside, will also be felt. Academic pursuits are likely to continue smoothly and with considerable ease. An ideal time to plan a trip abroad / long distance trip. It would be wise to hold on to new investment plans for the time being.

**Scorpio:**

Expect some delays, unwanted expenses and obstacles to hinder your progress. A dip in income and liquidity crisis could be felt. Refraining from making any major decisions is advisable. Business would demand more time and attention than usual. Many of you are likely to gain from the sale of ancestral properties / land etc. Professionals as well as employees too are likely to find the going tough. Back home, differences and disputes with spouse are likely to increase, however, relations with family members would remain healthy. Maintaining a cordial approach and a diplomatic speech is advisable. An ideal time to participate in religious / spiritual activities. Not a favourable period from health point of view.

**Sagittarius:**

With Shani already stationed in the ascendant, expect struggles to continue in almost all spheres of life. Extra efforts shall be required to manage the show however; your efforts shall undoubtedly yield good results. Change of location for many in employment is indicated during this phase. Rise in fame and social status is almost a certainty for those involved in spiritual activities or working for any social cause. Not a good time for the married ones and for those in love as cracks would surface in the relationship resulting in separation for many. Health would definitely warrant attention as

chances of catching some ailment is prominently seen.

**Capricorn:**

The transit of ascendant lord in the 12th house is the least desirable aspect as it would call for unwanted struggles, and huge expenses. Success would come to you albeit with delay and considerable hard work. Those in employment would receive good support from seniors and many of you could be relocated for the better. Family life is expected to remain stressful during this period. Expenses arising out of unwanted travels would drain your funds. Be cautious while handling sensitive matters and things could spin out of control. It would be wise to negate any situation which might need a legal recourse. A bad news in the family seems possible. Keep your temper in check.

**Aquarius:**

With the ascendant lord transiting its most favourable house, success on all fronts is indicated. A very positive phase for businessmen / professionals and employees alike. Also a good time to plan long term investments and strategies. Success in all endeavors is assured with rise in income and unexpected monetary gains. Your decision making abilities will improve drastically and a rise in position looks possible now. Luck

would be fully supportive and you would be able to acquire new material comforts. Long distance travels and connections would provide you new opportunities and unexpected gains. However, troubles related to children is seen. Health is expected to remain normal with no major cause of worry.

**Pisces:**

Certainly not a positive phase ahead. Expect some major expenses and financial losses in the days to come. Borrowings and spendings should be planned and utilized carefully or else it would be drained off for unwanted causes. Professional life is very likely to get affected. Stay cautious as you could face defamation at the work place, especially from females. Staying away from disputes / litigations and court related matters is highly advisable as it would drag you deep down into complications and financial losses. Married life is also likely to come under pressure with frequent conflicts and clashes. Your own health and that of your mother will certainly warrant medical attention. Stay alert!

Jairajkumarr Nair

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Wishing You All A Very Happy **Vishu & Easter**



Paul Peringatt & Family



Inauguration of Pillai Alegria 2019 with special guests

Pillai Alegria and Euforia 2019

■ One of the biggest inter-collegiate festivals in India Alegria and Euforia 2019 of Pillai Campus Navi Mumbai and Pillai HOCL campus, Rasayani was held recently amidst much excitement and frolic. The annual youth festival of the Pillai College Campus in Navi Mumbai witnessed 50000 students from all over India thronging to Pillai Group of Institutions' seventh edition of this most popular festival.

'Alegria The Festival of Joy' held from 5th to 9th February 2019 was spectacular in every aspect with a stupendous line-up of events, creative competitions, innovative workshops, sporting events, music and dance and a long list of celebrity appearances. Pillai Euforia was held from 29th January to 31st January 2019 at Pillai HOCL Rasayani campus. The Super star of Marathi Indian cinema Sachin graced the occasion for Alegria and enthralled the audience with his talk and spontaneous dance performances which was one of the major highlights of Euforia.

In line with this year's Alegria theme was "Cosmos" the entire Campus was transformed itself into a magnificent galaxy from space with creative artwork and installations all around its premises. The festival was inaugurated by eminent personalities from the field of Space Sciences, Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (ISRO) and Mr. DRM Samudriah, Former Deputy Director of Space Applications Center at a glittering function where the students put up



Unveiling of Euforia Tshirts by superstar of Marathi film Industry Sachin along with the CEO of Pillai Group Dr. K M Vasudevan Pillai, Pillai HOCL Rasayani Campus

stunning performances to showcase the festival's theme. In a noteworthy gesture, Dr. Chauhan announced twelve free online courses of ISRO as a bonanza for faculty and students of the Pillai Group.

One of the much awaited events which witnessed a packed audience of over 10000 students was the concert by the band "Ayushmann Bhava" led by the gifted actor and singer Ayushmann Khurrana, his very first in Navi Mumbai, on February 6, 2019. After showcasing concerts of the likes of Farhan Akhtar, Guru Randhawa, Yo Yo Honey Singh and Vishal and Shekhar in the past, Alegria did not disappoint again this year by bringing in such a huge name in the Indian Music Industry. Ayushmann gave the crowd a performance to remember as he sang melodic songs non-stop for 2 hours which included his own chart

busting hits such as Paani Da and Saadi Galli. Another sensational event was the comedy night on 8th February 2019 featuring India's top comedian Zakir Khan who left the audiences in splits with his entertaining stand-up act. The night also featured the popular comedian Prashasti Singh who also left the audiences roaring with laughter with her comic act.

Alegria is also known for its thrilling student centric competitions that receive huge participation from all over India such as the 'Mr. and Ms. Alegria' personality contest, 'Face of Alegria' model hunt, 'Freestyle Solo' dance competition, 'Fitness Physique' competition, 'Battle of the DJs', 'Fashion Show' and 'Group Dance' competitions. The celebrity judges for these events were the versatile film



Warina Hussain with Dr. Daphne Pillai



Marathi Celebrities - Rhuta Durgule & Yashoman Apte at Pillai Euforia

actor Jim Sarbh of "Padmavat" fame, the beautiful and talented Warina Hussain, lead actress of the film "Loveyatri", international dancing sensation Lauren Gottlieb, noted bodybuilders Sangram Chougule and Manoj Patil, DJs Shaan and Olly Esse, MTV Reality Stars Divya Agarwal and Varun Sood, actress Shraddha Das, dance group Feel Crew and YouTube star Sonali Bhadauria.

The festival also featured a movie promotion of the Marathi film 'Ti and Ti' with star Pushkar Jog and director Mrinal Kulkarni making appearances.

Alegria 2019 ended on a high note with electrifying performances by Mexican and World #68 DJ Mariana Bo and Progressive Brothers on the 9th of February.

Alegria is the brainchild of Mr. Franav Pillai, Deputy CEO of Mahatma Education Society' Pillai Group of Institutions who commented that "Our emphasis at Mahatma Education Society has always been to provide a holistic development to every child. Equal importance is given to academics, sports and cultural activities, which broadens their horizons and makes them responsible citizens. We are proud that Alegria has now become one of the most awaited festivals among the college going youth of Mumbai".

Prior to the festival, on February 2, 2019, as a part of Community Service Day, over 780 residents of twenty-two NGO's were invited to the Dr. K M Vasudevan Pillai Campus and a day long

activity was organized for them including lunch, games, music and dance and fun activities.

Speaking about the festival, Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai, Founder and CEO, Pillai Group of Institutions opined that "It is through this mega inter-collegiate festival, Alegria, that students from different colleges of our Campus Viz. Architecture, Engineering, Management and Degree College get an opportunity to work together and stage an event on such a large scale. Besides exposing students to the practical aspects of conducting such an event, it also fosters leadership skills, team-building abilities and build their overall personality."

- Dr. Nivedita Shreyans



Ayushmann Khurrana with his band

M P Pillai Charitable Trust Awards presented



V N Gopalakrishnan lights the lamp



Best Teacher Award being presented



Upendra Menon, Central Committee member and others during the installation ceremony of Giants Welfare Foundation Federation.

Principal M P Pillai Charitable Trust organised the 10th Memorial Day of late MP Pillai, Principal of Powai English High School at a special function on February 23, 2019 at the School auditorium. The Trust celebrates his death anniversary by conducting various inter-school competitions and extra-curricular activities. To perpetuate his memory, Principal M P Pillai Awards for the Best Teacher are being given every year. The Award comprises of a cash prize of Rs. 5,000, certificate and a shawl.

The winners of 2019 Best Teacher Awards are Mahadev Patil, Nutan Vidyamandir, Ratnagiri district, Ravindra Vasurkar, New English School, Lanja, and Smt. Annamma Paul, Chembur English High School. V N Gopalakrishnan, freelance journalist and social activist was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Sunil Nair, Secretary, Nair Welfare Society, Venugopal Pillai, President, Powai Kerala Samajam, Smt. Anagha Ashok Satawase, Police Inspector, Powai and other dignitaries graced the function. The function was organized under the supervision of Gopalakrishna Pillai, President and Subhash Lad, Secretary of the Trust and was attended by students and parents.

Late M P Pillai was the Founder Principal and Secretary of Powai English High School run by Manav Dharma Mission Trust. The School has been scoring consistently 100% results in SSC examinations during the past two decades and has received accolades from BMC authorities for inter-school competitions.

M P Pillai also established Mahatma Education Trust that runs English High School in Chembur and Panvel. Under the auspices of this School, he established Rashtrabhasha Vidyamandir to propagate Hindi among students. He also started Powai Marathi Madhyamik Shala for those who cannot afford quality education in Marathi. Besides, Marol Education Academy and Vidyadhiraja Education and Charitable Trust, Mulund also received his direction and guidance.

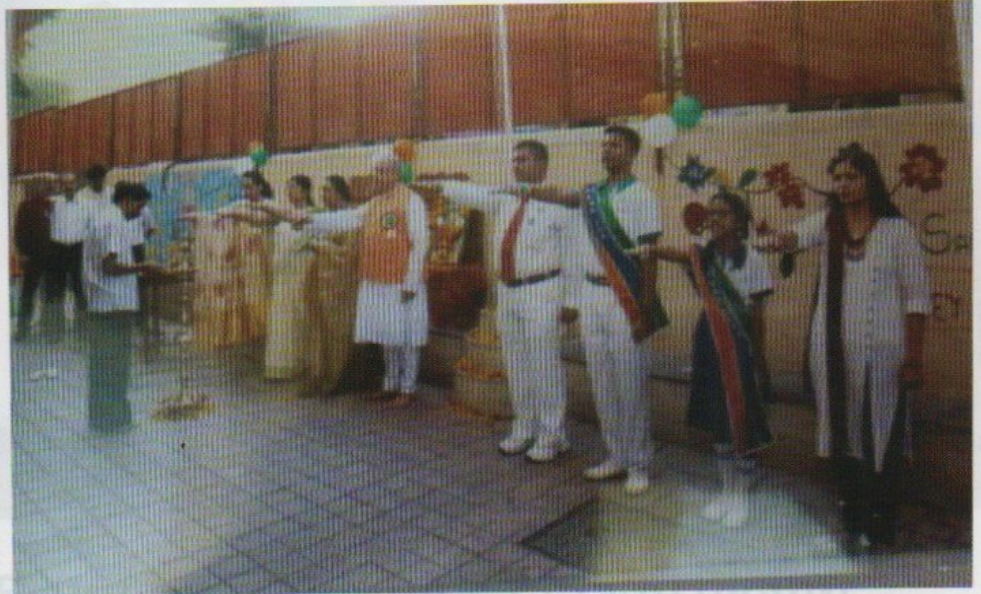
Powai English High School celebrates Republic Day

■ Powai English High School celebrated the 70th Republic Day in a grand manner on January 26, 2019 at the school premises. VN Gopalakrishnan, freelance journalist and social activist was the Chief Guest. The programme commenced with the garlanding of the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose and Dr B R Ambedkar by the Chief Guest and Head Mistresses of the Pre-Primary Primary and Secondary sections. After the National Anthem, the National Flag was hoisted followed by taking a Pledge as guided by Krishna Yadav, the PT Teacher.

After the P T display, the secondary students presented Lazim and drill.

Later all the guests were felicitated by Smt Latha Prasad, Head Mistress, Primary Section; Smt. Shirley Uday Kumar, Head Mistress, Secondary Section and Smt. Bhavana Magoo, Head Mistress, Pre-Primary Section. Smt. Latha Prasad introduced the Chief Guest.

Pre-Primary and primary students spoke on the occasion. Miss Avani Pandey spoke in Hindi followed by Miss Praveena Nair in English and Miss Yashika Thorat in Marathi. Primary and Secondary students sang patriotic songs. The toppers of Standard I to X were



Taking the pledge

felicitated by the Chief Guest. Teachers were also felicitated by presenting Appreciation Awards for their contribution to the all-round development of the students. Prizes were given to boys all-rounders and girls all-rounders, sports champions and best students.

Chief Guest complimented the School for consistently scoring 100 percent results in SSC examinations and receiving accolades from BMC authorities for inter-school

competitions. Referring to the private and public schools, he stated that many leaders like late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, E Sreedharan and others had their early education in local government schools. He also stated that ancient centres of learning like Nalanda, Takshashila and Vikramashila universities attracted students from all over the world. He gave valuable message for the bright future of the students. The function concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs Bhavana Magoo.

Happy Vishu



C. P. Babu
Jt. Managing Director



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Music begets spiritual experience: M N Karasseri

■ Music is a spiritual experience, says writer M N Karasseri. He was speaking in the valedictory meeting of *Mumbai Pattalam*. Music does not differentiate between king and his subject nor between male and female. When we do something for the benefit of others without any selfish motive, it becomes spiritual. When selfishness creeps in, the spiritual goat skin turns easily to wolf. Religion, culture, literature etc are now exploited to gain and sustain power, to get rich or to become famous. When the living beings moan, Rama also moans, according to poet Valmiki. If one could cause trouble to people in the name of that Rama, then it is time for us to ponder what would remain, he remarked.

Mumbai Vaikhari and Njaraletthu Kalashramam jointly organised the two-day event in memory of Njaraletthu Rama Poduval who dedicated his life for the Malayalam folk lore, at Urban Hatt in CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai. Chairman of Dombivli Keraleeya Samajam O Pradeep and Program Officer of the Kerala Folk Lore Akademi P V Lovelin were the chief guests. Njaraletthu Hari Govindan and Veale Bamboo Music Band presented Harimuraleeravam, a musical concert lasting two hours. During the next Pattalam, all singers and instrumentalists would be female and it would be a *Pennpaattu*, according to the organisers.



M N Karasseri addressing the audience



Felicitations accorded to Dr. Oommen David - Director, Holy Angels' School & Jr. College by Rotary Club of Dombivli North at the hands of District Secretary Rtn. Srejith Poothan

AIMA scholarships distributed

■ Scholarships instituted by Maharashtra unit of All India Malayalee Association were distributed in Kuttanad area. They were worth Rs 8.17 lakhs. During the flood of last year, the contribution of this unit was praiseworthy. As a follow up of that activity, Maharashtra unit instituted these scholarships to the students of Kuttanad, who tops in their studies despite their financial backwardness. A total of 134 students benefitted by these scholarships.

In a meeting held in the auditorium of Chambakulam Service Co-operative Bank, the president of the Maharashtra unit Dr P J Aprain presided and the national president Gokulam Gopalan distributed the scholarships. AIMA National General Secretary P N Sreekumar, National Chairman Advisor C Chandran, AIMA Maharashtra Unit Secretary Adv Prema Menon, Treasurer G Komalan, National Vice President Upendra Menon, National Secretary T A Khalid, State Vice Presidents Adv Padma Divakaran, Adv GAK Nair, Project Convenor A N Shaji, Joint Secretary P N Muraliedharan, Organising Secretary Kaviyur Babu, AIMA Kerala Unit office bearers A K Prashant, Ravindran Poyilur, President of Chambakulam Panchayat George Mathew Panjimaram et al participated in the event.



AIMA members along with the students



SNMS Sakinaka celebrated Annual Day

■ Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti Sakinaka branch celebrated the consecration day of its Guru Sri Maheswara Temple and the annual day of its unit. The consecration day rituals were held under the supervision of Tantri Vijayakrishnan. A decorated chariot carrying photograph of Sree

Narayana Guru, followed by thalappoli and temple music moved around the town and many people joined the procession. In the meeting presided over by the President of Samiti N Sasidharan, former corporator Somanath Sangle was the chief guest. M I Damodaran, K KSusmeran, Secretary of Central

Committee of women's wing Asha Soman, Shaji Karthikeyan and Sunil Narayanan addressed the gathering. Chess champion Anaida Santhosh and senior members of the Samiti were felicitated and merit awards were distributed.



Somanath Sangle addresses the meeting

Poetry is an unbelievable wonder: Kalpetta Narayanan

■ Poetry is an unbelievable wonder and painting, art and music could be weaved into it to make it still more wonderful, remarked the critic and poet Kalpetta Narayanan. He made this observation in a meeting called for the presentation of V T Gopalakrishnan Memorial award instituted by Mumbai Sahityavedi. No two persons read a poem in identical way. Poetry emerges when the language spreads in all directions. It took 36 years for him to write his first poem, Kalpetta Narayanan remembered. He was talking on a subject 'Ente Kavyasankalpam.'

Zakaria, Methil and VKN have a vast treasure of knowledge and this flows into their works. New stories are ending in themselves and do not transform into a peepal tree. Our modern poets do not have a world of wonderment, he opined.

He presented the VT Gopalakrishnan Memorial award to



N Sreejit receiving the VT Gopalakrishnan Memorial award from Kalpetta Narayanan

poet and media man N Sreejit. VT Trust convenor and critic Prof P A Vasudevan presided over the meeting held in Kerala

Bhavan, Matunga. Sahityavedi convenor C P Krishnakumar and V T Vasudevan also addressed the audience.

Mumbai Malayali Community builds house for flood victim

■ All Thane Malayali Association (ATMA) has responded positively to the request of Collector of Alapuzha to build a house for Sajith of Haripad in a land that has no ownership records. Sajith was staying with his immediate family in 'Madasseri LakshamVeedu Colony' of Cheruthana Panchayat. The floods of last year swept away their house leaving them totally shelterless. Collector S Suhas had appealed to the public to come forward to help building the house and ATMA accepted the request.

Now, the collector personally came and laid the foundation for the house. General Secretary of ATMA Sasikumar Nair was present on the occasion. The new house will have two bedrooms, hall, kitchen and toilets. The construction cost would amount Rs 10 lakhs. Normally a house of this type cost around Rs 5 lakhs but considering the fact that the site is prone to floods, a stronger house should be built. Hence,



Kairali Samajam representative handing over cheque of Fifty Thousand to ATMA General Secretary Sashikumar Nair in the presence of other Samajam representatives.

the increased cost.

Since Sajith did not have ownership of the land, he was not eligible for monetary assistance of the government's scheme. Sajith was a driving instructor. When the floods deprived him of a house, he was running around seeking a shelter for his family. Meanwhile he lost his job. His wife gets some odd job under the employment guarantee scheme but the income thereof could not ensure a home for the family. At this

juncture Collector Suhas requested the public for assistance. According to Collector, there are many Sajiths ineligible for government help and even if one among them could get a home, that would be a turning point.

Collector praised the initiative of ATMA and complimented Mumbai Malayalees for their kind heartedness. Sasikumar Nair is optimistic to complete the construction within three months.



Renaissance is nothing but environment for living with pride: Jayakumar

■ Kerala community is now passing through various crises and obstacles. There is a tendency to create obstacles for a decent environment to lead a life with pride, remarked former Chief Secretary of Kerala, K Jayakumar. He was addressing a gathering at Kalidas Natya Mandir, Mulund. The meeting was organised by Kendriya Nair Sanskarika Sangh (KNSS) and Jayakumar was the Chief Guest.

It is time to wake up and lead the society to overcome these destructive forces. When we are trying to raise values of renaissance, we have to organise the people to rise above these negative tendencies, Jayakumar warned. At this juncture, the principles of Chattampi Swamikal, Mannathu Padmanabhan, Sree Narayana Guru et al become relevant.

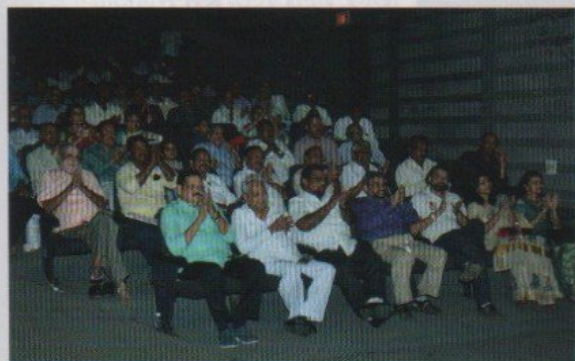
The head priest of Badlapur Ashram Swami Krishnananda Saraswati inaugurated the meet. KNSS President U Ramachandran presided. General



P V Vijaykumar being felicitated by K Jayakumar

Secretary Harikumar Menon, Treasurer C R Unni, Vice President S R Pillai, former Presidents Kumaran Nair, KGK Kurup were present. Premkumar, P V

Vijaykumar, Dr Radhakrishnan Pillai, Sajiv Nair and Damodaran Pillai were felicitated. Members of various units of KNSS presented cultural programmes.



Section of audience



Cultural programme



Mayor of Thane Minakshi Shinde addressing the gathering

Women's Day celebrated

■ The women's wing of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti celebrated the World Women's Day in a grand manner. The venue was Grudevagiri, Nerul. It was inaugurated by Mayor of Thane Minakshi Shinde. The people of Kerala are always in the forefront to show respect to women and the high literacy and values of renaissance could be the reason for this respect, she remarked. It is the women who wield control of the society and every woman should feel conscious of this fact and work accordingly, remarked special guest Vineeta Shekhar, Additional Commissioner of Customs. Member of Loka Kerala Sabha Adv Prema Menon, Samiti Chairman M I Damodaran, N S Salimkumar, Suma Prakash, Asha Soman, Maya Sahajan, Adv Padma Divakaran, Pushpa Marbarose and Preeti Umesh addressed the gathering.



Audience at the Women's Day programme

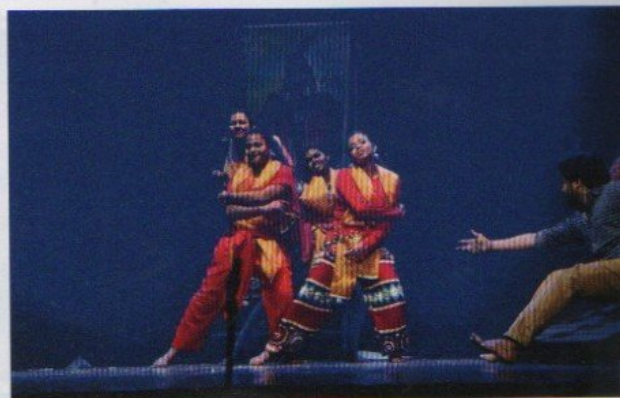
The women's wing of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti Mira Road-Dahisar Unit celebrated Women's Day. Joint Convenor of Women's wing Adv Padma Divakaran, Chairperson of Cultural

wing Maya Sahajan, Mata Amrutanandamayi, M K Soman, P K Jayadharan et al addressed the gathering. Several cultural programmes were also presented.

'Bombay Sketches' scores over others

■ "Bombay Sketches" a play written by Keli Ramachandran and directed by Prashant Narayanan won first place among stage plays presented in Pravasi Amateur Drama Festival organised by Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi. This play represented the Western Zone consisting of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. This honour came to Mumbai when 16 plays were presented from Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad zones. Vishnupriya who portrayed the character of Vaishali of this play was adjudged the best actress.

This drama was presented by New Bombay Keraleeya Samajam of Nerul. It was presented after strenuous



rehearsals lasting one month. There were 17 characters in the play and they were enacted by Nikhil, Vishnupriya, Sharat Sivanandan, Shijin, Yadukrishnan, P R Sanjay, Dhanya Ramesan, Sharat Premarajan, Sunip Kulakkuzhi, Christina Varghese, Vincy Jeemon, Vidya Rakesh, Karan Rakesh, Ramani Amma, Lata Ramesan, Shriraj Rajan Varier, Ramya Ramesan and Kavya Jayaprakash.

It is the first time a play from West Zone secures the first place in an All India level drama contest.

Sree Subhananda Ashram celebrates 22nd anniversary

■ Sree Subhananda Ashram, Powai has organized the 22nd anniversary celebrations to coincide with the *Taposatabdi* (100th year of penance) celebrations of Sree Subhananda Gurudevan, the founder of Atma Bodhodaya Sangham (Organization to Enlighten Wisdom) on March 1, 2 and 3, 2019.

Sree Subhananda Gurudevan founded Subhananda Ashram (Abode of Peace and Ecstasy) in Mavelikkara, Kerala with its own rituals, rules and regulations. He also condemned religious dogmas and superstitions prevalent in the society during his time. The disciples and devotees carry out social service activities for the under-privileged children, aged and the handicapped. Ashrams in Mumbai are also rendering yeomen service to the needy people.

The 3-day celebrations commenced on March 1, with a group prayer. On the second day, the *Thaposhatabdi* Conference was presided over by Swami Vijnananandan and inaugurated by

Swami Geethanandan, Secretary, Sree Subhananda Ashram Trust, Cherukol, Kerala. On the 3rd day, a procession carrying the picture of Sree Subhananda Gurudevan in a decorated vehicle was organized starting from Sakinaka Ashram via Jain Mandir, Sakinaka culminating at the Powai Ashram. It was followed by a Group Feast.

The Cultural Conference was inaugurated by Swami Geethanandan, and presided over by Swami Vijnananandan and attended by Swami Salgunaseelan and Swami Satya Devanandan, Thulasidharan and P.R. Raju.

The Guests of Honour were Harish Singh Bhachoo, V.N. Gopalakrishnan, Freelance Journalist and Social Activist, Adv. Padma Divakar; Gopal Sawant, Social Worker and Swamini Atmaswaroopanandamayi of Jnallur Madom, Konni, Kerala. Earlier Vishwaraj Nair welcomed the guests. Lokanathan proposed a vote of thanks.



Flag hoisting by Chief guest Upendra Menon at Holy Trinity School on Republic day 2019.

MCS Pre-Primary School Annual Day

■ MCS Pre-Primary School run by Malayali Cultural Society of Chikli celebrated their first annual day in Rotary Club auditorium of Chinchwad Thera Chowk.

P C Nambiar of Poonawala Group inaugurated the event. Sarada Tendulkar, advisor to MCS School delivered the keynote address. Dance Academy Guru Suja Dinkar, Athira Ajitkumar, Kritika Manohar, Education Committee member Bindu Jayachandran et al were felicitated during the event. Teacher Vineeta Biju, School Chairman and MCS President A B Ajaykumar, Vice President P Krishnan Nambiar, General Secretary T V Maheshkumar, Joint Secretary K P Ravindran, Treasurer C P Chandukutty, Joint Treasurer K K Ajitkumar, former presidents Rajan R Nair, Umasankar Nair, Education Committee Ashok G Nair et al participated. Students of MCS School and dance academy presented cultural items.



Sree Subhananda Ashram celebrations



State Govt appoints Prashantkumar Maniyeri SEO



■ Government of Maharashtra has appointed Prashantkumar Maniyeri Special Executive Officer. Prashant is Assistant Treasurer of Vasai Sri Ayyappa Seva Samiti. The government

bestowed this position in recognition of his services to the community. Prashantkumar hails from Cheruvathur in Kasaragod district in Kerala.



Dr.Oommen David inaugurating the Annual Day Programme of Marthoma Vidyapeeth School at Goveli, Titwala. Beside him are KDMC Dy. Mayor Upeksha Bhoir, Manager Rev Binoy Thomas, Head Mistress Syamala Rao, Secretary Daniel Thomas etc.

Malayalotsavam concluded



President of MBPS Reena Santhosh addressing gathering



1st prize winner - Oppana Team

■ Malayalotsavam organised by Malayalam Bhasha Pracharana Sangham has successfully concluded at Adarsha Vidyalaya, Chembur. Earlier various contests were held at zonal level and the finals among the zonal winners were held earlier this year. Now the event is over with the distribution of awards on March 3. Dr P K Shahjahan of Tata Institute of Social Sciences was the Chief Guest.

Dr Shahjahan in his address pointed out that children of the day should take keen interest in the ancient art forms of Kerala while securing high marks in examinations. Parents should provide necessary encouragement to their children in this aspect. Dr Shahjahan complimented MBPS for taking keen interest in promoting such art forms. Members of MBPS and Malayalam Mission cooperated with each other to promote Kerala art forms, said Ramachandran Mancharambath, secretary of Mumbai Chapter in his address.

President of MBPS Reena Santhosh presided. General Secretary Jeevarajan welcomed the audience. The final winners presented several cultural items now considered defunct in Kerala itself. Margamkali, oppana, folk dance, folk song, film and drama song, visual presentation of 'Enikku Maranamilla,' a poem written by late poet Vayalar Rama Varma etc were among them.

Dr Shahjahan and other dignitaries handed over the awards to the winners of various contests. Treasurer of MBPS

Hemendra Mehta exhorts party workers

■ Every worker of Bharatiya Janata Party should go to every single house to bring back the rule of Modi, said BJP Leader Hemendra Mehta. He was addressing the audience at the inaugural event of Vasai Mandal Workers Convention. Uttamkumar who presided over the meeting, exhorted the workers to be vigilant against all misleading statements of the Mafia of Hitendra Thakur of BVA that brought all development activities of Vasai Virar area. Duttaner, Shekhar Dhuri, Amrapali Salve, Sreekumari Mohan, Vinodkumar, George Ookkan, Ritesh Sathyanath et al were present at the meeting. Several people joined BJP as members during the meeting.



Hemendra Mehta lighting the lamp

‘At Home’ of Maharashtra Malayali Association

■ Khandeshwar branch of Maharashtra Malayali Association recently held a ‘At Home’ at CKT College of Khanda Colony of Sector 11. Mayor of Panvel Municipal Corporation Kavita Kishore, corporators Eknath Gaikwad, Sanjay Bobby, Sitatai Patil, Kusum Patil, former corporator Ganesh Patil et al were special guests.

They paid tributes to the martyrs of recent terrorist attack and observed a one-minute silent prayer. Samajam President V K Sankar stated that the At Home joined the families of the bereaved in their loss. Secretary R Sasikumar welcomed the audience and K Prabhakaran proposed a vote of thanks.

Winners of art and sports competitions were presented their awards. Students were given scholarships. Meritorious students of recent SSC and HSC examinations were felicitated. Senior members were also felicitated. There was a cultural extravaganza later.



Pravin V. Pillai S/o Venugopal Pillai & Usha V. Pillai from Vasai Road, completed MBA (IIM-Lucknow) 2019 with Second Rank. He was awarded the Director's Medal by TATA GROUP Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran. The function was held at Lucknow on 16th March 2019.

M R Kumar and Sushilkumar assumed office

■ M R Kumar and Sushilkumar assumed office of Chairman and Managing Director respectively of Life Insurance Corporation of India, the largest Insurance company functioning in India in public sector.

Sushilkumar was heading the Southern and Central Zones of LIC. Earlier he worked in customer relations

management and bank insurance. He hails from Tharavanat family of Vadakkumthara, Palakkad. His parents were Chandrasekharan Kutty and Janaki Amma. He is married to Maya. Gautam and Gayathri are his children. M R Kumar was heading the northern sector of LIC till now.

They will hold office for five years.

State Government Children's Competition

■ Under the banner of Bhagavat Prachar Samithi Mulund a children's competition was organised at Parameswari center near MTNL Mulund. About 100 children from various schools in Mulund Vikroli and Airoli along with their parents participated. Competitions like Semi classical and cinematic dances and songs in both solo and group categories, fancy dress, Mantra chanting, extempore drawing, painting were the highlights of the day.



Participants with the organisers



Warning in Cinema insulting: Adoor Gopalakrishnan

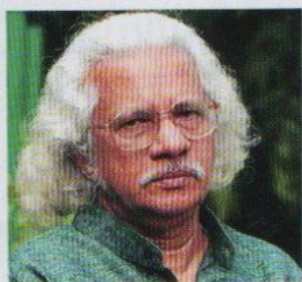
■ When scenes involving smoking and drinking are shown as part of the script, insistence on display of warning by the CBFC is insulting, says celebrated director Adoor Gopalakrishnan. Is Cinema intended to educate viewers, he asks. Using cinema screen to exhibit posters is an insult. Adoor raised these issues while addressing audience attending the recent film festival in Mumbai.

Adoor does not support the censorship of movies. It is

against freedom of art. There are numerous short films being exhibited through electronic medium. They are

not censored. When vested interests demonstrate in front of theatres and prevent exhibitions of even censored films, what is the meaning of censorship? Who is real censor, the CBFC or the vested public, he asked. There is no logic in

continuing with censorship at the times of electronic media, he asserted.



Women's Day Celebration

■ Kharghar Kerala Samajam celebrated Women's Day and Mathrubhasha Dinam. G Viswanathan was the Chief Guest on Mathrubhasha Dinam and Principal of M A Sheth School Sherley Paul on Women's Day. Mrs Paul warned the mothers to be vigilant against the exploitation faced by their daughters. There were cultural programmes presented by the students of Malayalam Class of Samajam. President Dr Vivekanandan, Women's Wing Convenor Lata Varier, Secretary Ramakrishnan and Sajesh Nambiar addressed the gathering.

BKS condole deaths of Devika and martyrs

■ Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, Matunga held a condolence meeting in honour of the late playback singer Devika Azhakesan and the



martyrs killed in the bombing in Pulwama by Pakistani terrorists. Samaj President Dr Sureshkumar Madhusoodan presided. M Jayaraman, Premarajan Nambiar, K Padmasundaran, Suresh Babu, Geeta Haridas, Harikumar Kurup, Vinodkumar Nair, Sunilkumar, C P Krishnakumar, Suresh Nair, Madhu Nambiar, Rajkumar et al spoke on the occasion. Krishnakumar, Suresh Nair and Madhu Nambiar recited poems written on them.



Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde Chief Guest - Lighting the Lamp on the 29th Annual Day Programme along with Smt. Vinita V Rane Mayor, Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation, Dr Oommen David - Director, Mrs Leela Oommen - Managing Trustee, Bijoy Oommen - Principal, Mrs Rafat Shaikh - Head Mistress, of Holy Angels' School & Jr. College, Dombivli.

Talegaon Malayali Association comes to being

■ Malayalees of Talegaon, Kamshed, Vadgaon, Somatane and Girgaon came together and formed an organisation and christened Talegaon Malayali Association. Jose KJ was chosen as its President, PNK Nair Vice President, Thulasidaran Nair Secretary, K M Nair Joint Secretary and Shyam Menon its Treasurer.

Ravindran P, Devaraj Namboothiri, Sasi Nambiar, Arun Nambiar, Valsan Nambiar, Thonias Vadakkan, Premji, Ravindran Nair, Gangadharan Nair, Shivakumar Nair, NGK Asan, Girish Asan, Sunilkumar, Ravindran Unni, Bilal, Ashwant Nair, Jayaraj Pillai, Sasi Panicker, Aravindakshan Nair and MS Thulaseedharan were elected Committee Members.

The objective of this association is to bring all Malayalees residing in these areas together and work for their welfare, said the organisers.

Tributes to the Jawans



■ The Borivli Malayali Samajam's VK Krishna Menon Academy and Jr College paid Tributes to the CRPF Jawans and the Army Major who laid down their lives for our great nation. Colonel Chandrashekhar Unni who was a part of many combat operations in Kashmir was the Chief Guest and Members Captain Kutty who served the

Indian Navy for 37 years and Rajgopal Menon Ex Indian Navy JCO too graced the occasion along with BMS School students teachers and members. On this occasion 42 Trees were planted in the name of the Martyrs by the Dignitaries, BMS members and President Shiraj Nair and Secretary Baburaj Joseph along with others.



Akshara Slokam competition held in Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, Matunga

Sukumari Was an Epitome of Humanism, says K R Vijaya.

■ Former actress K R Vijaya stated that the late actress Sukumari was an epitome of humanism. She said this after receiving the Sukumari memorial Award instituted by Tru Indian Information & Guidance society. The venue was Sarvesh Hall, Dombivili East.

Former Indian Football Player P V Santhosh was the Chief Guest Dr. Oommen David, C P Sajeevan, Adv

Padma Divakaran, T R Chandran, Dinesh Kariyattil, C P krishnakumar, Chithira Vijayan Nair, S Sundaresan, Adv. A Sukumaran, Ambika Varasyar et al. participated. C G Warriar made the introductory talk.

Besides K R Vijaya, Archana Babu Marar also received Sukumari memorial Award. Social activist of Rajasthan Tejarane, Paul Parapilly, Prince Vaidyan, Murali Mattummal, Ramesh

Perambra, Bindu Prasad Unnithan and Nikita Sunil also received awards. Lata Mohan, Amruta Girish Nair, Anjana Rudran Warriar, Jincy Joy and Bhagyalakshmi Bhagyaraj received Socha Chilanka Award. Award to Devika Azhakesan was received by her parents.

Award function was followed by a musical programme and dance events.



During the Award function



Adoor Gopalakrishnan presenting the Gateway LitFest writer of the year award to Manoranjan Byapari, a rickshaw-puller turned Bengali novelist, at the NCPA Mumbai. From Left: Laxman Gaikwad (Marathi), Pratibha Ray (Odia), Subodh Sarkar (Bengali), Sitanshu Yashaschandra (Gujarati) and Mangalesh Dabral (Hindi). The award consists of a memento and a cash award of Rs.50,001/- The Gateway LitFest is a national language literary festival organised every year by Kaakka, a Malayalam quarterly magazine, and Passion4Communication.

World Women's Day

■ Ulhas Arts & Welfare Association celebrated Women's Day in a grand manner with variety entertainment. The venue was Kairali Hall. Association President Sureshkumar Kottarakkara presided over the function. Member of Loka Kerala Sabha and Resource Person of Kutumbasree Bindu Jayan was the Chief Guest.

Mohan Nair, Prabhakaran Nair, Rajani, Salini, Saraswati Teacher, Adv. GAK Nair and Sethu Nair addressed the gathering. Senior women were felicitated.

World Women's day is an important milestone on the road to Women empowerment. Women have moved forward in the fields of health, education, economics, politics, employment and family affairs. Besides



claims of unity and mutual cooperation, we should be able to convey to the

world what each one of us achieved for women, said Bindu Jayan.





Devika Azhakesan

Young Talent Snatched By Cruel Death

Devika Azhakesan's story is a tragic one of fate snatching a young musically talented bud before it bloomed into a flower.

Highly promising and nineteen-year-old Devika Azhakesan left this world on February 9, 2019.

She was a constant presence in the annual Light music competitions conducted by Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts since the age of eight. She received the Raagalaya Music Competition Award at the hands of Dr K J Yesudas and S P Balasubrahmanyam. This young girl had sung on the Mumbai stage with senior Mumbai singers like P V Vijaykumar, Madhu Nambiar, Baburaj and others while doing music shows and orchestra. In 2008 she was selected for Kairali channel's reality show Gandharva Sangeetham Junior where she received positive comments and appreciation from Music Directors, the late Johnson Master, singer and Music Director Srinivas, Mrs Manjari and others.

She had also learnt to play guitar under Rejikumar and cleared exams of

the rock School of London.

What made her different was that she used to write lyrics and composed them to render them on stage. She had sung in Japanese language too. She was also a guitarist. She became an awardee in a music event for Asian music talents held by Gatsby in Tokyo of Japan, when she represented India.

Devika had several albums in Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi, Marathi and

ചിത്ര



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ദേവികയെ ഓർത്ത്

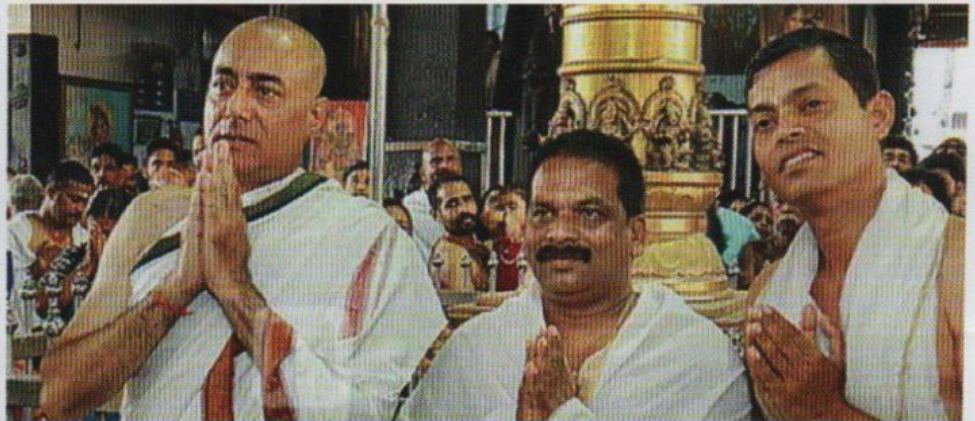
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Sanskrit. She was a student of Electronics Engineering.

Devika is the daughter of Thannipadam Thattakath Azhakesan, a Mumbai Port Trust employee and Bindu. For some time, she had some cardiac problems and was under treatment. The death came when she was in hospital undergoing treatment. Her body was taken to Kerala next day and cremated in North Paravur.

Sri Krishna of Mahabharat at Guruvayur

Sri Krishna of popular TV Serial of Doordarshan Mahabharat, Nitish Bhardwaj paid a visit to the Sri Krishna Temple of Guruvayur on February 9. He came after the 'Panteerati pooja' and submitted his offerings to the idol at *sopanam*. Nitish considers Kannan as his close friend and guide. This former BJP MP was received by Devaswom administrator S V Shishir and deputy administrator P Sankunniraj. He was accompanied by state general secretary of Mahila Morcha C Nivedita and



Ernakulam constituency president of BJP C G Rajagopal. Later he went to

the Shiva Temple of Perunthatta to witness Atirudra Mahayajna.

Bus Terminal Complex at Guruvayur

A modern bus terminal complex is coming up in Guruvayur Temple town. It is being built at a cost of Rs 15 crores by Guruvayur Municipality. The old bus stand is now give way to the new complex. It will have a three storey building admeasuring 52,000 sq ft. It will provide separate fully air conditioned waiting rooms for men and women, with food court, toilets etc. There will be escalators to all floors.

The complex can park 36 buses at a time. The shops on the northern end will be demolished and in their place a new shopping complex of 37000 sq feet will come up soon, at a cost of Rs 4 Crores. It will entirely be built with steel and can accommodate 84 shops. A new Kalyanamandapam will also be built and could be available at low rents. The entire complex is designed by the Department of Architects of Thrissur Govt Engineering College. The temple town will have a new face when this new complex emerges. The work will commence in three months.

Rs 500 for Guruvayur Wedding Photo

GuruvayurDevaswom Board has come out with a new order for taking photographs of weddings ceremonies, climbing up the Kalyana Mandapam. Now to get a token for wedding, the rate is Rs 500. With this new order, every wedding would fetch Rs 1000 to the Devaswom. Token for taking photographs on the Mandapam, token should be taken along with the token for wedding. Against Rs 500, one could get four tokens and they should be handed over to the official when the photographers climb the mandapam. The order would be enforced from April 1 onwards. However, for photos taken outside the Mandapam, this order is not applicable. There were complaints about photographers including mobile users throbbing

around the Mandapam for photographs.

However, the Devaswom Board withdrew their previous order of



banning photography of 'cheroonu' and 'thulabharam' inside the temple. The Board will appoint 11 photographers on contract basis for this purpose. This decision is in response to the demand of devotees. Out of 11, seven photographers will be engaged in photography while remaining people will operate computers.

Litterateur Ashita is no more

Noted novelist, short story writer, poetess and translator Ashita (63) died of cancer on March 26 after midnight. Her body was cremated in Paramekkavu Shantighat next day. Her son in law Srijith, daughter Uma's husband, performed the last rites. Burial was done with state honours.

Her father Balachandran Nair was employed in Naval office in Mumbai and the family was living in CGS Quarters, Antop Hill, Matunga. When he was transferred to Cochin, the family moved to Ernakulam. Ashita had her school and college education there. She was a student of Mharaja's College. After marriage, she and her husband Dr K V Ramankutty moved to East Fort, Thrissur.

Some of her published works are *Vismayachihngal*, *Apoornaviramangal*, *Ashitayute Kathakal*, *Mazhameghangal*, *Thathagatha*, *Nilavinte Nattiland Bhoomi paranja kathakali*. She



was given Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, Etasseri Puraskaram, Ankanam Award, Thoppil Ravi Foundation Award, Padmarajan Puraskaram, Lalithambika

Antharjanam Smaraka Sahithya Award etc.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, and writers of Kerala and Maharashtra condoled her death.

Sri Chithra ready to take on Cancer

Sri Chithra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram is the verge of launching a new drug against Cancer. A drug invented by its scientists have successfully been found effective when injected into mice. This new drug has already been handed over for clinical testing.

This drug has been developed by using molecules of a plant commonly found in Kerala. It has been given to a private drug manufacturing company for trials, considering the enormous cost factor of such trials. Once it is found beneficial for human treatment, it could be produced commercially. The technical details of this drug have not been disclosed at this juncture.

A group of researchers working under Dr Lisy Krishnan is responsible for its invention. A single dose of this drug when used in mice was found



effective. Now it is to be used in bigger animals with variable doses before testing for human beings.

This drug is found effective in treating the lung cancer and the swelling in the abdomen of mice. It is to be now tested against various types of cancer. Though similar drugs were invented in various countries, they are not usable in human beings since they do not mix with water. Doctors in Sri Chithra used albumins (a kind of protein) mixed with water on cancer affected parts of the body of mice and found them advantageous. Dr Ranjith P Nair, Mejo C Kora, Dr Mohanan, Dr Arya Anil and Dr Harikrishnan are working with Dr Lisy Krishnan in this project.

A rain and aftermath

Ramachandran

Gopinath Menon and his Maharashtrian wife Maneka were having their evening tea with Menon's cousin Radha and her husband Gangadharan, son Jayaprakash and daughter Chandrika. Despite having several people, silence prevailed there.

Menon and Maneka reached Ramanattukara only previous morning from Mumbai to attend the eighty fourth birthday of Radha's mother. When all the invited guests departed after the feast, aunt retired for her usual afternoon nap and Menon and Maneka left for Kozhikode city to meet their friends who had arranged a small party in their hour in Hotel Alakapuri. When the party was in full swing, Menon received a phone call from Gangadharan asking him to come to MIMS Hospital immediately as aunt was admitted there in an unconscious condition. Alas, by the time they reached the hospital, the news of her death greeted them. After an hour or so, the body was released and Menon and wife accompanied the body and relatives to their home at Ramanattukara.

Cremation took place this morning in the compound itself. Everybody was so tired after a sleepless night and hectic activities in connection with the cremation. They had their bath and had a namesake lunch. The atmosphere was pregnant with silence. Every one sat wherever seats were available until they were called for evening tea.

Menon was very attached to his aunt, that is Radha's mother. His aunt pampered him during his childhood by giving him pocket money during his high school days and intermediate classes at Samoothiri College. Since Menon had no parents living to look after him, it was Radha's father who took care of him. By the time Menon passed Intermediate, Radha's elder brother

Mohanam passed SSLC and was ready to join Menon in college. But fate had other plans. Menon's uncle called him and informed him about his inability to fund his further studies as his income was insufficient to support the college education of two boys. From Ramanattukara the students have to take two buses to reach Samoothiri College. Tuition fee, purchase of text books and note books and many other sundry expenses amounted a good sum. Uncle advised Menon to leave for Bombay and try to get some job there so that he could continue his education there in evening classes and thus could become a graduate. Until Menon find a suitable job, uncle would arrange his boarding and lodging with one of his friends staying in Matunga. So, Menon was off to Bombay when he was only 19.

Menon had no ill feeling towards his uncle for this action. Radha was to follow Mohanam to college soon and uncle's plight was understandable. After working for a few days in sundry jobs, Menon found a job in The Free Press Journal office. He joined Jaihind College for evening classes.

Menon broke the silence after some time. "Radha, Maneka and me are thinking of going this night to Guruvayur by bus. After supper we are planning to leave for city as some of our things lying with our friends. We could not bring them with us yesterday."

"Your ticket is for tomorrow from Cochin. Neither you nor Maneka Chechi did indicate about this plan," Radha responded.

"Right you are. We never thought things would turn this way. We came to celebrate Ammayi's *shatabhishekam* but we attended her funeral too. Maneka thought that we should visit Guruvayur Temple also in this trip as we are unlikely to come soon to Kerala," Menon explained.

"How can you go to temple today when we had a death in our family?" asked Gangadharan.

"I wouldn't be entering the temple, Ganga. You know I am not fond of

going to temple even under normal circumstances. Maneka wants to as she has no restriction, you know."

Maneka did not say a word. She simply looked at faces around her. Menon continued, "Even I too can enter the temple as I do not have 'pula' when Ammayi dies, according to our tradition. I would have had it if it was uncle's."

For some time, none opened the mouth, then Jayaprakash said, "I would have driven you to Guruvayur but now I have to be here throughout the day since I am doing all the rituals."

"It's okay. We will go by bus. I know there are always buses plying from Kozhikode to Guruvayur during night. I know they reach Guruvayur by four in the morning," Menon consoled him.

"Anyway, I will take you to Kozhikode so that you can get the bus comfortably after collecting your things from your friend," Gangadharan volunteered and Menon agreed.

It was known to everyone that Gopinath Menon had not much faith in gods and goddesses. People around had a feeling that the followers of Communism are atheists. Though Menon was not an active Communist, his inclination was well known.

After an early supper, Menon and wife were taken to the city. Since Menon had telephoned earlier, his friend who was entrusted with their things left at the Hotel previous night, brought them to the pre-decided spot. Since Menon was confident that they could get comfortable seats if they wait at Kallayi bus stop, Gangadharan left them there and drove off to home.

There was no sitting arrangement in the bus stop and both Menon and wife had to stand there looking for the bus to come. Menon was lost in thought about the events that unfurled during the last two days. After uncle's death, aunt became closer to Menon and wanted him to return to Kerala. He expressed his inability to heed to her request as he was entrenched with a good position of Assistant Editor with Times of India after getting his degree in English Literature. Times had a good library in

which Menon revelled. He did not enjoy his days in Free Press Journal in its congested atmosphere. Only consolation was the presence of the editor A B Nair and colleagues TJS George and cartoonist Bal Thackarey. When he came to know about a vacancy in TOI from a friend working there, he jumped at the opportunity. The salary was better and conditions of work were also good. Being an Assistant Editor in a top newspaper establishment, he enjoyed the company of many Malayali friends working for various associations in Bombay and was almost a permanent fixture in all Kerala programmes.

When he informed his desire to get married to Maneka, a Maharashtrian woman working for an NGO, the response of his aunt was initially not very warm to the idea. "If you think you should get married, you should have told me. I could have found a well-educated and beautiful bride from Kozhikode itself," she wrote to him. Since telephone facility was not available those days with people in Mumbai and Kozhikode, letter writing was the only means to communicate. However, aunt relented and asked him to bring his bride to her so that everyone could meet her. Her surprise was beyond description when Maneka talked with all of them in chaste Kozhikodan accent. "Good girls should be like Maneka. They should learn their husband's mother tongue so that they would be accepted as their own." Maneka also easily mingled with them. She sang some old Malayalam film songs, learnt from All India Radio. She could participate in many Malayalam programmes because of the involvement of Menon in them. Occasionally both of them paid visits to Kerala as Menon was invited to programmes held in Kerala. His occasional visits to Mathrubhumi during such visits, enabled him to get an assignment. He wrote a column titled 'Maharashtra Kathu' for the Malayalam paper on Thursdays.

Suddenly it started drizzling. They did not have an umbrella to protect themselves from rain. There was no sign of any bus going towards Guruvayur. Time was running out and there was hardly anyone on the road. Menon covered his head with a handkerchief while Maneka used the 'pallu' to escape from rain but in vain.

It was past ten'o clock. Both of them were lost in thought. What to do now?

If there was no bus soon, their condition would be miserable. Their return flight from Cochin to Bombay was tomorrow afternoon. It would have been better if they started tomorrow morning to Ernakulam by train. It was Maneka's insistence that made them change the plan. She wanted to have a darshan of Guruvayurappan whenever they came to Cochin. In this trip, they took the flight to Mangalore and then a train to Kozhikode. Since Maneka wanted to visit Guruvayur, they bought ticket from Cochin. Menon had a few friends there too. After having lunch with them, they would drive with the friends to airport, lent by Naval Yard to Indian Airlines.

There was absolutely nobody on the road. Menon knew that in Kerala, there would not be anybody outside their homes after ten'o clock. Now what to do? Menon sent a glance to his wife. She was looking in the opposite direction so he could not see her expressions. She must be resenting her decision now, he wondered.

A car just passed but stopped after a few yards. It got reversed and came near. The driver lowered the front glass window and put his head out. He looked a bit decent. Definitely not a cab driver, Menon thought.

"Where do you want to go?" The stranger asked. Why he wanted to know, Menon asked himself.

"We are waiting for a bus to go to Guruvayur." Menon replied.

"Then get in. I am also going there." The driver opened the rear door for Maneka. She looked at Menon and he gestured to her to get in. She entered. Menon took the front seat near the driver as etiquette demanded.

Menon introduced himself and his wife to the stranger. The latter surprised him when he said he knew his identity as he had seen his photograph in Mathrubhumi but wondered how they happened to be there.

"Why are you going to Guruvayur at this time?" Menon asked the stranger.

Driver introduced himself. His name was Unnikrishnan Nair and his father's hundredth birthday was falling next day. He went to the Guruvayur Temple on every birthday of his father.

"Is your father staying in Guruvayur?" Menon asked.

"No, no. he died nine years ago. I used to visit him on all his birthdays when he was alive. Tomorrow's birthday is special. He must be waiting for me at the temple so I decided to go there and

pray for him." Unnikrishnan Nair explained.

"We are lucky to meet you. How come you stopped for us?" Menon was curious to know.

"I had a passing glance at you. Then I thought I had seen you before. I am glad to help people if I can. So, I stopped." Nair explained.

"I normally leave home around midnight when I go to Guruvayur so that I can reach by four in the morning. Since the rain started, I advanced my journey one hour early anticipating some hurdles on the way. When it rains, we can't go in full speed."

Menon concurred with him. They went on talking as if they knew each other for a long time. Maneka was fast asleep on the rear seat.

After 4.30 am, car reached Guruvayur town.

"Are you coming with me? I have a room reserved in Kousthubham." Nair asked.

"No, thank you. We will get down near temple. We shall have a bath in Temple pond. Then we shall have darshan. After breakfast, we shall proceed to Cochin." Menon expressed his gratitude to Nair for his generosity.

Menon and Maneka took out their luggage and moved towards Temple Pond. Unnikrishnan Nair drove off towards Kousthubham.

At dawn there was only a few pilgrims near pond and Maneka went in for her bath while Menon stood guard to their luggage. When she came out Menon moved towards pond. By the time they finished their daily routine, a sizeable crowd was waiting for entry into the temple. Menon wondered how they would go in with their luggage. He decided to stand guard to the luggage while Maneka would go in for her darshan.

When Menon was discussing his decision with Maneka, three people walked towards them. Menon wondered who they were.

"What a surprise! Gopiyettan, when did you come?" One of them, a middle-aged man with a pleasant face, asked.

"I could not place you. We reached about an hour ago." Menon responded.

"I'm Chandrasekharan. Now I'm the Chairman of the Board." The middle-aged man introduced himself with a smile. "But I could recognise you at first sight."

Menon sought pardon for his short coming. "Maneka wanted a darshan of

Guruvayurappan but it appears that she would take some time more to have darshan."

Chandrasekharan asked one of his men to take Menon's luggage to his office and asked the other to take both of them inside the temple. "Gopiyettan, after darshan, you come to my office to pick up the luggage." He pointed out to his office.

Menon had no words to thank him. He and Maneka followed the person who led them to the interiors of the temple.

'What is happening to us today', Menon was wondering. When there was no bus, they got a comfortable long journey in the middle of night. Now an easy darshan of Guruvayurappan. Will there be more in store?

Maneka never had such a comfortable darshan. She made several offerings so that she could take the prasada to Bombay for her daughter by evening.

Menon and wife reached Chairman's office by 7.30 am. Chandrasekharan was waiting there for them. As soon as they were made to sit, Chandrasekharan opened the plates on the tables. Steaming Idlies were waiting for them. Chairman also joined them at breakfast.

When they were finished, Chandrasekharan asked Menon, "What is your programme today?"

We have to reach Ernakulam by noon. Our flight is at 3.15 pm from Cochin Airport." Menon was gladly short in explaining.

"Okay, okay. Kumaran!" Chandrasekharan called out. A man who looked like a driver appeared in front of door.

"Kumaran, this is Gopiyettan from Bombay and his wife Maneka Chechi. Before noon, they have to reach Ernakulam. So, you take them there soon. Take their luggage to my car." Chairman ordered. "And Gopiyettan, next time when you come, please let me know before hand. I will take care of you. You don't have to undergo all these hurdles. Now I have to go. I have a meeting scheduled."

Menon shook Chairman's hands and thanked him profusely. Maneka also joined him.

When Menon and Maneka was moving towards Ernakulam, Maneka smilingly told him, "Today I indeed not only saw him but also experienced him."

"I too." Menon laughed heartily. ■

A poetic commentary



Rosslin Kuurién

language which may contain similes, metaphors, rhymes, verse, meter etc.

Poetry has always been a medium to bring out expression - the thoughts of the inner soul released into the world

It is no more just a part of school and college curriculum in English, as an art form of expression it is versatile and gaining momentum by the day.

It is a powerful way of mastering language and helps improve command of spoken and written language.

It stocks the mind with powerful images and ideas which in turn help the person to express poetically.

People who speak well are successful and they are able to make use of both emotional and intellectual power of language that is to say, both mind and matter.

The recitation of poetry is appreciated and develops the tone of voice. Even rhythm carries meaning. It enlarges our experience to develop our understanding of important life events... love, desire, birth, death, loneliness and loss. It helps us realize that language is holistic, that literal meaning is one part of the total meaning. Language, communication, compassion are the practical gifts that a master in poetry can develop.

The education deputy director for schools in the state of Maharashtra, B.B. Chavan, wishes to introduce more poetry in schools in three languages - Hindi, English and Marathi. He said, "It is but natural that children can learn by heart and recite better when it is in the form of rhymes;" he had then released an album of Marathi poetry. The music and track were composed by various popular Bollywood musicians from Mumbai.

■ I would like to emphasize on the spoken word with regards to poetry.

'We all like to be heard, it is only that poets do it in an imaginative

Sunset at sea

*The majestic sun alights at sea
Globe-trotting back and forth
Slowly meandering through the sky
This solitary sojourning stroll of sun
Up and down across we see
The sparkling courteous wonder, the sun
Seeing colors in canvas sky
Its expressive eyes wander
Birds rush to roost
In a curled row fly
Flapping wings swirl in sky
See the crowd hurry
Ferry across inviting waves
To hearth and home to rest awhile
Bit by bit the sun drops
Until with ruby head it pops
No more it is burning hot
No more it is spewing heat
Sips and slips to surrender
To the force of nature under*

*Come shades of grey at end of day
The kohl eyed night sweeps,
Trees, temple, domes, darken
Teasing fishermen scurrying hauls
With naughty pranks the sea rolls
The noisy rumble invites rivers wide
The sea waits with open arms.*

The Rivers and the Sea

(Rhyming pattern aabba, is a 5 lined limerick poem. An Aesop's fable)

*Rivers together brought
a petition to the sea
"How sweet our waters see!
Why does it turn briny
When we touch your water, salty?
"If briny you don't wish to be,
then stop flowing to me," said sea.*



ഞാൻ കണ്ട ബോംബെ



അഡ്വ. എൻ തമ്പാൻ

■ ജലതരംഗങ്ങളാൽ വലയം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ട മനോഹരമായ ഒരു കൊച്ചു ദ്വീപാണ് ബോംബെ നഗര സുന്ദരി. ഭാരതസംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളുടെ തലസ്ഥാനമാണ് ഡൽഹിയെങ്കിൽ ബോംബെ സാമ്പത്തിക നഗരങ്ങളുടെ തലസ്ഥാനമാണ്. ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ മാതൃമല്ല ലോകത്തിന്റെ തന്നെ നാനാഭാഗത്തു നിന്നും സ്ത്രീപുരുഷ ഭേദമന്യേ നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകളായി ജനസമൂഹത്തെ ആകർഷിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വസ്തുത പ്രസിദ്ധമാണ്. ആശ്രയിച്ചു വരുന്ന വർക്കെല്ലാം ആശ്വാസം നൽകുന്നു. അനുനിമിഷം നഗരമദ്ധ്യത്തിലൂടെ അതിവേഗത്തിൽ കൂതിച്ചുപായുന്ന വൈദ്യുത വണ്ടികൾ യാത്രക്കാരുടെ സേവനാർത്ഥം രാപ്പകൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ച ജനകോടികൾക്ക് ആവേശവും ആശ്വാസവും നൽകുന്നില്ലേ?

മഹാരാഷ്ട്രയുടെ തലസ്ഥാനമായ ബോംബെ നഗരത്തിലെത്തുമ്പോൾ കാണുന്ന കാഴ്ച പ്രധാനമായും വി ടി സ്റ്റേഷൻ, മുംബൈ മ്യൂനിസിപ്പൽ കോർപ്പറേഷൻ, ജനറൽ പോസ്റ്റ് ഓഫീസ്, ടൈംസ് ഓഫ് ഇന്ത്യ തുടങ്ങിയ സൗധങ്ങൾ ആകാശം മുട്ടി നിൽക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ചകൾ വിസ്മയകരം തന്നെ.

ബോംബെ ഹൈക്കോർട്ട്, യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ഓഫ് ബോംബെ, ഗേറ്റ്വേ ഓഫ് ഇന്ത്യ തുടങ്ങിയ വൻകെട്ടിടങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ കുമ്മേൽ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് സാമ്രാജ്യതന്ത്രിന്റെ സാധനം അളവറുതാണ്. ഈ അത്ഭുത നിർമ്മാണങ്ങൾ കാണുമ്പോൾ ഭാരതീയരിൽ ചിലരെങ്കിലും ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാരുടെ കഴിവിനെ പ്രശംസി

ക്കുന്നുണ്ടാവാം.

ഭാരതത്തിന് ആവശ്യമായ തുണിത്തരങ്ങൾ മാഞ്ചസ്റ്ററിൽ നിന്നും ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തിരുന്നതിനു പകരം ബോംബെ നഗരത്തിൽ ആവശ്യമായ നെയ്ത്തു ശാലകൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ച് ആളുകൾക്ക് ജോലി നൽകിയതും മില്ലുകൾക്കുചുറ്റും താമസസ്ഥലങ്ങളും ചുരുങ്ങിയ ചിലവിൽ ജീവിത സൗകര്യങ്ങളൊരുക്കിയതും ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകാരിൽനിന്നും ഭാരതത്തിനു ലഭിച്ച എണ്ണപ്പെട്ട നേട്ടങ്ങളിൽ ചിലതാണ്.

ബ്രിട്ടീഷുഭരണത്തിന്റെ പരിശ്രമഫലമായി ഭാരതീയർക്കു

യരിക്കുവാനുള്ള വസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ മാതൃമല്ല, വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്ക് കയറുമതി ചെയ്യാനുള്ള പലതരം തുണിത്തരങ്ങൾ നെയ്തെടുക്കാനുള്ള അറുപത്തഞ്ചോളം മില്ലുകളും ബോംബെ നഗരത്തിൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. ധനരാത്ര ഭേദമന്യേ ഈ മില്ലുകളിൽ അഞ്ചു ലക്ഷത്തോളം തൊഴിലാളികൾ ഒന്നിലധികം ഷിഫ്റ്റിലായി ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന കാഴ്ച അത്ഭുതകരം തന്നെയായിരുന്നു. വിവിധ തരത്തിലുള്ള തൊഴിലാളികൾ കഠിനാധ്വാനം ചെയ്തതിനാൽ നമ്മുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ തുണികൾ നെയ്തെടുക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിരുന്നു.

മിൽത്തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് പകൽ മാതൃമല്ല, രാത്രിയിലും ജോലിസ്ഥലത്ത് എത്തിച്ചേരാനുള്ള വാഹനസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ഈ നഗരത്തിൽ യഥേഷ്ടം ലഭ്യമാ



Dr Datta Samant

യിരുന്നു. ആയതിനാൽ ഇന്ത്യയിലെ മറ്റു നഗരങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ ഒരു നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട സമയത്ത് ഇവിടെ ജനസഞ്ചാരം നിശ്ചലമാകുന്നില്ല. പൂർണ്ണ വിശ്രമമില്ലാതെ ദിനരാത്രങ്ങൾ മുഴുവനായുള്ള ഈ സഞ്ചാരം ബോംബെ നഗരത്തിന്റെ മാത്രം വിശിഷ്ടതയാണ്. ഈ രാത്രി സഞ്ചാരികളിൽ ചില കുപഥ സഞ്ചാരികളും ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു മാത്രം.

ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനുള്ള മിൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് വാസസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ മില്ലുമകൾതന്നെ മില്ലിനു സമീപം പണിതുകൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ മിൽസമരം സംഘടിത തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ രൂക്ഷമായതോടെ മില്ലുകൾ അടച്ചുപൂട്ടി. നെയ്ത്തുമാത്രം തൊഴിലാക്കിയ അനേകലക്ഷം തൊഴിലാളികൾ തൊഴിൽ രഹിതരായി. താമസിക്കാൻ സ്ഥലമില്ലാതെ വളരെയധികം കഷ്ടപ്പെടേണ്ടി വന്ന അവസ്ഥ പരിതാപകരംതന്നെ. മറ്റു തൊഴിലുകൾ അപരിചിതമാകയാൽ ധനസഹായം ലഭിക്കാത്ത തൊഴിലാളികളും അവരുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങളും അക്ഷരാർത്ഥത്തിൽ പട്ടിണിയിലായി. തന്റെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് ഒരു നേരത്തെ ആഹാരമില്ലാതെ കഷ്ട



പ്പെടുന്ന കാഴ്ച കാണാനുള്ള മനോബലം ഓരോ തൊഴിലാളിക്കും നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു പോയതിനാൽ വളരെയധികം പേർ അന്യ നഗരങ്ങളിലേക്കും ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലേക്കും ജീവിതമാർഗ്ഗം തേടി തങ്ങളുടെ പ്രിയപ്പെട്ട ബോംബെ നഗരം വിട്ട് പോകേണ്ടിവന്നു. പിടിച്ചു നിന്നവർ ഉചിതമായ ഉത്തരം കിട്ടാതെ ചെറിയ ചെറിയ താൽക്കാലിക ജോലികൾ ചെയ്തു കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ പാവങ്ങളുടെ പട്ടിണിയെ ദൂരിക്കരിക്കാൻ ഇതേവരെ ഒരു നടപടിയും നമ്മുടെ ജനകീയ ഭരണാധികാരികൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ലാൽബാഗ് മുതൽ പരേൽ വരെയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വ്യാപിച്ചു കിടക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ദുരവസ്ഥ ദയാശീലരായ നാഗരികരെ വളരെയധികം വേദനിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നതിൽ സംശയമില്ല.

മില്ലുമകൾ മിൽ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളും അവയ്ക്കു ചുറ്റുമുള്ള വിശാലമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും കെട്ടിട നിർമ്മിതാക്കൾക്ക് കൈമാറി വളരെയേറെ ധനം സമ്പാദിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. കെട്ടിട നിർമ്മിതാക്കൾ ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഗഗനചുംബികളായ അനേകം മാളികകൾ നിർമ്മിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയും കണക്കില്ലാത്ത ലാഭം കൊള്ള

അടിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു വരികയാണ്. ഏബാംബെ നഗരത്തിൽ ഉയർന്നു നിന്നിരുന്ന ചിമ്മിനികൾക്കു പകരം ഉയർന്നു വരുന്ന സൗധങ്ങളാണ് ഇന്ന് കാണാനുള്ളത്. ഇതും എത്ര മനോഹരം!

മിൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾക്ക് ബോണസ്സായി ഒരു അധികശമ്പളം കിട്ടിയിരുന്നു. എല്ലാ വീടുകളിലും ദീപശിഖയോടെയുള്ള ദീപാവലി ആഘോഷം എത്ര മനോഹരമായിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് ഈ ഉത്സവ കാലത്ത് ബോംബെ നിവാസികൾ ആർഭാടപൂർവ്വം ആഘോഷിക്കുമ്പോൾ പാവപ്പെട്ട തൊഴിലാളികൾ സുഖസമ്പന്നമായിരുന്ന ഭൂതകാലത്തിലെ ആഘോഷപൂർണ്ണമായ ദസരയും ദീപാവലിയും നിമിഷമാത്രമെങ്കിലും സ്മരിച്ചുപോകുന്നതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യമില്ല. ദീപങ്ങളാൽ അലംകൃതമായ അന്നത്തെ ബോംബെ നഗരത്തെ സ്വപ്നം കാണുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ നേത്രങ്ങൾ അല്പനേരമെങ്കിലും നനയാതിരിക്കുമോ?

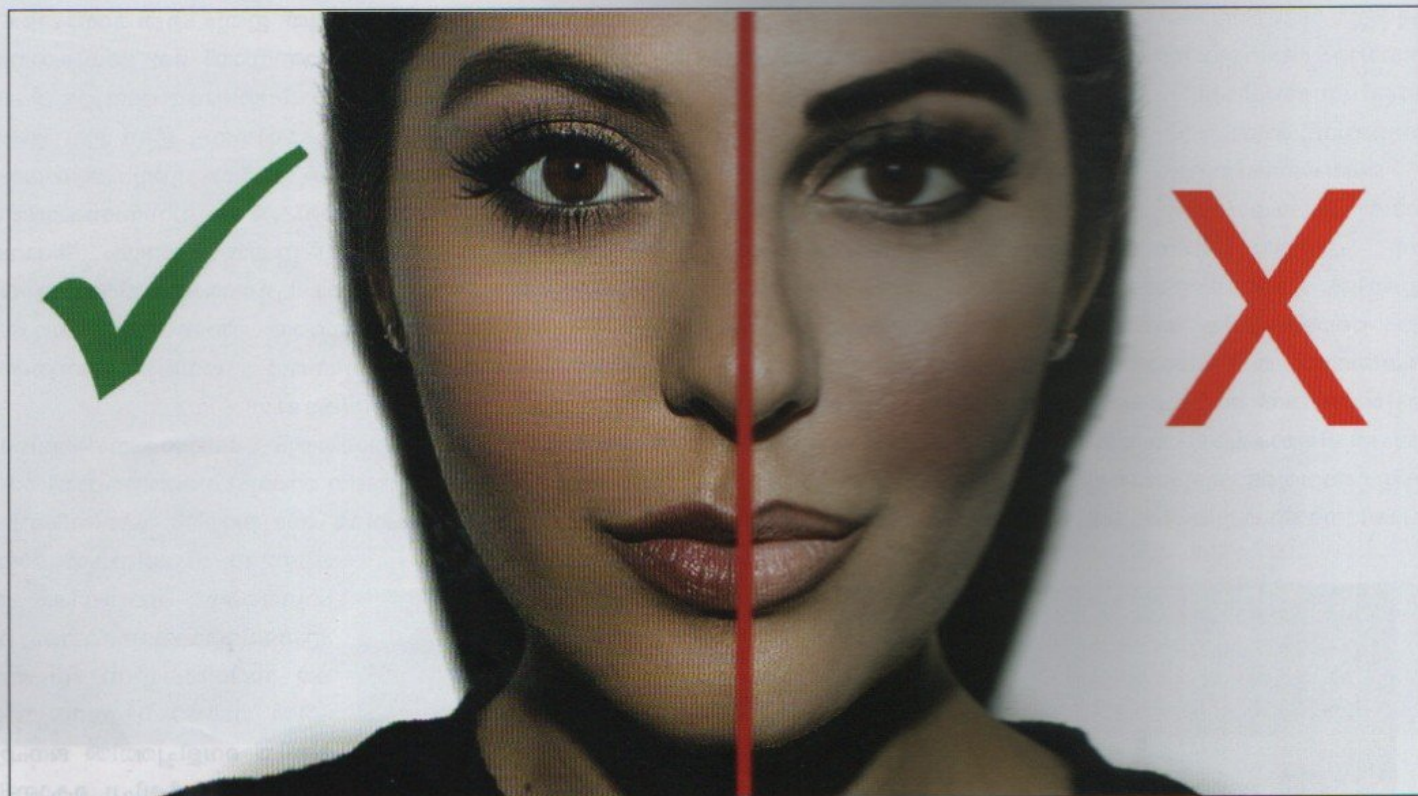
ഉത്സവകാലത്തും അല്ലാതെയും ബോംബെനഗരത്തിന്റെ നിശാസൗന്ദര്യം അവർ എങ്ങനെ മറക്കും? നരിമാൻപോയിന്റ് മുതൽ ചൗപാട്ടി കടലോരംവരെ സമുദ്രത്തിൽ പ്രതിബിംബിച്ചു കാണുന്ന ദീപശിഖകൾ മാനവ ഹൃദയത്തെ എത്രയധികം ആഹ്ലാദഭരിതമാക്കുന്നു. തെക്കു വടക്കു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന മല ബാർഹിൽ സായാഹ്ന സന്ധ്യയുടെ മങ്ങിയ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ ജനഹൃദയത്തെ ആകർഷിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും പട്ടിണിയാൽ അവശരായ തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മാനസദർപ്പണത്തിൽ ഒരു നിമിഷമെങ്കിലും പ്രതിബിംബിക്കയില്ലേ? എന്നാൽ ഈ അസാധാരണ സൗന്ദര്യത്തെ ആസ്വദിക്കാനുള്ള മാനസി കാവസ്ഥ ചിലപ്പോൾ അവരിൽ നിന്നും എന്നേ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കാം.

യാതൊരു അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ഈ ദയനീയ സ്ഥിതി ദൂരീകരിക്കാൻ ഒരു ഫ്രഞ്ച് വിപ്ലവത്തെപ്പോലെയുള്ള

അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിലും വിപുലമായ ഒരു വിപ്ലവം ഇവിടെയും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാവുന്നതല്ലേ? 'ഇതിനൊക്കെ പ്രതികാരം ചെയ്യാതെ ഞങ്ങളോ പതിതരെ, നിങ്ങൾതൻ പിന്തുറക്കാൻ?' എന്ന് ചങ്ങമ്പുഴ പാടിയത് എത്ര അർത്ഥവത്താണ്.

അസഹ്യമായ വിശപ്പുമായി പാവപ്പെട്ട തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ സന്താനങ്ങൾ പ്രതികാരച്ചോടു കൂടി വളരെ നാൾ കാത്തിരുന്നെന്ന് വരില്ല. ഇവരെ സമാശ്വസിപ്പിക്കാൻ നമ്മുടെ ഭരണാധികാരികൾ മുന്നോട്ടു വരുമോ? മധുര പ്രതീക്ഷയോടെ അവർ അർഹിക്കുന്ന പ്രതിഫലച്ചോട് ഇനിയും ഈ തൊഴിലാളിവർഗ്ഗം കാത്തിരിക്കണമോ?

ഈ പാവങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരിലും സന്തോഷങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും അകലെയാണ്. അവർക്ക് ഹോളിയുമില്ല, ദസരയുമില്ല, ദീപാവലി ആഘോഷിക്കാനുള്ള ധനസ്ഥിതിയുമില്ല, ആടാനും പാടാനുമുള്ള ചുറ്റുപാടുകളുമില്ല. ഇതിനെല്ലാം ഒരു പോവഴി കണ്ടെത്തരു. "മാറ്റുവിൻ ചട്ടങ്ങളേ- സ്വയമല്ലെങ്കിൽ മാറ്റം അതുകൾ ഈ നിങ്ങളെത്താൻ."



Some Common Mistakes in Make up of Eyes & Lips



Dr. (Major) Nalini
Janardhanan

■ Learning the correct method of application of make up is very important. You have to choose the right shades also. Now let us go into the details of some common

mistakes in the makeup of eyes and lips, as suggested by beauticians

Lips

■ **Your lipstick is very dark:** A lip colour that is too dark can make your lips look smaller and face older. Choose colours that suit your complexion

■ **Not choosing the correct lip Liner:** Choose a lip pencil of a shade that matches your natural lip tone. Sketch around the lip line, adding shape and contour.

■ **Not preparing lips for lipstick:** If your lips are chapped and dry, exfoliate them, apply lip balm and

allow the lip balm to sink in before applying lipstick.

Eyes

■ **Applying mascara to lower lashes:** don't curl or put mascara on lower lashes. Coating lower lashes in mascara makes eyes look smaller and darker. It

you apply too dark eyeliner on lower lashes, your eyes may look smaller. You may use a lighter eyeliner shade or use powder eye shadow instead of liner.

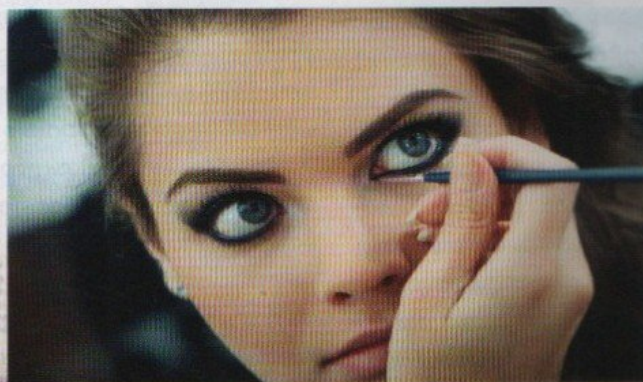
■ **You are going too dark with eyebrow pencil:** If your eyebrows are too dark it may give you an older look. Choose an eyebrow pencil one or two shades lighter than your hair colour.

■ **Applying too many coats of Mascara:** if you apply too many coats of mascara it may cause clumping and spidery look. Instead, you may go for thicker mascara.

■ **Putting on too many eye shadow colours at once:** you might have seen multi-tonal eye shadow looks on the photos on internet. But at home versions rarely turn out the same way (unless you are really skilled!).

So stick onto one or two shades in the same colour family instead, rather than mixing and matching.

■ **You are applying line on your tear duct:** The inner corner of the eye can get moist throughout the day. So



may also lead to smudges under your eyes.

■ **You are applying eyeliner too dark on the lower lash line:** Applying liner on both top and bottom lash lines adds depth to lashes and makes them appear thicker. If

applying liner there is more prone to smudging and it can also promote bacteria. So when applying liner on upper and bottom lines, finish just before inner corner where there is a tear duct.

■ You are using too much brightening concealer in the under eye area: Applying too much brightening concealer can draw attention to the dark circles when the purpose of the concealer is to camouflage them.

■ Using the wrong concealer shade on your under eye circle: for those with lighter skin, the under eye circles may have a purple tint to them and peach toned concealer works best. For darker skin tones, circles are darker purple or brown. So a concealer with orange tone will help. The lighter shade you use, the harder it is to blend concealer with foundation so don't go too light.

■ You are using applicators that comes with eye shadows: most eye shadows come with mini applicators but for a blended finish, use a makeup brush. A brush allows you to gradually add the product and blend as you go.

■ Applying eye shadow after concealer: Always apply eye shadow

before your under eye concealer otherwise the eye shadow will spread all over the eye area.

Things to remember:

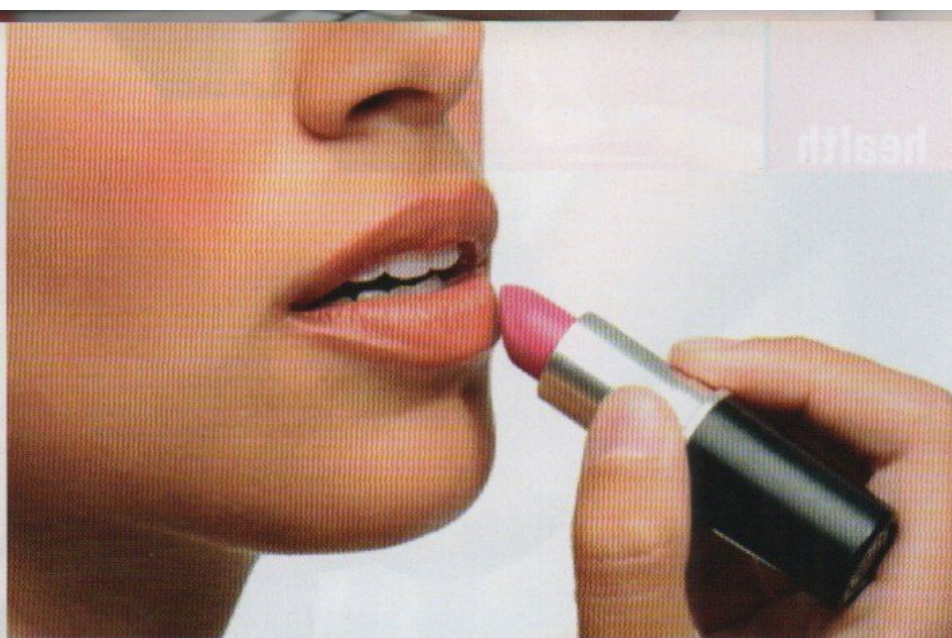
■ Select beauty products according to your skin type. Stay away from products that say 'suitable for all skin types'

■ Your makeup tools like sponge and brushes should be cleaned and replaced frequently to avoid dust, dirt, bacteria and infection.

■ Don't try multiple beauty products at a time. Try one product first and see how your skin reacts to it before trying other products.

■ All beauty products labelled 'Natural' may not be safe. They contain harmful preservatives or toxic ingredients

■ You must use sunscreen not only in summer but also during cloudy days to protect from UV rays.



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FALLS IN ELDERLY PEOPLE

Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

Falls can cause severe injuries like fractures, head injuries and even death in older adults. According to centres for Disease Control and Prevention, falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among elderly people. Moreover, those who fall can become more afraid of falling. This fear can limit their physical activity reduce their quality of life and reduce the ability to exercise properly. So prevention of falls is important in the care of senior citizens. Men and women with osteoporosis need to take care and avoid falls.

Risk Factors for fall:

There are many factors which can increase the risk of falls and fall related injuries.

1) Medical Condition: Medical conditions and physical limitations can lead to falls. Examples are

- Gait/balance impairments due to musculoskeletal problems or neurological conditions like Parkinson's disease, stroke etc.
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Visual impairment
- Age more than 80 years
- Hip weakness and imbalance

- Irregular heart beats
- Urinary and bladder dysfunction
- Loss of memory, Alzheimer diseases
- Use of medications likes sedatives and antidepressants
- Vision or hearing loss
- Previous falls
- Females (more prone to falls)
- Arthritis
- Osteoporosis
- Fluctuations in blood pressure

2) Personal factors:

- Inadequate foot wear for example: shoes with high heels, flip-flops and slick soles can lead to falls.
- Attire- loose clothes may lead to falls
- Excessive use of alcohol.

3) Bone loss risk factors:

Smoking, lack of exercise and physical activity and unhealthy diet can lead to bone loss (osteoporosis) and increase the risk of fractures following falls.



4) Environmental factors:

Your home environment may create falling hazards. Many factors can create a high risk fall environment.

- Slippery or wet surface
- Poor lighting
- Cluttered pathways
- Pets that create tripping hazards
- Carpets or rugs which are not fixed properly

How to prevent falls?

Outdoors:

- Use a cane or walker
- Wear rubber soled shoes so that you don't slip
- Walk on grass when sidewalks are slippery

Indoors

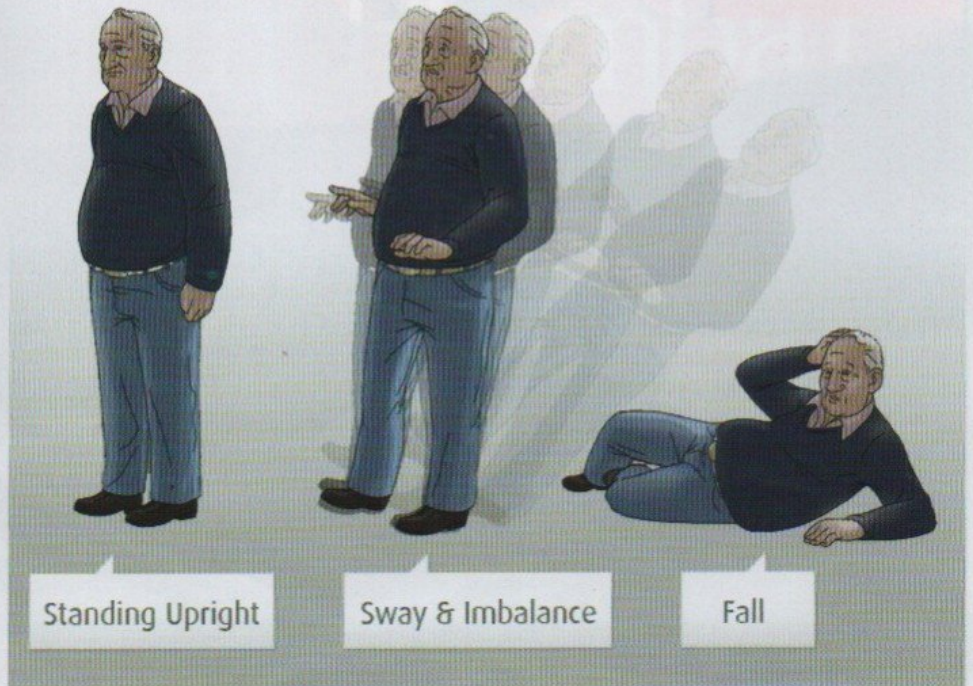
- Keep rooms free of clutter especially on floors
- Use plastic or carpet runners on slippery floors
- Wear low heeled shoes that provide good support
- Don't walk in socks, stockings or slippers
- Be sure that carpets and area rugs have skid-proof backs or they are tucked to the floor
- Be sure stairs are well lit and have rails on both sides.
- Put grab bars on bathroom walls near bathtub, shower and toilet.
- User a rubber bathmat in shower or tub
- Keep a torch net to your bed.
- If your cot is high, use a sturdy step stool with a hand rail and wide steps to get down.
- Add more lights in rooms.
- Buy a cordless phone to keep with you so that you don't have to rush to the landline phone when it rings.
- Keep a mobile phone with you so that you can call for help if you fall.

If you fall, what to do?

You must take precautions as fall at home can be frightening especially if you are alone and got injured due to fall.

Before you fall:

- Make changes in the home and take precautions to prevent falls.
- Make it a habit to have a relative, friend or neighbour to check in with you once a day if you are alone at home.
- Ensure your safety using medical alert devices.



When falling:

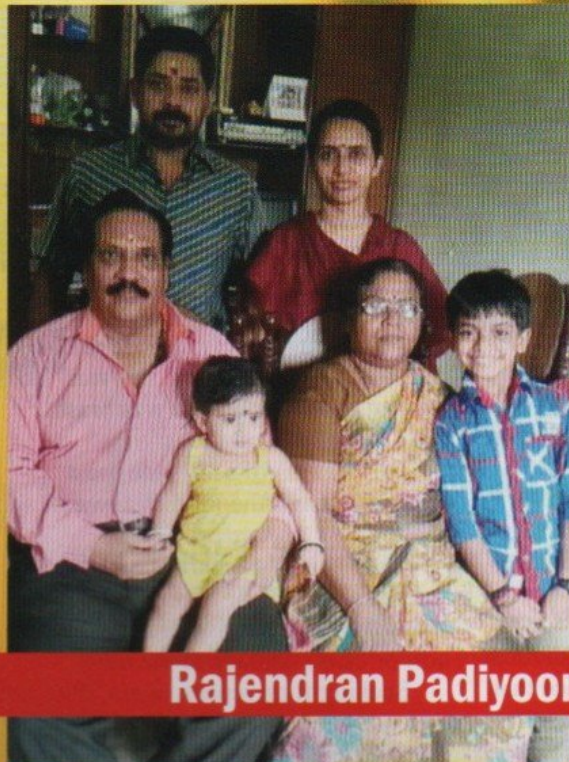
- Don't extend your arms. Instead, raise an arm to protect your head.
- Try to fall on your side or buttocks and roll over naturally.

After you fall:

- Don't panic. If you try to get up too early or from a wrong position, you could make an injury worse.
- Take several deep breaths to relax.

Assess the situation and determine if you are hurt.

- Slide or crawl along the floor to the nearest couch or chair and try to get up.
- If you are badly injured, don't try to get up. Instead call for help from a family member or close neighbour.
- If you are alone, crawl slowly (if possible) to the telephone and call a relative, friend, ambulance or doctor.



Rajendran Padiyoor & Family

Wishing You
All A
Very Happy
VISHU



FORGIVENESS IN RECOVERY



Dr Sujatha Nair

■ "I am sorry baby I hit you last night after drinking" "I am sorry I could not attend our anniversary dinner" "I am sorry I broke the TV last night after drinking" "I am

sorry, I will stop drinking from tomorrow]"

All this only to find oneself drinking or using in the next half an hour.

How many times has one gone to ask for forgiveness and has ended up arguing instead.

So many apologies but all falls flat... the family listening to these frequent apologies lose trust finally.

However what one has to understand is that when using or drinking reaches a stage of addiction it is the alcohol or the substance that takes over and controls the person and not the other way around. Hence the person is helpless before the

substance. It plays games with the mind.

Once the person comes into treatment voluntarily and deals with one's issues in life and takes responsibility of one's actions then he or she reaches a stage of not finding the need to use. He deals with a lot of guilt and remorse in treatment. He learns to forgive himself first and takes responsibility for his/ her actions under the influence and for whatever he put himself through in his life. He realises that, that was the person he "was" he is not that person now who was brash, rude, lying, unscrupulous.

Forgiveness of self is the most essential part of the journey towards self healing.

Then comes the part of making amends. Amends or asking forgiveness should be done only where it will not hurt or cause damage to the other.

Seeking forgiveness, again, does not depend on whether the other person forgives one or not... it is for oneself.

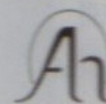
Holding on to grudges fills us with

the poison of anger and resentment... realising that the anger is Within us and only we are responsible for the pain it causes us, frees us from it and allows us to forgive.

Being able to detach oneself from the painful emotions through writing, meditations, sharing, enables one to deal with unresolved emotions and liberate oneself of suffering. Buddha said "Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional". Forgiveness is liberation.

This is possible in a therapeutic environment that is voluntary, accepting and compassionate- where the person who is suffering from addiction learns to forgive oneself and heal.

For any clarifications contact
Dr Sujatha Nair on 09820330439



Anatta Humaniversity Pvt.Ltd.
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Ms. Vandana Hiranandani
+91 9967334000
Website- www.anatta.in

Actor Madhu honoured

Actor Madhu on completing 55 years in movie world received a warm welcome in Mumbai. In a function organised by Mumbai Malayalee Welfare Association at Hotel Leela, Madhu was felicitated. The event was inaugurated by Chairman and Managing Director of General Insurance Corporation Alice Vaidyan.

The programme started with a musical programme titled 'Madhuvoorum Madhura ganangal' led by A M Dileep Kumar. Besides regular singers, actors Jagadish, Manoj K Jayan, Suja Babu et al rendered songs. A souvenir depicting the views of various personalities about Madhu was released during the event. A documentary on Madhu, directed by Pushpan, was also exhibited.

Talking about Madhu, Alice Vaidyan called Madhu a phenomenon and the present generation could only bow their head in reverence before him. Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax Jyotis Mohan said Madhu was a role model to all youngmen like him as he showed them how to enjoy life.

According to actor Jagadish, Madhu possessed courage and sense of humour. He narrated an old incidence in which Madhu demonstrated his courage and concern for others. When a plane Madhu and Kalanilayam Krishnan Nair were travelling, crash landed, Madhu carried Krishnan Nair out as the latter was an amputee. Later Madhu spoke of the incidence light heartedly without showing any hard feelings.

Benezir Abdul Nazer of Akbar Travels felt that sitting with Madhu itself is a great honour. For M P Ramachandran of Jyothi Laboratories, meeting Madhu in person would make him much younger as he would go back to those times when Madhu would appear on screen.

M K Anand, Managing Director



Chief Guest Alice Vaidyan inaugurating the event



Madhu being garlanded by the Committee members

and CEO of Times Net Work felt seeing a film of Madhu would take him to his native place and he enjoyed songs from films in which Madhu acted. Actor Manoj K Jayan recalled that the presence of Madhu in any AMMA meeting always ensured respect and dignity among members. Madhu always ensured his attendance in AMMA's meetings and if necessary, he would cancel his other engagements for that purpose.

Principal Commissioner of GST Dr K N Raghavan termed Madhu as a gift of God to Malayalees as he could infuse life to any character that he enacted. Madhu was not only an actor, he was also a producer, director and studio owner. Madhu's first film was 'Saath

Hindustani' produced and directed by thespian K A Abbas. Amitabh Bachchan was one of his co-actors. There was none like him to take multiple responsibilities, Dr Raghavan remarked.

Oscar Winner Rasool Pookutty recalled him as a neighbour at Thiruvananthapuram and as such close to his heart. Madhu is a complete actor and director and he has a place in our hearts like the North Indian film goers have for Shantaram, Devanand, Dharmendra.

Replying to the tributes of the guests, Madhu thanked them for their love and regard for him and added that it was them who inspired him to do what he did. Without them, he was a nobody, he acknowledged with humility.

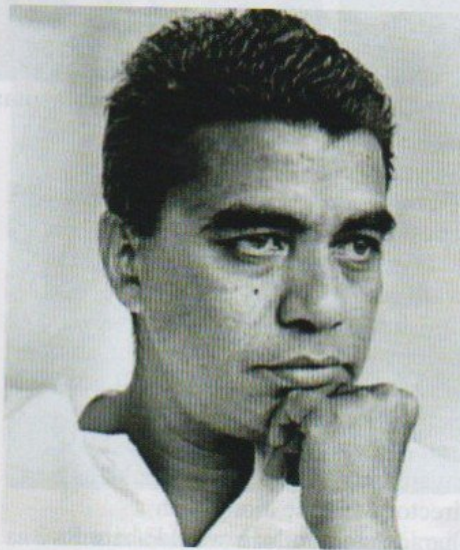
Forty years after P J Antony

Forty years have elapsed since the first Bharat awardee from South India, P J Antony (1925-1979) left the scene of Malayalam cinema and stage. An actor who loved stage much more than screen, always held his head high, never bending before anyone for work. He never hesitated to reveal his mind when needed.

P J Antony was the only son of Panakkootathil Joseph and Elizabeth of Kumbalingi. Karmili was his only sister. After passing IV Std, Antony chose to join Preparatory School to study Sanskrit. He passed Sastri examination from Advaitashram of Aluva. Immediately he was offered the position of a teacher but he declined it. Acting and music were his passion. He could play almost all musical instruments such as harmonium, flute, violin etc besides being a member of the choir group of the church. He was an Altar Boy. He was an idealist and wanted to spread his views and felt drama was the best medium to do so.

When Antony got an offer to act in a play to be produced by Artist Chevalier P J Cherian, his father objected. Antony ran away to Bombay and joined Royal Navy and was a promising officer. However, when Naval Mutiny erupted, he was protesting along with his colleagues against the government. He was arrested and later was dismissed from Navy. When everyone participating in freedom struggle (like INA of S C Bose) was recognised as freedom fighters, naval personnel like were not accorded that status.

Antony returned to Kerala and never did any job except working for



P J Antony

stage and later screen. He wrote play and lyrics, produced, directed and acted in them. He also wrote short stories and novels. He founded Pratibha Arts, Pratibha Theatres, P J Theatres, edited periodicals, wrote lyrics for movies (*Suhruthu*, *Ragging*, *Periyar*), wrote screenplay and dialogue for two films, story, screenplay and dialogue for *Rosi* besides acting the main role, and wrote dialogue for five films and directed two films.

He shocked poet G Sankara Kurup when his order to vacate the stage for another group was rebutted and walked out without waiting for his troupe's turn. He surprised EM S Namboothiripad when he asked a drama to use against *Vimochana Samaram*, Antony handed over the play next morning as promised. It was titled *Vimochanam* and he used two writers to take down the dictation. He wrote more than one hundred plays but only 22 were published in book form. There are seven compilations of his short

stories and two novels published. His lyrics are compiled into four books while there are two books on his memoirs. He acted in more than 75 Malayalam movies. In three of them he was hero, in one villain and in the remaining in character roles. His first film was *Rantitangazhi* (1957), based on Thakazhi S Pillai's novel of the same title. In *Rosi* (1965), he was a fugitive running away from law and in *Nirmalyam* (1973), he was oracle. For this role he underwent training under a real oracle for 15 days. He was awarded the title Bharat by the Union Government for this role. His villainous role in *Bhargavi Nilayam* (1964) is unforgettable. While acting in this film, in the final scene, he injured his backbone by hitting against the wall of a well and suffered for the rest of his life. In rest of the films, he had character roles. His last film was *Manninte Maarhil*.

Antony is credited with the eviction of the harmonium and mridangam players from the South Indian stages. He is also credited for using tape recorder for stage plays. Antony was a strong atheist but was a believer of astrology. He knew face reading as well as palmistry. He predicted the marriage of former CM of Kerala A K Antony when he was 42, and also having two sons. He refused to accept the pension offered to him by A K Antony and C Achutha Menon, when they were CMs of the state. He never accepted charity from the powerful.

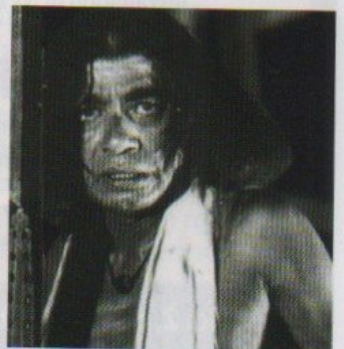
Antony's acting as a drunkard was very popular. He had songs to synchronise for those scenes. *Nalheyana Kalyanam* from *Rantitangazhi* and *Duhkhagalkkinnu njaan avadhi kotuthu* from *Ambalapravu* were the craze during their days. His villain ruled over the heroes of Prem Nazir and Madhu, a very rare event in Indian movies.



With Jyothlakshmi, Prem Nazir, K P Ummer and Madhu in *Murhapennu*



With Nazir in *Rosi*



As oracle in *Nirmalyam*.

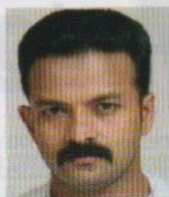
State Film Awards announced

State awards for Malayalam

films have been announced and a lot of surprises came out. Award for best actor was shared by

Jayasurya (*Captain, Njan Marykutty*) and Soubin Shahir (*Sudani from Nigeria*), as they got equal number of votes. Nimisha Sajayan (*Chola, Oru kuprassiddha payyan*) was adjudged as the best actress. Shyamaprasad was named best director (*Oru Njayarazhcha*) while *Kanthan-the lover of colour* directed by C Sherif was chosen as best film. *Karbon* directed by Venu secured six awards while *Sudani from Nigeria* received five awards.

Award for best female character artiste was shared by Savithri Sreedharanand Sarasa Balusseri (*Sudani from Nigeria*). *Sudani* earned awards for best screenplay (Sakkaria and Mohsin Parari) and most artistic film and popular film. B K Harinarayanan is the best lyricist (*Theevandi, Joseph*). Vishal Bharadwaj is best music composer (*Karbon*). Best male singer is Vijay



Jayasurya



Soubin Shahir



Nimisha Sajayan



Shyamaprasad



Joju George



Zakaria

Yesudas (*Joseph*) and female singer is Shreya Goshal (*Aami*).

'*Angu doorathu oru desam*' is chosen as best Children's film.

Jayasurya and Soubin will share the award amount of Rs 1 lakh while Nimisha will get Rs 1 lakh. Sarasa and Savithri will share Rs 50000, the amount for character actress. Sherif will get Rs 2 lakh as producer and director of *Kanthan-the Lover of Colour*.

Shyamaprasad will get Rs 2 lakh as best director while he along with Sharadchandran Nair would share Rs 3 lakh as producers of *Oru Njayarazhcha*.

The selection process drew controversy as the Chairman of the Jury Kumar Shahani and members had differences of opinion and the chairman walked out from the final meeting. The members of the film akademi had to persuade him to return to the meeting. While Shahani wanted the director of the best film should also get the award

for the best director, the members did not agree with him, pointing out the practice adopted by international award system.

The ministry of cultural affairs asked the jury to reject films '*Aami*' produced by Jury Chairman Kamal and '*Karbon*' directed by Venu, husband of Beena Paul vice chairman of the jury. *Aami* received two awards while *Karbon* got six awards.

In the past the award came so near but slipped away. Jayasurya was nominated in 2014 (*Appothikkiri*), in 2015 (*Su Sudhi Valmikam, Lukkachippy*) but was not selected for the top award. He had to be satisfied with a special mention by the jury.

Last year Jayasurya had three releases, *Captain, Njan Marykutty* and *Pretham 2*. Among them the first two movies had totally divergent characters. *Captain* was about the late Kerala football player V P Sathyan and the second was about transgenders.

Soubin Shahir had gradual growth from assistant director to hero through actor and director. He was known for his natural acting. He started as assistant to director Siddhique in *Chronic Bachelor* and continued as assistant to several directors. Then he moved to be actor. *Chandrettan Eviteyaa, Charlie, Maheshinte Prathikaram, Sudani from Nigeria* etc are some of them and they were well received. His role in *Premam* of Alphonse Puthran was a turning point. Both Jayasurya and Soubin came out with identical roles of football player was a coincidence.

For Joju George, this award came as a relief after his loss of house in recent floods and the subsequent debts. When his movie *Joseph* was half over, its progress stopped and he took over its production. He had borrowed heavily by pledging his home. Luckily his film turned out to be a spinner and he survived. Incidentally *Joseph* was his maiden name and Joju was the adopted one.

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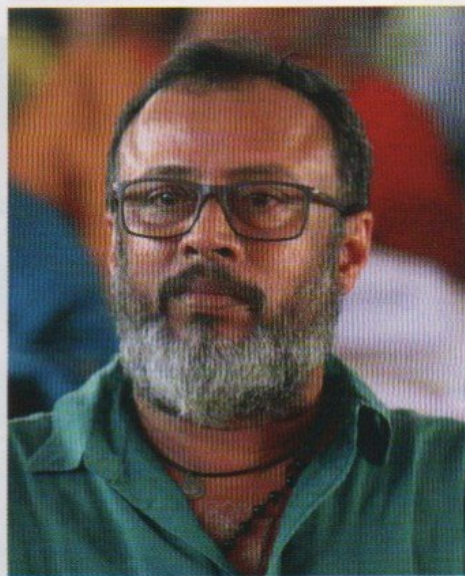
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Lal Jose turns actor

Noted Malayalam film director turns actor. Earlier he had acted in *Gypsy* in Tamil and *Mohabathin Kunhabdulla* in Malayalam. Now he has decided to be active as an actor too. Lal Jose had acted in stage plays during his college days but when he entered the film industry he found that the field of acting was not his cup of tea. He never thought that his looks and voice were good enough to be an actor. When Lal Jose joined the industry as an assistant to Director Kamal, he was compelled to appear in bit roles when the actors called to act were not upto the level of the expectations of the director.

When he was called from the office of Tamil director Raju Murugan, he thought that he was being called to negotiate for the rights of one of his films. He was surprised to hear that Murugan called him to act in one of his films. He was then told that he was called after the director



saw him in *Sunday Holiday* and liked him. The director told him that the character he had in mind was having his face. He did not want him to 'act' but 'live' the character. In *Gypsy* he had the role of Muthalib an Attar Seller of Nagoor. He however wanted not to dub for the character as his

Tamil was not good enough but the director insisted that he also dub for the character. *Gypsy* came to the screen in last March.

Lal Jose had appeared in a few Malayalam films at the instances of his director friends but in these films he lived as himself. Later he was called for *Om Shanti Oshana* of Jude Antony for an important role but he refused. In the end he had to act in a guest role. Subsequently he appeared in *Sunday Holiday*. Murugan watched him in this and decided to have him in his film.

Later he appeared in 'Mohabathin Kunhabdulla' of Shanu Samad as a Muslim from Kasaragod. Lal Jose now feels that all those roles were a kind of rehearsal. He is now confident that now if he is side lined as a director, he could still survive as an actor.

Lal Jose always felt that he never repeated his films and each of them was unique in some way. However, he cannot predict success or failure of any film on the basis of uniqueness of the film. In movie world none can predict the acceptability of the film on the screen. He believes that the realism in movies is a mirage. If a film is really realistic, then it would look like a documentary. The movie should look like realistic but it cannot be. Even in his 'Maheshinte Prathikaram, celebrated as a realistic film, there was drama. Today there is a lot of changes in the structure and character of the movies. When earlier films had only good traits in heroes, today there could be a shade of negativity in the character. In his 'Diamond Necklace' the hero had a shade of negativity. In this film, the character Fahad Fasil presented had positive as well as negative traits but many did not notice it and none complemented us. In fact, that film was before its time. He considers his *Rasikan* and *Rantambhavam* came much before their time. Had they been made today, they would have become much more successful. Malayalees even today celebrate the heroes of all positive traits.

Babukka returns to screen



The fans who liked M S Baburaj have a lot to rejoice now. Baburaj is coming alive on the screen soon. Writer and professor V R Sudheesh is bringing Babukka to the screen. He wrote the screenplay to the film

and debutant director Rinish Perambra directs it for Black and Red Productions of S Maheshkumar, a businessman of Chennai. Vinod Vadakara provides music. The film is based on a short story written by Sudheesh in 1998 and covers the period when Baburaj was away from the limelight. For survival, he was lending his presence and voice for music programmes of his earlier 'chela's and the mushaira sessions on the previous evenings of wedding events.

The film will be shot in Kozhikode and Chennai. Most of the actors would be new faces. The story evolves from the memoirs of two fans of Baburaj. There will be six songs in the film. Four of them will be of Baburaj himself but in new avatars. They are also using an unused lyric written by Girish Puthancheri during his last days.

Yesteryear actress Kusalakumari bids bye

Kusalakumari who enchanted Malayalees as Sita is no more. She breathed her last on March 6, due to age related illness. She was 83. She acted in more than 250 South Indian movies but died poor.

Kusalakumari has the distinction of playing one of the lead heroines in 'Koondukili' the only movie in which the giants of Tamil cinema MGR and Sivaji Ganesan acted together. She was paired opposite Sivaji and later went on to act in Telugu and Malayalam cinema with superstars A Nageshwara Rao and Prem Nazir. Kusalakumari's noted films in Tamil are 'Parasakthi', 'Harichandra' (both with Sivaji Ganesan) and 'Konjum Salangai' (With Gemini Ganesan).

Kusalakumari did not marry and was living with her brother till her death. When former CM of Tamil Nadu J



Jayalalithaa came to know that Kusalakumari was suffering from poverty, she sanctioned a pension of Rs 5000 every month for

Kusalakumari.

Director Kunchacko's 'Sita' was her first Malayalam film with Prem Nazir as Sriram. It was a colossal hit, demanding a 60% share of the collections of the theatres during the first two weeks. Theatres had to wait months and months for their turn to exhibit this film. It was with this film that P Suseela entered Malayalam film world and ruled the roost till K S Chitra came on the scene. Her lullaby 'Paattupaati urhakkam njaan thamara poompai thale...' was the most popular among all lullabies and it was for the character of Sita enacted by Kusalakumari. This song was composed by V Dakshnamoorthy. Sita was the first film for playback singer P Suseela. Another song "Veene paatuka priyatharamai..." was however an imitation of "Veena... Madhur Madhur..." a song from "Ramrajya.." one of the Hindi triologies based on epic Ramayana.

Kusalakumari later acted in *Mariyakutty*, *Bhakta Kuchela*, *Sri Guruvayurappan*, *Manikyakottaram*, *Oralkooti Kallanayi* etc in Malayalam.



Kusalakumari in *Mariyakutty* (1958)



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