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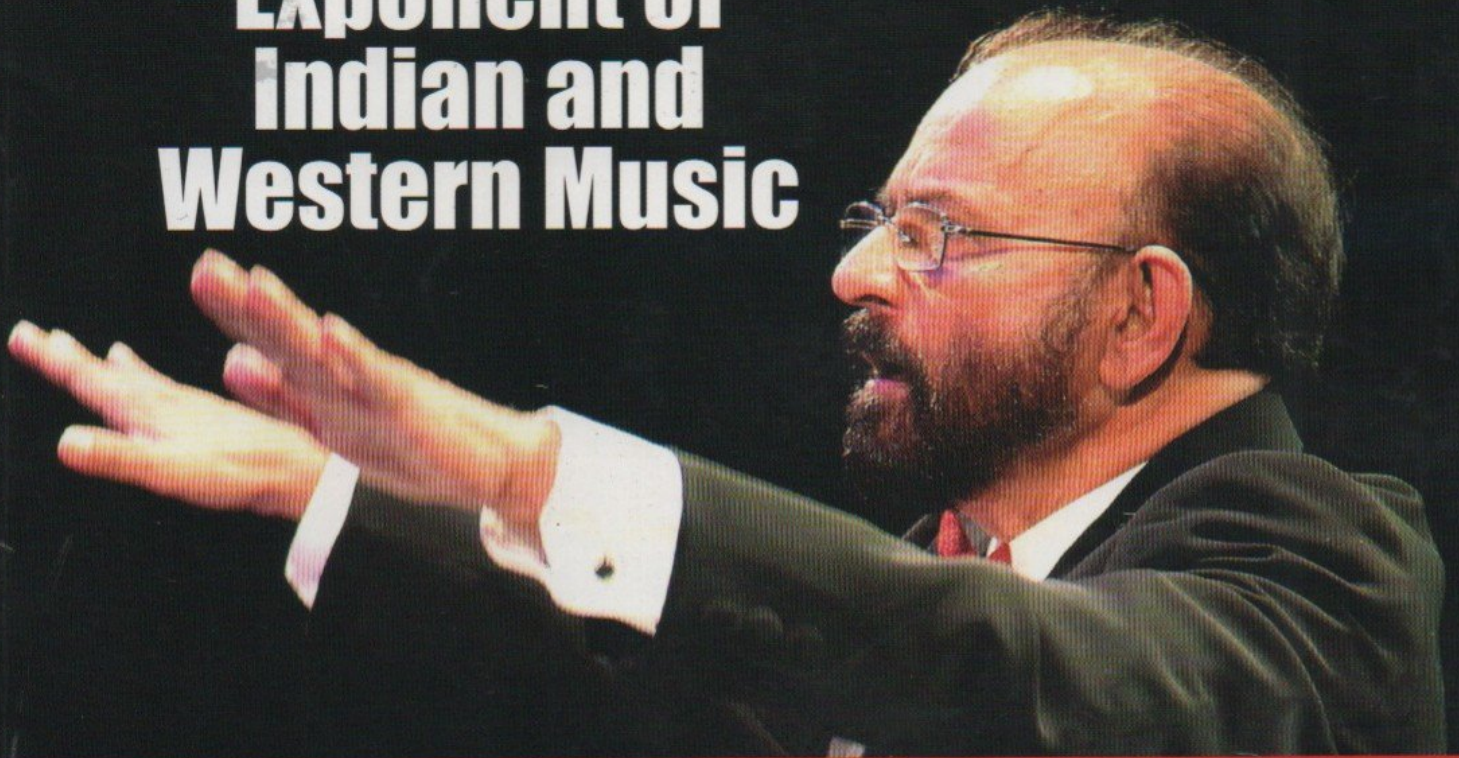
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Kerala in Mumbai

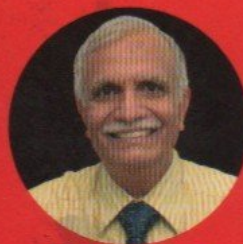
The Only English / Malayalam Bi-Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

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Do we need reservation?

"I am a beggar and it is my right to beg and it is my privilege to take my alms from you," no beggar says it though he might feel within. Will he add, "It is my responsibility to see that my children would not be begging on the streets," Most probably not. If he would, it would be a pleasure to give him some alms.

When India won its freedom in 1947, India had some sort of a reservation but not across the country. On independence, the new leaders found an anomaly of about 5% of the socially forward communities occupied about 95% of the jobs. India had a caste system based on traditional occupation, and most of them were mainly engaged in menial jobs. People belonging to these categories were coming from rural areas which had no educational facilities. These people thus never received education and hence could not change their occupation and remained in the same occupation. They were at the mercy of people who had better education, knowledge and information. Naturally the latter were better placed, rich money wise and occupied important positions. The then Indian parliament felt miserable and decided to bring a system whereby the deprived could be brought up to share the fruits of freedom. The reservation system was thus written into the constitution with a rider that the arrangement was only for ten years by which period equality would be brought in.

Alas, it did not happen as they wished. Situation did not alter much in ten years. The growth of education was very slow because schools did not come up to absorb children of the deprived classes as teachers were in short supply. It may be unbelievable for the present generation to learn that during early twenties of last century, a fourth standard pass could become not only a teacher but a head teacher, a *vakil* (do not mistake it for advocate) or a medical man using Ayurveda etc. By fifties, qualification was raised to eighth standard and by sixties it changed to tenth standard. Now we hear the minimum qualification for a primary teacher would be raised to a degree along with B Ed while for high school it should be a PG with suitable training, and so on. The present teachers are considering opposition to this thinking. It is a paradox that teachers are against acquiring higher qualifications.

Indian constitution offers equality to all irrespective of cast and creed. Then why our politicians are hesitating to usher it? Can our government, state or central, keep all promised developments not meriting speedy completion a pause and concentrate on establishing more educational institutions, from primary to post graduation levels, standardise and ensure implementation of syllabus, accountability of the employed teachers and non teachers, providing food, clothes, study materials etc and accommodation to all needy students, strict evaluation of their work and the academic state of the students for the next ten years and continue with the meritorious students for higher education in the same manner? It needs lakhs of crores of rupees, no doubt, but would benefit all without discretion. Provide employment to the successful students in appropriate jobs in government services without any reservation and partisanship and simultaneously lift all reservations in the country. Recently newspapers reported that some eight standard students in Kerala are incapable of reading and writing. Qualification on paper is of no use.

Nehru government envisaged reservation for ten years but the inexperienced ministers and bureaucrats did not provide the infrastructure for advancement. In his first independence address as PM, Dr Manmohan Singh talked about 'Saat Sutra' (Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Urban Renewal Mission, National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Expanded Midday Meal Programme) but could not implement it 100% due to internal problems. Let us implement it on war footing and ensure all children in India benefit out of it. Initially it could be restricted to two children per family. Reserve all government controlled jobs for those who do their studies in government institutions. In the system advocated above, caste, creed and religion do not come in, the economic backward status of parents becomes irrelevant and the meritorious hard working youth get the cream. All government run, aided and approved schools should be brought under this umbrella. Then there will be 100 % reservation for those studied in public (schools run with public money) school or present system of reservation could be lifted.

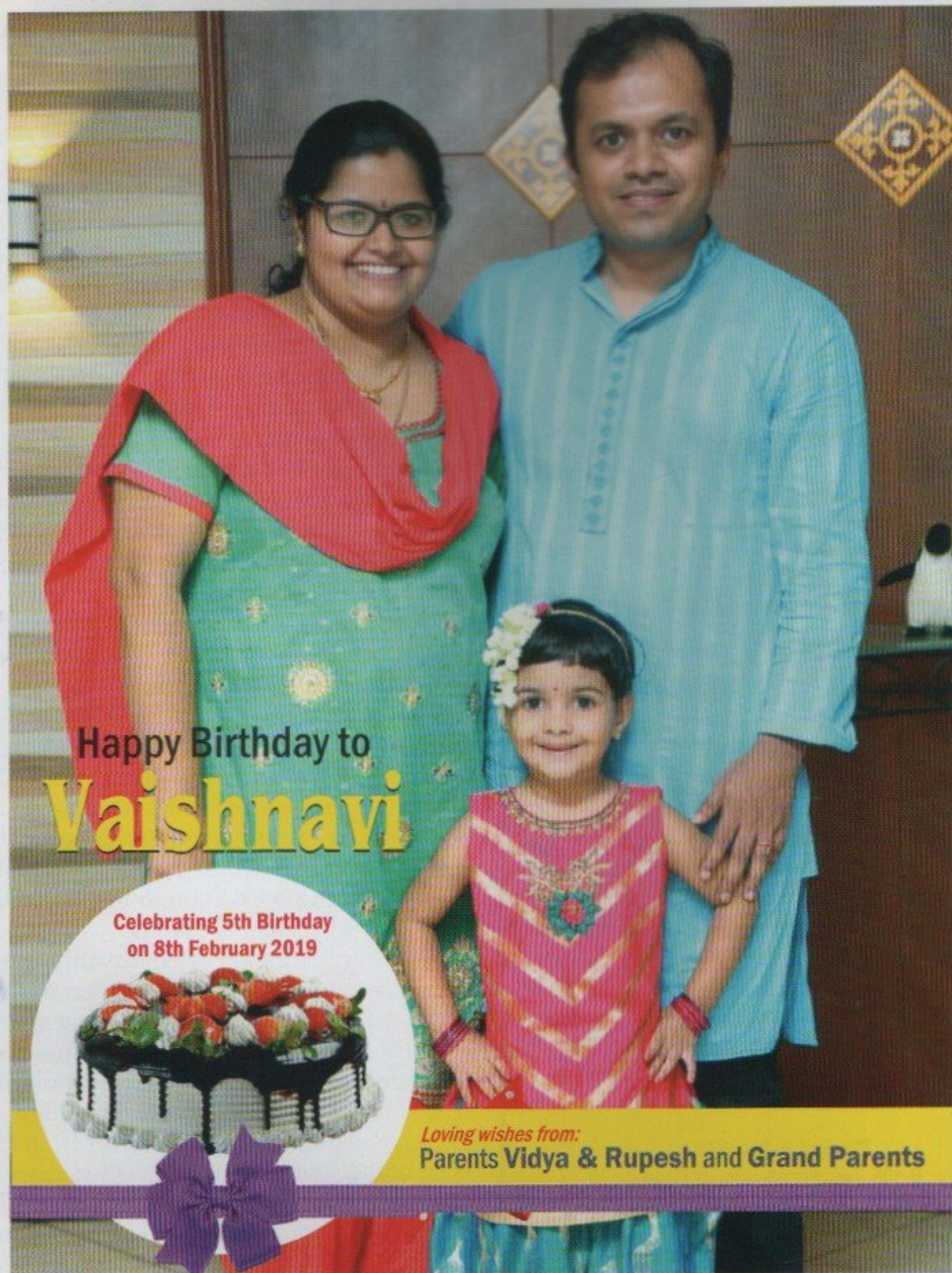
We understand that the new reservation quota for EWS has no constitutional sanction and feel the SC would declare it illegal. Then it would prove the new move is only for public consumption and to win votes for the ruling party.

Lending Wings To India's Progress Story

Navi Mumbai International Airport will be a gateway to new opportunities for development and will attract high value investments. The project will definitely increase commerce and employment, generating new jobs directly and indirectly. The airport will enable the state government to enhance economic stature of both Navi Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan area. Navi Mumbai International Airport is planned with a minimum passenger capacity of 60 million passengers per annum and cargo capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum. In this connection nearly 3000 eligible families will be rehabilitated and relocated to new residential sites. A modern township called Pushpak Nagar is being developed in the vicinity of the proposed airport for the people, who contributed land for the Navi Mumbai International Airport Project.

It is so happened that a day before Shivaji Jayanti, Modi got an opportunity to come to Maharashtra. Globalisation is a reality of our times and to keep pace with it, we need top quality infrastructure. The Sagarmala project is ushering development of ports. The government is devoting significant efforts towards the development of waterways and airways. Since independence, only 450 airplanes were in the sky including both from government and private sectors, and now companies have ordered 900 planes in just one year and that need to provide more airports as air space is available in plenty to

Continued on page 35



Happy Birthday to
Vaishnavi

Celebrating 5th Birthday
on 8th February 2019

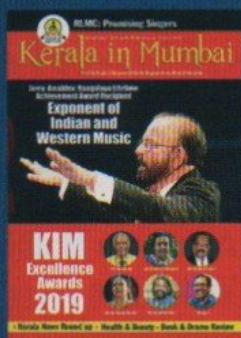
Loving wishes from:
Parents **Vidya & Rupesh** and Grand Parents

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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Adv Malbin Victor

Face of Kindness and Dedication



Lakshmi
Venkatachalam

Advocate Malbin Victor is a committed businessman who is involved in several charitable and social activities as well.

Advocate Malbin Victor's philosophy of life is very enlightening. He believes that the positivity within him and the determination to see a better day have helped him to cross many hurdles in life and move on.

"I always believe that if you have a desire, decision and determination, you can overcome the challenges and attain what you wish. It is you, your thought process and your actions that decide your destiny. If your plan and vision are clear and if you are firm on your decision, God and Time will always be with you," he says confidently.

Today Adv. Malbin Victor is Proprietor of ABC Consultancy Services located at Hiranandani Gardens in Powai. It is a consultancy firm providing all legal supports and documentation services to the real estate segment. His team helps the client to identify a property, take care of legalities, documentations and execution. He

has successfully completed 25 years in this field. It's a one stop solution provider in Real Estate Segment. His client list includes corporates, NRI's and high networth individuals.

But the going was never a cake walk. During his early days, he went through a lot of humiliating situations, but never gave up.

Childhood

Malbin Victor was born in a small village, Kalpambur in Thrissur District. His parents are late Shri Varunny, who was Administration Manager in a School and Smt. Lucy Varunny, who was a Teacher. He completed his graduation in Kerala and moved to Mumbai at the age of 21 for higher studies. He studied Law at K.C. Law College, Churchgate, Mumbai.

He remembers that, while studying law, he started working part time to support his expenses. His initial salary was Rs. 350/- per month. His appointment was as an accountant with a private firm. But from the first day he realized his work included cleaning of the tables, sweeping of the floor, washing of washrooms and as a peon and as a delivery boy. Those jobs helped him to learn Hindi, to know about this city, roads, markets and important places of the then Bombay. After

Today when I look back, with all humility, I feel and understand that, I have achieved more than I dreamt.



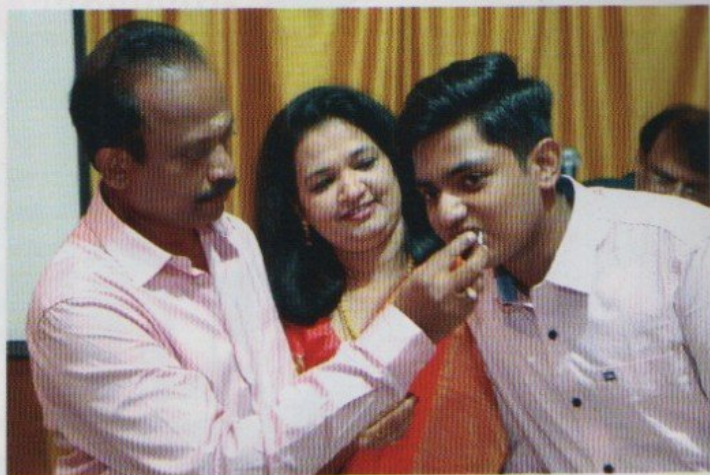
During inaugural function of KCC Annual celebrations 2019



With former CM of Kerala Oommen Chandy



During celebrations at Hiranandani Keralite Association



Malbin Victor with his family



successfully attaining Law Degree from University of Mumbai, he practised as a Lawyer for 5 years and then turned into business.

Earning money alone has never been his aim. He wants to give back to society what he can and help others who are less fortunate than him. Through his involvement in several social organizations, he fulfills this urge in him. He always takes up initiative and leadership to do charitable activities and has done numerous noble services to the poor and needy.

Malbin Victor is Chairman of The Kerala Christian Council (KCC). It is a 61 year old prominent trust in Mumbai. A socio-cultural, non-political, philanthropic organization representing all Christian denominations of Kerala in Mumbai, it was established in 1958, and is a platform, where all the Kerala Christians settled in Mumbai join together to spread goodness to society. KCC has declared this year as Year of kindness and all its activities are directed towards that goal.

KCC provides various scholarships under its Golden Child program and it benefits, encourages and motivates a lot of poor and needy children all over Mumbai. As part of its welfare activities, it

provides financial support to poor patients and their dependents. Under the leadership of its current Chairman Malbin Victor, the Council is involved in the care and support of cancer patients, the



With Rev Euyakim Mar Coorilos Episcopa

mentally disturbed people wandering on the street providing food and accommodation, medical and welfare expenses in and around Mumbai, etc. The main objective of KCC is to make a fundamental difference, for the better, in the life of poor and needy people in and around Mumbai city.

He is a senior member of Hiranandani Keralite Association (HKA) and its Joint secretary. He is in the forefront in all its social, cultural and welfare activities.

He is a prominent face of Lions Club of Powai. He is a reputed member and one of the conveners of Christian Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (CCCI), another platform for successful businessmen.

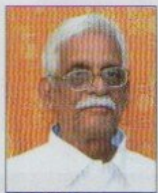
Malbin Victor's wife Rosily Malbin is from Kuzhikkattussary in Thrissur. She completed her Post Graduation in History and then B.Ed. They got married in 1992 and she also moved to Mumbai.

Rosily was a teacher in several schools in Mumbai. After some years of work, she quit that profession and became a woman entrepreneur. Today she is successfully managing a brand in the name of Haute!, a unisex beauty Salon operating from Hiranandani Gardens, Powai.

They have one son, Alex M. Victor and he is studying in plus two at Poddar School.

"As a young man, I had a lot of dreams. In every one's life, there may be struggles, challenges etc. In my life too, there were huge challenges, up and downs. But today when I look back, with all humility, I feel and understand that, I have achieved more than I dreamt. I am a contented man and always feel most of the people are good and kind. Sometimes I have seen, met real angels in my life.

"I am a grass root level worker. I never wished to hold positions. But I am always willing to take responsibilities and deliver the results", he concludes humbly." ■



Prof M R
Chandrasekharan

My initiation to journalism

1953 December 20.

This date I found out from the autobiography 'Kozhinha Ilakal' (Fallen leaves) of Prof Joseph Mundasseri. The day I was initiated to newspaper journalism-that is the importance of this date.

Under Joseph Mundasseri's editorialship 'Navajeevan' daily was getting started from Thrissur.

I had enquired with Thomas, son of Mundasseri and proprietor of Current Books about the likely people working for it. Exaggeration is the hallmark of his tongue. Some very big people were coming, he said.

I was then a final year student of BOL course, known for its literary value, in Sri Kerala Varma College, Thrissur. If I succeeded in clearing the examination, I could teach Malayalam in colleges. I was not a litterateur but only a student of literature. Besides, I held some positions such as President of Thrissur District Students Federation, member of Thrissur local committee of Communist Party etc. So I had the literary and political talent and so didn't I deserve a position in a paper controlled by the Party? Secretly I aspired to work in it, not as a job or for salary. An ambition to become a journalist!

Words from Thomas discouraged me. During Christmas vacation I went for a visit to one of my relatives for two days. I returned home around noon. There was a message for me, to reach Vallathol Press soon. The messenger was a known political worker.

After a hurried lunch, I walked to Thrissur some five miles away. The busfare was four annas, a big amount then.

I reached Vallathol Press along the southern round between



Prof Joseph Mundasseri

Municipal Road and Chembottil Lane in New Nadakkavu. Communist Party Office was above the press. The press and the office were familiar to me as I often visited them.

Two stalwarts

When I reached there around 3'o clock, I saw two stalwarts preparing news, Prof Joseph Mundasseri and Com K K Varier. I don't need to mention about Professor. Even the very active political leaders of today may not know the latter. He belonged to that group of stalwarts like C Achutha Menon, George Chadayanmuri and P Gangadharan. He was a well known Communist leader. People used to humorously say that wherever there was a physical assault he would reach there to receive his share. He took part in the Alappuzha strike of 1938 and became a victim of severe torture. In 1952 he was the Communist candidate against K Karunakaran of Congress Party in Viyoor constituency. I was his chief agent. One of his jokes cracked in election meetings was that the massive

size of his body was formed by his flesh having loosened from the bones due to the police beatings. As he had some cases registered against him in Kochi, he went to Kozhikode to work as Sub-Editor in 'Deshabhimani' during the initial years of 1940s. Those days the humorous titbits by name 'Nurungukal' by 'Keeran' were originated from his pen. Humorous speeches, inspiring translations and instant humorous retorts were his hallmarks. When one sees his face, his sadness would vanish and a smile would emerge.

I do not intend to write more on Varier. He was strenuously writing while sitting in Vallathol Press. Mundasseri never used to write with his hand. But here he too was writing. As soon as I reached Varier, he handed over to me several pieces of news and asked to translate them.

Onam rush

When I looked around I could see an Onam rush. Some people are busy in depositing the old and new types in their designated cells. On another side the compositors are waiting for matter for composing. Manager of the Press C Achutha Kurup, son of poet Vallathol is busy in various tasks.

The first task I was assigned was to translate the speech Com A K Gopalan made in Lok Sabha. The pieces of news from PTI would come in 1, 2, 3 serial numbers and I have to assimilate them to get the full text, I was told. I was not aware of the notes at the end of each piece as 'to continue' and 'concluded'. With the available papers I prepared the translation. I was not courageous enough to show the translation to Mundasseri and so I showed it to Varier. Varier cannot convey anything mildly. I heard him commenting "Your Munshi Malayalam!" Later he added that only simple Malayalam should be used and that the labourers and semi literate should be able to comprehend them. I

started avoiding usage of tough words so that everyone could follow them. I realised that only spoken style could be used in journalism.

K K Varier is my guru in journalism. His style was to write in an emphatic razor sharp manner. I had read so many of his columns in 'Deshabhimani.' To people of Thrissur, the newspaper was 'Gomati.' Gomati was a synonym for newspaper. I came to know about my SSLC result from Gomati bought from Thrissur. After buying the paper I walked across the Festival Grounds without even opening the paper. Then I sat down under a cotton tree and slowly went through all the sundry columns. Then slowly I moved to the page that printed the results. Finally when I found my number in it, when I go back to that moment, my heart missed a few beatings.

Two art forms

Though Gomati was the first newspaper that I put my hands on and read, it was 'Deshabhimani' that I regularly read later. People's Book Stall of Communist Party was situated at the place where Current Books now stands, in 1946. The old Deshabhimani with two pages reminded me a bird with one wing. One Thomu alias P M Thomas who lost one of his eyes and a few teeth in police lathi charge, was the manager of the book stall. Till 1949 when Communist Party was banned by the government and its allied institutions were locked up, the book stall humbly stood there.

I learned politics by reading Deshabhimani. I was already familiar with the language of Communists. Yet when I wrote, it got mixed with an academic tinge. That was what Varier threw out.

Mundasseri Master taught me proof reading. He showed me the symbols to remove or replace characters and to bring them closer or place them apart. I obeyed his instructions. By evening I learnt two art forms, first translation and second, proof reading.

'Navalokam' from Ernakulam was owned by Communist Party. After some time since it folded up 'Navajeevan' was started from Thrissur. It was expected that some of the editors of Navalokam would join Navajeevan. Some people from Deshabhimani of Kozhikode were also expected to join.

Deshabhimani did not disappoint us. By evening Com I S Namboothiri from Deshabhimani arrived at Navajeevan. It was a great relief. He boosted our self confidence. A newspaper was not merely some composed matter. It contains several other aspects too and experienced hands are required to meet them.

At some hours of the night, the first copy of the paper, printing ink still wet, came to our hands. We, Mundasseri and K K Varier, handled it with affection, like a new born baby.

Editorship

The main capital of Navajeevan was the editorship of Mundasseri. Once the press release about the paper came out, newspaper agencies and subscribers flowed to our office much beyond our expectations. Enthusiasm of the party workers and the strength of the organisation helped it immensely. Communist Party was young then and so very enthusiastic.

A signed editorial by Joseph Mundasseri, in second page (total four pages) would stretch to two or three columns. Then two or three short notes by JM each would not be less than half a column. He would not stop with these two items. He was interested in letters by readers. It was rare to receive meaningful letters from readers for any newspaper. He would dictate letters for others to take down. These letters would be such in which the readers should pay attention.

The sender's name could be of any anonymous person. The writer was free to put any name appropriate to the content. However in each letter somewhere name of Mundasseri would creep up. "A gentle Catholic from Kandassamkadavu," 'Navajeevan edited by Sri Mundasseri' etc would appear in many letters. He was not intending to promote himself but his insistence that an ignorant reader should take note on ideas of the intelligent.

Thus he would fill almost the second page with Mundasseri trade mark.

Mundasseri was very articulate while addressing meetings. He would even be articulate while dictating editorials, notes and letters. On the stage his speeches would remind us of drizzle, torrential rain and even cloud bursts. However when he dictated serious matters this relentlessness

would not be missing. He would dictate after long thinking and organising his sentence would take time. There would be long intervals between sentences. He would stand crossing his hands, bending head to one side and the open eyes seeing nothing. He was preparing to construct a sentence that contained valuable ideas, appropriate words and relevant feelings. There were occasions when I fell asleep when the silence got stretched.

N V S Varier

My journalism in Navajeevan did not last long. With several breaks it lasted about one year. It was not the duration but the severe work load from the very beginning that was important. The busy schedule of first day continued for long. I S Namboothiri came to help us but soon he returned. Then N V S Varier came. He was in Navalokam. Younger brother of N V Krishna Varier, N V S had a beautiful prosaic style that demanded respect. I was inspired by his translation of article by Ehrenberg, published in 'Vishwakeralam.' During 1949 I had opportunity to interact with NVS. I was deputed to NVS on the strength of my translation. He entrusted a long speech delivered by one of secretaries of Soviet Communist Party, P N Pospelov, on a special occasion, to me for translation. Within the stipulated time, I completed the job and returned the work to NVS. It was then not published. I do not know if it was published ever.

I met NVS Varier in a house in Cherur near Thrissur. I incidentally saw well known Communist leader Ambadi Sankarankutty Menon in the house where NVS was staying incognito. Menon and I were close. He too was underground. Sankarankutty Menon used to stay in villages in the northern side of Thrissur.

'Ugran' Thampan

Sankarankutty Menon and I returned together from NVS' hideout. On the way he said, "Let us meet Thampan." I did not know whom he was referring to. One of the rules of Underground was that none would disclose the real name. When Menon said that we were going to meet 'Ugran Thampan' I became inquisitive. When we met him, I regretted the visit. When we approached him he was very angry like a pregnant tiger ready to tear anyone coming near.

The issue was that a messenger he sent to Thrissur was late.

I thought of him as a leader who talked nonsense. He was continuously proclaiming, "I will fire him," "I will fire him." He must have possessed a gun. There was a rumour that all Communist leaders in hiding were carrying guns. Some of the leaders did not have even a torch. The resignation of Ambadi Sankarankutty Menon and his wife Lakshmikutty Amma from Communist Party in 1949 evoked shock waves among the cadres. The entire Party in Thrissur region was in turmoil. It was followed by more resignations by some more members and supporters and the matter was published in newspapers by paying them. When he resigned he had a three cell torch borrowed by me from someone. I collected it from him by sending a man secretly to him.

When the temper cooled down, Thampan started talking about attacking police stations in Amballur and Anthikkad. These villages were strong centres of the Party. If we did so Panambilly Govinda Menon would run away to Delhi to hide himself, he said. We did not stay there longer and escaped without getting hurt.

This Thampan was taken into custody in Aluva. This tall leader revealed every secret of the Party to the police. Party's secret groups everywhere in Kerala crumpled. Aluva was the secret centre of the Party then. Hearing the Thampan episode, EMS

Namboothiripad and K C George abandoned their hideouts and ran away unescorted. It was mere luck they did not land in police custody.

NVS Varier was with Navajeevan for two or three days. He was not keen to work there. He left the office by saying that he would pay a visit to Ernakulam. He never came back. Later we heard that he joined Mathrubhumi.

God's messenger

Until the Christmas vacation was over I worked in Navajeevan tirelessly. There was an easy chair in Vallathol Press. It served me as my chair and bed. There was not enough furniture in the press. When worked, I used a wooden board to write during day and at night raised my legs on to the board and sleep. After a few days I could not stand erect.

As soon as I woke up in the morning, I would take the waves of paper lying in front of the PTI box and tear then into sections separating according to the subjects. Important items were translated soon. The editorial dictated by Mundasseri on the previous day and the local news would go for composing and then I would sit for proof reading. There was no separate proof reader.

It was Soman, an important Party activist in Thrissur, who was looking after local news. It was a wonder that every day the newspaper came out with four pages filled. Occasionally I S Namboothiri and P Raman Menon from

Deshabhimani came to help. My college reopened and I had to go. How to go? Then as a messenger of god, came TKG Nair. He was thrown out from Calcutta for being a Communist. He reached Bangalore and started writing his memoirs in a soft language for K Damodaran's 'Navayugam' published from Thrissur. His column was very popular. Navajeevan now got a stable editor when TKG came. Following the split in Communist Party, Navajeevan shifted to Kozhikode as CPI's mouth piece. When Navajeevan was closed down, T K G Nair joined Malayala Manorama.

Non-availability of proper editorial board was not the only problem Navajeevan faced. Since inception the management was in total disorder. The printed paper was bundled and sent to the agents and the unsold copies returned were never properly accounted. Unsold papers formed mountains inside the press and were used to wrap next day's bundles.

There is a say that every drop of water spilled into the sea also should be accounted. I brought the issue of mismanagement before the district secretary, responsible for the paper, Janarddhanan but it had no effect and the system continued as before.

We were hard pressed for money. The new editor TKG Nair joined a lodge in Chembukkavu where Communist leader, advocate and MLA T K Ramakrishnan stayed. When the month end came for payment of bill, TKG was in doldrums. No money was forthcoming from Navajeevan.

Simple picture

We draw a simple picture of the lifestyle of editors in Navajeevan. Everyday around noon, TKG and me would get one rupee each. For one and a half rupee we would order a 'parcel' - from Pathan Swamy's hotel. For the remaining eight annas, TKG would buy a packet of cigarettes. My habit was snuff, not a big expense. The speciality of Pathan's parcel was that it would suffice for three or four people. For lunch we always had guests.

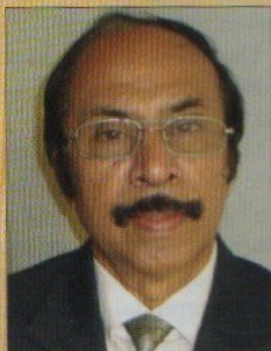
If we eat well during lunch, we could skip the supper and there was no money too. Superless nights became the order of those days.

After Christmas I went to college. During spare time I used to go to Navajeevan and helped them. In 1954 I

With Best Wishes to Kerala in Mumbai on its 9th Anniversary

Upendra Menon

National Vice President of All India Malayali Association,
Central Committee Member Giants International
Mobile: 9821643398
Email: upendra44@gmail.com



appeared for BOL examination. Mundasseri Master insisted that I should return to Navajeevan after examinations. So I was back there.

The above description was after I rejoined the editorial board. Other three people in the board were TKG, Soman and a proof reader. Many more people were there in the press and management. The last mentioned staff used to get their pre-decided wages or salary without much difficulty.

Soman used to come from home. Occasionally I used to go home. TKG was in a miserable condition. Meanwhile he got married too. Initially the couple stayed in town. Then he stopped staying there and went to home or to his wife's home. TKG worked in Navajeevan day and night. Sometimes he worked even after midnight. The work starts early morning and continues till midnight. Often Mundasseri came then to dictate his editorials and notes. Those days were indescribable: tiresome, hunger and lethargy.

The night walks

While dictating editorials and notes, Mundasseri suddenly felt a need to go out to have a cup of tea. Those walks are memorable. He used to take me along. We would cross the southern round towards Jose Theatre. The theatre had a cafe below. It was one of the rare eateries late night. I would raise questions about literature and political affairs. He would give clarifications. This would continue during our walk as well as while having tea. Master would pay for tea. He knew I had no money.

On certain days some special friends would come. Master would go with them. Those journeys had a different agenda. Mostly MM Francis would give him company. On their return Master would be sweating, mouth filled with beetle concoctions but fully cheerful and laughing. The writings and talks then would become highly spirited.

Till midnight or sometimes much more late, he continued his encore and then walked to his house in Kizhakkumpattukara. A giant of a person who would while away his time in press and surroundings, would walk much behind him. It was Manjila Anthony who undertook the security of Master without being assigned to do so. The conservative Christian community never liked Mundasseri's politics,

Navajeevan, its contents etc.

Unlike today, several decades ago the environment was quite different. Politics was based on idealism. Arguments were based on principles and idealism. Violence was anathema to politics. Would Mundasseri's lone walk at night be possible today?

Anxieties

It was during my Navajeevan days that the strong man of Soviet Russia Lavranti Beria was shot down. Those were the days of my anxiety. Stalin passed away. Beria was charged and killed. What was happening in Russia? Was it because Stalin was no more? Khrushchev made his 'secret speech' in the 20th Party Congress about the atrocities committed by Stalin much later. One day the Beria episode became the subject of our discussion during one of our night walks. I do not recollect what Mundasseri remarked about the death penalty given to Beria but I was surprised to note that Master had no ill-feeling about it. Tito was thrown out of Cominform. Yugoslavia left the Communist group. It happened sometime in 1948. Communism was established across world. I was certain during my Intermediate days that socialism would rule the world one day. But the Tito episode made me restless.

During our young days we see several dreams. We aspire for many things. We believe we would achieve them. Later we realise all those were mere dreams.

Students Federation

I completed my four years college education in seven years. Out of the seven, third, fourth and fifth years, I was amidst the political forbidden land. In 1952 when I got enrolled in BOL course, I visited the office of Thrissur Communist Party office. Local secretary P V Krishnankutty then pointed his finger to a paper moll hill in a corner and told me that I could find the name and addresses of members of the federation in and around Thrissur and that it was my duty to refurbish the federation. I could get a few names from those papers. I wrote to some and searched in student hostels for other federation members. I called a meeting of federation members in Asan Hostel, Kottapuram. Next two years my main task was to rebuild the Federation. I was made a member of local committee as

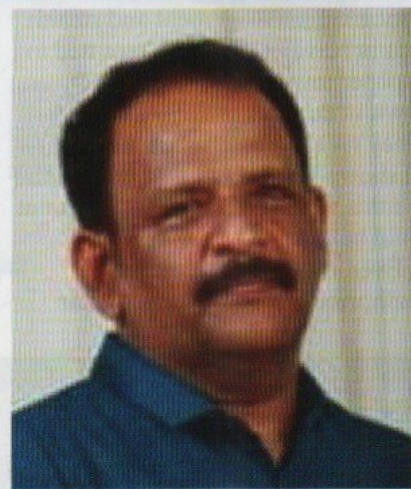
representative of Federation. During 1948-50 revolution Federation was scattered all around. During the next two years we re-established the Federation and reinforced it. Two party groups of six members each were formed within Students Federation.

Once I started working for Navajeevan, my contact with the Federation became less. I had no inclination towards politics. I badly needed a job. Had the situation in Navajeevan been a little healthier, I would have continued there.

There were two persons from Sri Kerala Varma working in Navajeevan, besides me, manager E M Ramadas. When I joined Navajeevan, I was district president of Students Federation and Ramadas was also in Federation as its secretary of town unit. I passed the graduation examination with class. Ramadas failed in Intermediate examination.

Now Ramadas became the manager of Navajeevan establishment. I became the editor who had to approach the manager everyday for my share of one

Obituary



M T Kumardas

M T Kumardas son of Changathu Damodaran Nair of Thiruvengittam, Guruvayur and Mathilakathu Thazhathethil Sarojini Amma of Edappal died on January 28 at his native place Edappal following a heart attack. He was 56. He was a businessman staying in Vijay Nagar, Marol, Mumbai.

Kumardas is survived by his wife Sunita and children Ashwati, Vishnu and Vipin.

rupee. I was ashamed to go to Ramadas. I told him to fix a monthly salary for me and to give that amount at the month end. His reply was that the amount also would vanish in such an arrangement. Since the paper belonged to the Party, I tolerated.

Child of sacrifice

When all roads were blocked TKG wrote a letter to DC Secretary. He protested against the turmoil of the editorial staff alone being destined to look after the 'child of sacrifice.' DC convened a meeting of party members of setup. When the meeting started, manager got up and complained that he did not receive any salary since he joined and that after fixing his salary the entire outstanding amount should be paid to him immediately. This audacity shocked everyone assembled there.

The discussion never reached any conclusion. No decision was taken. The management of Communist Party was always a failure in adopting any concrete decision. They refuse to be slaves to money. They feel writing accounts also a kind of slavery.

Most of the establishments under Communist Party suffered because of financial mismanagement and stealth. Even in Navajeevan, cash remitted to the paper towards its due was not shown in accounts. When receipt for money received was made, its counter foil showed much less amount. By the time this was detected, a huge amount would be lost.

Even in the prestigious Party mouthpiece Deshabhimani similar

things had happened. Action was taken against a few. People responsible for book stalls and underground activities had escaped with money that came their way. Newsprint transactions also paved way to such unethical acts. There were allegations that some people responsible for maintaining bank accounts did not show the interest received in the accounts.

Public sector

Communist Party is also a public sector establishment, in a general sense. It belongs to all but to none. Party is not different from this concept. Establishments such as newspaper, publishing house and book stalls are not making any profit but incur losses. Why to be miserly to make profits? Most of these establishments are surviving by collecting funds from public. It was easy to manipulate accounts when police raids were the order of the day. People responsible for finances had an escape route: all papers were taken away by police during the raid.

If public sector establishments are converted to private, mismanagement would end. Yet, the game of bucket collection would continue. This is a 'serial' disease. It is not applicable to a single party.

Protest

I had no enmity with Manager Ramadas. He had no grievance against me. Yet, I had objection to his giving one rupee-One rupee only-to me every day. That too I have to go to him and ask. My mind became angry at this very

thought.

Ramadas was my friend when we were together in college. And a co-worker within Federation. The working style of those days was quite different. Threat to education, threat from police and objection from home, no money for anything it was like a daily mountaineering. Ramadas faced opposition from all. There was an opinion that it was the result of his behaviour pattern. One leader of the Party advised him to be gentle and soft with everyone even if he could not pay them money. His reply was, "One should give when asked for money. Good words will not please them when money is refused."

It was Editor Joseph Mundasseri who drew a negative picture of Navajeevan manager. It is in the 52nd chapter running upto three pages, of 'Kozhinja Ilakal' highlighting his negative shades. Mundasseri concluded the chapter with the following paragraph:

"I had no hand in the management of the paper. I did not like it. I cannot avoid stating that part was not very bright. Despite help from many, irrespective of many advertisements received, despite the large number of copies sold, there was no money to buy news print. I remember those bitter days. Further there were many Saturdays when we could not make payments to employees who worked very hard for the paper. When these issues are remembered, there is another that we cannot forget. It was the story of the cashier who despite hardship in the office, ate his food from 'Bismillah' (a high grade non-veg hotel of Thrissur), well worn poplin shirt, double 'veshti', chain smoking and the second shows of Jose Theatre."

'Cashier' indicates manager as there was no official cashier.

Wings

During my journalism period the most I suffered was in Navajeevan. I learnt everything in journalism from Navajeevan. I am grateful to it for this education. Journalism helped me in literary work. Both together made me free. It gave me confidence to pull on even if I lose my job in college. If the printer and publisher disagreed with me, I could fall back on my teaching job. I felt free like a two winged bird.

I am grateful to December 20, 1953. ■



JERRY AMALDEV:

Exponent of Indian and Western Music

Jerry Amaldev is a veteran music composer who has been trained in North Indian vocal music (Pune and Bombay), in Western classical music (Cornell University, New York and Xavier University, New Orleans,) and in movie music (under Naushad in Bollywood). Raagalaya Academy of Music and Arts is privileged to bestow its XV Lifetime Music Achievement Award to Jerry Amaldev.

Currently Maestro Jerry Amaldev is active in conducting Concerts of SIWJA, (Sing, India with Jerry Amaldev), his choral group, in India and abroad and Music workshops. He is Visiting faculty in Music Colleges and composes Film, Devotional and Secular music albums.

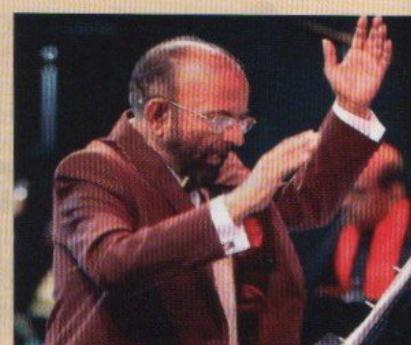
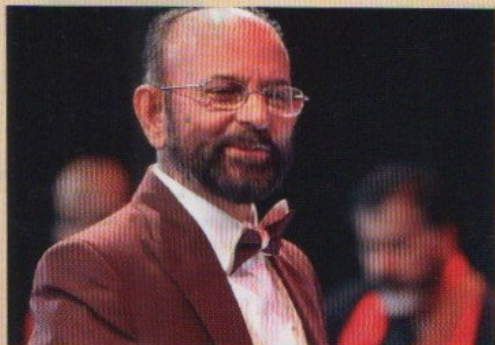
He is now training Sing, India to render a variety of songs, such as the Western classical gems of Handel, Mozart, Rossini and Franck; popular hits of the Beatles, the Carpenters and Abba; hymns in Latin, Greek and

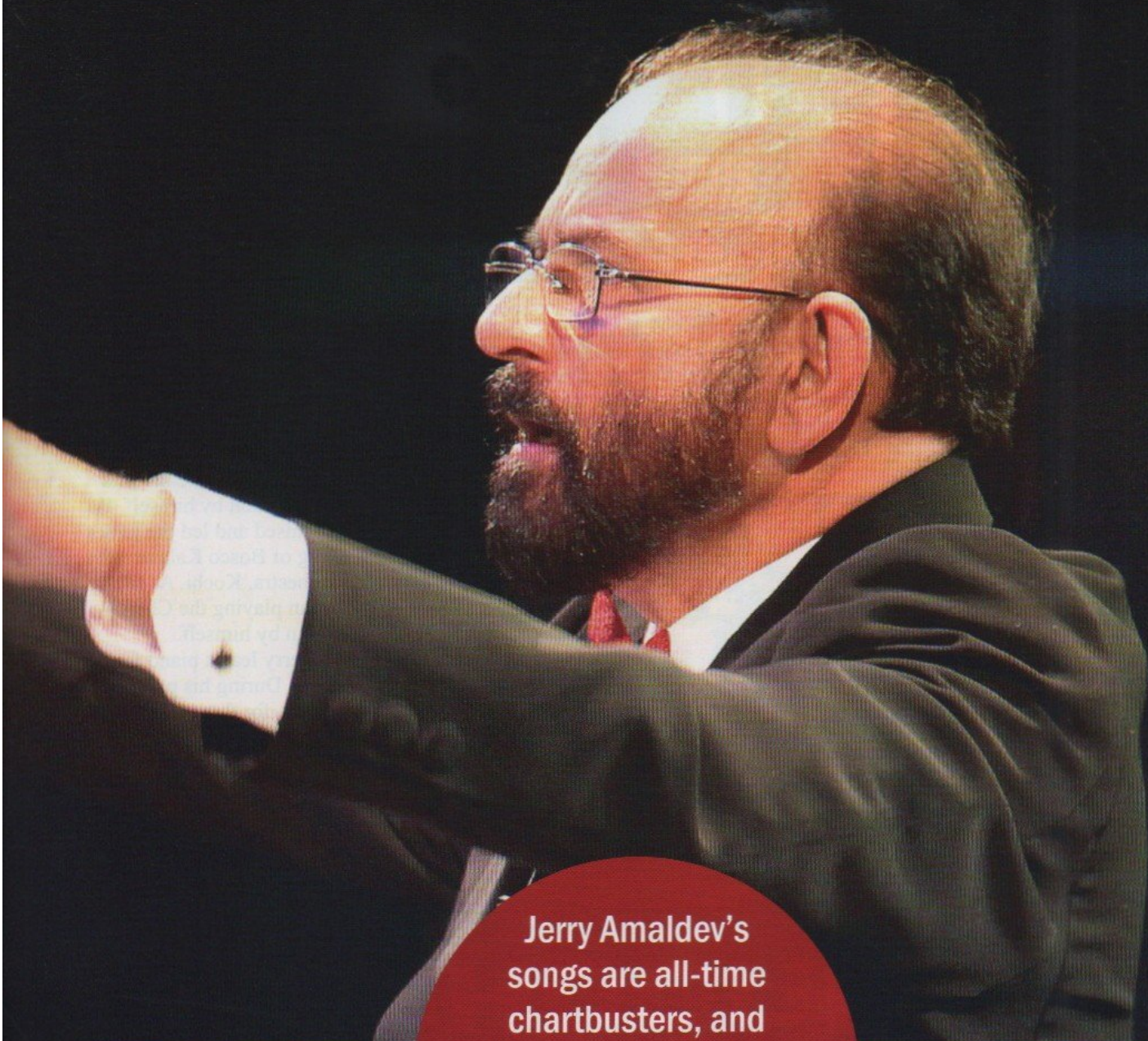
Sanskrit; national and international folk songs and his own Malayalam hits.

Among Malayalees, Jerry Amaldev is popular and well-known for his melodious and unforgettable film songs that brought him awards and fame. He is noted for his lyrical and expressive melodies. He is one of the evergreen music directors in Malayalam.

Jerry Amaldev debuted in this

industry through Fazil's *Manjil Virinja Pookkal* in 1980 and he won the Kerala State Award for excellence in Music Direction. In 1990 he won the state Award for Best Music Director for the film - *Aparahnam* and in 1995 Kerala Film State Award for Best Background Music for the film *Kazhakam*. He has also won several Critics' Awards.





Jerry Amaldev's songs are all-time chartbusters, and his music is relatively simple and can be enjoyed easily by the common man.

His notable films, to name a few, are *Manjil Virinja pookkal*, *Aparahnam*, *Ennenum Kannettante*, *Ente Mamattikkuttiyammakku*, *Nokketha Dhoorathu Kannum Nattu*, and *Guruji oru Vakku*.

His songs are all-time chartbusters, and his music is relatively simple and can be enjoyed easily by the common man. Some of his memorable songs are *Deva Dundubhi*, *Poovataka*, *Alorungi arongoringi*, *Maunangale chanchaduvan*, *Manjanikombil*, *Mizhiyoram*, *Aayiram kannumai*, *Vaachalam en mounavum*, *Kiliye*, *Penninte chenchundil* and so on.

From 1980 to 1995 he composed music for about 75 films, and worked as Principal of Cochin Arts & Communications, Cochin, and set up its

Recording studio. He also composed, conducted, got recorded and synchronized background score for the Tamil version of Franco Zeffirelli's *Jesus of Nazareth*. He is a member of Indian Performing Rights Society.

During the Pope's visit to India in 1986, he conducted a choir of 100 and an orchestra of 40 artistes. He has also composed Hindi songs for Doordarshan and has since been composing and

conducting choral music for secular and religious audio CDs, and giving performances involving large number of singers and instrumentalists, both in Kochi and Chennai.

From 2006 to 2010 he joined the Choice Group, Cochin, as their music consultant. He was active in composing music for various socially relevant films and television serials.

Since early 2000 he was neglected by the Malayalam film industry. Then he started teaching music at the American International School, Chennai, an institution of the State Dept., Washington D.C., New York. Currently he is working at Choice School, Cochin, where he handles choral music.



Musical Career

Jerry was trained in North Indian Vocal music by Madhusoodan Patwardhan of Vishnu Digambar Sangeet Vidyalaya, Pune. He was also trained in vocal music under S.C.R. Bhat and K.G. Ginde in Mumbai where he worked as assistant to the great Indian Music Director Naushad and assisted him from 1964 to 1969 in films such as *Aadmi*, *Palki*, *Ram aur Shyam*, *Sunghursh*, *Dil Diya Dard Liya* and *Saathi*.

This veteran music composer obtained the degree of Bachelor of Music from Xavier University, New Orleans, USA and joined Post Graduate Programme at Cornell University, New York including Work Study programme that involved class-room teaching of music for 2 years under the guidance of Prof. William W. Austin, Chairman, Dept. of Music, Cornell University. In 1975 he secured degree of Master of Fine Arts in

Music Composition at Cornell University. He began teaching at Queens College, Flushing, New York. Jerry Amaldev has visited Rome and Vienna, presenting his research on Gergorian Chant.



Roots

Jerry Amaldev was born in Kochi. His parents are V C Joseph and Mary Joseph. His wife is the late Jolly Jerry Amaldev. He has three daughters, Meera, Sangeeta and Dahlia.

He completed his school education at St. Albert's High School, Ernakulam,

Intermediate degree from Holkar College Indore and Bachelor Degree of Philosophy from the Papal Athenaeum, Pune.

As a 13 year old boy Jerry has composed music for his first song. He was able to notate his first composition by himself. He organised and led the junior wing of Bosco Kalasamithy Orchestra, Kochi. At 15, he began playing the Church Organ by himself.

Jerry learnt piano for 3 years. During his period in Indore, for three years, he took Tabla lessons from Mohammed Khan of AIR, Indore.

Jerry has been bestowed the Kerala Sangeet Nataka Academy Award.

In 2016, Jerry made a comeback in the Malayalam film Action Hero Biju, starring Nivin Pauly and directed by Abrid Shine.

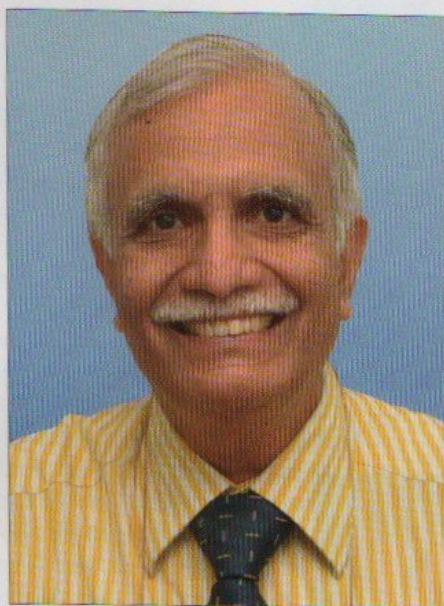
Today Jerry Amadev hones Sing, India, his Choral group, to scale greater heights and attain perfection. It is his dream to have a world class choral group. ■



**KIM
EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2019**

A S Madhavan

Committed Philanthropist



■ **A S Madhavan** is a respectable business magnate, philanthropist and humanitarian. He is Chairman-Emeritus of Flyjac Logistics, Founder Director, JWC Logistics Pvt. Ltd, JWR Logistics Park Pvt. Ltd, JWL Cold Store Pvt. Ltd and Imagna Analytics Pvt. Ltd., heading an organisation with 28 offices in the country and a network spanning over 60 countries

He is Managing Trustee of Warriar Foundation that runs Childrens' Homes or Balamandirams in Panvel and Thirunavaya and Mazhuvannur in Kerala. The Foundation is currently educating 400 children at these Centres. It aims at providing free education, food, shelter and healthcare to 1,000 children in the near future. The Panvel Centre currently has 45 Vedic students and 35 students under the regular syllabus. Successful vedic students can appear for the examinations being conducted by the

As part of its ninth Anniversary Celebrations, **KERALA IN MUMBAI** felicitates several Malayalees who have made a mark in Mumbai and proved themselves achievers in their chosen field of profession.

All these personalities have been featured in our columns.

However the list is not conclusive. There are more and more Mumbai Malayalees who are Mumbai's pride and in due course **KERALA IN MUMBAI** plans to recognize and felicitate each one of them.

Ujjain University. The Balamandir at Thirunavaya in Kerala is home to more than 125 children some of whom are appearing for their graduate and post-graduate studies. The Foundation has set up the Universal Centre for Individual Integration at Thirunavaya in Kerala. The mission of the Centre is to show individuals the path towards integration of their body, mind, intellect and spirit, thereby fulfilling their quest for a higher self. In November 2018, under the aegis of Warriar Foundation, Mazhuvannur Balamandiram has taken up few initiatives. Gifting of free homes for the homeless (*Saujanya Kaivalya Aashrita Mandira Danam*), inauguration of Tailoring Centre, platform for the Youth (*Yuvajana Vedi*), Senior Citizens' Forum, Aisharya Residents' Association and Manuscript Journal (*Kayyvezhuthu Masika*) were some of the new initiatives and were part of the Balamandiram's annual celebrations

The Jnana Seva Kendra started in 2017 at Anaikkatti, 30 kms away from Coimbatore is a community development programme aimed at creating a sustainable livelihood enhancement to the tribal villages and the people of Anaikatti. It conducts free medical camps, blood donation and eye donation campaigns in co-operation with other social organizations in many parts of the country. Philanthropic-minded people and well-wishers are welcome to support the noble activities being carried out under the aegis of the Warriar Foundation.

A S Madhavan is also the Managing Trustee of Janakalyan Sevashram which runs an old age home. He is Founder Member, World Warriar Association, Past Federation President, Giants International; Past President, Warriar Samajam, Mumbai and many community-based organisations. He is also the Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School at Thirunavaya in Kerala. He has also been an ardent spiritual seeker from childhood.

Kerala in Mumbai is happy to bestow on A S Madhavan KIM Excellence Award.

Adv Padma Divakaran

Social Causes Champion



■ **Adv Padma Divakaran** IRS (Retd) is a well-known senior personality who is a relentless social activist and works for the welfare of those who are in need of any assistance. A respected figure, she has made Mumbai her home for more than 49 years. Adv Padma Divakaran is President of Bombay Keraleeya Samiti Malad, since 2008 and under her guidance the Samiti has carried out many social, educational and other charitable activities. Several Malayalees who have excelled in their respective fields like education, literature, drama, sports etc have been honoured by the Samiti. Medical and eye camps have been carried out, sports and cultural activities have also been done under her leadership. On the cultural side, the Samiti has taken a keen interest in reviving Malayalam drama.

Adv Padma Divakaran retired as Dy Commissioner Income Tax (IRS Officer) in 2007 after a span of meritorious service in the department. During her tenure she has received several Appreciation Letters and awards from her Department for her dedicated and sincere work. During this time Padma studied Law and got her Degree in Law (LLB from Mumbai University) and completed the two year LLM Course as well. With the help of organizations like World Malayali Council and others, she has arranged funds for heart operations of poor people at Lilavati, Bombay Hospital and other hospitals in Mumbai. Padma Divakaran has extended educational assistance to deserving poor children to continue their studies, donated wheelchairs, helped cancer patients etc.

Kerala in Mumbai is happy to bestow on Adv Padma Divakaran KIM Excellence Award

Adv Malbin Victor

Dedicated Leader



■ **Adv. Malbin Victor** is Proprietor of ABC Consultancy Services located at Hiranandani Gardens in Powai. It is a consultancy firm providing all legal supports and documentation services to the real estate segment. He always takes up initiative and leadership to do charitable activities and has done numerous noble services to the poor and needy. Malbin Victor is Chairman of The Kerala Christian Council (KCC). A socio-cultural, non-political, philanthropic organization representing all Christian denominations of Kerala in Mumbai, it was established in 1958, and is a platform, where all the Kerala Christians settled in Mumbai join together to spread goodness to society. Under the leadership of its current Chairman Malbin Victor, the Council is involved in the care and support of cancer patients, the mentally disturbed people wandering on the street providing food and accommodation, medical and welfare expenses in and around Mumbai, etc. It provides various scholarships under its Golden Child program and it benefits, encourages and motivates lot of poor and needy children all over Mumbai. He is a senior member of Hiranandani Keralite Association (HKA) and its Joint secretary. He is a prominent face of Lions Club of Powai. He is also a reputed member and one of the conveners of Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), another platform for successful businessmen.

Kerala in Mumbai is happy to bestow on Adv Malbin Victor KIM Excellence Award.

Geetha Vijayshankar

Classical Dance Exponent



■ **Guru Smt. Geetha Vijayshankar** is a versatile artiste with a mission to learn and teach. An exponent in Mohiniattam and Kathakali, she has been graded as an 'A' grade artist in Doordarshan and also appeared in National programme of dance telecast by Delhi and also in Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan. She has learned Mohiniattam under Thripunithura Vijaybhanu, Shri Udyogamandal Vikraman, Smt. Maithili Venkatachalam, Smt. Kalamandalam Meera Nambiar and Kathakali under Sri. Kalamandalam Shekhar, Sri Ummannar Gangadharan Pillai and Sri Nelliode Vasudevan Namboodiri.

She had her debut at the tender age of eight. She has performed on several stages in India and abroad. Geeta has been teaching Mohiniattam for the past 33 years. Her students have performed in various prestigious festivals in and out of Mumbai and won laurels.

She has choreographed several Ballet and dances that have been staged all over Mumbai. She is a member of International Dance Council.

She is the great grand daughter of Maha kavi Shri KC Keshava Pillai. Her passion, love for art is inherited from her mother late Mrs. Sarojini Amma who was well known for her passion and love for Thiruvathirakali and other forms of dance at Thiruvananthapuram. She has started Gitanjali an institute for learning classical dance and music at Trivandrum.

She was an Associate professor in chemistry at S.I.E.S College Sion.

Kerala in Mumbai is happy to bestow on Smt Geetha Vijayshankar KIM Excellence Award.



J. Sreekantan Nair

Versatile Artiste



■ Jagathy Sreekantan Nair is a multi-talented artiste very popular in Mumbai arts circle. He is a poet and a lyricist for film songs and light music. He has published two book of poems and very soon his third book of poems will be released. Music was and is his passion. He followed his passion to realise his dream. He has till date written the lyrics of about 85 light music songs for Doordarshan and All India Radio. He is also an actor and since five years he has acted in a number of Malayalam and Tamil films and serials. God's Own Country, Aalroopangal, Kamboji are some films in which he has acted. Vazhve Mayam, Streedhanam, Achante Magan are some TV serials that he acted in.

Kerala in Mumbai is happy to bestow on Jagathy Sreekantan Nair KIM Excellence Award.

Kumar

Tabla Maestro

■ **Kumar Thottupurath** is one of the most popular tabla artiste who plays in Mumbai Malayalee orchestra groups. A seasoned artiste with 40 years experience of playing the tabla, Kumar brings an exquisite rhythmic touch in musical programmes with his magical fingers.

Kumar learned tabla at the age of fourteen under Kochu Baby in Kunnamkulam in Thrissur District.

He got an opportunity to play tabla in an orchestra in Kerala where Johnson Master played the violin before he became a music director. After coming

to Mumbai in the late 70s he played tabla for the well known Tharangini Orchestra. He has performed as accompanying artiste in musical programmes in Dubai, Bahrain and other Gulf countries. He has played for popular playback singers like P Leela, S Janaki, Udayabhanu, Jayachandran, Unni Menon and several others during Raagalaya Music Awards and other functions. He has also played with Dr Yesudas in his programmes. He has accompanied younger artistes like Vineet Srinivasan, Rimi Tomy, Idea Star singers as well. Kumar has also played for devotional music albums. He has always been a part of Raagalaya's orchestra troupe. He is working as an officer in a private company.

Kerala in Mumbai is happy to bestow on Kumar KIM Excellence Award.



With Best Wishes to

Kerala in Mumbai
on its 9th Anniversary

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V. Balachandran

Swamiye, Saranam Ayyappa!

Yet, another book on Lord Ayyappa! This one is timely in the context of the turmoil in Kerala following the equality-of-status judgment of the Supreme Court of India.

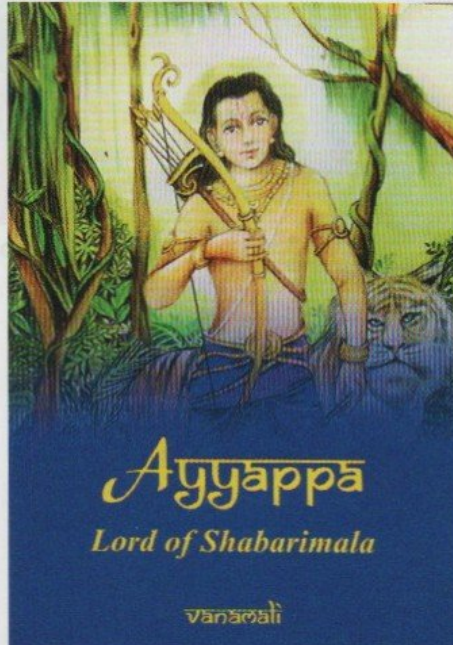
The author, Vanamali, is reverentially called Mataji. Hailing from Thrissur in Kerala, responding to a spiritual call early in her life, she moved to Rishikesh and founded there her ashram, the 'Vanamali Gita Yogeshram'. This was done 34 years ago. Since 1984, she has been pursuing the twin ideals of 'swadharma' (one's own spiritual uplift) and 'lokahita' (social welfare). She has been tirelessly propagating the tenets of Hindu religion and promoting the welfare of the villagers in the Garwal Himalayas; she runs a tribal school in Waynad of Kerala.

Mataji has written 13 books so far. The books are on the 'lilas' of the Gods, the Gita and Yoga; one of the books is titled 'The Science called Hinduism'. The books bear the imprint of a scholarly saint. The latest is on Sri Ayyappa. The book was formally released on January 14, 2019 Makara Sankranti Day at a function held at the Sri Ayyappa Mandir of Bangur Nagar at Goregaon (West), Mumbai.

The Sabarimala shrine, which attracts millions every year, is shrouded in legend of which there are several versions. These fall into two broad divisions viz. mythological and historical. But writers generally mix up the two resulting in incoherence and lack of clarity. One of the merits of Mataji's book is that she separates the two, thereby avoiding confusion and helping easy remembrance. In order to appreciate Mataji's narrative, it is worthwhile recalling the mythological elements. Indeed, these invest an aura of sanctity to the advent of Sri Shasta as Sri Ayyappan.

Mythological Background

The mythological version consists of a series of puranic episodes such as: the Dattaveya-Lila romantic tale



involving the rise of Mahishi as a menace to the gods (devas); the curse of Durvasa rendering the gods (devas) old and weak this follows the elephant of Indra trampling the garland given by the saint to the King of the gods; the churning of the Milky Ocean for

obtaining the nectar that would restore the youthful vigour and strength of the gods (suras) and enable them to defeat the demons (asuras); Mahavishnu's appearance as Mohini to help the Gods partake of the nectar; Maheshwara's falling for Mohini and the birth of Sri Shasta; Lord Shiva abandoning Sri Shasta as a child in the forest-clad Sabarimala (Shabari Hill) so that the cruel Mahishi (who also usurps the throne of Indra) can be got rid of; the discovery of the child with a bell round his neck by the King of Pandalam Rajasekhara, when he goes a-hunting and his upbringing in the royal household; plots by the Minister to get rid of the youth Manikanthan whom he considers as a rival to the throne of Pandalam; Manikanthan going out to fight with Vavar, a Muslim sufi saint (or, a local chieftain) and getting friendly with him on the latter surrendering to him; Manikanthan being asked to fetch the milk of a tigress for curing the headache of the Queen who, in collusion with the Minister, suspects the youngster as a possible rival to her son, the legitimate successor to the King; Manikanthan leaving for the forest, going to heaven to kill the Mahishi and returning to the earth;



arriving at the palace gates at Pandalam with a tigress and her cubs; turning down the request of the King to become the Crown Prince and, instead, asking the King to build a temple for Sri Shasta at a place where his arrow falls after being let off from his bow; the temple consecrated as Makara Sankranti Day (January 14) and the King calling out in anguish, 'Oh Ayyappa' ('Ayyan' and 'Appan' both meaning Father and Lord.).

Mataji does not ignore this mythological version; she gives it separately with minor changes from the popular traditional version. She gives priority (first 6 chapters in her book) to what she calls the historical version based on folk songs and tales. In this it is all a play of mortals without any divine intervention.

Historical Version

The scene is set at the fag end of the twelfth century. The land is divided into several small kingdoms and tracts of feudal barons ('naduvazhis'), most of them in conflict with each other. The rulers are harassed by two powerful men one a brigand called Udayan and the other a pirate called Vavar plundering the ships but helping the poor with the spoils. Udayan destroys a Sri Shasta Temple and kills the priest. The son of the priest manages to escape and roams about the forest of the Neeli Hill (also called Sabari Hill because the legendary



Mataji at discourse

Sabari of the Ramayana had been living there).

Udayan, who wants to marry the sister of the King, visits the palace to make the proposal. When the King and the robber are in talks, a youngster barges in and dissuades the King from yielding to the robber's demand. He takes the robber outside and engages him in a fight. The King later finds that both have disappeared.

Once, when the King goes to the

Sabari Hills for hunting, the duo leaves the child on a field with a bell round its neck. The abandoned child cries and the King picks it up and takes it home. When the child is ten years old, sends the boy to the 'Gurukulam'.

During the period of the boy's learning, two things happen: the Queen gives birth to a son and the King opens 'Kalaris' (gymnasias) to train the youth of the land to fight. At an annual contest where the trained boys are tested for their skill, six are selected and one of them is appointed as a General. When the final announcement of the selection is made, a youth comes forward and challenges the winners. He gains an easy victory over them and even the chief of the Kalaris (Kalari Asan) submits to him.

The winner hands over a palm leaf script to the King who, on reading it, embraces him but keeps the contents a secret, even from the Queen. The King orders the Minister to make arrangements for the coronation of Manikanthan as the Crown Prince. But the wily Minister colludes with the Queen to send away Manikanthan. The Queen feigns severe headache and insists on getting the milk of a tigress as a medicine.

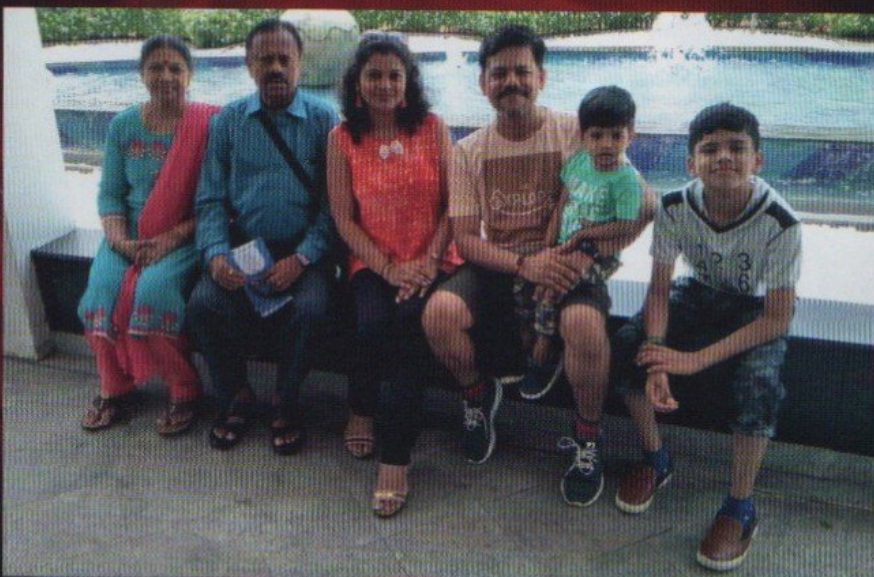
The King is upset. Manikanthan offers to go to the forest and fetch the milk. Soon, Manikanthan returns from the forest riding a leopard (it is a tigress in popular versions) followed by a tigress and her cubs. The King and the courtiers are wonder-struck and realise that Manikanthan is a divine being. The Queen repents for her folly.

The King does not want to delay the coronation. But Manikanthan declines the honour saying that he has a mission to fulfill, to wit, to rid the land of the pirate Vavar and the robber Udayan. The King agrees.

Vavar surrenders to Manikanthan after an initial fight which reveals the might of the foe. Manikanthan proceeds to fight with Udayan. It is a long-drawn battle as Udayan has three fortresses which form a formidable barrier to an easy victory. Manikanthan accomplishes his mission and returns to Pandalam to find his father eager to make him the Crown Prince. Manikanthan again politely rejects the proposal and takes the King along with him to Sabarimala where he had already built a temple for Sri Shashtra. The fond father accompanies his son to Sabarimala but not before seeing him adorned with the ornaments he had made for him as the Crown Prince.

At Sabarimala, on the auspicious day of Makara Sankranti Manikanthan gets

With Best Wishes to Kerala in Mumbai on its 9th Anniversary



K G Vallabhan & Family, Bhandup



Devotees at a discourse of Mataji

into the sanctum and merges with Dharmashasta. The King cries, "Oh Ayyappa!" (Oh my Father / Lord). Thus began the 'saranam vili' Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa!

Mataji asserts the right to equality of women and rejects the view that menstruation is a cause of impurity.

Despite her views about women's equality of status and menstruation as not a source of impurity, Mataji favours the status quo; she is with those who stand by the traditional restrictive practice. She is highly critical of the way in which the State Government has handled the situation after the SC's Judgment.

Ground Reality in Kerala

Everything is normal, also hartals as usual. I was in Kerala from December 24, 2018 to January 14, 2019. Sabarimala was no doubt the subject of popular discussion but there was no tension in the State as a whole as newspaper reports and media publicity would suggest. God was very much in the minds of the people but the enthusiasm for going to Sabarimala during the Mandalam season and Makara Sankranti was not much in evidence. In my own place, Angadipuram (Malappuram Dt.), where hundreds of people used to gather before the "Irumudi Kettu" there were hardly a dozen.

The "Vanitha Mathil" on 1st January turned out to be a mere mockery at the National Highway 47. The political parties, unfortunately, seemed to exploit the situation to their electoral advantage. There was no attempt to weigh in the balance the traditional prohibition of women's entry against 'constitutional morality'. All said and done, the law should prevail if citizens are to go about

their avocations peacefully. The most appalling factor was the light talk indulged in by the people, particularly the politicians, legislators and the elite (ex-bureaucrats, ex-judges etc.) indulging in loose talks against the Supreme Court. This is deplorable and should stop. The faith in the judiciary should under no circumstances be undermined; as it is the ultimate safeguard against attack on men's fundamental rights. ■

The writer is the Life Trustee of the Ayyappan Kshetram in Bangur Nagar, Goregaon (W), Mumbai.

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JUDICIARY SANS PEOPLE'S FAITH IN IT IS JUST A SCARECROW

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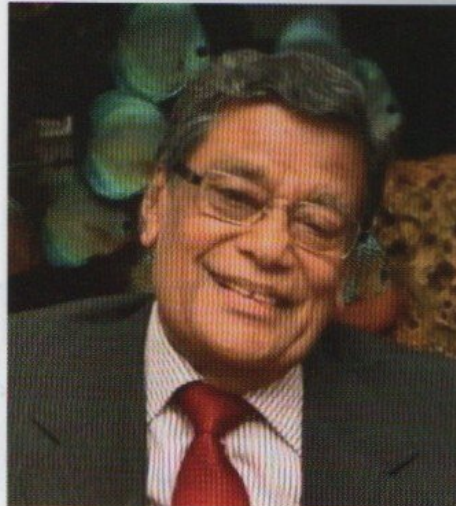
Prudence dictates caution when you have to pick a bone with men in high places. But there are occasions that compel you to speak out your mind. Two legal luminaries, both of them Keralites, have provoked us to throw caution to the winds by their utterances. One of them is the Attorney-General of India (A-G), Mr. K. K. Venugopal, and the other is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India (SC), Justice Kurian Joseph. Both of them have (i) caused immense damage to the dignity of the highest court of the land, (ii) made a futile attempt to tarnish the image of the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and (iii) dented the faith of the people in a constitutional institution like the judiciary that 'saves innocence and safeguards civil rights.'

The Attorney-General, who is generally a lawyer of distinction, represents the Executive branch of the Government in the Judiciary. His duties are specified in Article 76(2) of the Constitution as follows:-

"It shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to give advice (emphasis added) to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President, and to discharge the functions conferred on him by or under this Constitution or any other law for the time being in force."

The Constitution also specifies that the person appointed as A-G 'is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.'

It follows, by implication that the A-G is almost on par with a Judge of the SC in status. As such, he needs to uphold the majesty of the law and the dignity of the highest court of the land and be a custodian of the Constitution.



K K Venugopal

A-G as a Critic

Recently, on December 8, 2018, over-stepping the limits of decorum, A-G Venugopal turned a critic of the SC at a meeting called 'Dadachanji Memorial Debate' in New Delhi. He also sought to guard himself by saying that he was speaking in his 'personal capacity'. By saying so, the A-G indulged in the Orwellian double-think, which cannot be justified ethically. It is beyond the comprehension of a layman as to how a top law officer can have two opinions, official and personal, on matters of public interest. Can it be assumed that, when he offers 'advice' to the Government, he is not true to himself?

In his speech, the A-G made the following three questionable and controversial points:

Court's wisdom versus people's wisdom

The A-G is rhetorical in his exposition of the wisdom of the people. He says: "The Preamble of the Constitution says 'We, the people'. We gave to ourselves this Constitution. Are you going to treat the whole of the population as illiterate and not able to think for themselves? I say no. Maybe the illiteracy today is 26%, but even these people living in the villages and



Justice Kurian Joseph

rural areas, have (the) basic wisdom and know what is good for them. And, therefore, for the Court to believe that unless we interfere, the country is doomed, I say, no, it can't".

Mr. Venugopal's trust in the 'wisdom of the villagers', though questionable, is touching. But to put it above the 'wisdom of the Court' is like putting the horse behind the cart and imagining that the horse needs to be dragged by the cart.

Who put the phrase 'We the people' in the preamble? The poor villagers know nothing of it. It was inserted by the Drafting Committee and approved by the Constituent Assembly (CA). The CA was not even a representative body of the people as the Lok Sabha is or for that matter even the Rajya Sabha; in the latter the members are elected by the State MLAs. (When one thinks of the *crorepatis* and the crime-charged members of the Lok Sabha, even the representative character of the Lok Sabha is open to question). Mr. Venugopal deserves our sympathy because, though he has earned crores as a lawyer, he has lost much wisdom by not joining the ranks of the cultivators or others in rural areas!

SC's Powers

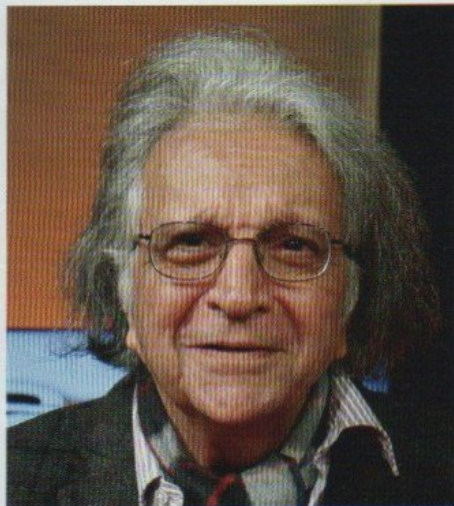
Article 142 of the Constitution says:

"The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree and make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice (emphasis added) in any cause or matter before it..."

'Justice' literally means 'just conduct' or fairness and is equated with truthfulness and morality. Justice 'aims at synthesising various values and provides for a just system of human relations, the products of which are liberty, equality and fraternity'. Justice holds the balance equal between crime and punishment. It ensures peace and order in society while protecting the rights of the individual citizen (conventionally accepted or specified in a written document called the constitution).

Mr. Venugopal's contention is that the SC's powers are limited but it has treated Art 142 as a 'Kamadhenu from which unlimited powers (emphasis added) flowed to the apex court of the country'.

Mr. Venugopal's criticism is off the mark. The Constitution lays it down as the SC's duty the dispensation of



Upendra Baxi

'complete justice'. Without full powers, which other constitutional agency enjoy, the SC will ensure complete justice in a democratic polity?

Constitutional morality versus Public morality

In Mr. Venugopal's view the SC has relied on 'constitutional morality' in the Sabarimalai case in which the apex court allowed the entry of women into

the Sri Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimalai in Kerala, long denied to them on the basis of two irrational / sentimental views viz. (i) that the deity was a 'brahmachari' (a celibate), and (ii) women have menstrual periods which render them unfit to observe the continuous 41-day 'vratam' (vow) ordained for the pilgrims.

The critic adds: "I am hoping constitutional morality will die with its birth (Is it not 'at birth')? If it (SC) still persists with it, I am afraid that Pandit Nehru's belief that it would result in the Supreme Court of India becoming a third chamber will come true".

Justice defined

According to Prof. Upendra Baxi, an eminent jurist, 'constitutional morality is scarcely a new concept (and that) it is writ large in the constitution itself'. In an article entitled 'The Court's Voice' in "The Indian Express" of December 17, 2018, he quotes from a 2007 judgment of CJI A. P. Shah and Justice S. Muralidhar. The Judges said that 'only constitutional morality and not public morality should prevail"! They added,

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MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO HUMANITY

"Moral indignation, howsoever strong, may not provide any basis for overriding individual's fundamental rights of dignity and privacy. In the scheme of things, constitutional morality must outweigh the argument of public morality even if it be the majoritarian view". (perhaps, the phrase 'constitutional injunctions' may be more appropriate).

Justice Y. D. Chandrachud, a sitting Judge, has recently described 'constitutional morality' as a governing ideal that highlights the need to preserve the trust of the people in (the

institutions of democracy'.

Prof. Baxi has said that the A-G's concerns about constitutional morality are misplaced.

The Judiciary is one of the three branches or limbs of the Government, the other two being the executive and the legislature. There is nothing wrong in calling it a 'third chamber' or more precisely the 'professional chamber' with the incumbents learned and experienced in the legal system that dispenses 'justice' (as defined earlier) Pandit Nehru critically (or cynically) referred to the 'third chamber' because all the

socialist laws of his time were thrown out by the SC. Today Nehruvian socialism no longer rules the roost; it was jettisoned hook, line and sinker in 1991 by his own Congress Party.

Justice Kurian's volteface

Ideals, like promises, are apt to be forgotten. There was recently a shocking instance of a severe attack on the 'governing ideal' referred to above. Justice Kurian Joseph, on the morrow of his retirement from the SC, had a fling at the retired CJI Deepak Misra. He was reported on December 3, 2018, as having said that the 'CJI was working under the influence of an external force'. He did not choose to elaborate. The report said: "Pressed again on whether the alleged influence was exerted by some political party or the Government in any particular case, Justice Kurian Joseph said that "the judges were only of the view that there was some bias by the judge concerned".

Justice Kurian Joseph's willing to wound but afraid to strike stance ill becomes one who had held high office. On December 10, 2018, the learned Judge told 'The Times of India': "There are so many important issues the media and countrymen can focus on. Let this issue rest in peace".

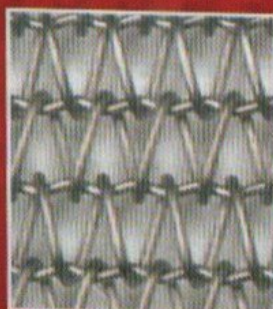
Justice Kurian Joseph was one of the four Judges who held a press conference on January 12, 2018 in New Delhi to make allegations against the CJI in regard to allocation of cases. There was a mention of 'Junior' Judges being assigned important cases. The foursome forgot that Article 124 specifically mentions the CJI by way of emphasising his uniqueness and leadership of a team of 'other Judges'. What should have been settled within the four walls of the Supreme Court was brought into the open. The political parties took the cue and even tried to move a motion of impeachment against the CJI. The action of the judges was shocking and affected the faith (trust referred to earlier) of the people in the judiciary. January 12, 2018 will go down in the history of the SC as a black day. It was also unfortunate that in a team of equals (most of them former State Chief Justices) the revolting Judges that in the name of democracy-should have called others as 'Juniors'.

Justice Kurian Joseph may find his peace of mind. But the pain he has caused to sensitive citizens cannot easily be assuaged. ■



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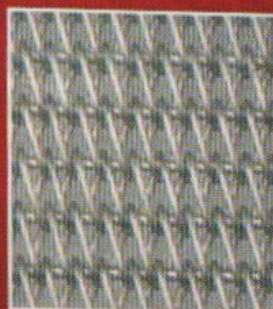
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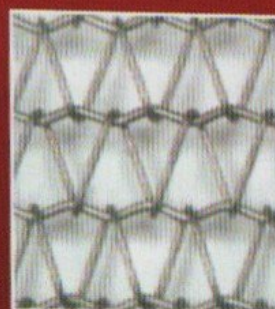
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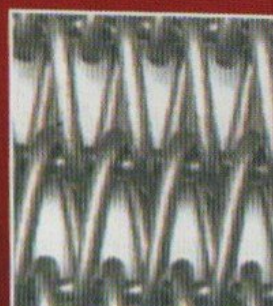
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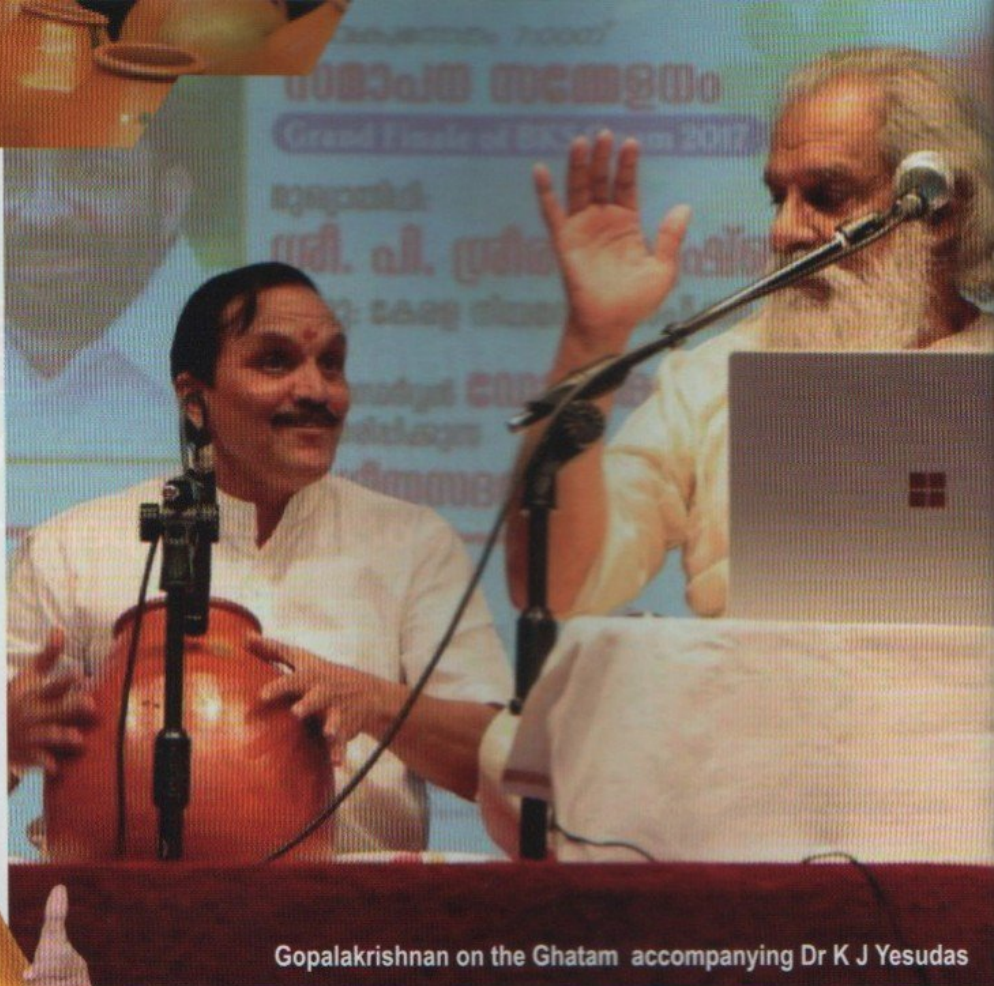
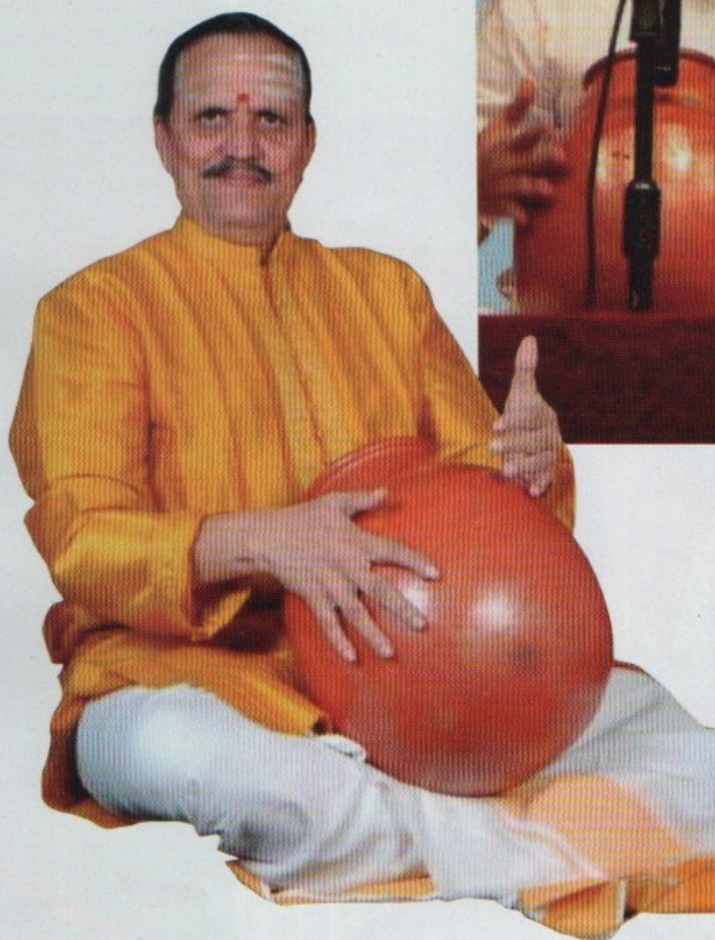
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Kalaimamani Vaikom R Gopalakrishnan is a senior veteran ghatam payer and has played a major role in enhancing the appeal of a vocal recital with his subtle rendering on the ghatam.



Gopalakrishnan on the Ghatam accompanying Dr K J Yesudas

KALAIMAMANI VAIKOM R GOPALAKRISHNAN

Dexterous Strokes on the Ghatam

Lakshmi V.

Kalaimamani Vaikom R Gopalakrishnan is one of the most prominent and outstanding ghatam vidhwans of the senior generations and has accompanied many outstanding artistes during their performances.

Born at Vaikom in Kerala,

Gopalakrishnan started learning ghatam and mridangam from his father R Ramaswamy Iyer at a very young age. His father sensed that he had a natural flair for rhythm and wanted to nurture it. Since opportunities were limited in his native place Gopalakrishnan was sent to Mumbai to undergo advanced training under Vidwan Karaikudi R Chandramouli. Gopalakrishnan

underwent rigorous training under his guru and started performing on stage. In due course he was the accompanying ghatam artiste for several Carnatic vocal artistes, for those living in Mumbai and those who came from Chennai to give performances. He was living in Mumbai from 1971 to 1990. After that he went to Chennai where he joined AIR and retired as Staff Grade A Top artiste.



Concerts where Gopalakrishnan accompanies renowned artistes



Concerts where Gopalakrishnan accompanies renowned artistes



Gopalakrishnan being felicitated

Sabha in association with Sri P Obul Reddy & Smt Gnanamba Trust Chennai, felicitated him with Vani Kala Sudhakara title in recognition of his meritorious service in the field of Carnatic Music (Ghatam). He received the Award at the hands of Swami Omkarananda. Narada Gana Sabha Chennai has bestowed him Sangeetha Mani title and he is Asthana Vidwan of Kanchipuram.

Gopalakrishnan's wife is Bhagyalakshmi. They have two sons, Raja and Ravishankar, both married and settled in the US. Both the sons are IT professionals but they are also closely involved in the music field. While Raja plays the drums Ravishankar plays mridangam and ghatam and the latter's wife Kavya is a Bharatanatyam dancer and teacher. Raja's wife Pallavi is an IT professional. ■



Receiving Kalaimamani Title from then CM Jayalalitha

Gopalakrishnan started performing for Dr K J Yesudas in 1972 and since then he has been accompanying him regularly and has been abroad to USA, Dubai and other Gulf countries with him on many concert tours. He continues to play even today as ghatam artiste for Yesudas' performances. He had the good fortune to accompany Dr Yesudas at Sabarimala temple on April 14 in 2012 when the Kerala Government conferred Harivarasanam Award on Yesudas.

He has also accompanied T N Krishnan and Kadri Gopinath during their concerts in the US.

Within India Gopalakrishnan has performed in Mumbai and the suburbs, many places in Kerala Delhi, Chennai et al. He has accompanied stalwarts in the Carnatic music world namely, the late Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Maharajapuram Santhanam, Dr Balamurali Krishna, Jaya and Vijaya, T V Sankaranarayanan, Unnikrishnan, M S Gopalakrishnan and several others. As recent as January 2019, he performed at the Thyagaraja Aradana Festival in Thiruvayaru.

Gopalakrishnan is also a seasoned mridangam player and has accompanied for Bharatanatyam performances for about fifteen years. He also had a stint with films and has worked with many leading Hindi music directors like Bappi Lahiri, Laxmikant Pyarelal, Naushad and others.

Awards & Honours

The Tamilnadu Government has bestowed on him Kalaimamani title while Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal of Sankara Mattam conferred on him Mrith Bandha Nadhamani. On December 9, 2018, Sri Thyaga Brahma

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Jagathy Sreekantan Nair Poet and Actor

Jagathy Sreekantan Nair is a multi - talented artiste very popular in Mumbai arts circle. He is a poet, writer of lyrics for film songs and light music songs. He has published two book of poems and very soon his third book of poems will be released.

Sreekantan Nair hails from Jagathy in Trivandrum. He came to Mumbai, did his Diploma in Electrical Engineering and worked in TIFR for fifteen years. Then he started his own business.

But music was and his passion. He followed his passion to realise his dream. Even in his early school and college days he used to write poems and has won prizes for the same. He continued to write poems and songs. He has till date written the lyrics of about 85 light music songs for Doordarshan and All India Radio. Sreekantan Nair has the good fortune to have written the lyrics of a devotional song sung by noted singer P. Jayachandran that is played daily at dawn at the Guruvayur temple in Kerala.

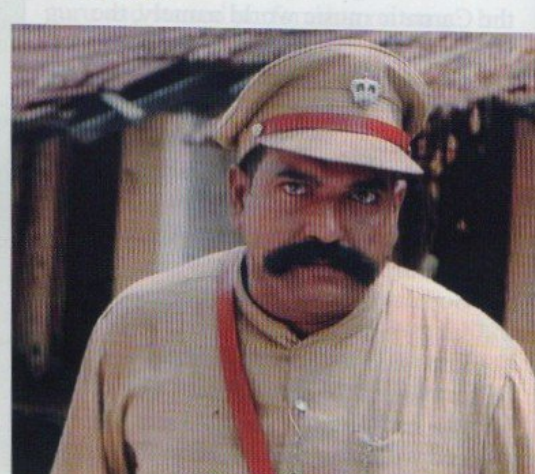
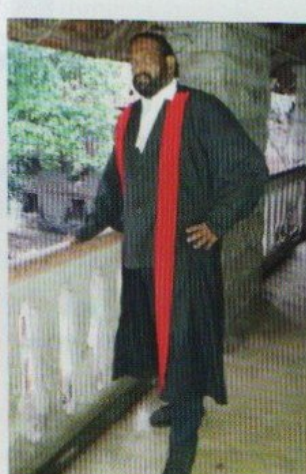
His lyrics have been transformed into melodious songs composed by Perumbavoor Ravindranath, M G

Radhakrishnan, Subramaniam, S R Mohan, Benson and others. They have been sung by popular singers like P Jayachandran, Sudeep Kumar, Sriram, Vidhu Pratap, Ravisankar, Lakshmi, Sreedevi and others.

He is also an actor and since five years he has acted in a number of Malayalam and Tamil films and serials.

God's Own Country, Aalroopangal, Kamboji are some films in which he has acted. Vazhve Mayam, Streedhanam, Achante Magan are some TV serials that he acted in. He wrote the lyrics of the songs for the films, Nishidhini Enna Udyogastha, and Vayal.

He continues to give us good poems and songs.



Sreekantan Nair as an actor in various roles

Sreekantan Nair has won several awards. In 2012 he won the first P Bhaskaran Memorial Award for the lyrics of the song *Uthrada thoni utsava thoni* produced by Doordarshan. Jagathy Peoples Award, NSS Award, K K Foundation Award, Maharashtra Sree Narayana Trust Award, Mumbai Hiranandani Keralite Association Award have been bestowed on him for his artistic efforts.

Sreekantan Nair's wife is O B Sreedevi. She is a writer and singer as well. They have a daughter Shruti who is a doctor and married to Kuldeep. They are in London and have a little boy. Sreekantan Nair and Sreedevi have a son who is a Sound Engineer working with a private company.

Sreekantan Nair's first book of poems Mohini is a collection of 101 poems based on the theme of love. Within a span of a year he had written all these poems.

His second book of poems Kavyanilavu is another collection of his poems and songs that has the basic theme of the moon as a symbol of love and beauty and the poet's feelings.

Kavya Malika is his third collection of poems to be released soon. ■



Sreekantan Nair with his family



Release of his poems collection



Being felicitated by SNMS at a function

Lending Wings To India's Progress Story

Continued on page 6

develop airline sector.

Work on the new airport at Navi Mumbai would be completed by the end of 2019 as per City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and it is a welcome news. The much awaited International Airport project in Navi Mumbai gained momentum as most of the disgruntled villagers have given clearance for the prestigious airport project. So an opening has been given to work on the project on the later date with the consent of the people, who owns part of the land in their names passed on to the government. It is a significant success and goes a long way in making the dream project come true. Safety should be given utmost importance to make CIDCO's priorities best solutions.

Apart from a hi-tech airport, care must be taken to form a runway that does have the mandatory side strips to cushion planes in case of skids or crashes. Accurate markings near parking bays will have to be provided for takeoff, landing and taxing. Many minor collisions involving aircraft and ground vehicles could be avoided by making proper and accurate markings. The height of the

hangers is also a problem as some of them exceed the permissible limit. The exact height will have to be determined and corrective measures have to be taken to set right the shortcomings. To overcome all these problems and to curtail congestion, an International Airport with sufficient space for landing big planes should be built up in Navi Mumbai.

The satellite city has sufficient space to follow all the guidelines given by the Airport Authority of India and International Civil Aviation Organisation. Modern International Airport in Navi Mumbai must be ready at the earliest to reduce the air traffic congestion at the Mumbai airport. After the deluge and flooding of the Mumbai Airport during the year 2005, it is high time to think in terms of an early finish of the Navi Mumbai airport with all the amenities needed for International airport of high standards.

Radar failure, which delays the flights landing and hovering around the airport should be avoided and proper infrastructure should be provided in the new airport. With monsoon season setting in Mumbai we can come across many

more regular cancellation and delays. Passengers are put into discomfiture and the chaos caused total confusion. Parking problem persists in many airports and the flying machines will have to shed more fuel because of the confusion. Several planes are lined up for take offs and landings were hit due to low visibility during heavy rains. The main problem with International airports in India is traffic congestion. Safety should be the first option if a big airplane land in the new airstrip at Navi Mumbai.

It is high time to give face lift to all the roads leading to the proposed Airport near Panvel. The work in clearing platforms is progressing rather slowly. The various agencies dig the roads in their own way and dig the grave yard for pedestrians and road users. Roads in Navi Mumbai needs proper maintenance so as to give new airport approach the smooth and best drive. We are destined to become a smart city and we hope that the airport and other infrastructure facilities will see that Maharashtra will become India's first \$1 trillion economy soon.

C. K. Subramaniam



Prof Dr John
Mathews Vazhappilly

Happiness the End of all Creative and Effective Living

O happiness! Our being's end and aim!

Good, pleasure, ease, content!
Whatever thy name:

That something still which
prompts the eternal sigh,

For which we bear to live, or dare
die.

Alexander Pope

The great scientist and philosopher Pascal had said: "Man wishes to be happy and only exists to be happy and cannot wish not to be happy". A creative and effective life is a life in pursuit of genuine happiness. The pursuit of happiness, temporal and eternal, is the goal of human existence.

A Creative Life is a Life in Pursuit of Happiness

Life finds its purpose and fulfillment in the experience and expansion of happiness. God has made many sunny spots in the heart; why should we exclude the light from them?. Happiness is enjoying

the good things of life. The Talmud is a collection of rabbinical wisdom that dates back to the time of Jesus. One of the lines in the Talmud that has caught my attention is this: Everyone will be called to account for all the legitimate pleasures which he or she has failed to enjoy. Most of us; I suspect, have never even thought about this. God's will is that we enjoy all the good things he has provided.

We are all pilgrims. We are here for a short while in this tent of time and space. If we keep grumbling and mumbling we will miss many of the magnificent gifts that God has given us during this pilgrimage. Think of all the marvelous experiences and beauty we would miss. The skies and lakes, the sunrises and sunsets. The changing of the seasons; from the springtime through the summer and fall to the whiteness of winter. True enjoyment comes from a grateful heart. It comes from the active and positive exercise of the body, mind and spirit.

An ancient Indian prayer says: let

all beings be happy? Not just friends and family, but all humans, not just all humans, but the wider world of all beings. When the great musician Tansen sang, it is said that deer wandered into the place to listen. The experiments of the great scientist J C Bose showed that the plants grow faster with pleasant music and their growth is retarded in noise or harsh sound.

Happiness is More than Material Success

Most people associate happiness with the acquisition of material things and temporal success. We continue to ruin our life pursuing that elusive butterfly called material success, that creature whose wings bear a terrible resemblance to green paper money. Happiness, we insist, is out there somewhere. When we find it, we are positive, we will have conquered life. We are racing down the wrong path, and ahead lies only tears of regret and failure.

Solomon told us the same thing a

long time ago when, one day, after surveying all his treasures and mountains of gold he cried out that it was all vanity and a striving after the wind and that there truly is no profit under the sun. Most of us have been raised to believe that material success is the most important goal of life, when one of the real keys to conquering life and being contented is just being true to the highest and best we know and can do.

Traditional wisdom gave the utmost importance to living a happy life. Traditional wisdom had a reassuringly plain answer: Man's happiness is to move higher to develop his highest faculties, to gain knowledge of the higher, and highest things and, if possible, to see God. If he moves lower, develops only his lower faculties, which he shares with the animals, then he makes himself deeply unhappy, even to the point to despair. True wisdom lies in happiness. One is reminded of the words of Will Durant: Joy is more important than wisdom.

We are often seduced by the

exuberant T.V ads or the enchanting graphics into believing that we can transform our lives if we would switch over to a new brand of soap or a different perfume. The reality is different. In fact, some of the happiest people I have come across are those who live the most simple life. For instance, Buddhist monks, Catholic nuns working in orphanages and old age homes, village peasants: all these simple people live in genuine joy. Their lives are filled with smiles, songs and celebration of whatever little things they have. It is a paradox that some of the happiest people I have encountered in my life were those who seemed to have no particular reason to be happy. They were simply happy. Most of them seemed to have a singular courage, a willingness to dare and do, to fall and to get up, a supreme confidence in themselves, a wonderful resourcefulness, an amazing resilience, a trust in their creative uniqueness, a faith in divine providence and an ability to hold on to their dream.

Happiness is an Inside Job

A man, who as a physical being is always turned toward the outside, thinking that his happiness lies outside him, finally turns inward and discovers that the source is within him

Soren Kierkegaard

Happiness is not a momentary phase of hormonal highs but a permanent state of peace and blissful calm. Happiness does not walk into your life. You have to achieve happiness through a conscious decision to be happy. Happiness is the product of a creative and effective life. We cannot look for joy as we do a lost article of clothing. We make our own happiness. We define it for ourselves and experience it in our unique way. Emotional well-being is an inside job.

Happiness is more a matter of choice than chance. Happiness does not happen to us, it happens by us. Know that each of us is the creator of our own thoughts and state of mind. This does not mean ignoring the often, painful

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reality of what happens, but understanding that you can choose your response to something at any given moment.

For example, you can choose to be frazzled and furious with demands and pressure of a hectic day, feeling miserable about bad luck, colleagues, weather or bad whatever. Or you can call upon the grace of the moment reminding yourself to stop and breathe calmly for just a few moments, finding some beauty to focus on, something to be grateful for in all this. You can choose between forever brooding on an unhappy childhood, or focusing on healing and moving on.

It is established that cultivating feelings of happiness results in a self-generating cycle of biological as much as psychological well-being. When you carve out time to go for a walk, or just to the nearest window, or to stop and pray, or dance or sing along to a

favourite tune, or share moments with special people, happy hormones flood your system, keeping you healthy. For this, you need to first accept that happiness is something that is generated from within, and it comes with time and practice.

True happiness is the sunshine within us. It gives a radiance to all the aspects of our life. It sheds a luster on the people around us. A happy man is a proactive man. The inner sunshine of his joy cannot be eclipsed by the gray clouds of negativity that envelope him. This is illustrated by the following story.

The Story of Sydney Harris

Accompanying a friend to a news stand, Harris noted that the man selling papers was openly sullen and cantankerous. He also noted that his friend was kind and cordial in his

dealing with this man. As he walked away with his friend, Harris asked, "Is that fellow always so mean?" "Yes, unfortunately he is," the friend answered. Harris persisted, "and are you always so nice to him?" "Yes, of course," answered the friend. So Harris asked the question that was stirring in him from the beginning, "why?"

Harris's friend had to think, as though the answer were obvious. "Because," he finally explained, "I don't want him or anyone else to decide how I am going to act. I decide how I am going to act. I am an actor, not a reactor." Sydney Harris walked away, mumbling to himself: "That's one of the most important realizations and accomplishments in life: to be an actor, not a reactor."

Happiness a Creative Blend of Good Times and Bad Times

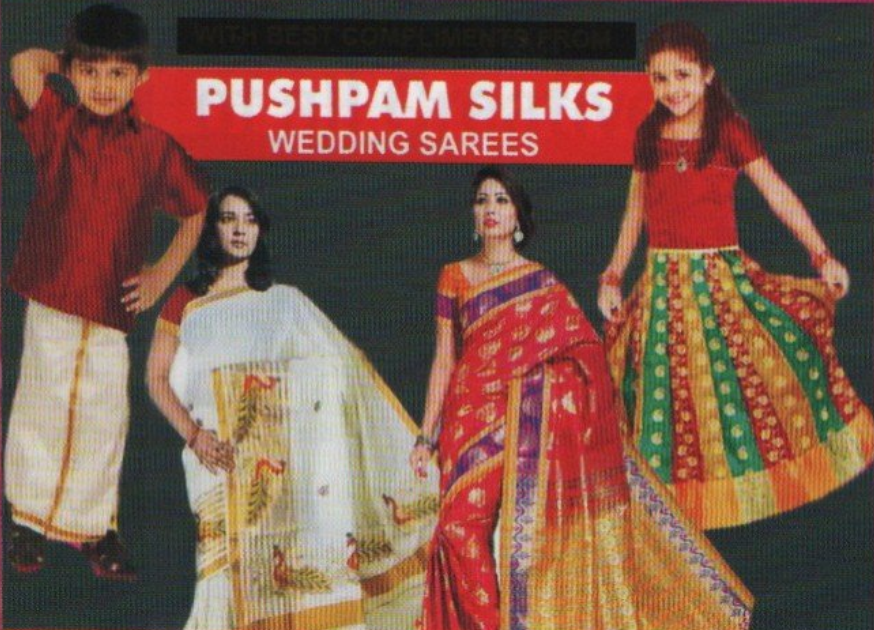
It is a part of our happiness to accept our periodic unhappiness and anxieties as normal. Don't wrestle with reality. Everyone has good times and bad times. Accept the bitter with the better.

All the masterpieces of Art contain both light and shadow. Great literary works contain tragic and comic themes. A happy life is not one filled only with sunshine, but one which uses both light and shadow to produce beauty. Great musicians produce super music out of sadness. Beethoven was deaf, Milton blind. But they produced masterpieces of music and literature. No great life is a procession of unmitigated pleasures. The mist of trials and tribulations envelops them.

The Story of the Late Corrie Ten Boom

Even the late Corrie Ten Boom, who experienced the horror of a Concentration camp during the Second world war, managed to squeeze moments of joy out of her miserable existence. In her popular book, *The Hiding Place*, she relates:

Into my solitary cell came a small busy black ant... after a while he disappeared through a crack in the floor. But when my evening piece of bread appeared on the door shelf, I scattered some crumbs and to my joy he popped out almost at once. He picked up a heroic piece, struggled down the hole with it and came back for more. It was the beginning of a relationship. ■



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Winners of Group E and F with judges of the competition



Raagalaya Light Music Competition 2019 Participants



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Karthika Krishnan



Arya Menon



Ananya Dilip



Namit Menon



Rhea Nair



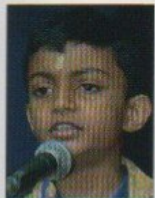
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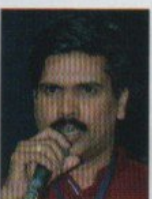
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Impact of transit of the most feared planets Rahu and Ketu in March 2019.

Astrona tries to explore what is in store for all the ascendants as the most dreaded and unpredictable planets - Rahu and Ketu transit on March 07, 2019.



Aries:

Be ready to brace some challenges at the work front as this axis will fall in the 3rd house and the 9th house respectively. You would witness a sharp surge in your courage and confidence levels; however, remember that any adventurous step could land you in big trouble. Taking a calculated step in job / business is highly advisable before making any move. Be careful as you may be victim of false allegations during this period. A sudden inclination towards spiritualism looks highly possible. Keeping a firm check on your speech would work to your advantage.



Taurus:

With ashtamshani (2½ year cycle) already in operation, the transit of Rahu in the 2nd house and Ketu in the 8th house could spell troubles in the areas of finance and relationships. Big investments should be made after evaluating all pros and cons as loss of money is indicated. Your erratic behavior and harsh speech could spoil the cordial relations with your spouse and others. You are strictly advised to stay away from legal matters and borrowing debts as you would be caught in a web. Some eye related problems could crop up.



Gemini

With Rahu transiting the ascendant and Ketu joining the transiting Shani in the 7th house, handling/ saving the marital life could prove to be the biggest challenge during this year. Your partner could become a cause of worry for you. Conflicts / misunderstandings could mar the peace of mind. Secret matters / old issues would surface now and would haunt you considerably. A roller



coaster ride for those in a love relationship as well. Maintaining utmost patience is highly advisable. Those in a partnership business should keep an eye on their partner's movements.



Cancer

As this axis will fall in the 12th house and the 6th house respectively, this period will prove to be a tough time to see through. While you would be able to score over your opponents outside, disturbance within the family compounded with medical expenses could bog you down. Separation from spouse due to conflicts is also likely. Driving safely is advisable as chances of meeting with an accident are high. Those in employment are likely to face considerable pressure at the work place. Meeting deadlines and satisfying seniors would prove to be difficult.



Leo

A sudden gain from an unexpected source is in store for you with this axis transiting in the 11th house and 5th house. "Indeed one of the very few zodiac signs to escape the wrath of this transit". A good time for those in business as inflow of new orders is seen.

You would also get good support from government authorities. Investments in share markets would yield gains now. Getting into a new love relationship looks highly possible during this period. Students / educational pursuits may get affected as distractions would rule the period.



Virgo

Be ready with your bags as the possibilities of a relocation / transfer appear prominently in this phase. Expect fresh troubles to crop up at the workplace as well as at home. With this axis falling in the 10th house and the 4th house respectively, you could be shunted out for apparently no major reasons. Buying of a new property/ vehicle should be avoided for the time being. A sudden surge in cases of breast cancer in many females could be witnessed during this period. Health of parents might be cause of worry. Stay alert!



Libra

Some positive changes at the work place as well as in life after a long haul looks possible now. With this axis falling in the 9th and 3rd house respectively, the house of short as well as long distance travel would be nicely lit up. Work pressure at the work place is expected to remain high but would be negated with frequent travels and getaways. A trip to a place of pilgrimage is almost a certainty. Relationship with younger siblings could come under strain hence it would be advisable to maintain a cordial approach.



Scorpio

With this axis falling in the 8th house (the house of dark energy) and the 2nd house respectively, expect hospital bills and unwanted expenses to shoot up all of a sudden. Finances would come under severe pressure. While a sense of

detachment could prevail, you are likely to show inclination towards spiritual activities / meditation / mystical subjects (such as astrology / occult science / hypnotism etc). Remaining emotionally aloof would only compound troubles. Regular smokers can certainly expect some kind of medical issues to crop up. Steer away from unwanted conflicts / controversies.



Capricorn

If any malefic planets are occupying your 12th house in the natal chart (especially rahu / shani) then this transit [in the 6th house as well as the 12th house] could spell doom for you. Huge expenses / hospitalization / police cases / court cases / confinement could be the highlights of this deadly transition. You would succeed in defeating your enemies however, many of you would be forced to relocate in the process. On the other hand, the deserving ones would fight out and succeed in getting a rise in position and salary.



Aquarius

A malefic planet such as Rahu occupying the 5th house is the least desirable aspect. [The 5th house is all about education, romance, progeny, children, creativity and pleasure which makes you feel good]. With this axis falling in the 5th house and the 11th house respectively, expect these areas to get affected adversely. Those in a love relationship are likely to bear the brunt. While occasional gains would come by

but it would prove to be meager to tide over the financial crisis. Pregnant women should exercise caution as chances of miscarriage are high.



Pisces

The transit of Rahu in the sign of its eternal enemy is certainly not a desirable placement. With this axis falling in the 4th house and 10th respectively [4th house denotes relationship with mother, home, native land, family values and tradition, property, vehicles, mental peace and hence is the most significant house in astrology] expect these things to get affected. Many of you could face a big problem at the place of residence. The possibility of landing in some legal trouble looks high. Health issues especially lung problems and digestive disorders could bother.

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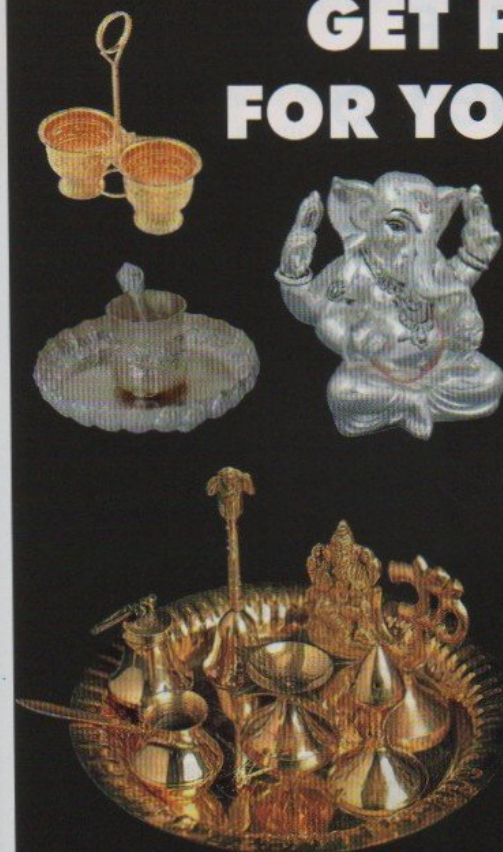
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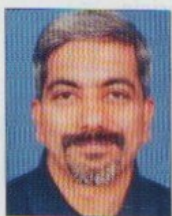
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Sriprakash Menon

Navi Mumbai software engineer and Bharatanatyam dancer Gomathi Manoj has become a dancing sensation in the US and Europe. She has given over 300 performances in the US, Singapore, UAE, Greece besides India. Her passion for performing arts continue till this date.

Gomathi has learnt dance for 22 years under her guru Padmini Radhakrishnan in Mumbai before moving out to New Jersey in 2011 where she set up Soundarya Natya



GOMATHI MANOJ

Mumbaikar showcasing Indian dance forms in the US

Kalalaya. She was also trained under Kalamandalam gurus Ashokan and Sreedevi Sreenivasan.

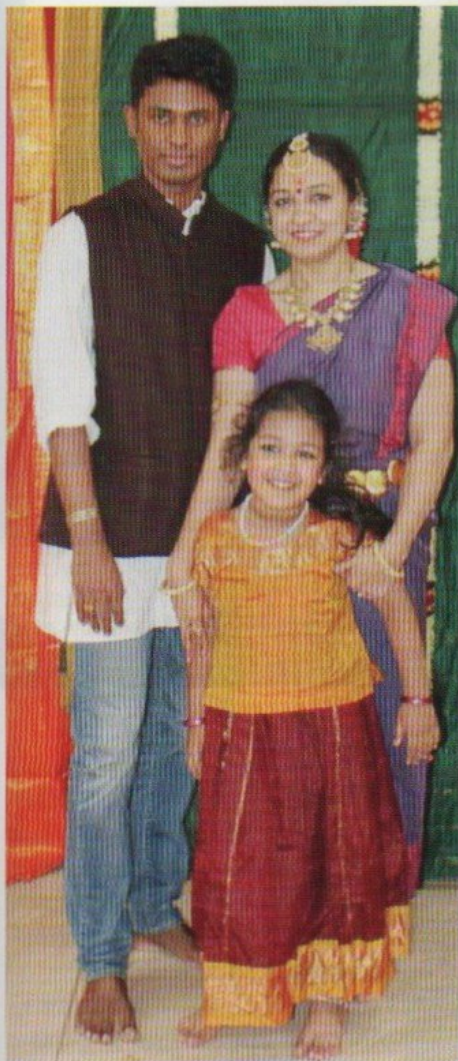
Gomathi, however did not restrict her dance career to

Bharatanatyam and pursued her quest to master three different Indian classical dance forms Mohiniattam, Kuchipudi besides Bharatanatyam under Kalamandalam guru Girija Sasi.

Gomathi's father Ramaswami was in Bahrain for 30 years before moving to Navi Mumbai. He was working for Bombay Keraleeya Samaj (BKS), Matunga for a few years. Now her mother Janaki and brother Sundaram live in Navi Mumbai while she is in New Jersey with her husband Manoj and their kid Nandini.

After taking Nritya Visharad degree, Gomathi is presently studying for her Masters in Fine Arts





Gomathi with her family

engineering. She also holds a certificate of achievement in creative writing from Great Oaks Education Foundation, Ohio. Gomathi may be among the few

persons steeped in to software technology on one hand and performing arts on the other. In real sense - a cultural techie ! ■

(MFA) from Kalai Kaveri College of Fine Arts, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. She has been recognised as a dancer since 2004 and has been conferred several titles like Nritya Shivali, Singar Mani and was chosen as the state ambassador for Indian classical dance from New Jersey by Indian Raga in 2017.

She was awarded the same year at the national championships of Silicon Andhra Annamayya 609th jayanthi utsavam at San Jose, California. She was invited to perform at the 51st World Congress on Dance Research at Athens.

Gomathi has trained over 200 students since 2015 at different locations in New Jersey. Last year, she was invited by Dr Sharon Bernstein from the Defining Moments Foundation in New Jersey to talk on 'the art form and its importance to young kids'.

She has emerged as a well known dancer and teacher besides having a Masters Degree in Software

With Best Wishes to

Kerala in Mumbai

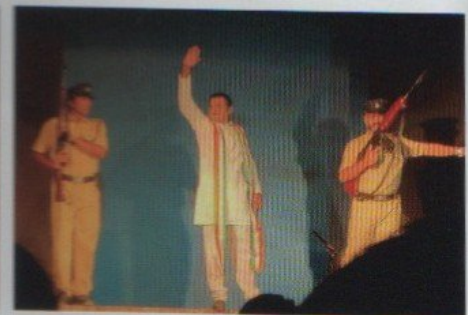
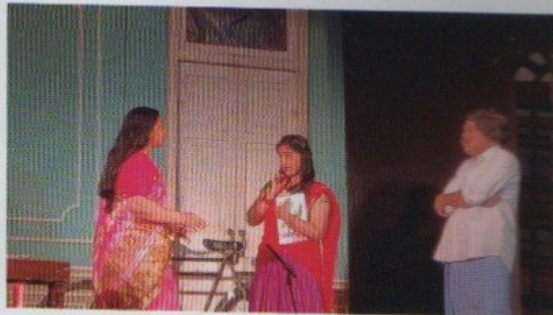
on its 9th Anniversary



Bindu Prasad and Family, Navi Mumbai

PērArivalan

Peeping into the mind of terrorism



After a long time Mumbai Malayalees turned lucky to watch an endearing Malayalam drama on January 26. The venue was SNDT College auditorium, a moderately spacious air conditioned auditorium specifically designed for stage shows.

'Perarhivalhan' is a familiar name to all Indians since the assassination of former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. This play derived its basic story from the same incident but emphasises the futility of terrorism and also calls for abolition of death sentences. Towards the end, it briefly analyses the role of Indian Peace Keeping Force, LTTE, the approach and attitude of people world over. Though it weighs down heavily on the methods adopted by the investigating agency, towards the end it does not spare the LTTE for destroying peace and harmony of native people.

The drama starts with the approach of two LTTE conspirators to Perarhivalhan, a diploma holder in electronics and obtaining two 9V cells and the latter obliging without asking questions. The cells were used in the explosion that killed Rajiv Gandhi. Perarhivalhan was persuaded by the investigating officials and they obtain his signature in the confession statement using third degree methods. Most of the people booked for the crime were let off subsequently and Perarhivalhan an innocent individual still remained inside the prison waiting for his execution even after twenty years.

The play was written by Hemant Kumar more or less like writing the script of a movie with short scenes and quick transition from scene to scene. The direction was in the right hands of

experienced Rajan who also played a major role in it.

The dialogues are in Malayalam and Tamil in more or less in 80:20 proportion. Since the audience is constituted of Malayalees, major portion is for their consumption and the remaining to Tamil as the characters are of that origin.

The play was well directed and executed by the actors, touching the hearts of the audience. The impact was evident by the pin drop silence and the applause at the end of each scene. Director deserves compliments for adopting the modern way of presentation and the actors willingly following the instructions. A few songs woven into the play were well received. Some intricate scenes like the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and the immolation of Chenkoti were also deserve praise.

Since the story takes about two decades to complete, the change in appearance of the characters could have been a little more explicit to indicate the passage of time. Background music was in tune with the theme. In the matter of acting, the character of Arputham, mother of Perarhivalhan, was well presented by Rati Shaji. Kanimozhi (Veena Menon) and

Chenkoti (Nisha Gilbert) were also executed well. Among male characters, everyone performed well, even those in the minor roles, and picking anyone specially would be injustice to others.

The play deserves a few more stages to reach a wider audience and hope it would perform better in coming days.

The only hiccup was the late beginning of the play by about forty five minutes and it was a major setback. In a city like Mumbai, lack of punctuality will be a major irritant for audience as many of them come from faraway places. ■

With Best Wishes to

Kerala in Mumbai

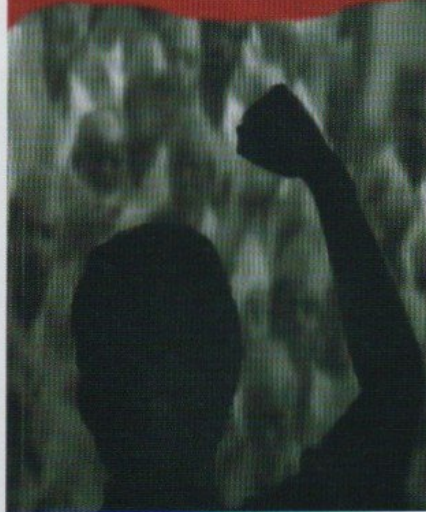
on its 9th Anniversary

M V Damodaran & Family
Marol

Political and Platonic

നേതാവിന്റെ തോൽവി

എം ആർ ചന്ദ്രശേഖരൻ



It was Kesav Dev who wrote his memoirs first in novel format. He later brought some inevitable changes to his book and called it autobiography. His books based on memoirs were titled 'Ethirppu' (Resistance) and came in three parts. The same technique was employed by Malayattoor Ramakrishnan through his 'Yanthram' (Machine) and 'Service Story'. Now former college teacher, political activist, union leader, literary critic and seasoned writer Professor M R Chandrasekharan comes out with a novel titled 'Nethavinte Tholvi' (Failure of Leader) which appeared in serial form in a magazine 'Prasadhakan' and then in this book form.

Though the author had a colourful past, his political activities take leading space in this book. The readers familiar with the political history of the state of Kerala can easily identify the characters with real personalities. Former chief ministers C Achutha Menon, K Karunakaran et al come and go before us in a flash if you know the events they went through. If you know the geography of Thrissur Town, your appreciation would multiply many times. All these characters appear with different names but their words and deeds

betray the names.

The narrative begins with an unexpected meeting of the narrator with UKR Menon an old comrade of Communist Party of India, who under pressure from rivals and indifferent attitude of the party he strenuously served, and had to quit his party for which he sacrificed everything that he cherished over decades. He left the party not out of his own choice but was compelled to save those who loved him. Menon's resignation was the first of a chain of resignations. The old hats can easily identify this old comrade.

The novel brings Communist Party of India and its leaders under a microscope. Many past active leaders of CPI are coming before us as in a procession and the author shows an uncanny ability to penetrate through them. Several leading characters are also coming to lend their might while carrying their own names. Ananthan Nambiar, P C Joshi et al are such characters. Nevertheless Bahuleyan Nair and Sushobhan Menon are easily identifiable.

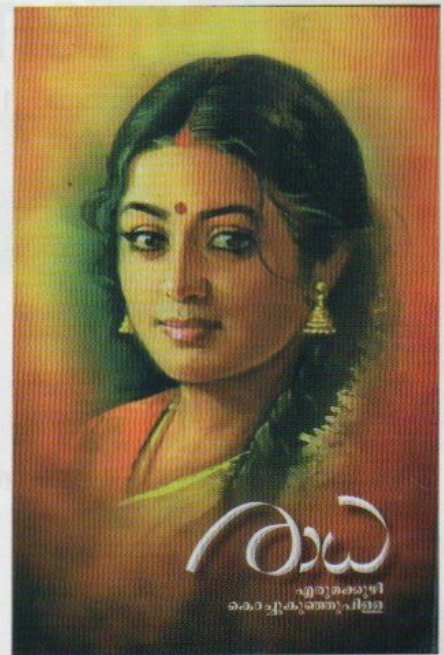
'Netavinte Tholvi' is clearly a historic novel with anyone having an affinity for politics could identify easily. The author's lucid style and polished narrative are praiseworthy and fills his story within 108 pages, without testing the reader's patience.

['Netavinte Tholvi' written by Prof M R Chandrasekharan and published by MRC Books, SGRA/21, Cherumukku Temple Road, Chembukkavu, Thrissur 680 020. Pages 108 and priced Rs.100/-]

Erumakuzhi Kochukunju Pillai is a familiar name to the literary lovers of Mumbai. He is a regular participant in most of the literary meets in Mumbai and surroundings. So far he has published eight books, mostly poetry and others fictional prose. The book before us now was originally published in 1972 and this is a new edition.

When we go through this social novel, the style reminds us of the style of novels of the seventies. The author tells that he did not re-write it and we can trust him.

Radha is a novel strictly adhering to the principles of novel writing as pointed

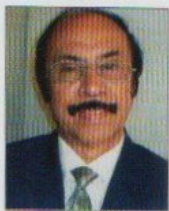


out by Prof M P Paul. We may not find the modern jargon usually found now-a-days but follows the pattern of 'Viruthan Shanku' written by Karat Achutha Menon. The story revolves around Ratna a woman highly educated, intelligent, painter and very gracious and beautiful but we come to know that she contorts her face while speaking and remains silent at crucial moments. Her in laws realise this after marriage and are distressed. When her husband realised it, he too felt cheated. Though there was a short truce, they get separated. Meanwhile Ratna gets a much younger boy Anandan first and then a younger college student Indira into her circle. She oversees their education. Over a period we understand that there was similarity between Sri Krishna-Radha and Ratna-Anandan relationships. Thus Ratna turns to Radha and the novel ends on a tragic note.

'Radha' helps the young readers to understand the path followed by novelists of mid-twentieth century.

On the negative side, one wishes that typesetter should have been a little more careful. There are innumerable errors in spacing. A large number of words are split without care.

['Radha' by C K K Pillai, 1-Vaity House, L T Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai-81. Page 260. Phone: 022-21639140. Price not mentioned.]



Upendra Menon

Nana Chudasama remembered

Nana Chudasama, (17 June 1933 – 23 December 2018), was an eminent jurist and mayor and Sheriff of Mumbai. A Few words, lines or pages cannot give a complete picture of Nana.

To us, he was World Chairman Giants International –say Giants Welfare Foundation, Ex- Sheriff of Mumbai for two consecutive years, Padmashree from President of India, Founder of I Love Mumbai, Founder of Forum against drugs and many more.

Born in a respectable Rajput family, Nana was the son of Mansinghji Chudsama, the second Police Commissioner of Mumbai Presidency. After graduation, he started his career with ESSO, the US Oil Giant in India. Later he left the company to interact more with the public. He was with JCI (Junior Chamber International) and reached higher echelons to be a candidate for the International President after his successful tenure as National President. Leaving Junior Chamber International he started Giants an NGO of Indian Origin. Today Giants has grown up in stature to over seven hundred groups in and outside India and is engaged in social activities with its lofty ideals.

Giants is an Acronym: G for

generosity, I for Integrity, A for action, N for Nobility, T for Truthfulness, S for Service.

Through the many hundreds of

groups in India and abroad GIANTS carry out plethora of activities to uplift the downtrodden with empathetic attitude.

Whether it was the Morvi flood, Tsunami, Stock market bomb blast, Mumbai floods, Earthquake in Latur, Earthquake in Kashmir, Kerala floods, Giants made their presence. Medical help, tree plantation, helping the otherwise able members of the society, Organ donation, Women empowerment, Fight against drug addiction, blood donation are some of their activities.

For the last 40 years we celebrate Giants day on September 17 where personalities from various fields are recognized and bestowed with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Awardees include Amithab Bachhan, Mother Theresa, Field Marshal Sam Maneckshaw, Manmohan Singh, Dr.Valiathan, Ratan Tata, Adi Godrej to mention a few.



With Nana and Munira Chudasama and Dr. Vijay Khole Vice chancellor of Mumbai University, Upendra Menon joins Lighting Diya



Nana on a birthday with Poonam Dhillon and Narayan Varma

Though he is not a writer his two line banners are famous and people look forward to watch. Compiled into a voluminous book, every quote reflects a comment on the contemporary social, political, commercial arena. The Voice of dissent, mixed with humour, satire, the words seldom miss the target. No wonder it turned out to be the talk of the town!

A few of them: Doctor puts textile industry on oxygen. (Unions led by Dr. Dutta Samant declared the textile strike. Marked with violent non-compromising attitude spelt doom for workers as well as mill owners.)

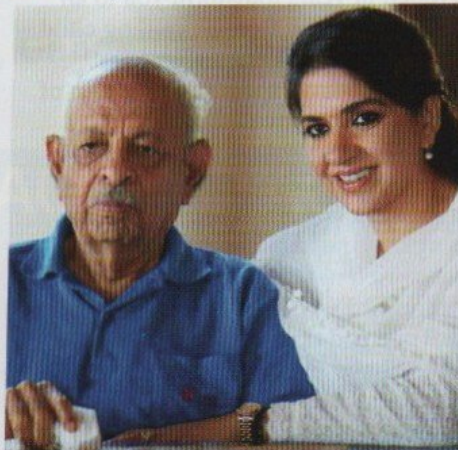
Oh Jaya how can you commit Sati when there is no pati? (On the death of MGR there was a power struggle between Janaki his wife and Jaya. Jaya threatened to commit Sati)

Public hospitals closed. Longevity may go up! (Reflects the pathetic condition of public hospitals).

Above all he was a fine human being. My association with him was for about four decades. I have seldom seen him angry, no retaliation when you disagree, remarkable ability to understand others. Once when I asked him whether we could start groups with higher resources so that we can do bigger projects, he told No!

Giants will remain reachable for ordinary people. What is needed is a passion for social service and financial status is not an impediment. Free, frank and fearless many times there were resistance and reactions.

It is said it is unmanly to



With daughter Shaina NC

compromise. But there is no achievement without compromise. Was it because he refused to compromise that he missed proper recognition? His contribution to the society, to the state, to the nation needs a greater recognition.

Nana Chudasama is survived by loving wife Munira who was his strong support. His daughters are famous daughter Brinda a successful artist, and Shaina NC a prominent BJP Leader. His son Akshay is an eminent Advocate Upendra Menon.

*Upendra Menon,
Central Committee Member Giants
Welfare Foundation*

With Best Wishes to
Kerala in Mumbai
on its 9th Anniversary



Devadas Nair & Family, Ghatkopar (E)

I DON'T HAVE TIME

The above statement is pleasant/acceptable or unpleasant and irritating depending on the side one is placed and operating. An action takes place in the context of time. In every action there is a process time involved and results of performance bear after the process is completed.

Unprepared and unplanned action always leads to delay and also suffers quality. It is to be ensured that planning and preparation are invariably taken before we commence any important task.

Time is perennial and flows without any obstruction, sometimes unknowingly. Perception of this fact has to be realized before we commit to any task. Success of the task mainly depends on the sincere involvement, dedication and perseverance requiring quality time. To a large section of the people time has no value. They grow, age, die and disintegrate naturally. Unguided and uninstructed they follow the path of life to an uncertain destination like animals walking on two legs. Lacking any objective to pursue or dreams to chase many depart from this terra firma to eternity without realizing their self. They fail to realize and enjoy the music of life which flows through the time perennial.

Time is money, as we know. We realize it very often without paying much attention. Time spent in nurturing and nourishing farm fields can bring a good harvest of crops which can fetch or convert into money. Time devoted to the job in the office or factory yields salary in terms of money. On the other side if you alter the mode of travel from train ride to air flight you spent more money to save time. Wisely, economically and appropriately spent time can be considered as an investment to fetch you dividends. Usain Bolt, the fastest runner in the Olympic races could make more than sixty Million Dollars after spending only two and half minutes total in eight Olympic races. But he

has planned and practiced for more than twenty years in preparation for his unparalleled performance in the sports fields.

Time heals they say. A wounded scar takes time to heal. Time spent in convalescing can bring the patient back to be healthy and happy. In embittered relationships be it in friendship or marriage can be smoothen after the impact is reduced by passage of sufficient time. Reconciliation and resumption to normalcy require time, patience and forgiveness. Time travelled in years transform you to an unhappy old man from a prattling child of innocence and purity. Consider the time you have spent in every turn of life which has provided you opportunities you have utilised and also missed in the nick of time. Even now we miss the bus, train or flight for not being on time and regret the lethargy that caused it. Give respect to the time it will reward you in time.

Time and tide waits for none, thus wrote Shakespeare, the bard of Avon many years ago. Still it is so. Are you waiting for the time to come to the good times? Are you awaiting the changes the

tides of time to bring to you? It may be a perennial delusion that may snare you to lassitude and inaction. Forget the past, march to the future by living the present to the full.

Now-a-days a lot of youngsters spent their valuable time glued to the modern gadgets and mobile applications. Sometimes parents are jittery about this behavior leading to neglect of other duties causing unpleasant situations in the relationships. Addiction to any behavior will make him a slave to the passions and may lead to irreversible perdition. Many may encounter anxiety and depression and sink into the abyss of emotional disintegration forever. Check in time before you lose in the labyrinth of confusion emanating from the uncontrolled behavior.

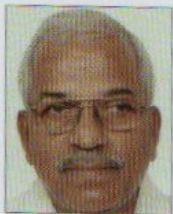
When asked about life, Mother Teresa, Saint of Kolkata replied thus, "It doesn't matter how much time you have got, it matters how you spent it. The quality of time is paramount." The sooner one realizes this the better will be his performance. Let us therefore say **I DO HAVE QUALITY TIME.**

-Jose Chemmassery

Wedding



Sooraj son of Mrs Shobana Chandran and P E Chandran married **Neenu** daughter of Mrs. Sarojini Ashokan and M. Ashokan at Varkala, Kerala on 9th December 2018 followed by a reception in Mumbai at Gurukripa Banquets Chembur, on 23 December 2018.



Dr P V Narayanan Nair

KENOPANISHAD

(Aum !

May Brahman protect us and bestow on us
The fruit of knowledge and energy to earn it.
May truth be revealed to us harmoniously,
Aum ! Peace ! Peace ! Peace !)

The pupil ponders and poses to the preceptor:
"What directs the eyes to see, ears to hear,
What controls speech and makes mind to work?
Please tell what it is behind our consciousness,
The inscrutable, at the root of our being ."
The master responded, "Discern, eye of the eye,
Ear of the ear and Mind of the mind",
"Have to go beyond senses, renounce the apparent,
To get real, to recognize and to rejoice in truth !
Yes, to vanquish death, but if you think you know,
You don't and if you think you don't, you know,
It is a lightning flash, amidst clouds of ignorance,
Beyond qualities of air, fire, water or 'Indra',
It is beyond images or worship, is absolute bliss!
Abandonment, abnegation and austerity are acts
That support it, are it's legs and 'Vedas' are limbs,
While the spirit is, being true in mind, words, deeds,
Lead to merger with the infinite, ultimate, 'Nirvana' !

(Aum !

May my body, ears, eyes, sense organs, soul, be nourished, as
all of it is Brahman! May virtues of being Brahman belong to me!
May I never deny Brahman! May Brahman never deny me!
May none ever deny Brahman!
Aum ! Peace ! Peace ! Peace !)



Anandavalli

Creativity (Limericks)

It's dawn, the streaks
of sunlight, peep through
the gap between, though,
widely spread branches and leaves
do not isolate the coniferous trees.

It's chill with cool breeze,
trying hard to swoop the skin
through the warm jackets
so that the warmth of mind may lessen.
Cheerfully moves she, further.

The weather doesn't dampen
or affect her adversely as she loves
these early cool mornings to brighten
her moods and imagination works.
A flash sparkles inside her, instantly.

After the stroll, she comes
near her canvas, takes the brush
to paint the same what she feels
and experiences totally, in hush.
Fine creativity, takes birth on the canvas.

MJF

LION KUMARAN NAIR

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

K. N. GROUP OF COMPANIES

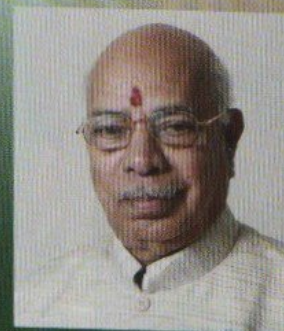
- ▶ **LIFE MEMBER**
LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL
- ▶ **PCC MEMBER**
MUMBAI CONGRESS COMMITTEE
- ▶ **SPECIAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA
- ▶ **MEMBER - LOKA KERALA SABHA**
GOVT. OF KERALA

A-2, Kumkum, Model Town, Mulund (West), Mumbai - 400080

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രാജേഷ് പടിയൂർ

സമ്പൽസമൃദ്ധി

ആചാരാനുഷ്ഠാനങ്ങളാൽ സമൃദ്ധമാം ഭാരതഭൂമിയിൽ കാർഷിക സംസ്കാരത്തിന് സ്മരണകളുണർന്നപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെയെന്നെന്നും ആഡംബരമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ട് ഗുണകരമായിടുന്നതിനെ സ്വീകരിച്ചു ധന്യമാക്കിടാം.

ദൗത്യനിർവഹണത്തിൽ വിജയശ്രീലാളിതനായി ഉദാത്തഭാവനയുടെ ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളായിട്ടെ.

സ്നേഹസാന്ത്വനമേകുമ്പോൾ ശ്രേഷ്ഠകർമ്മങ്ങളെ സ്മരിച്ചിടാം സംഘർഷം പൂണ്ട പാതയെ മാറ്റി സൗമ്യത വരിച്ചിടാം. ■

പ്രകൃതിയുടെ സങ്കടം

അശ്വതി

സഹസ്രശതാബ്ദമായി ജീവജാലങ്ങൾക്കായി സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവെച്ചതാണിന്നൊക്കെയുള്ളിൽ ഭക്ഷണം ജീവൻ നിർത്താൻ, പാർപ്പിടം തല ചായ്ക്കാൻ വിക്ഷണത്തിനായ് സൂര്യവെളിച്ചം, മറ്റുള്ളതും ആവശ്യം നടക്കട്ടെ, ആശകൾ മടക്കട്ടെ തനിക്കുള്ളതുതന്നെ മറ്റോർക്കും ലഭിക്കട്ടെ! ഒന്നിനെയിരയാക്കാൻ നോക്കുന്ന നേരംതന്നെ മറ്റൊരാൾക്കിര സ്വയം എന്നുള്ളിലറിയേണം. നിങ്ങൾക്കുവെള്ളം നൽകാൻ മേഘജാലങ്ങൾ വേണം നീണ്ടുകിടക്കും കുന്നിൻനിരയും താഴ്വാരവും. തന്നതു സൂക്ഷിക്കാതെ ദുർവ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നോരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കയല്ലാതെത്തു ചെയ്യണം? പറഞ്ഞാട്ടെ. അംഗഭംഗങ്ങൾ വന്നു ജീവന്നു ആപത്തായാൽ അംഗവിച്ഛേദംതന്നെ വിധിപ്പൂ ഭിഷഗ്വരർ. സ്വാർത്ഥലാഭത്തിനായി പർവ്വതം നിരത്താനും പുഴവെള്ളത്തെ വഴി മാറ്റാനുംമടിക്കാത്തോർ തൻകാര്യം നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ഓർക്കണ്ടേ സഹജരെ മനുജൻ തന്നെ, ഘോരശിക്ഷനലകിയേ പറ്റൂ. വെള്ളവും അഗ്നി, വായു തുടങ്ങി മൂന്നോ നാലോ ആയുധങ്ങളേയുള്ളൂ എങ്കാര്യസാധ്യത്തിനായ് കാലങ്ങളേറെ പോയ്പോയ് നിങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പായ്ത്തന്നെ നിങ്ങൾ പോയാലും കാലം നിർത്താതെ വന്നേതീരു. ഓർക്കുകയിബ്ഭൂമിതൻ ജീവിതമനന്തമാം വെയ്ക്കണമവരുടെയോഹരിയെന്നിക്കെന്നും. ■

With Best Wishes to
Kerala in Mumbai
on its 9th Anniversary



Kuttikrishnan Nair (Unni) & Family
Ulhasnagar

With Best Wishes to
Kerala in Mumbai
on its 9th Anniversary



Chembur Balakrishnan Nair & Family

SURYA

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Reshma Nair

Microwave Peda

Ingredients:

1 ½ cup milk powder
400 gm sweetened condensed milk
1 tablespoon ghee
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg powder
Pinch of Cardamom powder (for Aroma)
2 strand saffron (Optional)
10 to 12 pieces pistachios (Cut in halves)

Method

In a large microwave bowl add milk powder, ghee and condensed milk in it and mix well

Whisk nicely to avoid lump formation.

Mix cardamom and nutmeg powder, cardamom powder and saffron into the mixture of Milk Powder

Place the bowl in the microwave and heat at high for one minute.

Take out the bowl and stir again.



Heat again for 30 seconds. The mixture should be of thick consistency. If it is still thin in consistency then again heat for 30 seconds. (make sure to check and stir so that the mixture doesn't get burnt) Keep the bowl aside allowing the mixture to cool down a little.

Grease your hands with some ghee. Prepare equal sized balls out of the mixture.

Place halved pistachios in center. You can serve these pedas immediately or store in an air tight container.

(It can be stored for upto 7 days)

Sabarimala issue a result of stubbornness of CM, says O Rajagopal

■ The entire problem of Sabarimala was the result of ego, depravity and stubbornness of Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan, said O Rajagopalan. CM created anarchy by unleashing violence of the state police in the name of implementation of Supreme Court order, the MLA from Kerala stated. He acted like Hiranyakasipu who killed people who chanted the name of Narayana. Here the devotees were chanting the name Ayyappa and they were tortured and imprisoned. Rajagopal was addressing a gathering, attending the Onam-Diwali celebrations jointly organised by Pratheeksha Trust Vasai Mandal BJP.

K Raman Pillai, Abhijit Rane, Bapu Shinde, Swamy Dhananjay Shastry, Shekhar Dhuri et al attended the celebrations. BJP State Secretary Sanjay Upadhyay delivered the key note address. Jyotish Nambiar, Vinodkumar and Ramanujam



O Rajagopal MLA lighting the lamp during the inauguration

welcomed the guests.

O Rajagopal who reached his Navati was felicitated by K S Nair of Nair

Welfare Association, Durai Pandian of Tamil Sangham, Soumya Shetty, Nagesh Shetty of Bundts Association et al.

Responsibility of SNMS in spreading Guru's message immense: Sasidharan

■ Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti has undertaken an immense responsibility of spreading the great message of Sree Narayana Guru across the world along with his philosophy to which the entire world

is keenly watching, said President of SNMS N Sasidharan. He cautioned the members to be aware of this fact and work hard to meet the objective tirelessly. He was addressing the members of Ghodbunder Unit. The

formation of Balavedi, Yuvajana Vedi, Cultural Unit etc are formed in the 41 units with these objectives, he pointed out.

Education and community service activities are part of Guru's vision. Samiti's interventions in these matters are huge and a large number of people are benefitting by them, pointed out Samiti Chairman M I Damodaran. We have to move a long distance forward. New schools are established in Ulva in Navi Mumbai, Tarapur etc with this objective in sight.

Treasurer K Natarajan, Zonal Secretaries M K Soman, Pushpa Marbarose, M G Raghavan, Convenor of Women's wing Suma Prakash, Convenor of Yuvajana Vedi Sumin Soman, Unit Secretary Anilkumar and E Ramachandran addressed the members. A musical programme by Vijayan and his troupe followed.



Chairman M I Damodaran addresses the gathering. M K Soman, N Sasidharan, N Mohandas, K Natarajan, Pushpa Marbarose and Suma Prakash are also seen.



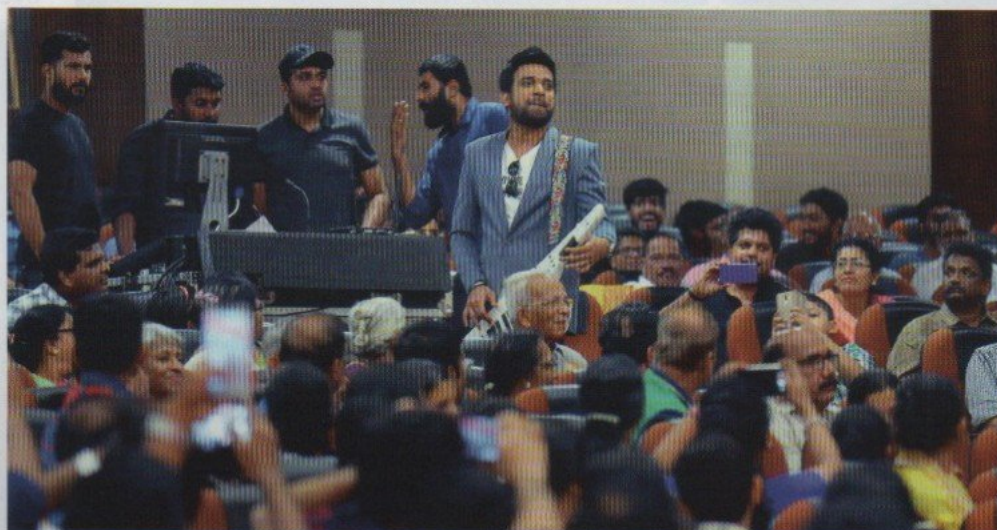
Elixir Karunalaya Felicitates People's Representatives

■ Representatives of people from Thane who extended their unstinted support to the government of Kerala during the floods, were felicitated by Elixir Karunalaya. Minister Eknath Shinde, Rajan Vichare M P, Pratap Sarnaik MLA and Ravindra Pathak MLC were the representatives who were felicitated. Priest of Thane Marthoma Church Rev Thomas Mathew and Swami Krishnanda Saraswati read out the letters from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Ramesh Chennithala respectively, expressing their gratitude.

Lion Kumaran Nair and Dhirubhai Patel felicitated Eknath Shinde while Fr P N Thomas Kutty and Sanjay Bhorgaonkar presented award to Rajan Vichare. Pratap Sarnaik received his gift from Premlal and Raju Chopra. Ravindra Pathak was felicitated by Trustee Dr Roy John Mathew and Thomas Mathew. Stephen Devassy and troupe presented a music programme.



Dr Roy John Mathew and Mrs Mathew being felicitated



Live performance of Stephen Devassy

A R Pillai Mannath Acharya Awardee

■ Thane Nair Welfare association celebrated 142nd Mannam Jayanti at Nair Bhavan, Sreenagar, Wagle Estate. Association President K R Harikumar inaugurated the ceremony by lighting lamp and made floral tribute to Acharya. Association members Sreekant Nair, Ajayan Nair, Gopalakrishnan Kurup spoke about Mannam's contribution towards the society.

Association President K R Harikumar announced Mannathacharya Puraskarm for the year 2019. This Puraskaram was crafted by Association to honor the eminent personalities of Nair community from Maharashtra. This year the puraskaram was given to A. R. Pillai, well-known social worker and industrialist hailing from Navi Mumbai. The Puraskaram was



A. R. Pillai handed over by PWD Minister Eknath Shinde during Nair Mahasangamam, which was conducted on January 26, 2019. On the occasion of



Mannam Jayanti Association members visited Paramshanti Dham Vrudhasram, Talaja and provided support and strength to the people.

Charkop Malayalee Samajam Annual Get-together

■ Charkop Malayalee Samajam celebrated its annual day on 12th January 2019 at IES (King George) School Auditorium, Charkop. Dr CNN Nair (Retd: General Manager VSNL), an accomplished writer and eminent poet, was the Chief Guest. The proceedings

commenced with lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest and a few members of the Samajam Managing Committee. The gathering observed two minutes silence at the beginning remembering all armed forces personnel who lost their lives while in service of our

motherland, those who perished during the recent devastating floods in Kerala and the leading Indian personalities from various fields who left this world during last year.

Samajam President Smt Nalini Sreedharan presided over the meeting and introduced the Chief Guest. Secretary Manikandan spoke about various charitable activities of the samajam in the fields of education, medical assistance and social awareness over the last few years. In acknowledgement of the contributions from Immediate past president of the Samajam P.C Ramachandran Nair and past Vice-President Sukumaran Nair, they were felicitated with shawl and bouquets. Children of members, who secured excellent marks in the HSC and SSC examinations were honoured with cash prizes. Members and their children presented cultural programmes which comprised of classical, semi-classical, and cinematic and folk dances as well as songs. The major attraction of the event was a scintillating orchestra by Meleri Nadan Pattu Sangham Vasai. Samajam Vice-President Smt. Solly S. Nair proposed a vote of thanks. It was followed by dinner.



Chief Guest Dr. CNN Nair, Vice President Solly S Nair felicitating a senior Samajam member

KCC enters 61st year

■ The Kerala Christian Council (KCC) celebrated its 61st Annual day on 13th January at Cannosa Auditorium, Andheri (East).

KCC is an ecumenical organisation and a prominent trust in Mumbai, formed by Kerala Christians settled in Mumbai. The current chairman of KCC is Adv. Malbin Victor and Gen. secretary is Mr. Shinto Antony. Shibu Mathew is Treasurer and programme convenor is Binu K Chandy.

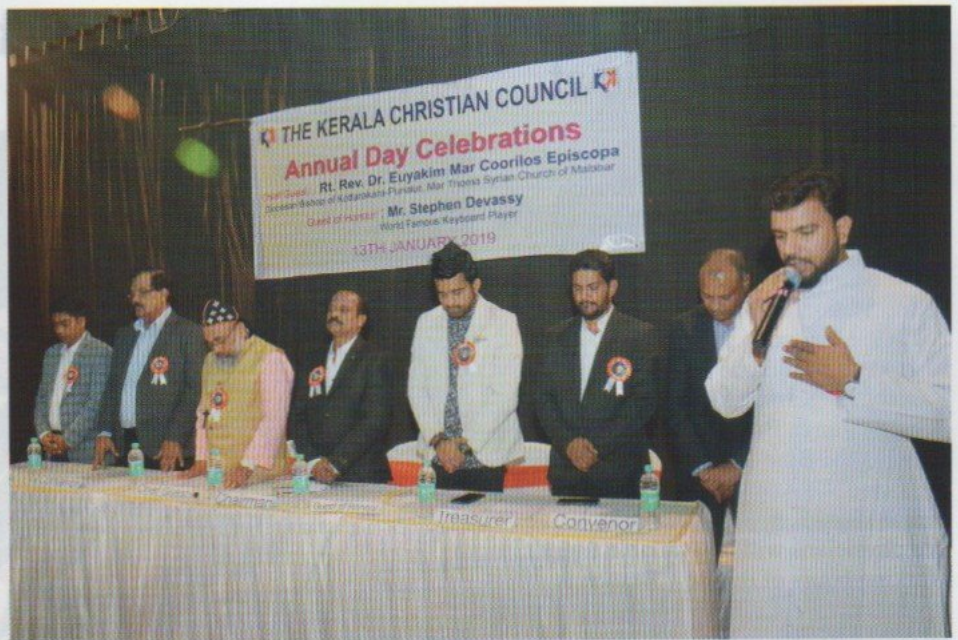
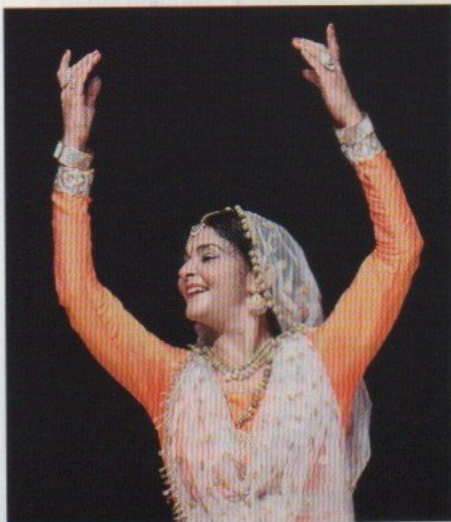
Chief Guest of the programme was Rt Rev Dr Euyakim Mar Coorilos Episcopa and Guest of honour was acclaimed musician Stephen Devassy.

After the public meeting, a musical feast was held by the world famous keyboard player Stephen Devassy.

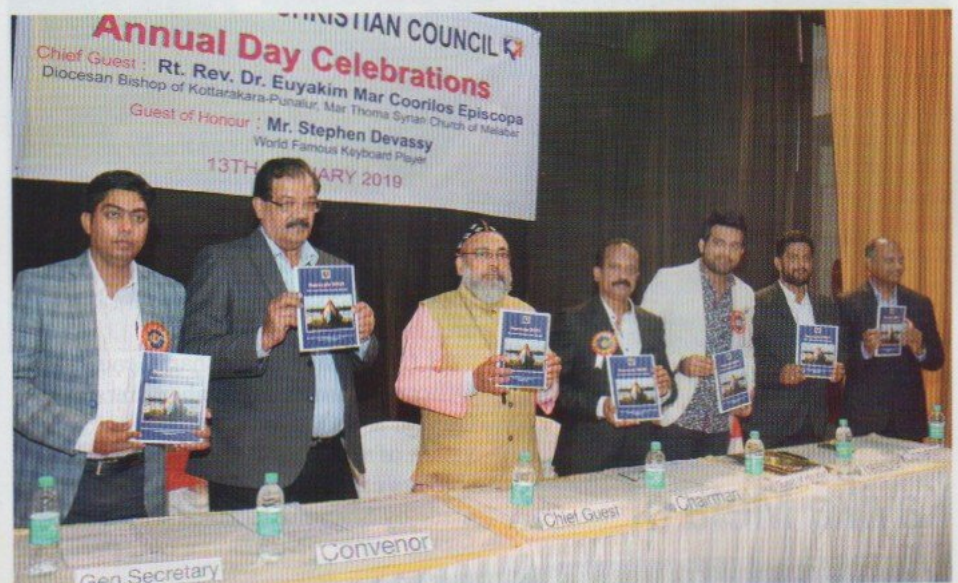
Vande Mataram 2019

■ Nupur Zankar Centre of Thakur Complex, Kandivli East presented a classical event of music and dance at Nupur Zankar Centre on January 26 evening. The program 'Vande Mataram 2019' brought reputed gurus to talk about the intricacies of these art forms to the young men and women, besides presenting them on stage. The event was inaugurated by Gopal Shetty MP.

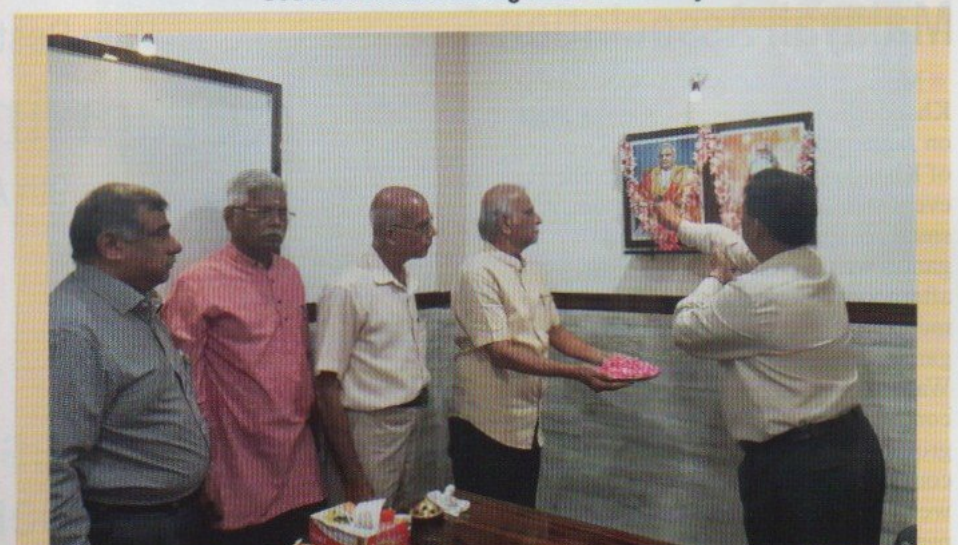
Sunil Sankara, Tejashree Vaidya, Krupa Tendulkar and Trushna Shetty presented various dance forms under the guidance of Renu Sharma, Shila Mehta and Ranjana Phadke. Shila Mehta conceptualised the whole event.



During the inauguration of KCC Annual Day



Souvenir release during KCC Annual Day



Kendriya Nair Samskarika Sangh, Maharashtra celebrated 142nd Mannam Jayanthi on 2nd January at Airoli.

Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala Clinic at Matunga

■ Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala Branch clinics at Vashi and Sion have been shifted to Kerala Bhavanam, 16/A, K A Subramaniam Road, Behind Matunga Police Station in Matunga from January 2, 2019. Medicines manufactured at Kottakkal/ Kanjikode (Kerala) and Nanjangud (Karnataka) will be available in the Matunga Branch. Dr Mrs Indira P Varier is the Branch Manager and Senior Physician. Dr Anand Warriar is also Senior Physician. Services of the above two physicians will be available free. Working hours of this new Branch is from 9 am to 8 pm from Tuesday to Sunday. Monday is holiday. Telephone Numbers: 022 24016879/24015195. Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala is a NABH accredited hospital complex with more than 300 beds at Kottakkal, second one in Delhi another one at Thrikkakara, Kochi. They also run a charitable hospital in Kottakkal where treatment, accommodation, stay and food are free. With three factories at Kottakkal, Kanjikode and Nanjangud, manufacturing over 580 medicines, it has a wide network of 28 branches and more than 1800 authorised dealers all over the country and exports ayurvedic medicines to the Middle East, South East Asian countries.

Kayika Mela of Maharashtra Malayali Association

■ Maharashtra Malayali Association of Khandeshwar organised a Kayika Mela on January 13 in CKT College Grounds of Khanda Colony of sector 11. The event started with national anthem. All small children who participated in games were given prizes. During afternoon, elder children and grown up men and women participated in various games organised in groups. In Tug of War for men and women separately, 90 contestants participated. In senior group of 51 years and above, there were contestants upto 66 years of age. There were in all 300 contestants participating in various sports and those who secured first, second and third places in each received medals.

Shanmukhananda honours Wounded Warriors



■ The Shanmukhananda Fine Arts and Sangeetha Sabha, Mumbai felicitated 11 disabled Army men from the Artificial Limb Centre of the Indian Army on the occasion of the Republic Day, and the Sabha president Dr. V.Shankar handed over a cheque for Rs.10 lakh to the Paraplegic unit of the Indian Army. Lt. General S.K. Prashar GOC Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa area.

Lt. General S.K.Prashar, General Officer Commanding Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa in his address said the vision of what society feels for the soldiers can be seen here, the gesture made by Shanmukhananda which cares for the army. "No amount of material

can actually help a wounded warrior or widow". Only emotional support that the society provides and feels for them will help to heal the wounds they suffered. The General said he would be too happy to collaborate with institutions like this that care for the solders and their families by their support which would help them to be independent.

Dr. Shankar, President of the Shanmukhananda Sabha said the Sabha always helps the war widows and wounded solders in what ever way they could for the last three years by providing financial supports and honour them.

-K.A.Viswanathan

With Best Wishes to
Kerala in Mumbai
on its 9th Anniversary

**Upendra Sheshgiri Nayak &
Seema Upendra Nayak**

Yogakshema Sabha Celebrations

■ Bombay Yogakshema Sabha Celebrated its 44th Annual Day in a grand manner. The day was inaugurated by five young children of the Sabha each below five years of age. It is for the first time in history that toddlers, who are the closest to divinity, inaugurated any function. The President of the Sabha, Shri Kunnam Vishnu welcomed the audience. Shri Murali Kaplingad explained the charitable activities of the Sabha, like the educational assistance to the deserving students and medical help to the needy patients. The Sabha has been feeding the desolate elders in a 'Vridhdha Sadanam'. A cultural meeting was held presided by Mundayur Parameswaran, wherein three members, who have achieved great heights of success through relentless efforts, were felicitated. All the founder members of the Sabha, who laid the strong foundation to Bombay Yogakshema Sabha four decades back, were remembered and awarded a decoration plaque of gratitude and appreciation. The highly talented young girls of the Sabha presented a dance serial of national integration, comprising folk dances of different regions of India, which was a star attraction of the day. A skit by the youth wing, depicting the recent calamitous flood of Kerala and the selfless service rendered by one and all erasing the walls of religions, status and political differences, was also par



During the function

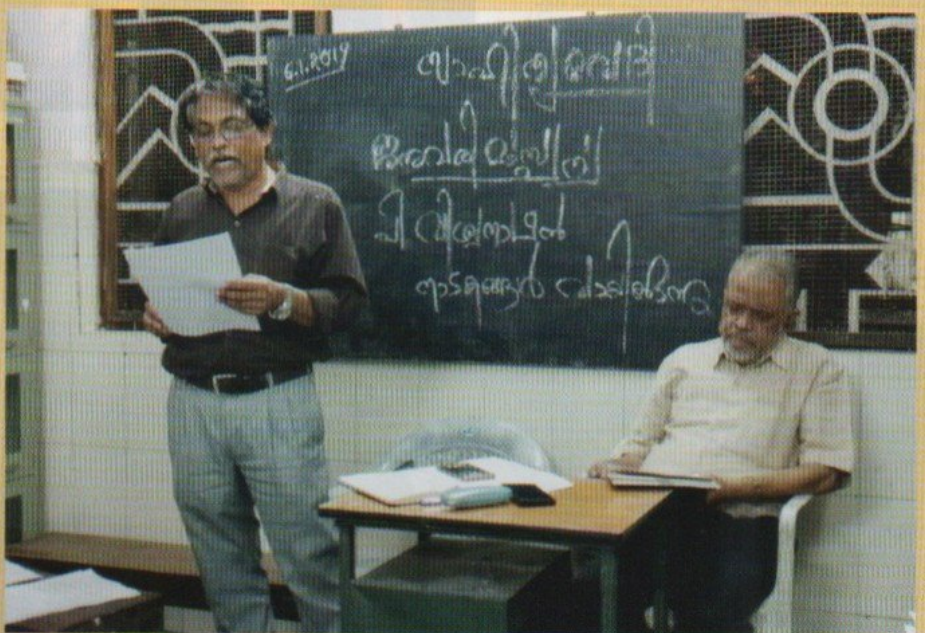


excellence. There were various music and dance items by the children of the Sabha. The winners of various arts, sports and cultural contests were awarded

the prizes at the hands of elderly guests from Kerala. The day long celebrations were attended by audience to the brim of the auditorium.

Sahityavedi Monthly Meet

■ In the monthly meet of Sahityavedi Mumbai for January 2019, P Viswanathan read out two plays written by him 'Puli Puranam; and 'Kallhan' (Thief). The discussion held thereon was inaugurated by dramatist Premkumar. K Rajan presided. Convenor C P Krishnakumar explained the significance of holding a discussion on Malayalam play after a long time. P S Sumesh, Wilson Kuriakose, Sriprasad Vadakkeppat, Dr A Venugopal, Kanakkur R Sureshkumar, Govindan Unni, Manoj Mundayat, P N Vikraman, Maya Dutt, E S Sajivan and Unnikrishnan P participated in the discussion. P Kumar, Tulasi Narendran, Devi Premkumar et al also spoke.



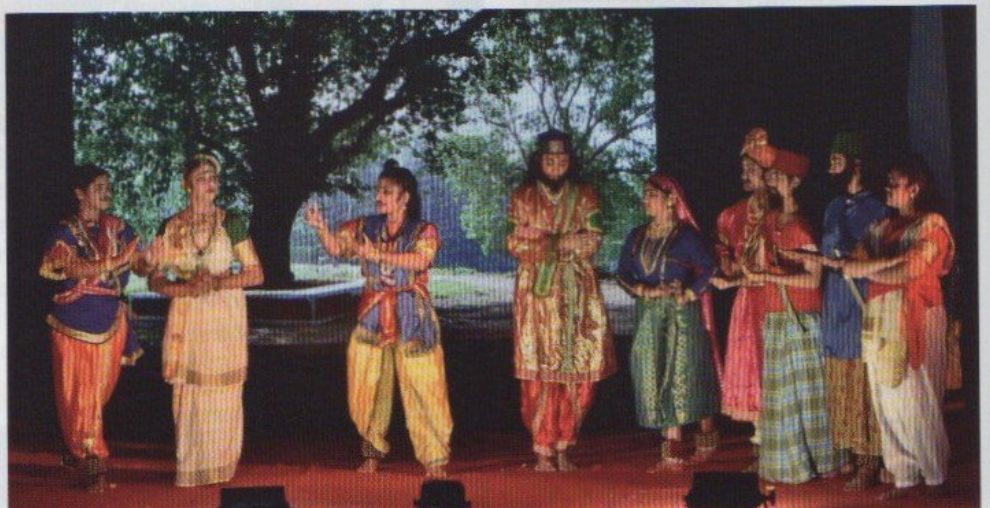
Viswanathan reading out his play



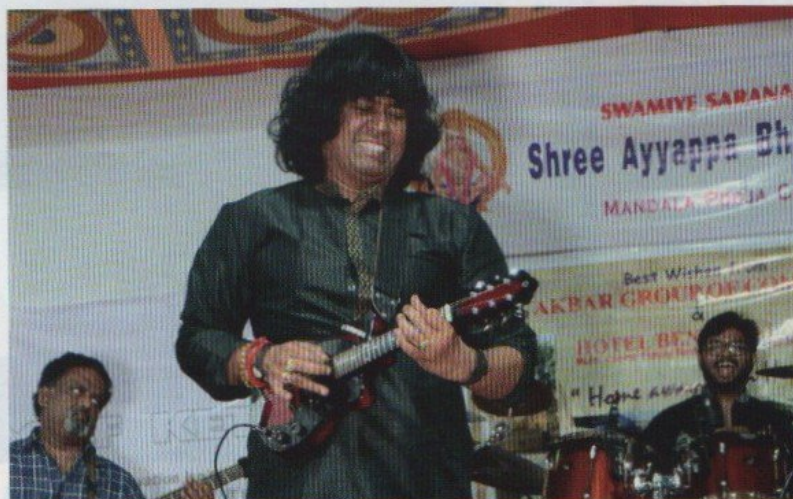
Bhajana performed by Sangham Devotees led by teacher Sreelatha Nair on the keyboard. Vishnu on tabla (inset)

Mandala Pooja Celebrations at Marol

■ Shree Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham Marol celebrated its 44th Mandala puja celebrations from December 21 to December 23, 2018 at Blossom Society Grounds, Marol. As in the previous years, there were the regular pujas and offerings to the Lord in the mornings followed by cultural programmes on the first and second day evenings and the Lord's procession with thalapoli and Maha Deeparadhana on the last evening. There were Vilakku puja, Sampurna Narayaneeyam Parayanam and Harinama Keerthanam by devotees and Hanuman chalisa recital by children trained by Smt Sathi Balakrishnan. There was a Bhajan programme by Marol Ayyappa Sangham devotees led by their teacher Guru Sreelatha Nair. On December 21, there was Bhavanjali a musical fusion programme led by Mandolin maestro U Rajesh accompanied by Thinak Dinn a music band from Kerala. He along with playback singer and recipient of Kerala State Award Smt Rajalakshmi were felicitated. Noted Mohiniattam exponent



Scene from Unniarcha dance ballet



Mandolin maestro U Rajesh performing

and teacher Geetha Vijayshankar of Marol and her disciples presented dance ballet Unniarcha based on folklore Vadakkanpattu that was choreographed by Geetha herself and music composed by S K Venugopal. The Sangham Souvenir was released during the function.



Committee members of the Marol Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham



View of audience with playback singer Smt Rajalakshmi

Shanmukhananda Sabha's Republic Day Celebrations

■ To coincide with the 69th Republic Day Sri Shanmukhananda Fine arts and Sangeetha Sabha felicitated 17 members of the Sabha who have completed 90 years of age and above at a recent function. Of this eight were couples and nine singles.

The Sabha also felicitated maestros of music who have also crossed the age of 90. They include

Padma Vibhushans Pandit Ramnarayan, Pandit Arvind Parikh, Mridangam exponent Dr. T. K. Murthy and K.R. Chandramouli. There was also a recitation of Chaturvedaparayanam by 90 Vidyarthi to mark the centenary of its past president Dr. V. Subramanian with cake cuttings by 100 students from orphanage and childrens' home in Matunga.

New office bearers of SNDP of Kalyan West

■ Youth Movement of SNDP Yogam of Kalyan West elected their office bearers for the ensuing year. They are Vishnu Mohan (President), Sajeesh Satheesan (Vice President), Pranav Chandrasekharan (Secretary), Soumya Sivarajan (Joint Secretary), Aneesh Chandrasekharan (Union Committee), Rejish Damu, Vineesh Vijayan, Suraj Purushothaman, Rashmi Pallath, K M Varsha and Sivarajan (Committee members).

The meeting decided to organise a sports meet on January 27. Vishnu Mohan presided. T S Unnikrishnan, P P Padmanabhan, Pranav Chandrasekharan and Soumya Sivarajan addressed the members.



172nd Saint Thyagaraja Aradhana

Group rendering of Pancharatna Kritis

by

Musicians of Mumbai

Friday 25th January 2019 7:00 pm



172nd Thyagaraja aradhana of the Carnatic music composer Thyagarajaswamy was held at the Shanmukhananda Sabha Kings Circle

Felicitations

■ Vaikom S Mani, senior performing vocal artiste and music composer, conducted a felicitation ceremony in honour of well known ghatam exponent Vaikom R Gopalakrishnan, in recognition of his meritorious service in the field of Carnatic music (Ghatam), on January 27 at 4 pm at General Education Academy, Chembur. During the function, Vaggeyakara P S Krishnamoorthy presented a Carnatic vocal recital in which Gopalakrishnan accompanied on Ghatam. Other accompanying artistes included V Ramachandran on violin, A L Nath on mridangam, and V Narayanan on morsing. It was well attended by music lovers of Mumbai.

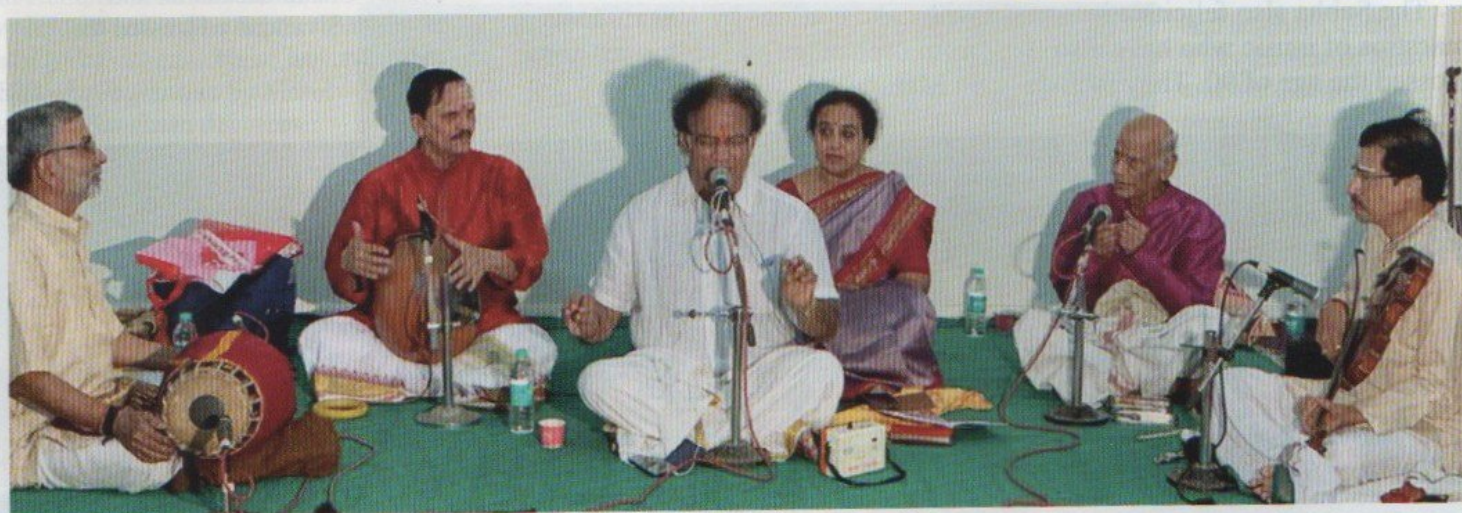


Vaikom S Mani and R Gopalakrishnan

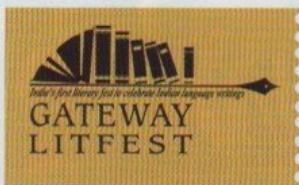
Pune Malayalees Collective celebrates annual day

■ Pune Malayali Federation, a collective of various associations of Malayalees, has celebrated the annual day of their union and New Year on January 19 with a cultural show of music and dance. The venue was Gagangiri Mangal Karyalaya of Dhanori Road, Vishrantwadi. The event started at 5 pm. About twenty associations and 200 artistes participated. They presented Mohiniattam, Bharatnatyam, margamkali, group dances, folk dances, poetry recitation, light music etc. A food festival of Kerala recipes was also arranged.

Director, actor and writer P Sreekumar was the chief guest. Participants received certificates from the Federation.



P S Krishnamoorthy's vocal recital



Youth take centre stage at LIC-Gateway LitFest 5th Edition

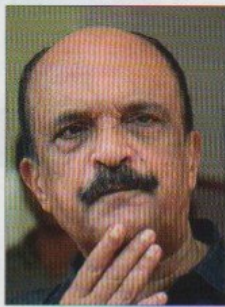
■ The 5th edition of the LIC Gateway Litfest will be held at the NCPA, Mumbai on March 1 and 2, acknowledging the power of young writers. Spread over 2 days and 12 sessions, the current edition covers various facets that have impacted the writings of young talents in the country. About 60 writers from 22 Indian languages are expected to participate in the Festival. Gateway Litfest aids in providing a broader platform for diverse regional literary streams

The achievements of youth writing in Indian languages need to be honoured and celebrated, said Mohan Kakanadan the festival director and editor of the Malayalam quarterly Kaakka, publishing from Mumbai, stressing on the importance the festival to regional languages in India.

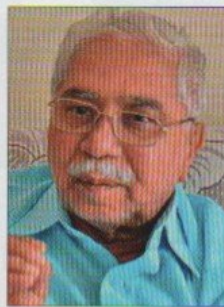
This year's theme Youth Power in Indian Literature will highlight the strength of young writers in diverse literary streams. Many youngsters have established their mettle in Indian literature and continue to tread new grounds. They are challenging the conventions of a moribund system and emerging triumphant, Kakanadan added.

The highlight of the festival is the presence of about 35 Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar winners. Other speakers include Chandrasekhara Kambar, Zacharia, Perumal Murugan, Ranjith Hoskote, Manu Pillai, S. Harish, Hemant Divatte, Ramu Ramnathan, A.J. Thomas, Sangeetha Sreenivasan, Lopa, Surya Gopi, and Anamika Haksar. Festival advisors Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Pratibha Ray, Satchidanandan, Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Subodh Sarkar, Sachin Ketkar, Laxman Gaikwad, and S Prasannarajan are also taking part in several deliberations on literature, film, theatre, and poetry readings.

The festival emphasizes on the importance of own language as a tool for broader audience access, placing onus on translations as avenues for bridging culture gaps. Recently, translations have become more common and many English publishers are coming up with translations of well-known works of language writers,



Zakharia



Kambar



Ms Pratibha



Anamika Haksar



S Harish



Ms Sangeeta



Hoskote



Manu

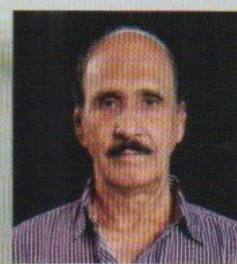
making it visible to a wider audience.

Essay Competition for College students

Showcasing the festival's commitment to young talents it is also organising an Essay Competition for college students. The topic for the essay is 'Literature in the Era of E-Writing'.

The first prize carries a cash award of Rs.15,000/- while the 2nd and 3rd prize winners will be awarded a cash of Rs.10,000/- and 5,000/-, respectively. The last date for the entry is 20 Februar, 2019. The students can send in their entries to gatewaylitfest@gmail.com.

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V. Balachandran
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**MAY THE JOURNAL GROW
FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH**



Pattarhivalar at Dombivli

■ Pattarhivalar is a musical event containing the folk music of various Kerala regions. It is formed by nine music enthusiasts. They staged the event in Dombivli and sent the audience into frenzy. It was a forerunner of the event 'Paattolham' of Njaralathu

Kalashramam, to be staged on Feb 16 and 17 in Belapur Urban Hatt. The venue was Kambalpada Model College.

The artists were C J Kuttappan, Suresh Tiruvali, Ramesh Karinthalakootam, Pranavam Sasi, Rashmi Pattuvam, Pradeep Vayali, Moly

Kannamali, Rashmi Satish and Njaraleth Harigovindan. Vaikhari Chairman O Pradeep, President V Narayanan, Vaikhari Secretary Jayasankar Matatheri, and Prasad Shornur were present.

Kerala needs to correct the methods of land transactions: Dr Harilal

■ Member of Kerala Planning Board Dr K N Harilal stated that the development projects for a new Kerala need to be drawn up after rectifying the current style of land exploitation methods. He was inaugurating the second edition Mumbai Kerala Sabha in Sree Narayana College, Chembur. He was talking on

the subject of 'Keralathinte Punarnirmanavum Pravasi Malayalikalum' (Reconstruction of Kerala and migrant Malayalees).

Kerala now faces a situation wherein land is not available for farming and industrialisation as the land is in the clutches of real estate mafia. Many

foreign countries exercise a control over private land but that practice is unheard of in Kerala. This situation leads to exploitation of natural resources. When we plan for reconstruction of Kerala, we should remember these points.

In the development schemes not only the Malayalees of the state but also those outside have role to play. Aid from other countries should continue as in the case of floods. When we go for reconstruction of Kerala, we must consider the aspects of environment, market, social state etc also, he said.

President of Kerala Sabha Steering Committee T N Hariharan presided over the inaugural session. Secretary C H Rabilash welcomed the audience. Academic experts, industrialists, professionals et al attended the seminar. There were several subjects on which discussions were held. Some of the subjects were: Kerala Reconstruction: The way forward, Population of Mumbai Malayalees: The meanings of 2011 census data, Gender equality of Malayalees: Possibilities and challenges, Mumbai Malayalee Theatre: Traditions and new possibilities, Information interchange of middle class, Writing and reading of digital era and Youth of migrant Malayalees and their organisations.

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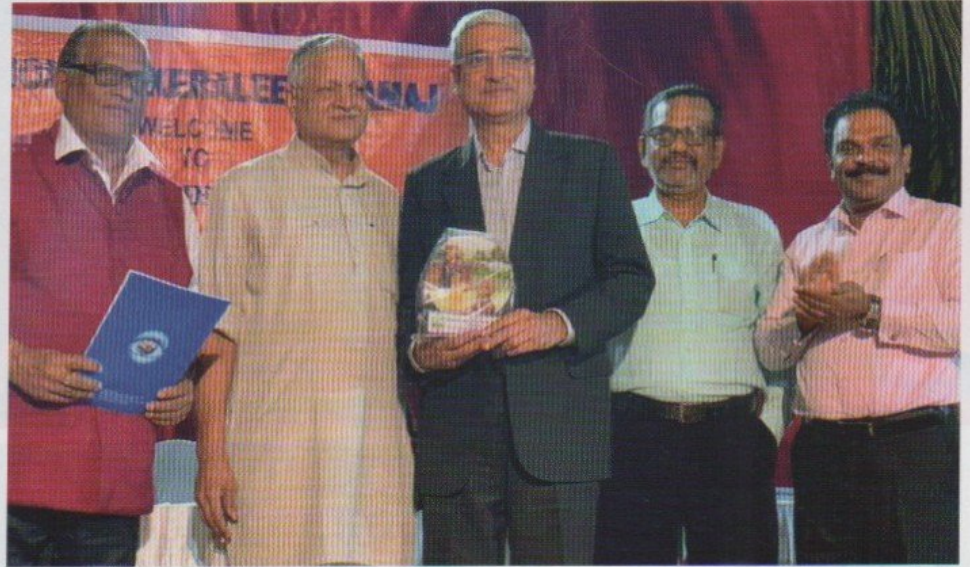
Bombay Keraleeya Samaj felicitated the donors of Kerala flood relief

■ The Bombay Keraleeya Samaj organized a get-together function on 16th December 2018 at Kerala Bhavanam to felicitate the Donors and well-wishers of Kerala Flood Relief campaign conducted by The Bombay Keraleeya Samaj.

V. Ravikumar Iyer, International Joint Co-ordinator of Hindu Swayam Sevak Sangh was the Chief Guest. Bombay Keraleeya Samaj President Dr. Sureshkumar Madhusudhanan presided over the function. Secretary Premarajan Nambiar delivered the welcome speech. Devadas G Nair explained the initiative taken by the Samaj to send the flood relief materials to the much affected areas in Kerala. 14 trucks of materials were sent by BKS and he appreciated the generosity of people of Mumbai. Most of the contributions were received from non Keralites.

Jinesh Lal Project Director of Deseeya Seva Bharathi briefed about the activities of Seva Bharathi and explained their part in rescue, relief operation and the measures taken for rehabilitation programme for flood victims of Kerala.

Dr Suresh Kumar handed over 3 cheques amounting Rs 51,64,135.00 to Vijayan, State Secretary of Deseeya Sevabharathi, Kerala for renovation/construction of three

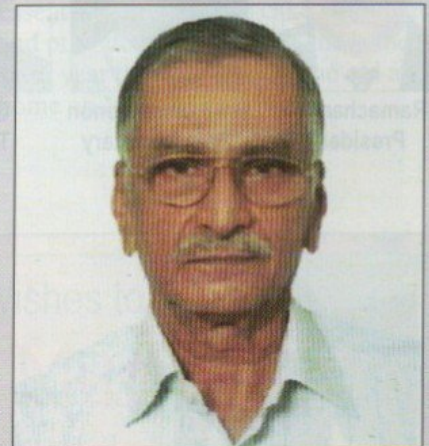


schools in Kozhikode district, viz Harishree Vidyaniketan, Puthuppattanam (Rs.20 lakhs), Vivekananda Vidyalayam, Korapuzha (Rs.16 lakhs) and Shree Vedavyasa Vidyaniketan, Quilandy (Rs.15,64,135). Apart from this Samaj has earlier given cheque of Rs. 1,60,000 to Sree Dharmasastha Vidyanikethan, Vishnupuram, Trichur and Rs. 2 lakhs to Deseeya Seva Bharathi and as initial contribution for the flood relief.

Vijayan expressed his gratitude towards Samaj for all the contributions. A token of appreciation was presented to all Donors by Chief Guest V

Ravikumar Iyer. Ketan Kumar Nair, DGM, Burns and Macdonald and Raghavendra, Registrar of SIES College appreciated the Relief work done by the Samaj. Vote of thanks was given by Jt. Secretary Padmasundaran.

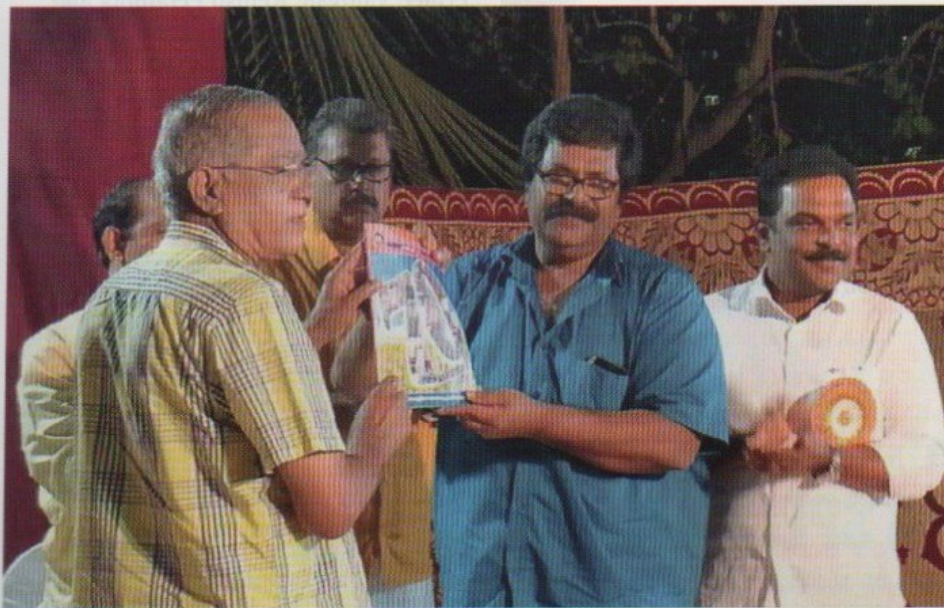
OBITUARY



Mr MENAKATH MURALI MENON
(1942 - 2019)

■ Menakath Murali Menon, (77yrs), who worked as Director, in Sharp Tanks and Structurals Pvt Ltd, passed away on January 1, 2019. He was son of late Kunjiraman Menon and brother of Dance Teacher Radha Chandran of Marol. Deeply mourned by wife Shanta Menon, daughter Menaka, son-in-law Sanjay, grand daughter Nandana and grandson Advait.

Address: B- Wing 705, Ayushi Apts, JB Nagar Andheri East



Vishala Keralam in house magazine of Bombay Keraleeya Samajam celebrates its Sapthathi (70th year) at Samaj Terrace



The 26th anniversary celebrations of Sree Subhananda Ashram, Sakinaka

KNSS New Managing Committee

■ At the Annual General meeting of Kendriya Nair Samskarika Sangh (KNSS) the new Managing Committee Members for the years 2018 - 2020 were elected. U Ramachandran was

elected President, Harikumar Menon as General secretary, C R Unny as Treasurer and S R Pillai as Vice President. Other Office bearers are R

Damodaran Nair (Secretary), V K Menon (Secretary) and Sunil G Nair (Joint Treasurer). Members of the committee are A R Balakrishnan Nair, A R Pillai, Shrikanth Nair, K R Harikumar, Anilkumar Menon, Gurudev C Madhom, Ramdas Nair and Rajesh Menon.



U Ramachandran
President



Harikumar Menon
Gen. Secretary



C R Unny
Treasurer

KR Vijaya and Archana Babu Marar Receive Sukumari Memorial Award

■ Actress K R Vijaya and danseuse Archana Babu Marar are chosen for the Sukumari Memorial Award instituted by Tru Indian Information and Guidance Society. Ms. Vijaya has received several awards for her contributions from 1967 to 2013. Archana Marar is a well-known dancer of Mohiniyattam in Mumbai. The awards will be presented on February 24 at Sarvesh Hall, Dombivili east at 5.30 pm. K & K Foundation Chief Alexander Prince Vaidyan, Renish Perambra and Murali Mattummam will receive Pravasi Bhushan Award while Devika Azhakesan will receive Nadaprabha Award. Cultural programme to be followed will have dances by Shweta Warriar, Kaikottikali by Tara Preman and party. Entry to the event is free. For details 9320986322



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Dr.Oommen David and Mrs. Leela Oommen receiving the "Mahatma Gandhi Samman" in the British Parliament House, London.



HGABS President Sashikumar Nair with the old age home inmates

HGABS New Year with Old Age Home Inmates

■ Hill Garden Ayyappa Bhakta Sangham (HGABS) members celebrated New year by visiting the inmates of Param Shanthi Old age Home in Taloja and spending the day with them. The members gave them bedsheets, towels, soaps and other essential items, cut the cake with them and provided them lunch. This is the sixth year they are visiting the old age home on New year's day.

KNSS Annual Day

■ Kendriya Nair Samskarika Sangham is organising Nair Mahasammelanam 2019 at Mahakavi Kalidas Natya Mandir, Mulund on March 2, 2019. Coinciding with the Sammelanam, its member Units will present a mega cultural event Mahakeraleeyam depicting the traditional art forms of Kerala. K Jayakumar, IAS, Former Chief Secretary of Kerala, will be the Chief guest at the function. KNSS plans to set up a cultural Centre, Educational Assistance Fund, Medical Fund and proposes to raise an amount of Rs 50 lakhs through sponsorship, souvenir advertisement, from patrons and life members, well wishers and individuals, for their community welfare projects. For details contact Email: knssmaharashtra2000@gmail.com

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Nanma Charitable Trust Annual Day

■ Nanma Charitable Trust of Kalyan Celebrated its fifth Annual day. Actor and MP Innocent inaugurated the celebrations. The Venue was Holy Angels School grounds, Dombivili East. Sudhir Karamana, LIC senior Manager Pravin Gavai, Dr. Oommen David and Guru Nair were special guests. Individuals and organizations who extended support for welfare of tribal communities and Kerala flood relief operations were felicitated during the event. It was followed by a musical programme presented by Amrita Suresh, Abhirami Suresh, Afzal and Jazi Gift.

General secretary Sunil Raj welcomed the audience and Shriya Surendran proposed a vote of thanks.



Actor Innocent MP inaugurating the event



Upendra Menon inaugurating South Indian Property Show At Gloria Hall, Thane.

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Vijayan Nair

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Malayalotsavam concluded

■ The seventh Malayalotsavam organised by Malayala Bhasha Pracharana Sangham came to an end on January 12 at Adarsha Vidyalaya, Chembur. Kalyan Dombivli Zone secured first place in Kendra Kalotsavam, scoring 218 points. Securing 196 points, Navi Mumbai secured second place.

The festival was held on 11 stages. Winners from various zones competed among themselves from 9 am onwards. Around 2000 spectators watched the events. In a meeting held in connection with the festival, Festival Chairman T N Hariharan presided. Pracharana Sangham General Secretary Jeevarajan welcomed the gathering. LIC Manager Shilpa Bagul was the chief guest. The quarterly journal of the Sangham 'Keralam Valarunnu' was released on the occasion by the Chief Guest. Sangham President Reena Santhosh proposed a vote of thanks.

In the literary completion, Sunilkumar S K won first prize for short story (Thee Chamundi) and the second prize was won by Rajan Kinattinkara (Onnum Parhayathe). Sarita T V won first prize for poem (Aanukalikam) while Suvarna Susheel got the second prize (Chekuthante chiri). In the essay contest, the subject was 'Marhunatan Malayalikalum Mathrubhasha Samrakshanavum'. In this Satyanath K V and Bindu Sandeep secured the first and second prizes respectively.



Immanuel Mercy Home Ashram Empowering Destitute Lives

The lives of Radhakrishnan Pillai and Purnima B, inmates of Immanuel Mercy Home Ashram, look like a page from fairy tale book. Both of them got married on January 28, 2019, in New Panvel, solemnized by Rev. Tinu George Director of Jesus is Alive Ministry under Global Worship Centre Kottarakkara. Radhakrishnan, a native of Kollam was working in Dubai, but unfortunate circumstances compelled him to return to India. He took up some jobs in Mumbai to eke out a living but fate was cruel. He began to drink, suffered an accident and lost his legs. Homeless and jobless he was wandering in the city when Immanuel Mercy Home Ashram took him in and gave him refuge three years ago. There he met Purnima, another unfortunate victim

who had fled to Mumbai from Mangalore to escape the unwanted advances from her employer. New to the place, and with no knowledge of the local language, Purnima was offered shelter and protection by the Home. The meeting of the two culminated in their marriage.

There are many other instances of the good work done by Immanuel Mercy Home. Two elderly ladies shut up in a flat in Vasai, a lost old man wandering the streets, terminally ill patients abandoned by their near and dear ones, Mercy Home is open for these unfortunate beings and wraps its protective arms around them, offering them warmth and comfort.

Immanuel Mercy Home Ashram was founded in 2010 by Pastor Sinu Mathew and ably assisted by his wife Sister Mallika Sinu. It is an NGO and a non-profit organisation committed to

give comfortable and peaceful life to destitute people and helpless children, young and old, men and women in need who were lost in Mumbai and ended up as destitute on streets, roadsides, railway platforms, bus stands, under flyovers of Mumbai. It provides food, shelter, clothing, health-care and education for all its members in the Ashram as family members. Moreover, it gives all of them the love that they have never experienced in life.

Today it is a referral point for Police, Railway Police and Hospitals in Mumbai. As a result, it is now a family of 65 people and counting on.

Immanuel Mercy Home is the first initiation of the Immanuel Mercy Home Ashram. This Home is tirelessly working for the empowerment and education of underprivileged children. It was

started with three orphan children. As years passed by, more children added to this children's home and now 24 children are joyfully leading a blessed life here. The children study in English medium schools.

Founder

Pastor Sinu Mathew was born in a conventional Christian family but he liked an adventurous life and early in life he started a business of his own—selling land and vehicles. He married a girl of another faith, Mallika. But she had a strong personal relationship with Jesus. Before her marriage, she had accepted Him as her personal Saviour and Lord.

Unfortunately Sinu's business fell down and he had to bear a big loss. He escaped from his place and reached Mumbai. During the search of a job, he suffered hardships and finally he got a job as a driver in an Ashram. Meanwhile, his wife got a good job in Saudi Arabia as a nurse and paid off all debts gradually. On the other side, Brother Sinu became a strong believer and an active participant in gospel



Pastor Sinu Mathew and Sr Mallika Sinu with newly marrieds Radhakrishnan Pillai and Purnima B (in the centre)

works in company with Pr. Raj Kumar of Bethel Gospel Church. One day the sight of street children running after

food thrown at them moved him to pity and he decided to do something for them. He decided to give whatever he could, to provide food and education to street children. After Mallika returned from Saudi, they settled in Nerul and spent their maximum time and money for food and clothes of street children. They also started a prayer fellowship which was attended by many people. As the number increased they shifted the meeting to a school in Seawoods, Navi Mumbai. Along with this, Pastor Sinu and his wife joined an evening Bible school for better training of the Word.

Today through this Mercy Home Ashram, Pastor Sinu Mathew, his wife Sr Mallika Sinu are committed to bring hope to the hopeless and joy to those in despair. It has become his family's vision as well, because his children are also supporting him in this ministry. To all inmates of the Ashram and Br Sinu and Sr Mallika Sinu are Pappa and Mama!

Future Plans

Immanuel Mercy Home has several social objectives. Its plans include having its own beautiful own campus, a 15 Bed Hospital, a primary school, playground and library for children, a physical exercise centre for elderly inmates. It also requires sponsors and donations for various needs like medicines, food, school fees, etc. ■

Wedding



Aishwarya Menon daughter of Dr Usha Venugopal Menon and Dr Venugopal Menon, Vashi got married to **Sujin Kurup** son of Jayashree Kurup and Mr P.N. Sasidhara Kurup, Thiruvalla on 2nd December 2018 at Flora hotel, Nedumbassery.

High Court slams selective amnesty

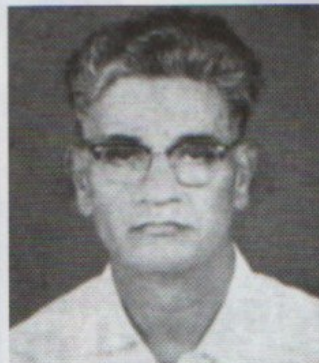
The first amnesty we heard in Indian history was that linked to K P R Gopalan and C A Balan in connection with their attack on police station and killing of a police inspector. The era was of pre-independence. Both of them were sentenced to death but on intervention of Mahatma Gandhi, Viceroy reduced the sentence to life imprisonment. In 1957, KPR was elected to the first Kerala Legislative Assembly and Communist Party had majority with the support of a few independent members. In such a situation, people generally expected KPR, who was senior to EMS in politics and well known leader of Communists of Malabar region, would become a minister but he did not. When quipped, EMS is said to have explained that KPR was a prisoner for committing a criminal act and hence could be made a minister.

The second instance was when EMS became the first Chief Minister of Kerala. The first cabinet meeting held resolved to reduce all penal punishment of prisoners to the lower terms. Even culprits sentenced to death got their verdict lowered to life imprisonment. By this resolution, a party worker sentenced to death also benefitted.

All these precedents encouraged the subsequent governments to reduce the punishments of their former party workers locked behind bars.

The latest episode is about the cancellation of amnesty granted by the government headed former chief minister V S

Achuthanandan to 209 prisoners in 2011. HC further directed that the governor to review each case concerning these 209 persons individually and remission could be given only to those who come under CrPC 433 A rules. Till he comes to a decision, the liberated culprits



KPR Gopalan



V S Achuthanandan



Pinarayi Vijayan

should not be taken in and if governor fails to arrive at a decision within six months, all liberated persons should be taken into custody and they should undergo the given punishment.

HC has pointed out that there were indications of certain doubts in the mind of then governor R S Gavai but there were no papers about it in the files submitted. Further there was no mention of the facts arisen while the cabinet considered the matter.

It is an established fact that those undergoing life imprisonment cannot avail of any remission before completion of 14 years of imprisonment. Remission could be considered only if the conduct of prisoner during this period found satisfactory.

This new development puts a spanner in the recommendations of the new remission orders of Pinarayi government for 36 prisoners. Though the government states that it would go in appeal to the Supreme Court, their remission order has to wait until SC gives its final judgement.

The present government forwarded a proposal recommending remission to 36 prisoners to the governor but he returned the recommendations to the cabinet, asking them to get clarity from the court. To prove their point, the government submitted the remission order of 2011. While scrutinising those documents, the HC found that the previous order was not according to the rules and hence illegal.

In the order of 2011,

AG submitted that those who completed 10 years only were given remission. HC found that only 5 persons completed 14 years and those who completed 10 years were below 100.

Following the 2011 order, wife of a prisoner who completed 23 years in prison, submitted that her husband's name was not included in the list of 209. Another woman submitted that the remission given to the killer of her husband had become a threat to her and her son. HC has warned the authorities that before granting remission, the social implications should be analysed by the authorities.

One argument the government put forward in defence of remission, was that the prisons did not have enough space to accommodate all prisoners besides inadequate infrastructure. Constitution of the country as per Sec 161 gives power to governor to grant remission to lifetime prisoners, HC ruled that Governor too has to follow certain legal steps before arriving at such decisions.

Among the 209 prisoners allowed to leave the prison are the killers of the teacher P T Jayakrishnan inside the classroom before his students. The killers of CMP leader T P Chandrasekharan were frequently given parole, furlough etc and similar facilities even before they became eligible for them. There accusations and counter accusations flew thick and fast about granting remissions and the latest news is that LDF government came to a compromise with BJP and granted to a few BJP workers undergoing prison terms, too similar concessions.



K T Jayakrishnan Master

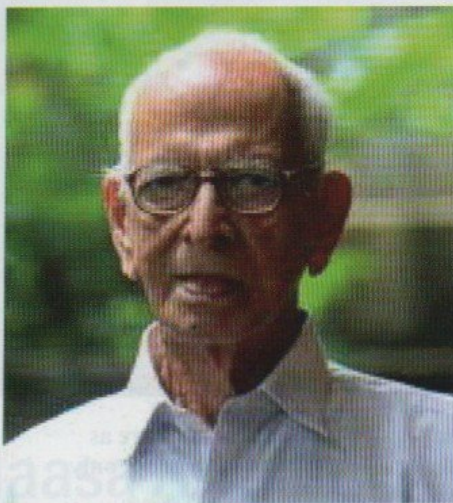
Chithran Namboothiripad at the crossroads of 100

The Thrissur City witnessed a rare occasion when former Joint Director of Education stepped out to his hundredth year of creative life. It is very rare an individual who contributed to his state so much to touch this mile stone.

On December 19 about 1000 people gathered at Pushpanjali Hall of Paramakkavu Devaswom to wish him more fruitful years ahead as well as share their joy with him. Among them a few colleagues, students and admirers were present. Former legislative assembly speaker Therambil Ramakrishnan was the Chief Guest while Metroman E Sreedharan was the special speaker. Alankode Leelakrishnan and Colonel Induchoodan controlled the proceedings. Many young people sought his blessings by touching his feet. Some of them felicitated him by reciting their poems eulogising his life. Alankode reminded the audience that Chithran Namboothiripad has four or five generations of disciples.

On the previous day he spent his time in an orphanage sharing pleasantries with the inmates and offering them essential materials.

In his response Namboothiripad revealed the secret of his long life-moderation in words and deeds besides in food. It is applicable to work as well as to sleep. About 70% of the people who attended his Navati celebrations were not alive to join him at his new footstep. Kalamandalam Gopi Asan, Sahithya Akademi President Vaisakhan, secretary



Chithran Namboothiripad

K P Mohan, writer K B Sreedevi, Prof P V Krishnan Nair, V K Sreeraman, K Rajan MLA, Swami Sadbhavananda, K K Valsaraj et al were also present to greet the birthday boy.

During the programme Dr P Bhanumathi was handed over an award 'Mukthisthaleswari Puraskaram' instituted in memory of his wife Smt Leela Antharjanam. His wife passed away four years ago. The award carries a purse of Rs 20000 and citation and is given to those who served the society with distinction. Sri E Sreedharan handed over the award to Dr Bhanumathi.

Chithran Namboothiripad was accorded receptions by various organisations and institutions. When Bharateeya Vidya Bhavan Thrissur unit felicitated him, Kerala Governor Justice

P Sadasivam was the chief guest. In his address, governor exhorted all teachers of the state to model themselves after Shri Namboothiripad.

Namboothiripad was born in 1920 at Mookkuthala in Pakaravoor Mana. His parents were Krishnan Somayajipad and Parvathi Antharjanam. He joined A V High School, Ponnani in 1937. He passed matriculation in 1940. College education was in St Thomas College, Thrissur. One of his professors was Joseph Mundasseri. During his graduation, C Achutha Menon was his classmate. He passed B A Honours from Pachayyappas College, Chennai in 1943. In 1946 he started his own school at Mookkuthala. He founded Andathod Farka Service Co-op Bank and was its president for three years. In 1951 he joined for teachers training in Kozhikode Training College. Prof Sukumar Azhikode was his classmate. In 1952 he assumed the charge of head master of his school.

1957 was an important year in his life. He initiated a State Sports Festival, led Kerala sports students to National Sports Meet, handed over his school to the state government and took responsibility of State School Youth Festival. Union government conferred National Teachers Award on him in 1967. Next year he was appointed DEO of Thalasseri Educational District. In 1970, he was made Deputy Director of Education. In 1971, he was appointed as director of Rural Institute, Tavanur. In 1972 he was promoted as Regional Deputy Director of North Zone. He became a member of Secondary Education Advisory Board of central government. In 1975 he was made Joint director of education in the state. He founded 'Vidyaramam' a mouthpiece of education department in 1976 and was its editor for three years.

He retired from service in 1978 and became a member of SSLC Board. He also became Vice Chairman of Bharateeya Vidya Bhavan, Thrissur. He initiated the Kerala State Service Pensioners Association.

In 1992 he started his annual pilgrimage to Himalayas. He continues the same without a break. This year he will go there for the 30th time. In 1998, he became President of Mundasseri memorial. In 2007 he was conferred Mukunda Raja Puraskaram of Kerala Kalamandalam.



Chithran Namboothiripad with Kerala Governor Justice Sadasivam

State of the abandoned

Child welfare homes owned by the government in Kerala received 567 children in four years between 2015-2018. All of them are abandoned by poor parents incapable of looking after them, unmarried women who wanted to shun the scandalous rumours about them or parents who forced the unmarried daughter to abandon the babies fearing societal outburst.

Out of these babies, 380 children have clear details of their mothers/parents while 110 do not have details of their parents. Seventy children were found abandoned in the cradles kept outside the Homes. Among these 187 children, 95 are male and the remaining is female. During 2017 and 2018, Homes received respectively 95 male and 92 female babies. During 2017, 28 babies and in 2018, 18 babies were found in cradles.

What is heartening is that all these babies were legally adopted by childless couples. Couples adopted 554 babies while the remaining was adopted by single women. Since 2017, single women



can legally adopt children where as unmarried single men can adopt only male children.

Now 1250 couples are registered and waiting for children for adoption. While those below 45 years can adopt children below 4 years, those between 50-55 years can adopt only children between 8-18 years.

In this matter Kerala is not alone. In

India there are 3.7 lakh abandoned children in 9600 orphanages. Of them 1.2 lakh are abandoned by single mothers. Besides, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra has 10745 orphans. While Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamilnadu had the highest number of girls, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra had the highest number of boys in the category of abandoned children.

Loka Kerala Sabha Meet in Dubai

Kerala Government is getting ready to hold the first zone conference in Dubai on February 15 and 16. The venues for the meet are Millennium Hotel and Ethisalath Akademi Hall. The expenditure for this meet will be a few crores of rupees. While the State finds great difficulties to mop up funds to cover the expenditure of giving relief to thousands of victim of recent floods, this meet raises eye brows of many a critic. A recent cabinet meeting approved the transfer of required funds from the development funds.

The first meet of Loka Kerala Sabha held in Assembly premises, incurred about Rs 4 Crores. Since this new meet is held abroad, there will be expenses for the venues, travel of ministers, bureaucrats and artists, the total expenditure would be much more. Chief Minister Pinarayi Village will inaugurate the meet and speaker Sriramakrishnan will preside over. Leader of the opposition, chief secretary, ministers, 3 vice chairmen of NORKA Roots and board members will attend the meet.

The decision to hold meets abroad was taken after the last September 30 meet held at Thiruvananthapuram. A preparatory meeting was subsequently held at Dubai on December 22. There

will be about 200 delegates participating from other gulf regions and Kerala. Actress Asha Sharat and party will present cultural programmes and about Rs 8 lakhs is estimated for this event.

While criticism is widespread about the extravaganza in spending on Loka Kerala Sabha Meet in Dubai by the opposition, NORKA Roots Residents

Vice Chairman K Varadarajan came out with an explanation that the state government is spending only on travel expenses of 7 persons including CM, Opposition leader, and bureaucrats. Industrialists of gulf region is meeting the entire expenditure of the Meet and the dance programme of actress Asha Sharat is completely sponsored.

With Best Wishes to
Kerala
in Mumbai
on its 9th Anniversary

Rajendran Padiyoor & Family





Badlapur Ramadaasa Ashram Cultural programme

■ Badlapur Ramadaasa Ashram in association with Tru Indian Dance Academy conducted a cultural programme at Badlapur in December 2018 on a grand scale. Guru Dharma Pracharana Sabha President S Sundarersan presided over the event while Swami Dayananda Saraswati of Ramadaasa Ashram addressed the gathering with his blessings. Adv Padma Divakaran, Ambika Warasiar, Gangadharan Nambiar, Rakhi Sunil, Srilekha Menon, Sudha Suresh Kumar and others attended the function.

On the first day cultural programmes were presented by Dombivili Malayali Samajam, Nrithaprabha Nrityalayalam, Keli, all based in Dombivili as well as Veena recital by Mallika Bharathan and Devotional songs by C P Sajeevan & Party. There were other cultural programmes of song and dance presented by many associations from Virar to Badlapur.

On the concluding day, Swami



Krishnananda Saraswati head of the Ramadaasa Ashram addressed the audience. BJP South Indian Maharashtra Zone President Manoj Pillai was the chief guest. Tru Indian

President Cee Gee Warriar and other dignitaries attended the event. Several artistes were also felicitated on the concluding event.



AMMA forms Committee for remedial measures for complaints

■ AMMA, the association of Malayalam Movie Actors, formed a committee for remedial measures for internal complaints. There are indications that the committee is formed with four female members. Shweta Menon, Lakshmi Gopalaswamy, Rachana Narayanan Kutty and Asha Sharat are the proposed members. An advocate from outside also will be added to the committee. Formation of this committee could be the result of the petition filed by the Women in Cinema Collective in high court. WCC wanted a committee to be formed before the star night by AMMA arranged in Abu

Dhabi.

The high court had asked AMMA to provide details of the committee to be formed to look into the complaints pertaining to sexual violence. AMMA was to file an affidavit that the committee to be formed adhere to the legal provisions. Inclusion of the actresses was a step in this connection. The law insists that a person active in legal practice or social activism also to be included from outside.

The high court had asked Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce, Kerala Film Producers Association FEFKA, MACTA

and Kerala Film Distributors Association besides AMMA to form such committees and file affidavits to that effect. AMMA was presenting a stage show on December 7 at Abu Dhabi to raise funds to Chief Ministers Flood Relief Fund. About 60 members of AMMA were participating in this show. The female artistes had to travel to the rehearsal centres and abroad for this purpose. The responsibility of security of female artistes was vested with the Executive Committee. WCC demanded the formation of the committee with these issues in mind and filed the affidavit in HC.

Teachers Unions oppose Renaissance in education

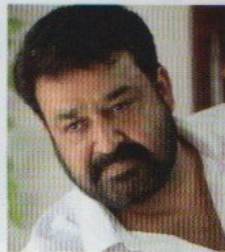
■ Dr M A Khader Committee appointed to enhance the standard of education in Kerala has recommended integration of primary, upper primary, secondary, vocational and higher secondary education board into a single board to achieve the goal. This integrated board will oversee the function of all educational activities. However the unions representing the higher secondary school teachers came out strongly opposing the recommended integration.

Primary teachers (Std I - Std IV) should be graduates instead of the present +12 teachers, trained with professional degrees (B Ed). To teach at secondary level, teachers should basically be post graduates. Further, head of these schools will be designated Principal with appropriate additions like Principal (Lower Primary), Principal (Primary) etc. The next senior teacher in the school will be designated Vice Principal. The posts such as AEO and DEO will be abolished. Offices of DDE, RDD, Additional Director etc also will undergo restructuring.

Partisan treatment to Mohanlal

Controller and Auditor General of Kerala has accused Department of Forests of issuing a partisan order favouring actor Mohanlal in the illegal possession of ivory case. His report submitted to the Kerala Assembly accuses the department of issuing an order exclusively for Mohanlal while referring to him as 'popular actor.'

This report submitted during the UDF rule became a controversy. When it occurred there were several cases in courts against individuals accused of similar charges or were under investigation. Hence this order was issued

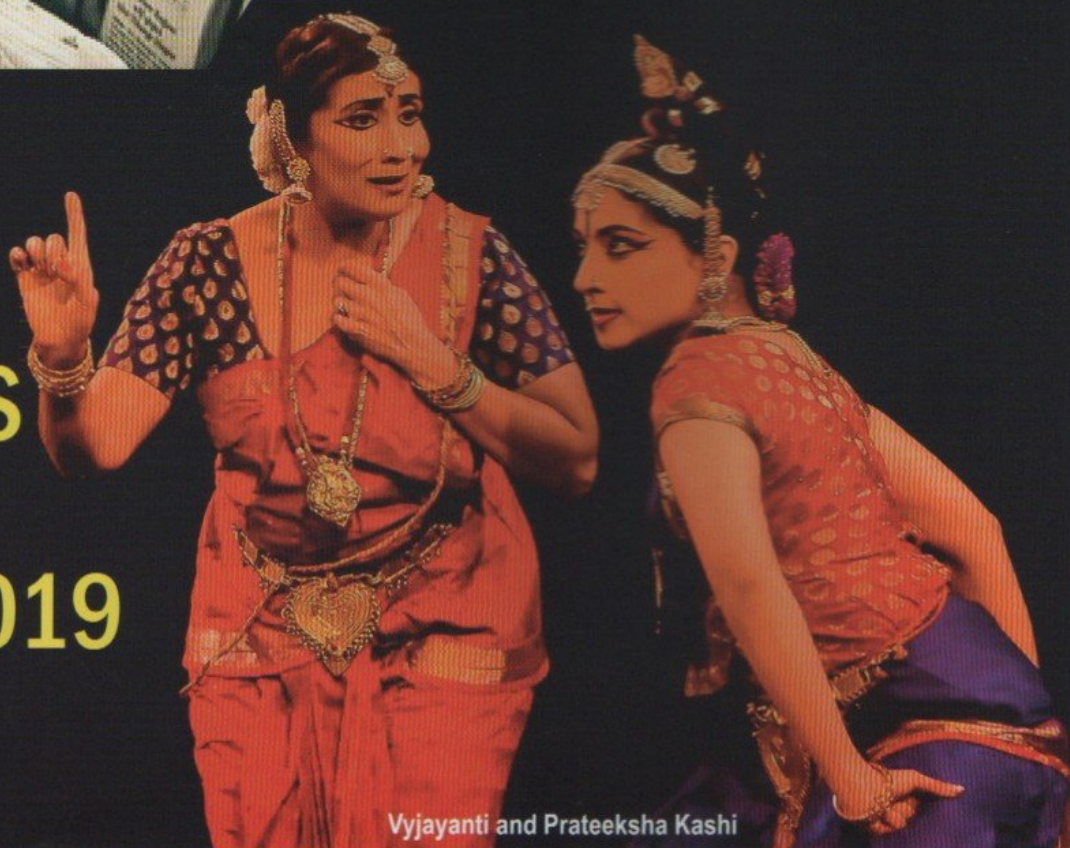


only to save Mohanlal, CAG concluded.

During 1972, 1978, 1991 and in 2003, the department had asked institutions and individuals possessing wild animals and/or their body parts to report to it. The raid in the residence of Mohanlal occurred in December 2011 and confiscated four ivory horns. A case was registered against the actor in 2012. Though a declaration was then time barred, the department gave an opportunity to him alone and gave him permission to keep 13 more artefacts. Mohanlal pleaded that he inherited all those items from ancestors. The permission granted to him was in violation of rules of Protection of Wild Animals Act.



DANCING MOMENTS AT DANCE JATHRE 2019



Vyjayanti and Prateeksha Kashi

The charisma of the veteran maestro of Kuchipudi Smt Vyjayanthi Kashi and her beautiful daughter Prateeksha coupled with the team spirit of volunteers made the two day festival of Dance Jathre 2019 at Bangalore, such a memorable chapter to cherish! Being a part of the two-day festivity of workshops, dance competitions, exhibition and evening performances, by seasoned Artists and winners of competitions alike was to be gathered in the bliss that was defined through dance, dancers and dance forms.

The dawn of the jathre unveiled with the prelude set through invoking Lord Ganesha, followed by the ceremonious lighting of the lamp by Padmashri Geeta Chandran, Vyjayanti Kashi and myself. There was an air of expectancy around, as restless feet awaited the moment when competitions, workshops and performances would endorse the purpose and meaning of each of their presence there.

The day's workshops had a great start with renowned Bharata Natyam Guru and exponent, Padmashri awardee Smt Geeta Chandran, awakening dancers to aspects of physical control, ever so vital to self control and the ultimate flowering of the body of the Dancer.

In the small breathing space

between workshops I moved out to the area outside, laced with lac-tinted feet in selfie modes or hurrying towards reaching out with their SELF in waiting competitions.

From Aharyam to Satvikam was a journey through competitions, work shops, Photo exhibition, performances, stalls etc. It was sheer heaven on earth at the scenic Shankaraa foundation. I espied eyes feasting upon the perfect moments of seasoned dancers and veterans in the photo exhibition of DANCE-SCAPES by the young photographer making distinct strides in the scenario of Dance photography - Architect & Vastu consultant and a grade eight Trinity Musician.

Madhusudan S Menon : I asked him what he sought as he captured various dancers and styles and prompt came the reply - "To capture the perfection in movements that dancers give their very life-breath to. It is important that my still reflects that movement and the silence within the frame endorses a communion needing no words at all." I could hear strains of the Garba and my feet led me to the energetic and bubbly Bhumi Thakkar and the elegant and soft spoken director Trupti Bhupen from Samarpan School of Performing Arts, Ahmedabad.

After the demanding classical workshop that preceded it, the lightness demanded from feet of waiting participants were a caress unto them. None felt the afternoon sun witnessing

the *joie-de vivre* all around. Against the music from pen-drives carrying the senior and junior competitor's destiny reaching out from multiple directions, I moved towards the flavors from the organic food stall, so sensitively put up by the nutritionist within Vyjayanti Kashi. Steaming millet idlies, dosas, delicacies, had one witness the rhythms across counters. A food counter where dancers converged actually transforms to a converging point to discuss and set up so many waiting bridges in future that soon it was time to move on to the choreography workshop by Benagaloru's very own Mayuri Upadhyay and an interesting Natyagraphy workshop by Shri Vijay Madhavan from Chennai. A very absorbing workshop highlighting the technical aspects of Yakshaganas was taken by Chandrasekhara Navadhisha from Mangalore. All too soon it was time for receptive feet to align to the kinesthetics of kathak through Anuj Misra's kathak workshop followed by the gentle and poised Padmashri Ileana Citaristi's Chhau workshop-Moving in space.

The evening performances by accomplished artists and veterans displayed the virtuosity and awareness of each. We had Odissi by Sharmila Mukerjee & Group, Bengaluru with aesthetically choreographed and synchronized pieces. Padmashri Geeta Chandran's Anekanta already creating waves all around, explored the Jain

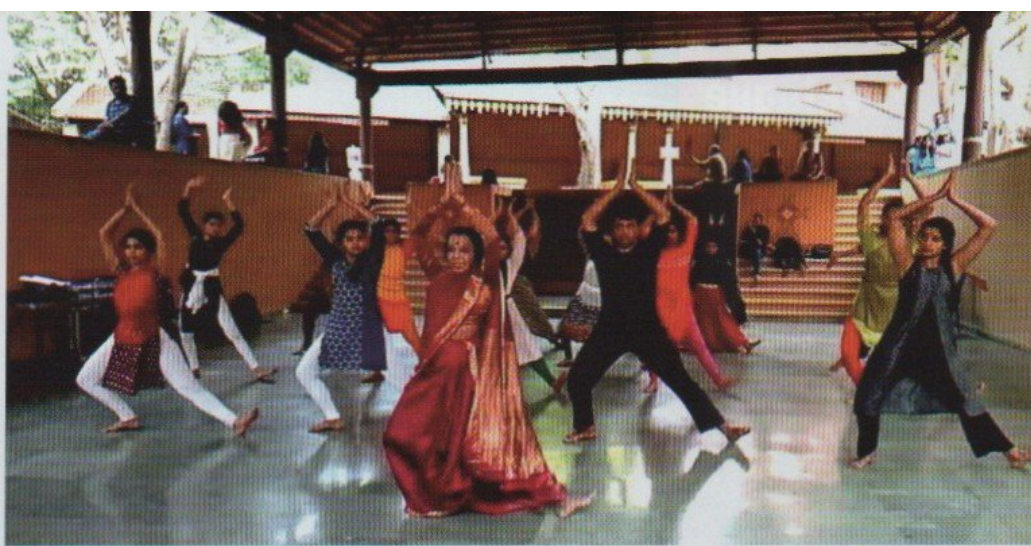
philosophy of embracing diversity and accepting multiple truths. From the Alarippu in three speeds to the 'Seen and unseen' depicted through Dikshitar's Maye, to the wooing of 'sound and silence' in Jati Vistar and then to the climax highlighting Annamacharya's kriti "Yetamatramunaevarudalacin" the audience were spell bound.

The evening concluded with Kathak by Anuj Mishra & Group, Lucknow, whose awareness of the kinesthetics of his idiom merited him an applause that echoed into the charged night, setting the prelude to the day unfolding on Jan 28th 2019 with workshops interesting in their aesthetic and intellectual content.

We had Bengaluru's established Poornima Guru Raju with her 'metaphor in dance' workshop and the accomplished Jayashree Rajgopalan from Mumbai with 'fitness through Shastra' workshop to align the physical with self control and then myself, highlighting the redressing of familiar rhythmic cycles, with an awareness of the inherent mathematics ever so intriguing and vital to the dance, dancer and dance- choreographer. We had the SNA awardee Preeti Patel, an accomplished Manipuri Exponent with her absorbing workshop throwing light on the various aspects of Manipuri dance traditions and the exhilarating martial arts form of Thang-ata.

Her evening performance AGNI the sacred fire lit up the ambience of dance pervading across the Shankaraa Foundation sanctifying it absolutely. The magic of movement' workshop had Divesh Mirchandani drawing in the onlookers too into the workshop where he had all dance the Ghumar from Padmavati, executed by Deepika Padukone. The energy kissed every dance performance in the evening as one witnessed the earnest performances by winners of the Senior group competitions. Sharing the stage with maestros, I felt also accorded parents and rasikas a chance to understand that from mime to a spontaneous delineation is a journey where dance slowly transformed to a visual prayer. This was more than endorsed by the accomplished maestro Kuchipudi Vyjayanthi Kashi & Shambhavi Dance Ensemble, Bangalore who reached out with two unique productions.

One brought alive the characters of Poothana and Krishna, and depicted the victory of the Lord over the demon. There is such depth in Vyjayanthi Kashi's abhinaya! Overflowing with the



Lata Surendra's workshop at jathre

foil of evil and maternal love through subtle delicate expressions, she was absolutely one with the character of Poothana. Charismatic and alluring Prateesha Kashi as Rudramma, in the next presentation did full justice to her character. May the rhythms stirred in the Jathre 2019 set the prelude to the next one poised and waiting in the wings of time.

Even as I left the venue, I was full of the music coming through an exchange of ideas, thoughts, action and interaction. What makes dancers dip into time to share the timeless? What makes organizers stretch or ignore the dent in their pockets? What makes them seek

this madness again and again?

I watch the moon and espy the smile lighting up the night sky. I got my answer!

It is the same madness that has kept the art and artists and the 'artist in the Man' alive through the times, adding colour to a jathre called LIFE!

By Kalashri Lata Surendra
(BharataNatyam Exponent,
Teacher, Choreographer, Curator,
writer)
Section President of the Official
Section of International Dance
Council, Mumbai-India



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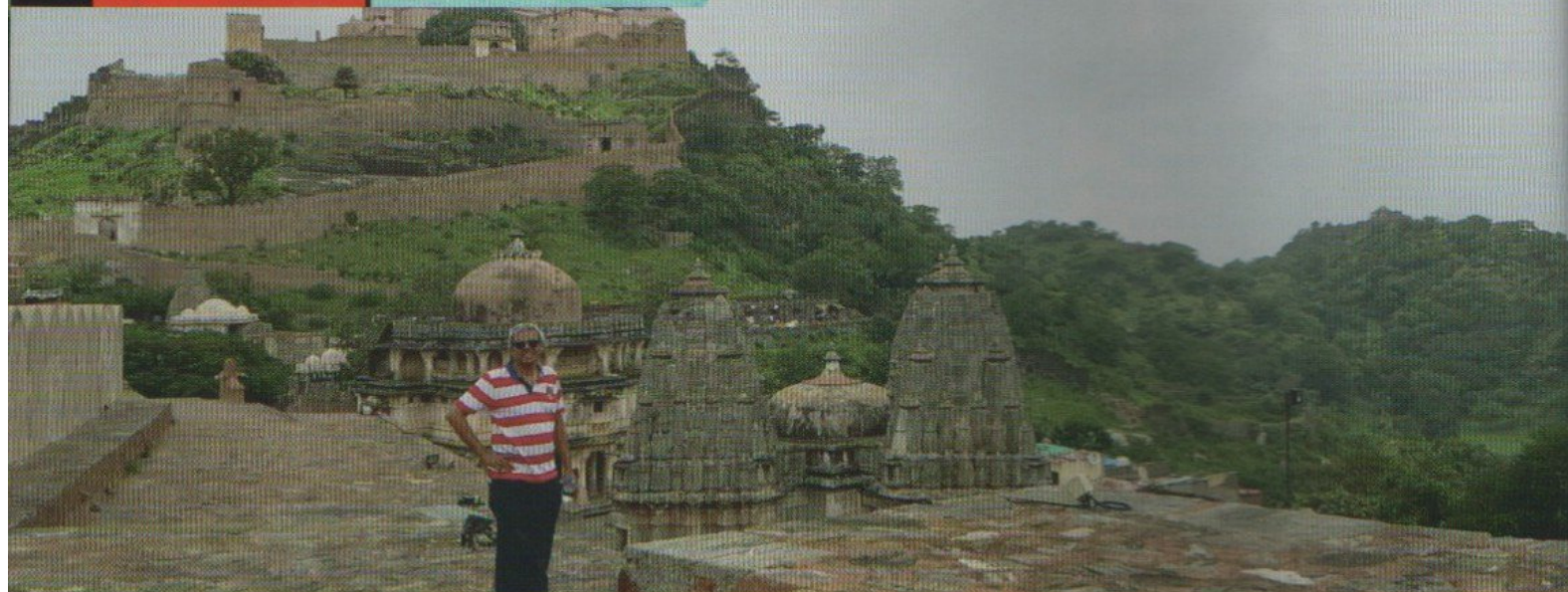




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Kumbalgarh Fort



Mandakini Nampoothiri

Rajasthan Trip to Palaces and Forts

Recently, I went on a trip to Rajasthan with my family. We visited Udaipur and Kumbhalgarh.

Travelling by plane, we reached Udaipur, by one at noon. We had booked rooms at the Club Mahindra Guest House.

Udaipur is known as the City of valour and renunciation. The Kings in olden days, were adept at fighting wars. Our first visit after a sumptuous lunch was to see the Vintage and Classic Car Museum, which exhibits all the vehicles belonging to the Maharanas of Mewar both past and present. There were cars about a hundred years old among them. There were about 20 antique cars, including 4 Rolls-Royce's, 2 Cadillacs, one MG-TC convertible, one Ford-A Convertible, one Vauxhall-12 and several

other exhibits like solar powered rikshaws and many more. The collection is housed in the original former Mewar State Motor Garage, which currently serves as this museum.

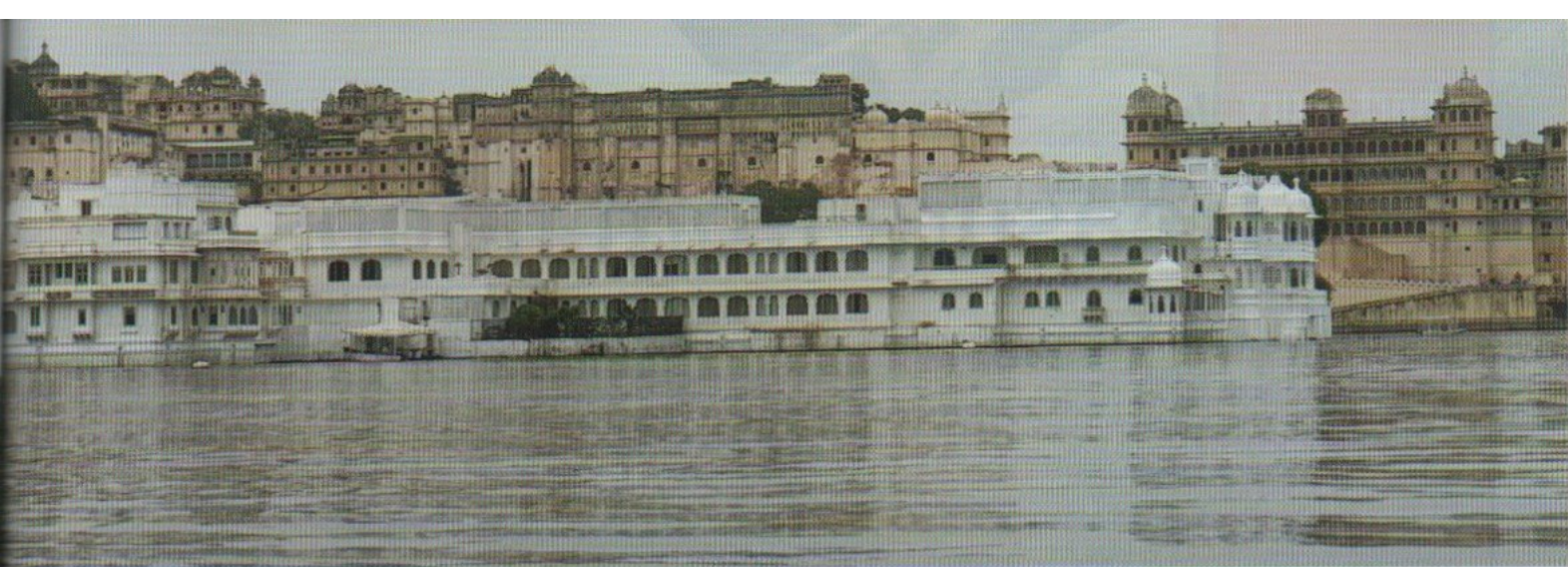
After that we returned to our accommodation, relaxed for a while and retired for the night.



Mandikini and family at vintage car museum

The next day we went to see the famous Pichola Lake in Udaipur city. It is situated at the foot of the Aravally mountain ranges, is a fresh water artificial lake created in 1362 AD and named after the nearby Picholi Village. Maharana Udai Singh, impressed by the charm of this lake with the backdrop of green hills, founded the city of Udaipur on the banks of the lake. The lake's surroundings and the several islands within the lake have been developed over the centuries, with palaces, marble temples, family mansions, bathing ghats or chabutaras (a raised platform, normally within a courtyard). Some of the famous ones are the Lake Palace (now converted into a heritage hotel) in the middle of the lake also called the

Pichola Palace or Jag Nivas located on the Jag Island, the Jag Mandir, the Mohan Mandir (in the northeast corner of the lake built by Jagat Singh between 1628 and 1652), the City Palace of Udaipur (Bansi Ghat) from where boats ply to all other parts of the Lake, the Arsi Vilas Island, which is a sanctuary for birds and the Sitamata Game Sanctuary on the western shore of the Lake. We went for boating on the lake. It was an exhilarating experience with the cool breeze welcoming us. Lake Palace Hotel, Taj Hotel and City Palace hotel are situated on the other side of Lake Pichola. We visited City Palace.



View of Udaipur from boat on Pichola Lake

After a traditional Rajasthani lunch of Dal Bhati Churka, we continued with our sight seeing palaces, museums and parks.

We visited the Handicrafts Museum which is a palace converted into a Museum. There were collections of exhibits used by kings and queens of yore there and we could guess the kind of rich and refined life they led. We also visited a Sari centre where we purchased saris, dresses and rajai for us.

Next day early morning we started for Kumbhalgarh. On the way we visited two temples. One was Ekalingeshwar Shiva Temple and the family deity of the Udaipur kings just as Sree Padmanabhaswamy is the one for Kings of Travancore.

The other temple was the Sree Krishna Temple at Nathdwara. Sree Krishna is here named as Sreenathji. The meaning of Nathdwara is 'Gate of Lord Krishna' and is located about 50 kms away from Udaipur.

After halting for some time on the way, for a packed breakfast, we continued our journey. We stopped at Haldighati, the historical place where Pratap Singh popularly known as Maharana Pratap, Rajput King of Mewar, fought with the Mughal Emperor Akbar. Though the Mughals won the war it was a futile victory because they could not capture Maharana Pratap or any of his close family members. The soil here is yellow in colour and hence the name Haldighati.

We saw the Samadhi and statue of Chetak the horse that Rana rode at the Battle of Haldighati. Local literature and folk tales mention the bravery of Rana Pratap's horse that carried the king safely away from the battlefield though it was badly wounded.

We reached Kumbhalgarh by 11'o clock. Kumbhalgarh is named so after Rana Kumbha.

Kumbhalgarh Fort is a Mewar fortress on the westerly range of Aravalli Hills, in the Rajsamand district. Built during the course of the 15th century by Rana Kumbha and occupied until the late 19th century, the Fort is now open to the public and is spectacularly lit for a few minutes each evening. It is the most important fort in Mewar after Chittorgarh Fort.

In 2013, at the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Kumbhalgarh Fort, along with five other forts of Rajasthan, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the group Hill Forts of Rajasthan.

With the walls of the Fort extending over 38 km, it is claimed to be the second-longest continuous wall after the Great Wall of China; the fort is among the largest wall complex in the world.

Our boarding and lodging here was Club Mahindra Holiday Home spread over a large area, and it was comfortable. In the evenings, there were Rajasthani Folk dance and puppet

show which were entertaining.

On the whole, our holiday tour to Rajasthan was a memorable and pleasant experience. I could get a panoramic view of natural beauty in the majestic lake that adorn Udaipur, see a glimpse of the royal lives of kings in their well-kept museums, and experience a slice of history of one of the most charming and colourful Indian states. I was also happy to spend quality time with my children who accompanied me and was happy to see them relaxed and free for a few days from the hectic lifestyle they lead in Mumbai. ■

a symbol of superiority



ചിത്ര വിജയൻ

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Treasure from floods

Ramachandran

When Alavikutty left smiling broadly for his successful deal, Raghava Menon was sighing deeply. Now where to turn to for the remaining money? Without another ten lakhs, he cannot commence the construction of a new house. If his land is pledged, another two or three lakhs can be arranged as bank loan. Then

"How much money he gave you?" Ammukutty Amma asked him when she came to take away the empty tea cups.

"He is not ready to offer more than three. You know Ammu, we don't have so many people engaged in breaking the old houses down." His whole despair was evident from those words of Raghava Menon.

"God will show us some way to overcome our problem." She consoled him and turned to move away to kitchen.

"Keep this money inside the cupboard." He pointed out to the currency bundles kept under the news paper on the teapoy.

"How much it is?"

"Alavikutty is not willing to give more than three. This is only one lakh. I have asked him to bring the remaining amount within two days. He may oblige...."

"Don't allow him to demolish before getting the whole money. You know what these people are upto.." It was her warning.

"What is the use of blaming him? Now he has to find out someone willing to buy the bricks and wood. I told him I need money without delay. Until I have the whole amount, I wouldn't permit him to touch the building." Menon declared his upper hand.

Ammukutty Amma and Raghava Menon are now staying in a house owned by his younger sister Lalitha. She is currently with her husband in Gulf. Menon's daughter Radha is in Chennai working for union government. Ammukutty Amma is adamant that only after having their own home, she would allow Radha to be given in marriage. When their

ancestral property was partitioned, Menon got their old house. Their house was on the side of main road going down on a slope. On the upper part of the land, Lalitha's husband Raghu built a house for them. Since Radha completed her education, Menon was pondering over demolishing the eighty year old big house and building a new moderately small one in its place. Raghu was offering him to stay in their house until the new house is constructed. Giving a new house on rent is like asking for trouble. Yet if no one is staying, its upkeep would be in danger. Now both Menon and his sister are happy since both are benefitted.

Many of his friends asked Menon to use the old bricks, tiles and timber salvaged from the old house for the construction of a new house. Doors and windows also could be used. Menon was willing but where to get masons and carpenters to retrieve these items without damaging them? Demolition of old house is a one-day job for them. They don't believe in reusing the old building materials as they are not beneficial to them. They advise the owner that reusing would take much more time than constructing with new materials. Some of them pointed out that it is foolish to spend time on old materials as new ready to use fabricated items are readily available in the market. That would be profitable as well as less time consuming.

Alavikutty made his living by buying building materials from demolished old buildings. There is nothing in this world to be thrown away, that was his philosophy. Menon too subscribed to that philosophy but the contemporary social set up is not conducive to practise it. The old bulky wood of teak, jackfruit tree, rosewood, mahogany etc would leave him after serving his older generation for many years, now they would serve some strangers. These days carpenters prefer to take timber to the wood industry and get them cut and dressed according to their measurements, at the expense of the new builder. Though they don't work on them, they accompany the new stock of timber to the saw mill and wait there until the entire work is completed. Yet they are to be paid their full wages of the day. The time has changed!

Menon went to a co-operative bank known to him and discussed the

possibility of getting a loan. The bank might give upto four lakhs as home loan. Menon still needs another four lakhs of rupees. Where can he get that kind of money?

When Alavikutty brought the remaining amount, Menon got a boost of courage. Now he wants to know when the Operation Demolition would commence. He did not want the materials piling there. Soon they are brought down, they should be disposed. Alavikutty wanted thirty days to dispossess the materials but Menon cannot allow it. Soon they compromised and twenty days were granted to remove the demolished items.

After two days Alavikutty brought a stranger to Menon. His name was Saidali. He came to see the house to be demolished. He knew the house but has not seen the interior side. If key is given, Alavikutty would show him.

"You may take the keys. You may even keep it until all materials are taken away. I shall be happy if you empty my house. I am in a hurry to start the construction," Menon said, laughing.

"That would take at least two months. We have to ensure the safety of the materials."

"It is not my concern now if you demolish my house or not. I have no authority on it now. Alavikutty handed me over the agreed money. I am totally unconcerned about the fate of my house." Menon revealed his mindset.

"We should demolish it at the earliest."

Menon watched Alavikutty and Saidali walking away with the keys. They went behind Lalitha's house. It is quite easy to reach Menon's old house. They were going downwards and talking. The footpath is steadily going down. Even the river flowing in front of the house is visible from here. It is very convenient to have a river near our home. At least every day we could have a comfortable bath in the river.

Next day the sky was very cloudy. It might rain. If Saidali could take away all that due to him earlier, I would be very happy, Menon thought. Once the old house is broken down, he could start the work on the new one. It wouldn't be difficult to begin since Alavikutty made all payments. By the time this money is exhausted, bank loan would come. Then

the real problem starts. Where would he get the money to do the finishing touches and to buy furniture?

Ammukutty Amma and Raghava Menon had mindful of anxieties. Decades ago construction of a house was a Herculean task. Stoneworkers, carpenters and women bringing sand from riverbeds used to create a noisy atmosphere around. Now the times are changed. Stone from quarry is replaced by bricks from factory, wooden doors and windows paved way to metallic doors and windows available at cheaper rates. Masons and carpenters have only to join them at the right place. If one has the right design, measurements and experienced workmen, the work could be completed fast. Only constraint was money. And that is what they don't have.

Days passed at their normal speed. There is no news about Alavikutty and Saidali. There is no indication of to me of demolition. If it could be done before the monsoon, it would be a great relief.

Newspapers warned of an unusual monsoon for the year. That would be much more fierce than the recent monsoons according to the climate experts, the newspapers added. Raghava Menon wanted to laugh it off as whenever they prophesied heavy rains, the sky was much clearer.

Unusually he woke up in the middle of night. The sound of pouring rain could be heard. Will the prediction of morning newspapers would turn right? If so, it would be nice for people like us. Last

year monsoon was much less. Probably this year that would be compensated.

The rain did not abate even by morning. Taking a pinch of charcoal Menon went behind the house. Even if one cannot go to river, cleaning the teeth watching the river is also a pleasant relief.

The river was full to its brink. It is surprising that rain of a single night could fill the river to this much. Sorry, to fill the river, rain need not be necessarily fall here. It could be at the source or at the valley. Yet....

His house was constructed during his grandfather's time. Then having a river near the house was considered to be a boon. If there is no river nearby, the elders were keen to make at least a pond within the compound. His elders could have made the house closer to the river for the love of it. Anyway, I do not want a house so close to the river, Menon decided.

Menon saw the new news in the morning papers, the water level in reservoirs has gone up. Authorities would be compelled to release the water from the reservoirs if the situation continues. Going through the news, Menon could not complete the breakfast.

TV channels are showing the situation live. Situation is really bad. Menon called his wife. She should also know the situation. When the telecast was watched, Ammukutty Amma started telling all that she heard about the floods of 99 from her grandmother when she was a kid.

"Ammu, stop talking. Let's hear the

news." When Menon stopped her, she stood up angrily and walked away to kitchen.

When the water level rises in Travancore side, why the people of Malabar region get upset?" Menon tried to suppress his fears by thinking so.

Nonetheless, the intensity of the rain does not diminish. If the matter was discussed with someone, there would be some relief. But there is nobody in the neighbourhood.

Menon put on a shirt and collected an umbrella from behind of the door. He did not heed to words of discouragement from his wife and got out.

He was very disheartened when returned. He could not meet anyone familiar. There was hardly anyone in the bazaar. Probably they had work to attend, unlike me, Menon consoled himself.

The rain has not stopped yet. Unnecessarily he got wet by going out. What is the condition of the river behind home. He went behind. His river is also full beyond normalcy.

When Ammukutty Amma called him inside for lunch, he went to the dining room.

His wife was talking but he could not concentrate on her talk. Now the rain was inside his mind.

When evening approached Menon was ready to get out of house. He wanted to see the condition near his own house. He called his wife too but she said she had other serious engagements. The river bank was fully hidden by waters. At this

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I P V Vijay Kumar hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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01/03/2019

(Sd/-) P V Vijay Kumar
(Publisher)

rate, water might enter his compound also by next morning.

Next morning the situation was like he had anticipated. Water from the river has entered his compound. For the last three four decades, this has not happened. If Saidali does not come soon to take away his rightful materials, Menon could not be blamed for the lapse.

It turned out to be lucky that he gave the contract to Alavikutty to demolish the house. Menon received his full amount but did Alavikutty receive his dues?

It is immaterial if Alavikutty receive it. I should consider only my affairs, Menon thought.

It appears the matter is likely to go out of hands. Now the water is in the courtyard. The dissolved soil has given the water a colour of coffee. Broken branches of trees, leaves, dead and nearly dead creatures etc are floating. Probably some fish also could have reached his house. No, they must have died. Even fish wouldn't survive in this water.

The whole night Menon could not sleep. Lying down in darkness, he listened to the sound of rain and flood. Ammukutty was asleep and the sound of her breathing was audible. He could also hear sound of moaning of a dog. It must have realised that there is no chance of survival in this flood.

After some time, he could hear a heavy sound of something falling. What could be that? I shall see it in the morning. He rolled in the bed. Did the end of the world come near?

First thing Menon did early morning was to go behind his present home and observe the situation down under his own

home. Some trees behind his house had disappeared. Many tiles of the roof are also missing. Further a part of the roof itself is missing. Was yesterday's rain was so intense and severe? Could be! How will I realise the situation while sleeping in Lalitha's house?

The rain is still continuing. Water has entered inside the house. Will it collapse? Menon was worried. Saidali has already lost a lot of money. Alavikutty may have the details.

By noon water entered inside his house. River was flowing with full speed and forcefully. Menon conducted the repairs several years ago. Will the house survive the rain? Oh God, please have mercy on us.

Situation worsened by evening. A large portion of the rear wall of the old house crashed down under. This caused the ceiling to crash down. It is certain that the entire structure would come down soon. After a couple of hours darkness engulfed making the observation difficult.

When the dawn broke, his house was not to be seen. Only matter to be known was if the basement was intact.

Menon was scared. Now that the house disappeared, was the amount of three lakhs to be returned to Alavikutty? Morally he has to. Whose loss would be it then? When he received the agreed amount from Alavikutty, the house became his. Then why should he return the money? Since the house belonged to him now, the responsibility also is with him.

When the water receded after three days, there was basement announcing the existence of a house there. The walls and

wood forming the ceiling were no more visible. The flood took them away. Perhaps the riverbed might have them. As there was no external contact or news papers for four to five days, Menon had no news of what was happening around. He put on a shirt and moved out to the bazaar.

Menon could see several people there discussing the bitter experiences and heavy losses incurred. It was in the paper that the government was financing the reconstruction of the house severely damaged or washed away. Those who lost their houses would get four lakhs.

When Menon told his wife this news, Ammukutty Amma reminded him, "But we haven't lost anything. We sold everything to Alavikutty and received the price too."

"What you say is true. However the government does not know about our deal with Alavikutty. They say if we submit a petition saying our house was washed away in flood, we too would get compensation."

"How that would be true. We received the price from Alavikutty. Then should he not get it?"

After some thought, Menon opened his mind. "Since the land does not belong to him, Alavikutty does not get the compensation. Moreover, he has already sold to another person."

"In my opinion it is improper on our part to seek to seek compensation." Ammukutty Amma clarified her stand. Menon kept his silence.

Next day leaders of the ruling party as well as the opposition visited Menon's place. They came to console him on his loss. Menon did not tell them about his deal with Alavikutty. Leaders sympathised and assured him that they would do everything at their command to get him compensation. Menon presented a sorrowful face and maintained silence.

After a few days, Menon happened to meet Alavikutty. He had already received money from Saidali. "God saved me."

"Then what happened to Saidali?" Menon wanted to clear his doubts.

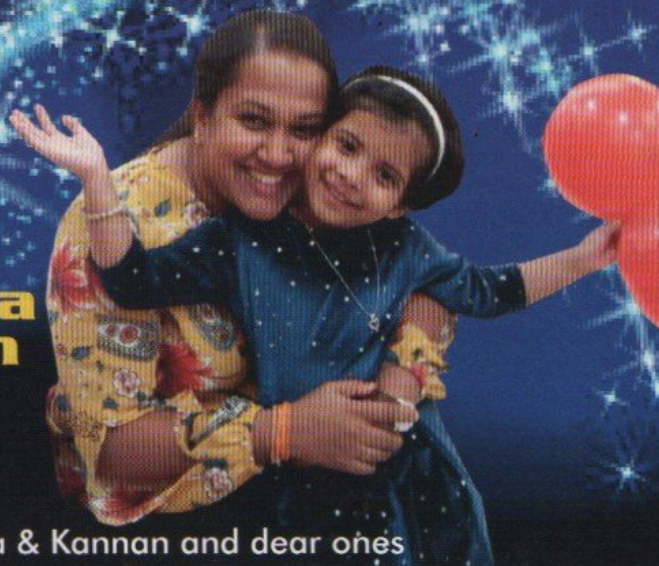
"He... I haven't seen him recently. Then, I heard that a few people lost their lives in his area. Let's hope he is not among them."

We came to know that Raghava Menon also submitted a claim for compensation. If he gets it, it is a small lottery. Otherwise it is not in his destiny.

When Raghava Menon was receiving the cheque issued by the government, his mind was telling him, "Please don't, don't, do..." His intelligence was telling him, "Doesn't matter. Don't be silly. You can accept. No one would know." ■

Happy
Birthday to
**Kenisha
Kannan**
Celebrating
4th Birthday on
March 5, 2019

Loving wishes:
Parents **Reshma & Kannan** and dear ones



SOME COMMON MISTAKES IN MAKE UP



Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

■ Women always like to look their best in functions and get together. Wearing makeup is a personal decision. Makeup may not be the only way to look attractive. But

makeup can make you look and feel more beautiful. Some of the women tend to overdo their makeup or choose shades not suiting their skin tone. Choosing the right colours, understanding the difference between products and learning the correct application techniques are important in makeup. Let us know about some common mistakes while applying makeup as noticed by beauticians:

1. Using makeup which has expired:

Makeup products also come with expiry date. We may not like to throw our favourite foundation or unfinished mascara. But is harmful to the skin if we use old products. So it is better to throw them.

2. Applying makeup on dry skin: If your face has dry spots, applying foundation over them may make flakiness more apparent. So it is better to apply moisturizer before doing makeup

3. Using makeup not suitable for the skin: Makeup should be suitable for the change of seasons. The foundation with a glowy finish which you used in winter may look shinier in summer. So use makeup as per the season.

4. Not focusing on your individual features: One face is different from other. For example one type of

makeup (for eg smoky eyes) may not suit you but it may suit your friend. So try to enhance your best features.

5. Using too much powder in the wrong places: Powder need not be used all over the face. It can give you a flat, one dimensional look. Try dusting a tiny bit of powder under your eyes and your T Zone to reduce shine without giving too much.

6. Your foundation formula is making you shining: We want to look radiant, but too much of foundation or "dewy" foundation can make your face oily. If you still want to use your "dewy" foundation, dust a thin layer of powder over the face to minimize shine without totally flattening the face.

7. Choosing the wrong shade of foundation: It is better not to test on the back of the hand when shopping for foundation. Beauticians advise to do a test on the cheek or neck which gives you a realistic idea of whether the foundation matches or not.

8. You are not blending your foundation into your neck: If you don't blend your foundation into neck, it may result in a neck that does not match your face, even if your foundation suits your skin tone. So just run your hands down from where your neck meets your face, after you have applied your foundation.

9. You are applying foundation over concealer: If you apply foundation over concealer which is applied over a blemish, then you are thinning out the concealer. It is better to dab the concealer over foundation where a trouble spot hasn't been completely covered.

10. Applying blush in the wrong area: Too much blush on the cheeks can

create clown like effect. So place the brush on the apples of your cheeks and sweep onward, blending as you go.

11. Skipping Primer: A primer should be applied before applying foundation otherwise the foundation may change colour throughout the day when too much of the PH in the oil of the skin mixes with the pigment in the foundation.

12. Your bronzer shade is too warm: The idea of applying a bronzer is to look tanned or sunkissed. If your bronzer shade is too warm for your skin it may lead to an orange look, not a bronzed look as we may desire. So go for true beiges and browns rather than warm and ruddy shades.

13. Your bronzer has too much shimmer: skip any shade that looks sparkle or shimmers. Look for finely milled, subtle illumination for a natural finish. Save the shimmer for highlighting your cheekbones rather than dusting it over your entire face.

14. Using the wrong brush to apply bronzer: Always choose a soft natural brush for a flawless finish. Use a large, fluffy brush to swirl a powder formula over the entire face lightly. Avoid brushes that are too small.

15. You are not blending your bronzer well enough: Blending well is important and is the key to any good makeup application.

Keep in mind that what looks fine and well blended in your bathroom mirror can totally change appearance once you get outside in natural light. So, do your makeup in a well lit room as far as possible for radiant and beautiful looks. ■

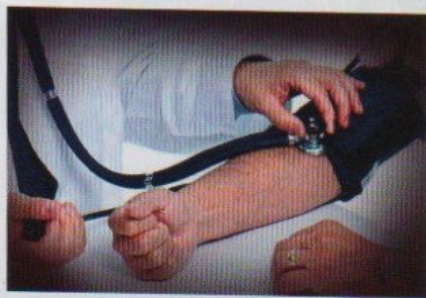


TAKE CARE OF YOU

Dr. (Major) Nalini Janardhanan

You are the most important person for you! So you have to take care of yourself. Generally women, especially housewives tend to neglect themselves when they get busy looking after their husband, children and other family members. Men and working woman tend to focus on goals, achievements and meeting deadlines ultimately forgetting to take care of themselves. So let us discuss a few points on self-care.

Body Health



■ Undergo regular physical checkups like BP, Blood Sugar, Thyroid tests, Pap Smear, Eye

checkups etc.

■ If you have any symptoms, consult a doctor and start treatment instead of treating yourself with medicines bought from pharmacy.

■ Get adequate sleep of 7 to 8 hours at night. Take afternoon naps, if possible, to reduce tiredness.

■ Choose any exercises like yoga, dance, Gym or stretching exercises. Do it regularly.

■ Elderly persons can go for regular walk for 30-45 minutes.

■ Go to your garden or balcony. Stand there and take long breaths 5 times. Do this daily or do Pranayama.

Food and Drinks

■ Eat balanced diet. Avoid junk foods, fast foods and fried items.

■ Try to reduce salt, fat and sugar in your food. Include more fruits and vegetables (also Salads) in your daily diet.

■ Have proper breakfast in the morning. Don't skip meals.

■ Have Curds, buttermilk, lassi and other milk products like Paneer.

■ Drink milk before sleep.

■ Avoid artificial fruit drinks and Soft drinks which contain too much of



sugar. Have fresh fruits prepared at home.

■ Don't drink alcohol, Smoke or get addicted to drugs

■ Avoid eating too much of Sugar. If you have a sweet tooth go for options like honey, fruits or dates.

■ Herbal teas like Cinnamon-honey, honey-lime, Ginger-lime, tulsi-ginger-pepper are good for health.

■ Don't have heavy dinner. Try to have early dinner. If you feel hungry after that, you may have milk with

cornflakes.

■ Don't think that cooking is a headache or botheration. See it as a hobby to make you Stressfree. Once in a week make something special (like healthy snacks, Soups, puddings etc) for you and family. Try new recipes.

Beauty Care



■ Love your body and take care of your body.

■ Daily Skin Care routine of cleansing, toning and moisturizing can be followed. Apply homemade face packs once in a week.

■ Apply hair packs for hair twice a month.

■ Go to a beauty-parlour and get facials, manicure and pedicure done once in a month or so.

■ Take a home spa. Have a long bath or Shower enjoying aromatic oils and candles in your own bathroom.

■ Wear your favorite perfumes which will give you joy.

■ Apply makeup as per your skin tone and season when you go out for get-togethers or parties.

Mental Health and other points:

■ Spend loving moments with your spouse.

■ Keep your mind peaceful with nature walk and meditation

■ Take a break from social medias and TV programmes. Spend more time with family friends and relatives.

■ Read books, join some clubs or social organizations.

■ Make new friends, watch movies in theatre or do window shopping.

■ Listen to music to give relaxation to mind.

■ Put your thoughts down on paper. Write out on anything that is bothering you. It can make you feel relaxed and better. Then let it go and move on,

■ Take deep breaths and relax.

■ Make sure that your social media is a happy and stress free space. Interact only with people who spread positivity. You can delete or mute negative people.

■ Unplug for an hour or so from emails and social media. Make yourself free to relax.

■ Have a good laugh. Read comedy or watch a comedy movie.

■ Splurge a little. Go for Shopping and buy things for you.

■ Get positive feedback. Ask three of your good friends to tell you what they love about you.

■ Spend time with good friends.

■ Put your mobile phone away and just sit with your own thoughts.

■ Have a family dinner or go for a picnic or for movie in a theatre to connect with your loved ones.

■ Limit your Screen time. Be away from internet and TV for sometime. Unwind with a book.

■ Put on your favourite music track



and dance out your day in your living room

■ Have a Self date'. Spend an hour alone doing something you like. Indulge in your favourite TV Show or your hobbies like reading, singing, painting, writing, dancing, listening to music, visiting museum or simply go for a walk.

Learn to prioritise your well-being above other tasks. You are more important than your to do list! You will feel more connected to yourself and you will get to know yourself better. And you will love yourself. ■



Best wishes from....

MR & MRS PRABHAKARAN



Dr Sujatha Nair

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

K2, Spice, Black Mamba, Kush, Kronic, Joker etc.. these are not names of some movies or nick names of a person... They are the different names of the drug Synthetic Cannabinoids which comes under the classification of New Psychotropic Substances (NPS)

As is self evident these are human made psychotropic chemicals that are sprayed on plant material that are shredded, or sold in liquid form, or vaporized.

Modes of use- the liquid mimicking cannabinoids are sprayed on plant material or weed which can be smoked. The liquid is also used in e cigarettes or vaporized and inhaled.

They are similar to the chemicals found in the cannabis plant, hence the name- hence, they are also called "fake weed".

However deceptive the name sounds, they are dangerous and can be fatal.

They are sold in attractive packing in packets and bottles in stores or can be ordered on the internet. The use is prevalent in Middle eastern countries, USA, Mauritius and the African countries, some parts of Asia etc. They are misleadingly advertised as natural which makes it attractive for young people to use.

Effects

Calmness, euphoria, acuity of senses

Psychotic effects -delusions, unrealistic thinking, Extreme anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations- visual and auditory.

At times, violent behavior, nausea, vomiting, suicidal thoughts, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, seizures and can result in death.

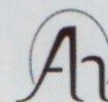
Synthetic cannabinoids can be quite addictive.

Withdrawals On stopping the substance can experience heightened anxiety, depression, headaches etc.

Treatment

Residential, non- medical, voluntary therapy with Counseling, Meditation and other alternate therapies in an accepting, loving, compassionate environment is what is required. The goal of treatment is "to Not find the need to use."

For any clarifications contact
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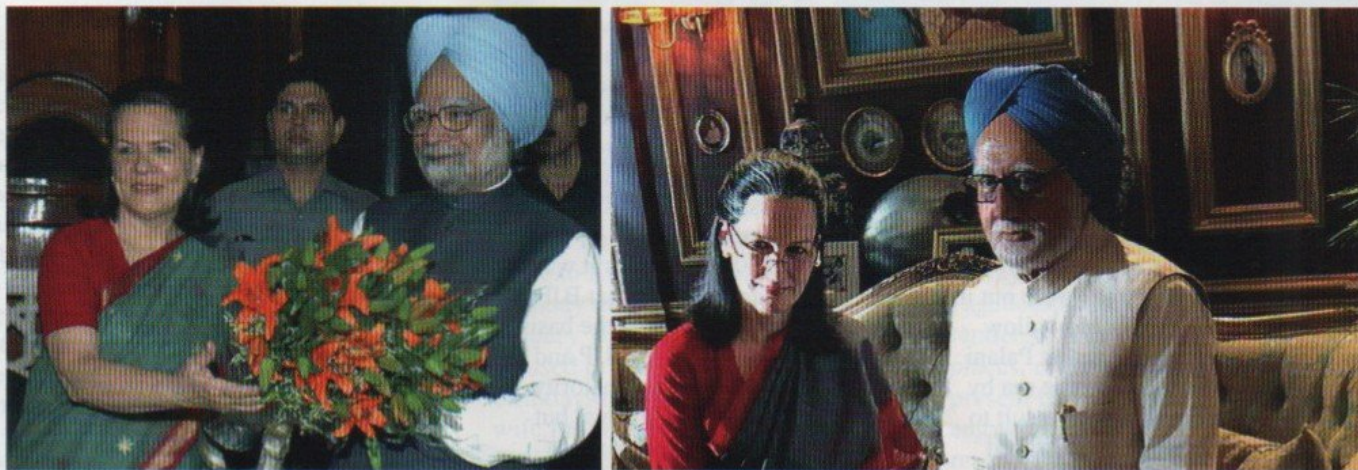


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A book, a movie and politics

A RE-LOOK AT THE BOOK AND THE MOVIE ON FORMER PRIME MINISTER DR MANMOHAN SINGH

Entertaining and hilarious to the read and quite tiresome for the uninitiated



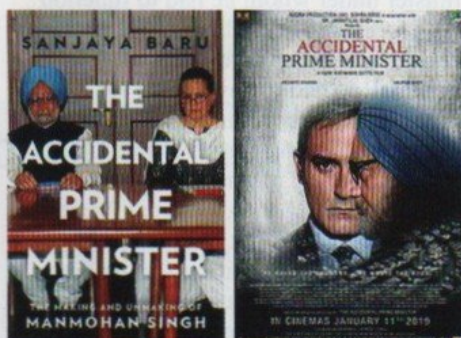
Sonia and Manmohan Singh in reality and in film

Satyanath

Most of the newspaper reviews asked the regular cine goers not to waste their time inside movie hall playing 'The Accidental Prime Minister', adapted from a book of the same title by Sanjaya Baru, the Media Advisor of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, during 2004-'08 (UPA-1).

The press review naturally raised the curiosity in me and then took me to the nearest theatre playing the film. When I entered, there were only seven viewers and by interval it rose to a magnificent eleven. Since the content was well anticipated, I found it quite entertaining and informative. What the leading newspapers failed to realise was that they mistook it as a biopic. It is anything but a biopic. It was really shocking that the people associated with the film treated it as a biopic in Wikipedia.

A biopic is expected to show the life of the protagonist from birth to his last day, covering childhood, environment he was brought up, education, career, family life, his contribution to the society, the ups and downs in life and the message he leaves to the society. 'The Accidental Prime Minister' does nothing of the



The book and the film

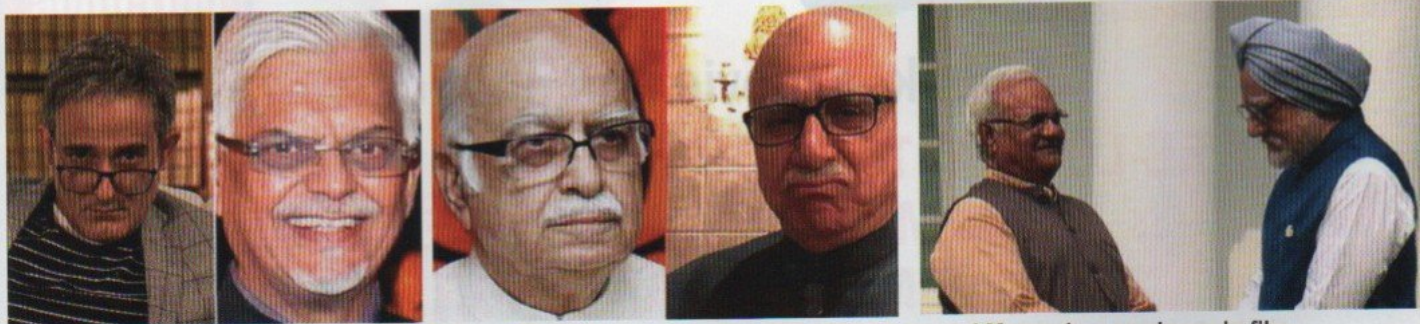
sort but covers only the events within his office and the interactions between the PM and his Media Advisor Sanjaya Baru for a period of their proximity of four years. Sanjaya Baru jotted down his memories of those four years as he has seen and heard, leaving all confidential matters untouched.

We have seen several biopics of politicians in the past, including those of Gandhi, Nehru, B R Ambedkar and of some sports personalities. Those films cover the major portion of the life of the leading character. Hence terming this film a biopic is a travesty of justice not only to the creators of the movie but also to the author and characters shown in. The reviews amount to a misrepresentation of the situation. If we accept these reviews it would be calling Kumaran Asan's 'Chintavishtayaya Sita' a bad reflection of Valmiki Ramayanam or seeing Christ

through the eyes of Judas.

We have a large number of essays and books by various writers reminiscing their memories during their times of bureaucracy and accusing them for all the evils of the world or praising them to the level of heaven. When we go through such books, we should not draw conclusions on their basis but should realise that what was written was according to the capacity of the author to comprehend. There are scores of books praising Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru insisting that present India is due to their hard work and sacrifice while there are equal number of writings cursing them for all the maladies India is suffering today. There are more books throwing light on the rivalry between Subhash Chandra Bose or Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and Nehru based on the basis of suppositions, rumours or propaganda but without providing any evidence but people who were common friends to these personalities vouching for their love and mutual respect despite conflicting ideologies.

Perception varies according to individuals and time. One of Malayalam's favourite novelists Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai complained that Communist Party issued directions to its followers to desist from buying his 'Chemmeen' when it was first published in two simultaneous editions (one paperback costing Rs 5/-



Akshaye Khanna as Sanjay Baru (R), L K Advani and his dupe, Vajpayee and Manmohan as shown in film

and another in hard bound costing Rs 20/-) and the publishers SPCS informed the author about the sad plight of his ambitious book. It took Thakazhi to approach senior leader A K Gopalan of the CPI and C Rajagopalachari of Swatantra Party to find a remedy. The reason was the belief of fisherwomen that if they indulged in immoral sexual activities when their husbands were out in the sea, the Mother Sea would swallow the latter. Another reason was that Palani was killed when he was out in the sea by a shark and such a death was an insult to a down trodden fisherman. AKG asked the cadre if no fisherman die in accidents and pointed out that everyman had to die one day either on his bed or out of his house. CR wrote an article and published in Swaraj asking readers, was it not good if a superstition helped maintain morality in family life. Soon sale of Chemmen soared. When the movie Chemmen was to celebrate its fiftieth year of release in 2015, fishermen of Alappuzha threatened that they would set fire to the theatres showing the film for it was showing a non-existing superstition. The theatres earlier willing to show the film withdrew their consent. Not much heard about the film later in Kerala.

The movie is a true copy of the book in which Baru makes his stand clear. He used only what transpired between PM and himself. He included the talks among media persons and the politicians when he was present among them. If anyone thinks that the movie is a biopic, he is wrong. There are no songs, romance or fights. While leaving the theatre, I asked the doorkeeper why there were few viewers. He was surprised first and then replied, '*Usme fighting nahi hein na!*'

The main complaint of the reviewers was that Dr Singh was shown timid, submissive and as a person without self confidence. INC thought of filing a defamation suit in the Supreme Court and demanded a ban on the movie. Those who read the book can understand why he was shown in such a state. A coalition ministry has several limitations and hence

taking decisions by himself was unthinkable. There were innumerable undercurrents in the party, each leader calling others names for personal gains. Their access to PM was Ahmed Patel who was a trusted help of Sonia Gandhi. He was under pressure from all sides and also from 'high command'.

Before the 2004 elections it was an accepted political thinking that BJP would return to the government on the basis of 'India shining' campaign of BJP and UPA was not certain of securing majority. UPA did not have majority of its own but obtained support from left parties. Manmohan Singh was well aware of position of Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister under whom he had to function as Finance Minister, when he did not heed to Sonia and her children before 1999 election. Rao had to pay a price for his action. He was not returned to Lok Sabha nor recognised as a 'former Prime Minister' in Party affairs. Dr Singh often described himself as 'Accidental Prime Minister' as he was not in the race. There were many leaders aspiring for the PM's post but Sonia never trusted them to vacate the position when her own children get ready to take over. Further UPA was a 14-party coalition and no senior leader knew about his own destiny. Even Sonia did not pick the ministers because they were picked on the basis of strength of their parties in coalition. All previous Congress PMs had the freedom to pick the members of the cabinet but not Dr Singh as he had to consult Sonia who in turn do the same with the partners in coalition.

All this is reflected in one scene in the movie wherein Prithwiraj Chavan, telling Baru that he would get MoS for Finance as deputy to PM who would be Minister for Finance. It did not happen. When Baru asked him later for the reason, Chavan indicated the intervention of 'high command.' Even Dr Singh could not keep Finance as he was advised against it. Many newspapers in their reviews of the movie, mentioned that it was an insult to Singh as he was shown as timid and an

object of ridicule. Baru in his book reiterates that he saw Singh in that state and the film did not paint him negative. It was Baru who foresaw the possibility of Singh assuming the post of Future Prime Minister and wrote an editorial in his paper much earlier.

It would be interesting for readers that Dr Singh had three secretaries; all Malayali Nairs: J N 'Mani' Dixit, M K Narayanan and T K A Nair, who often not see eye to eye and would not hesitate to loudly argue even in front of Dr Singh. But there is no such scene in the film. This movie will be remembered for other reasons too. There are no song, romance, fighting or comedy. There are a few scenes that allow you to smile within. One among them is shown with A B Vajpayee making a weighted smile followed by a comment by Baru. One important fact that escaped attention; the movie moves forward by occasional narration, a new way for Hindi films. A few documentary pieces of real events are also thrown in.

There are a few references in which the Gandhi family was shown not in glorified terms especially when Narasimha Rao and Chandrasekhar, former PMs, died in Delhi. Sonia did not want them to be cremated in Delhi though Sanjay, a mere MP, was cremated there.

The movie shows glimpses of difficult episodes in his tenure, mostly internal churnings in the Congress. Manmohan Singh, in one particular scene is shown as saying he wants to resign. To which, then Congress President Sonia Gandhi responds: "There is one corruption scandal after another. In this situation, how can Rahul (Gandhi) take over?" A laughter from the scant audience!

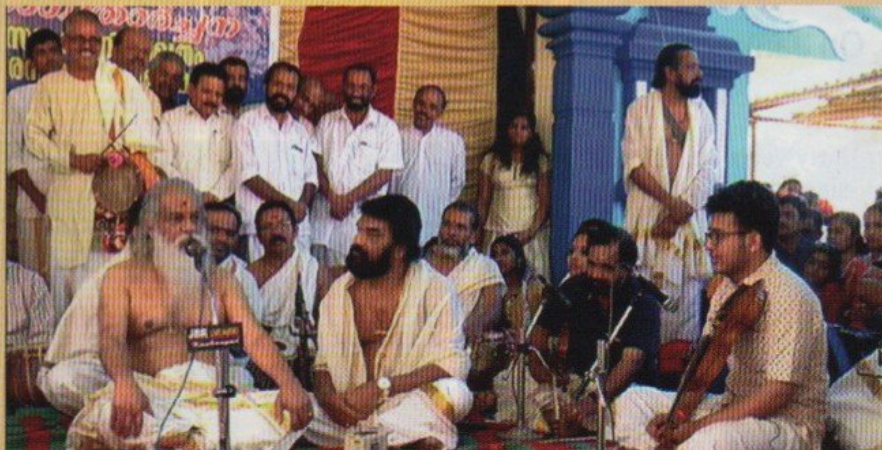
The characters are well presented by the able actors. Most of them look real. Seeing them on screen will make you recall the character. Anupam Kher displays the body language of Dr Singh immaculately, especially with

his awkward forward tilting shoulders, positioning of arms while standing or sitting. His modulation is praiseworthy. We are not sure if any help is sought from any mimicry artiste. Suzanne Bernert, a German actress, is excellent as Sonia Gandhi. She looks, speaks and emotes like Mrs Gandhi. While Priyanka is OK, Rahul needs some growing. Director deserves praise for showing the scene in which Rahul is shown tearing the copy of a bill in a public meeting, a most cruel act he ever publicly committed that took away all the respect, if any, of the discerning public had for him. Was that scene deliberate to show Rahul Gandhi as the most immature character who lacks common sense in public life? That scene alone would fetch votes for his rival. It was as bad as his hugging Modi in Lok Sabha.

On the negative side several issues mentioned in the book did not find space in the film, probably for fear of exceeding the norm of two hours of running time or bringing out bitter issues out in the open.

The movie was not at all glorious to the Gandhi clan but nothing inglorious about Dr Manmohan Singh. There is no wonder that BJP wanted the film to be released before elections. It is heard that soon it is going to be dubbed in Tamil and Telugu. ■

Yesudas celebrates birthday at Kollur



■ Well known singer K J Yesudas came to Kollur to celebrate his 79th birthday at the Devi Temple on January 10. During the recent times he used to come to Kollur for his birthday. He was accompanied by his wife Prabha and eldest son Vinod.

Before the deity, Yesudas rendered three hymns. His friend and singer Kanhangad Ramachandran gave him company. Vatapi Ganapatim bhaje....,

Paavanagurupavanapuradheesham ashraye.... and Vaani vagadeeshwari.... are the hymns he rendered. A huge crowd from many places, even from abroad were present there to greet the singer and enjoy his songs. Yesudas and family reached Kollur on the previous evening and made offerings. During morning rituals, he offered Chandikahomam and followed it with a musical offering.

Director Lenin Rajendran bids adieu

Noted Malayalam movie director Lenin Rajendran passed away on January 14 in Appollo Hospital in Chennai. He was 67. The end came at 8.45 pm following liver cirrhosis. Last month he had received liver transplant from his son. He was cremated in Santhi Kavadam in Thycad, Thiruvananthapuram.

He is survived by wife and former professor of Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Dr Ramani and children Gauthaman and Dr Parvathi.

Rajendran was born in Ooruttambalam in TVM to Transport employee Velukutty and Bhasamma. He was quite fond of movies. MGR, Sivaji Ganesan, Sathyan, Prem Nazir et al were his heroes then. When he joined University College for his higher studies, campus politics also

attracted him. He joined Students Federation of India (SFI) and soon became Secretary of the college unit. He contested against K R Narayanan twice in Ottapalam Lok Sabha constituency but was defeated. He was recipient of state film awards five times. When the death came, he was Chairman of State Film Development Corporation.



After his graduation, he joined a financial enterprises company. During this time, he came in contact with P A Backer and became his associate. He started writing scripts for films.

Lenin Rajendran was a highly respected director in Malayalam. His first movie was 'Venal' (Summer, 1982). It was followed by several noted films. Chillu (Glass), Meenamaasathile Suryan (based on Kayyoor riot), Swati Tirunal, Daivathinte Vikrutikal (film adaptation of novel of the same name by M Mukundan), Mazha, (based on

'Neelambari' of Madhavikutty), Kula, Vachanam, Anyar (highlighting the caste polarisation in Kerala, 2003), Rathri mazha, Makaramanju (on Artist Raja Ravi Varma's life) etc are some of his other films. Each of them had a unique story to tell. Besides he produced and directed documentaries on Madhavi Kutty and Vayalar Rama Varma for television. He adapted G Sankara Pillai's 'Moodhevitheyayam' and Kumaran Asan's 'Karuna' for stage. He brought actors from other languages too to suit the characters. He brought Om Puri for 'Puravruttham' and Ananta Nag for 'Swati Tirunal'. He brought lean and tall Raghuvaran from Tamil to become Alphonsacchan, a dirty unkept Christian priest against the wishes of Mukundan the author. With Manisha Koirala he did 'Edavappathi.'

When Prem Nazir was shadowing Malayalm movie world, he produced a political satire 'Prem Nazirine Kanmanilla' (Prem Nazir is not visible).

Prem Nazir The Evergreen hero

On January 16, 2019 his departure completed 30 years. A look into that period of him.

Thirty years have moved away since the eternal green hero of Malayalam movie world disappeared into heaven. When the king of drama Thikkurissi Sukumaran Nair, Vaikom Mani, Kunhukunhu Bhagavathar, Vikraman Nair et al were ruling the roost, this young college boy Abdulkhader from Chirayinkil was preparing to enter the scene. There was another person to do the same, ex-clerk, teacher, armyman S I Sathyanesan. When both of them came together in *Thyagaseema*, the movie got stuck. Abdulkhader became Prem Nazir when his film 'Marumakal' appeared on the screen. By the time 'Visappinte Vili' (Call of hunger) came, he became the darling of masses especially among young women.

Prem Nazir was perhaps the only Malayalam main actor who never appeared in a negative role throughout his career. He also did not enact role of an old man. He appeared in some Tamil



films as hero as well as in supporting role. He was hero in 'Thai piranthai vazhi pirakkum' while he played second fiddle to Sivaji Ganesan in 'Palum Pazhamum' and also to Manohar in 'Vannakkili.'

Prem Nazir as a human being always respected other actors and never exhibited any rivalry with his contemporary heroes. In many films, Nazir was an associate actor to Sathyan and in some films the roles got reversed. He also shared screen space with Madhu, K P Ummer, contemporary actors of the same stature. He is probably the only actor who played hero to the Travancore sisters Lalitha, Padmini and Ragini. Many actresses considered themselves lucky if they could share space with Nazir Sir in their maiden film. Though *Bhagyajathakam* was the first film of actress Sheela (Sathyan was the hero), she acted more than 100 times his heroine. They together hold the world record of pairing in largest number of films. In his early days, he was hero to B S Saroja, elder to him in age, in several films. Then Kumari (Thresia) took that position.

He acted even with Mammooty, Mohanlal, Jayaram et al. His son Shanavas acted in one film with him.

Kumari, a permanent fixer in Merryland films, got married to an advocate when she was at her zenith but she was mentally tortured by her husband. Once Nazir was travelling by car near Cochin and happened to see Kumari in tattered clothes walking along the road with one of her children. Nazir stopped the car and got out. He felt pained to see her in that condition and offered to help her. Kumari begged him to go away lest on hearing about their accidental meeting, her husband would torture her more.

Nazir could be the only actor who acted with more leading ladies during his days in spite of acting with Sheela in more than 100 films.

Recently Vanchiyoore Radha who stayed with her family opposite to Nazir's bungalow in Chennai and was a regular visitor there like a family

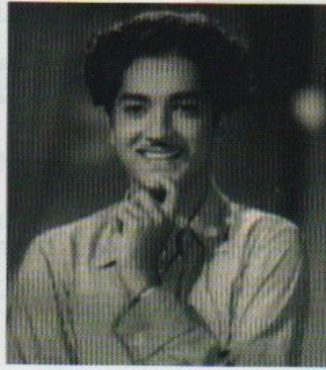
Wedding



Vimal Vijayakumar son of Mrs. Subha Vijayakumar and K Vijayakumar (Mulund) got married to Nisha Sharma daughter of Mrs. Pushpa Sharma and Roshan Sharma at Udaipur on 25th January 2019 followed by a reception at The Acres Club on 28th January 2019.



Prem Nazir family



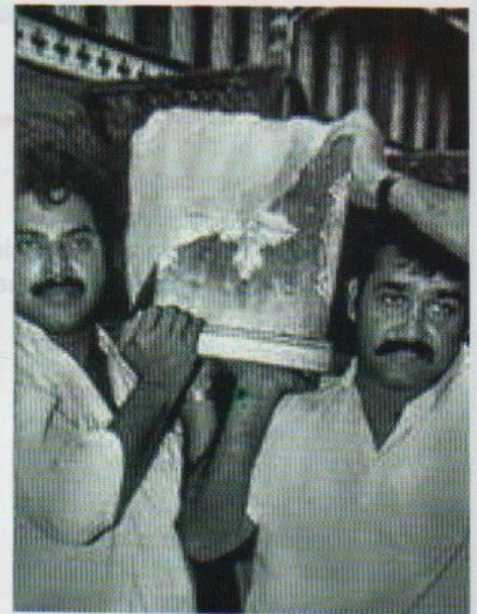
Prem Nazir in Ponkathir-1953

member, was telling about his humanitarian gestures. Once a poor man approached him for financial help to pay his hospital bills and Nazir asked him about the details. When he heard the man, he told him to come to him every month and collect that money. M T Vasudevan Nair wrote about Nazir in a similar way. When M T was in Chennai, Nazir went to him and requested him to hand over an envelope to a person who would approach him at Shornur Junction. Then Nazir handed him over an envelope. At Shornur platform son of actor Balan K Nair came to him and asked about Nazir's envelope. It was then that MT realised that the envelope contained money for the medical treatment of Balan K Nair who was ill and bed ridden. Actor

Muthaiah was depending on Nazir during the early days of his career.

Prem Nazir was very much concerned about the financial security of his producers. Whenever a film of his failed at box office, he used to call the producer and encourage him to make another film for which he would act free. He never bargained for his remuneration and was satisfied with what was given.

Once a Tamil girl was given the role of heroine in a Malayalam film and she insisted on separate expensive hotel rooms for her and mother. When they were on their way to their rooms, she found a man wearing a lungi, sleeping on spread out newspapers on the floor. When they reached near him, the actress was shocked to see Nazir enjoying his



Mammooty and Mohanlal carrying coffin

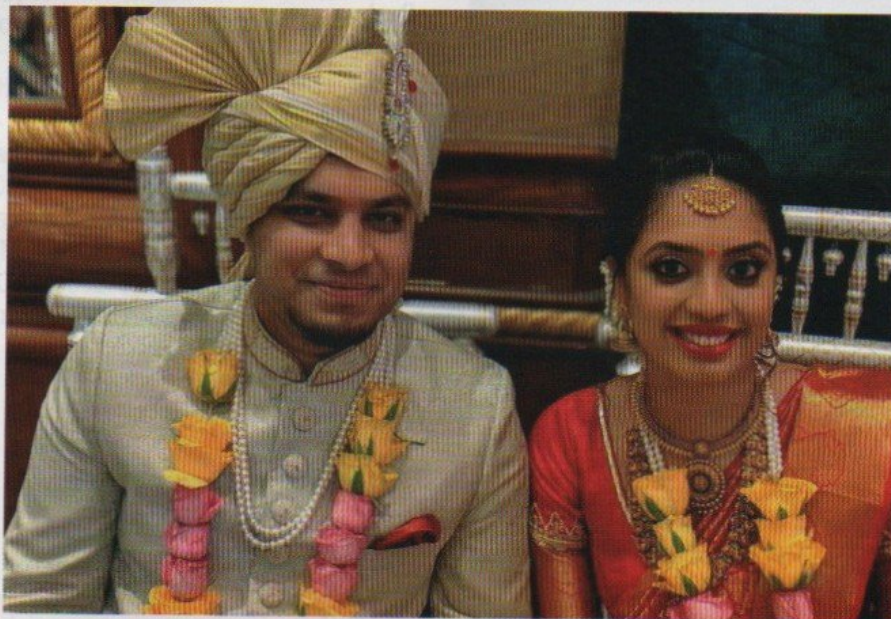
siesta on newspapers. She felt ashamed of her arrogance and apologised to the producer.

When the management of Chirayingil Mahadeva Temple wanted Nazir to inaugurate the fund raising programme for buying an elephant for the temple, Nazir asked them to drop the idea. Nazir asked them to look for a good elephant so that he could buy it and make it his offering to the idol. Radha mentioned that he used to pay obeisance to the idols of Hindu temples.

Probably Nazir could be the only Muslim actor who enacted the role of Sri Rama and Sri Krishna in several mythological films. Some of his films like *Sita* was super hits for many years after its release. He also acted in maximum number of films depicting folk legends. Unniyarcha, Aromunniyute makan, Kannappanunni, Kadathanadan Ambadi, Angathattu etc are such movies. Though Sathyan was considered a better actor, Nazir acted in more films of MT than Sathyan had. *Murappennu* was their first film together and *Iruttinte Atmavu* was the best.

Prem Nazir could be the only actor who acted in movies named after him. *CID Nazir* is one such film. There was another film titled 'Prem Nazirine Kanmanilla' a satire in which he did not act but he never filed a legal case for using his name in film's title.

Wedding



Revati, daughter of Mrs. Geetha Radhakrishnan and Radhakrishnan (Chemtrols) got married to **Dhaval** son of Mrs. Chitra Rambhia and Rajesh Rambhia on Saturday 12th January 2019 which was followed by Wedding Reception on Sunday 13th January 2019 at The Acres Club, Chembur.



Kerala in Mumbai

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