



The Government is committed for providing housing facilities for all the people in the State. It is estimated that there are seven lakh thatched houses in Kerala, which require upgradation. The total requirement of assisted houses for the next five years is broadly assessed as 10 lakh. The 'EMS Sampoorna Parppida Padhathi', initiated by the Government under the Local Self Government Department has to take into account those meaningful lessons from the 'One lakh Housing Scheme'. The Kerala State Housing Board, in collaboration with the local self-governments, is also implementing a project for renovation of 'One lakh houses'. The Housing and Habitat Policy of Kerala Government is expected to be evolved by the end of March 2007.

Binoy Viswam

Access to sustainable and adequate housing is a right of every individual.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF), in its Election Manifesto has made it clear that it is committed to provide houses for all in the next five years. The Manifesto assured that cent per cent subsidy would be given to the BPL group, whereas schemes would be prepared to address the housing problems of other income groups in connection with housing finance they avail. It is one of the major concerns of the LDF Government that a comprehensive Housing and Habitat Policy for the State and an Action Plan to carry out the same are formulated. Steps have already been taken to prepare the Housing Policy. A Task Force consisting of experts and activists has already been constituted under the Chairmanship of Sri. V. Suresh, former Chairman and Managing Director, HUDCO, and it has started to work on the very next day of 'Keralappiravi'. The term of the Task Force is three years. The Housing and Habitat Policy of Kerala Government is expected to be evolved by the end of March 2007.

It is estimated that there are seven lakh thatched houses in Kerala, which require upgradation. The total requirement of assisted houses for the next five years is broadly assessed as 10 lakh. Efforts are being made to make the assessment of housing demands more accurate. A meeting of Government Secretaries and Housing Commissioner held recently has decided to collect data regarding the housing schemes of various departments, their targets, number of landed but homeless people, number of landless and homeless people etc, as early as 31st January 2007.

At present the Housing problem of various income groups are addressed by various agencies. Assisted Housing Schemes of SC/STs, Economically Weaker Sections, BPL groups etc., are carried out through various Government Departments and Local Self Governments, which need co-ordination. The Task Force is expected to evolve strategies to co-ordinate these various agencies. While we strive for such a co-ordinated action, the authority and autonomy of all such agencies are to be upheld.

I am sure that it is not possible for the Government alone to provide necessary fund to achieve the dream of 'Housing for all'. Participation of Local Bodies, Non Governmental Organisations, Charitable Organizations, Individuals etc is essential. Keeping this in view, Government proposes to establish a Relief Fund under Kerala State Housing Board to assist in construction of shelter for the poor. When one thinks of Housing Schemes for the poor, one cant but remember the name of late M.N. Govindan Nair, veteran communist leader and former Minister, whose vision and dreams made the pioneer comprehensive 'Housing Scheme for the poor', the One Lakh Housing Scheme, true. And that too, with

Houses For All

A Five Year Mission



Binoy Viswam

minimum Governmental Assistance. The 'EMS Sampoorna Parppida Padhathi', initiated by the Government, under the Local Self Government Department has to take into account those meaningful lessons from the 'One lakh Housing Scheme'.

Appropriate and cost-effective technologies are to be developed for the implementation of the new Housing Policy. The potential of the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra is to be made use of. KESNIK is to

be redesigned to take up research and development Activities in the area of low cost construction materials and appropriate cost-effective construction technologies that fit to

our circumstances. They must propagate sale of low cost housing materials throughout the state, by conducting exhibitions at selected centres.

The Kerala State Housing Board also needs to be reactivated. They can take up various viable construction projects.

Government is thinking of making use of the technical expertise of both the Kerala State Housing Board and Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra in the construction of houses in the Tsunami hit places, under TRP housing programme. They will be allowed to take up construction of houses under the said programme at negotiated competitive rates at sites provided by the Revenue and Fisheries Departments. A project for renovation of 'One lakh houses' is also being implemented by the Kerala State Housing Board, in collaboration with the local self-governments. Accomplishment of Habitat Centre at Thiruvananthapuram, and construction of Working Women's Hostels and other rented houses for various income groups are placed on the top of the KSHB agenda.

I request all concerned to extend their full support and co-operation to the Government of Kerala to achieve the dream of 'House for All' within the next five years. ■

The 'EMS Sampoorna Parppida Padhathi', initiated by the Government, under the Local Self Government Department has to take into account those meaningful lessons from the 'One lakh Housing Scheme'.



One of the houses built under 'one lakh housing scheme'



Low Cost Housing

Eugine Pandala

Mud related technologies could be traced deep into the history of civilization. The Great Wall of China, 7.5 meters high and nine meters wide in places, was built of Rammed Earth and stone (246-209 BC), and in Germany and France there are several buildings of rammed earth over 400 years old. Thiruvananthapuram has buildings constructed with mud having more than 100 years age.

Adobe and rammed earth construction are two of the oldest and most commonly used building materials. Adobe has been used to shelter the people of these regions for centuries. Exterior adobe walls are appropriate for our climate with a reasonably wide day-to-night temperature swings. Adobe walls stabilize the home's interior by moderating the indoor effects of high and low outdoor temperatures. Adobe walls absorb solar heat during the day, and at night radiate their heat back into the cool night sky leaving the home at a comfortable temperature. Exterior and interior adobe walls provide excellent thermal mass.



In summer, the walls of the home are cooled at night, and their thickness and construction allow them to hold that cold through the heat of the next day. In winter, the homes are heated by the sun during the day and the walls release heat during the night and help keep us warm. The technique - "thermal storage" - works very well.

Adobe is compressed earth. The best adobes are high in clay, which is very fine soil with good cohesion. The adobe is rammed into forms or pressed into blocks while damp, then sun-dried to form a durable building material.

Simplicity, adaptability and comfort

The simplicity of the design of adobe and adobe composites homes has comfort, energy, maintenance and adaptability advantages over conventional construction.

Earth construction is an ancient technique, which has been refined until today. It involves knowledge of soil science, engineering and building construction.

Earth homes are economical to build and the relationship of earth building to the environment cannot be matched by any other building material. There is no smell of synthetics, no sound of mechanical systems and no rattling when the wind roars. A home of Earth is simply a constructed environment that grows from the earth, yet remains as a natural, sustainable environment.

The design of earth homes and their thick walls make interior temperatures quite stable on a daily and yearly basis. In summer, the walls of the home are cooled at night and their thickness and construction allow them to hold that cold through the heat of

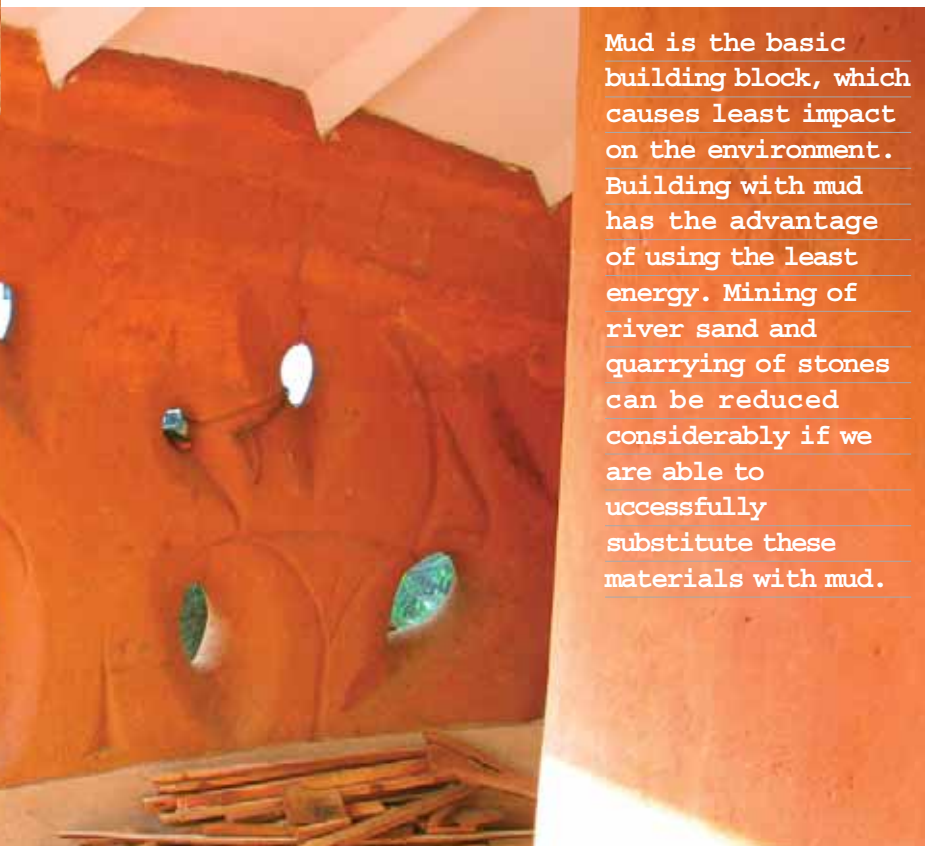
The following points can be the highlights of using Mud related technologies.

- Energy efficiency
- Affordability
- Resource-efficient building technology
- Community involvement and use of local labour
- Cultural compatibility
- Simplicity of design, adaptability, and comfort
- Better thermal performance for buildings

the next day. In winter, the homes are heated by the sun during the day and the walls release heat during the night and help keep us warm. The technique - "thermal storage" - works very well. In our homes already constructed, the daily temperature changes by average five degrees.

Mud is the basic building block, which causes least impact on the environment. Building with mud has the advantage of using the least energy. Mining of river sand and quarrying of stones can be reduced considerably if we are able to successfully substitute these materials with mud. Mud is a safe material for the built environment – a material that causes least damage to the environment, a material that can fully be recycled and sustainable. Resource efficiency is one of the important elements to be considered. For a house to be truly efficient, the energy expended in the extraction, refinement and transportation of building materials to the site and the total resources used during construction, should also be included in the calculation of the structure's efficiency. The integration of resource-efficiency concepts into design, materials and building practices can reduce the environmental impacts associated with home construction. In the same way that the occupant's habits and conservation consciousness affect the home's operating efficiency, the selection of building materials and techniques also reflects the resource-efficiency consciousness of the architect, builder and homeowner.

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Views of a house made of mud.

Nalukettu

Our Nostalgia

Nalukettu reflects the traditional life style of Kerala society. Ancient Kerala life style was oriented around an agro based, caste hierarchical, joint family social system. As the name indicates *nalukettu* is a conglomeration of four houses (*salas*) which is meant for different purposes.

P.N. Suresh

Residential building designers are always behind innovative ideas which can attract their customers better. The present day clients are also very much aware about the necessity of a "HOME" rather than a huge palatial framework resembling a museum or a hotel. The necessity along with comfort and

luxury is the present day guideline of a building design. Recently there is a general tendency among Malayalee population to go back to traditional look designs due to their nostalgic feeling about the proud and rich past. Hence *Nalukettu* becomes the new sensation of construction industry.

Nalukettu reflects the traditional life

style of Kerala society. Ancient Kerala life style was oriented around an agro based, caste hierarchical, joint family social system. As the name indicates *nalukettu* is a conglomeration of four houses (*salas*) which is meant for different purposes. The four *salas* of *nalukettu* are denoted by *kizhakini*, *thekkini*, *patinjattini* and *vadakkini* where *kizhakini* is for prayer and pooja,



Elevation of a Nalukettu, measuring 2100 sq.feet.

thekkini for keeping wealth and for human dwelling, *padinjattini* for crops and grains and *vadakkini* for kitchen / pooja purpose. So the courtyard created at the centre by these four *salasis* very auspicious and this is called by the name *ankanom*. The complete design of the *nalukettu* need to be done according to VASTHU as the acharyas insisted definite proportion for its construction.

In the present scenario of fast life, *nalukettu* is one of the best designs to accommodate the needs and feelings of an average Malayali. It can be low cost or high cost depending on the financial capacity of the client. It is a false assumption that *nalukettu* is very costly and meant for higher level economic class. Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam is an institution under State Cultural Affairs Department at Aranmula designed *nalukettu* of 1150 sqft costing 6.5 lakhs to



Interior of a Nalukettu with courtyard.

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6500sqft costing 65 lakhs. This is probably one of the best option giving maximum utility in minimum area of coverage. The construction cost of this building is just like any other type of building. The minimum requirement of land for this type of building design is as low as eight to 10 cents of square land.

A traditional *nalukettu* holds many advantages over the other types of building. In the current Kerala family set up the family members are getting less and less time to spare collectively as many of them are busy with their heavy work schedule. This trend is more in cities than in villages. Ultimately this phenomenon increases stress in the life of an average Malayali. *Nalukettu* design tackles this situation as all the rooms are open to a common court yard and chances of family get together is more common in this type. Experience of nature in a very limited space is another attractive

outcome of *nalukettu*. The open courtyard provides natural ventilation as well as lighting for the inmates, offering healthy environment. The sunlight falling inside the house through open courtyard is one of the best natural disinfectant controlling bacteria and fungus presence inside the house. The inside open verandah with open court yard provides ample space for children for their activities. There are nine possible types of *nalukettu* mentioned in traditional manuscripts, among them *misrabhinna chathursala* is the best possible design for modern times.

The message is very clear, man needs a home rather than a Museum. In other words a place where he finds himself more peaceful and the *nalukettu* is an ideal design in this regard.

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Remesh Kumaran Nair B.K

From the traditional concept of a home for a safe living, the vision has moved on to the realm of premium flats and villas with mind boggling luxuries and even a jogging track. Life style is changing steadfastly as the economy grows. New age parameters are set on the location, ambience, amenities and quality of materials. The abode is not called a house nowadays. It has become the Dream Home! Scope for materialising the dream home is immense with fast changing tastes and likes adequately supported by know how and quality products. Financial sector is all set to fund the needy. Banks and housing development financial institutions all



Praveen M.V.

Banks and Financial Institutions are at your door steps with attractive offers for home loans. Home loans can be made available for construction, purchase, repair, renovation, alteration of a house and purchase of plot. This write up examines in detail the current trend in this field.

Finance Ready

over the country are ready with schemes for financing the housing needs.

The basic criteria for considering a home loan proposal can be stated as follows:

- (i) regular income to meet the repayment obligation
- (ii) clear and marketable title over the land /right over the project
- (iii) Properly vetted plan and estimate

Purpose: Banks normally grant home loans for Construction/ Purchase/ repair/ renovation/ alteration of a house/ purchase of plot.

Eligibility: Persons who are of 21 years of age with a regular income and a minimum two to three years of service are eligible to apply. Loan should be closed before the attainment of the age of 65 to 70 years.

Quantum: The quantum of loan is assessed based on the net monthly/ net annual income with a direct bearing on age factor. A person of age in the range of 21 to 45 years is eligible for a

maximum amount of 60 times of his Net Monthly Income (NMI)/ five times of Net Annual Income. In case the age is above 45 years the quantum will be restricted to 48 times of NMI/ four times of Net Annual Income. Many banks have put a ceiling on the maximum amount of Home loan at Rs.50 lakhs. In order to assess the quantum of finance income of spouse or close relative can also be reckoned, provided that person becomes a co applicant.

Margin: Normally the quantum will be limited to 80% of the project cost/estimates, varying in seasons of festivity some banks may go up to even 90%.

Prudence exercised by the Bank: As a matter of prudence Banks vet the estimate and project cost with that of the market conditions engaging the service of renowned and reliable valutors. In case of out right purchase the cost of the property will be paid direct to the seller of the property based on the agreement entered in to by the buyer and seller. Before finalising a home loan Banks will ensure the title/ right of the applicant by engaging the service of its legal advisor. For these services the applicant has to meet the service fees.

Interest rates: Competition prevails in this area. Floating rates and fixed rates and a combination of floating and fixed rates are the options available for borrowers. Floating rates may vary according to revision in the prime lending rates. Fixed rates are applicable through out the period of the loan unchanged, but Banks insist for a reset clause also for charging interest in accordance with market variation. The rates prevailing, ranges from 8.50 % to 9.75%. Certain banks have increased their rates even up to 10.75% recently. Period of Loan is computed on the age of the borrower and his repaying capacity. The longer the period the lesser will be the EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) payable. Suppose if a person nearing his retirement applies for a loan, the quantum of the loan would be less, as the EMI will be more on account of the lesser period of the loan.

The success of the project depends heavily on a well laid out plan and estimate purely based on the repayment capacity. Do not change the plan midway.

Disbursements: In the case of construction, fund will be released according to stages of construction; 30% of the loan limit on completion of the foundation, next 40% on reaching the lintel stage and final portion of 30% on reaching the level where the project will finish within a month's time. Repayment starts from the next month of release of the final instalment of the loan

EMI Chart for Rs. 1,00,000				
Interest rate	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years
8.50	2048	1236	981	864
8.75	2060	1249	995	879
9.00	2072	1263	1010	895
9.25	2084	1276	1024	911
9.50	2096	1289	1039	927
10.00	2120	1316	1069	959
10.50	2144	1344	1099	992
10.75	2157	1358	1115	1008

Overdraft, where one can operate upon the account by remitting and withdrawing their surplus money using cheque book or ATM card.

Loan for furnishing/ Home decor: At the same rate of interest, additional loan is extended for meeting the expenses of furnishing and purchase of household articles too. A home loan borrower has the privilege to have a car loan at a reduced rate of interest.



Praveen M.V.

Fortunes: The home loan brings you fortune in the form of reduction in Income Tax. Interest payable on account of home loan is exempted up to a maximum amount of Rs.1.50 lakh per year. The home loan instalments can be included under investment under section 80 (c) for income tax benefits.

Insurance: To protect the family in case of the unexpected death of the borrower, Banks have tied-up and formulated insurance coverage at a nominal premium. The insurance company will liquidate the loan. Building has to be insured against fire and other risks.

Papers to be produced for a home loan: Proof of Income (IT Return/Salary Certificate), Land Tax receipt, Possession Certificate, Location Sketch, Encumbrance Certificate, Title clear report, Valuation certificate, estimate and approved plan from local body.

amount. As a matter of prudence banks insist for completion certificate of every stage from a competent engineer/ architect.

Repayment: of housing loan is to be effected by remitting the EMI. Most beneficial system of interest calculation is to charge on daily diminishing balance. Some Banks charge it monthly/quarterly/yearly basis. Customers be beware of this. Some Banks have formulated a scheme of granting home loans in the form of

Banks have also formulated schemes for providing micro finance to the people living below poverty line for construction of house/ finance to self help groups for lending members for construction, renovation or repair of existing house, under *Bhavanasree* Housing loan scheme.

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Satellite Townships

An Alternative

The satellite city is a part of all modern urban development projects. This is not only the answer for the accommodation and other infrastructure bottlenecks being suffered by unplanned old cities elsewhere in the world, but also an effective step to reach the fruit of developments in areas to the entire people of the region, though in different measures. Even if there is no concerted effort to develop the satellite city for an urban centre, it will naturally grow, but unplanned. Many such areas sprang up around metros and other cities in the country. For instance, Thane, is such naturally developed satellite city of Mumbai. But Pune is the man-made satellite city of the biggest metro of the country.

But scene in Kerala is entirely different from that of other Indian cities. In Kerala urban centres are growing rather slow. One of its major reasons may be that the entire State is a township. But during the past 20 years or so, the trends have been changing fast. Urban centres, especially Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode have gained well-defined characteristics of cities and they manifest their distinctive urban features. Though with a slow pace,

Kollam, Thrissur and Kottayam are also gaining momentum in their urbanization process.

It is a fact that Kochi is cynosure of urban development activities in the South. With more and more corporate houses touching down in the city with ambitious projects, the future of Kochi looks very bright. And it has already started showing signs of significant growth. When the already cleared mega project like Container Transshipment Terminal, Biotechnology Park, IT Parks and LNG Terminal are translated into reality, housing, water and power supply, public transport and other such facilities will be under tremendous pressure.

Already, this near sure possibility of massive development of Kochi is further fuelling the galloping land price in the city. This has an impact on the rental value as well. But this vertical growth, bane of any city, will definitely make congestion a Herculean problem for authorities. The answer is to develop satellite cities around Kochi. Luckily, the idea is already there and it has been discussing for the past several years.

Urban experts say that Kochi will/should grow to Ankamali on the North, to Kottayam on

the East and to Alappuzha on the South.

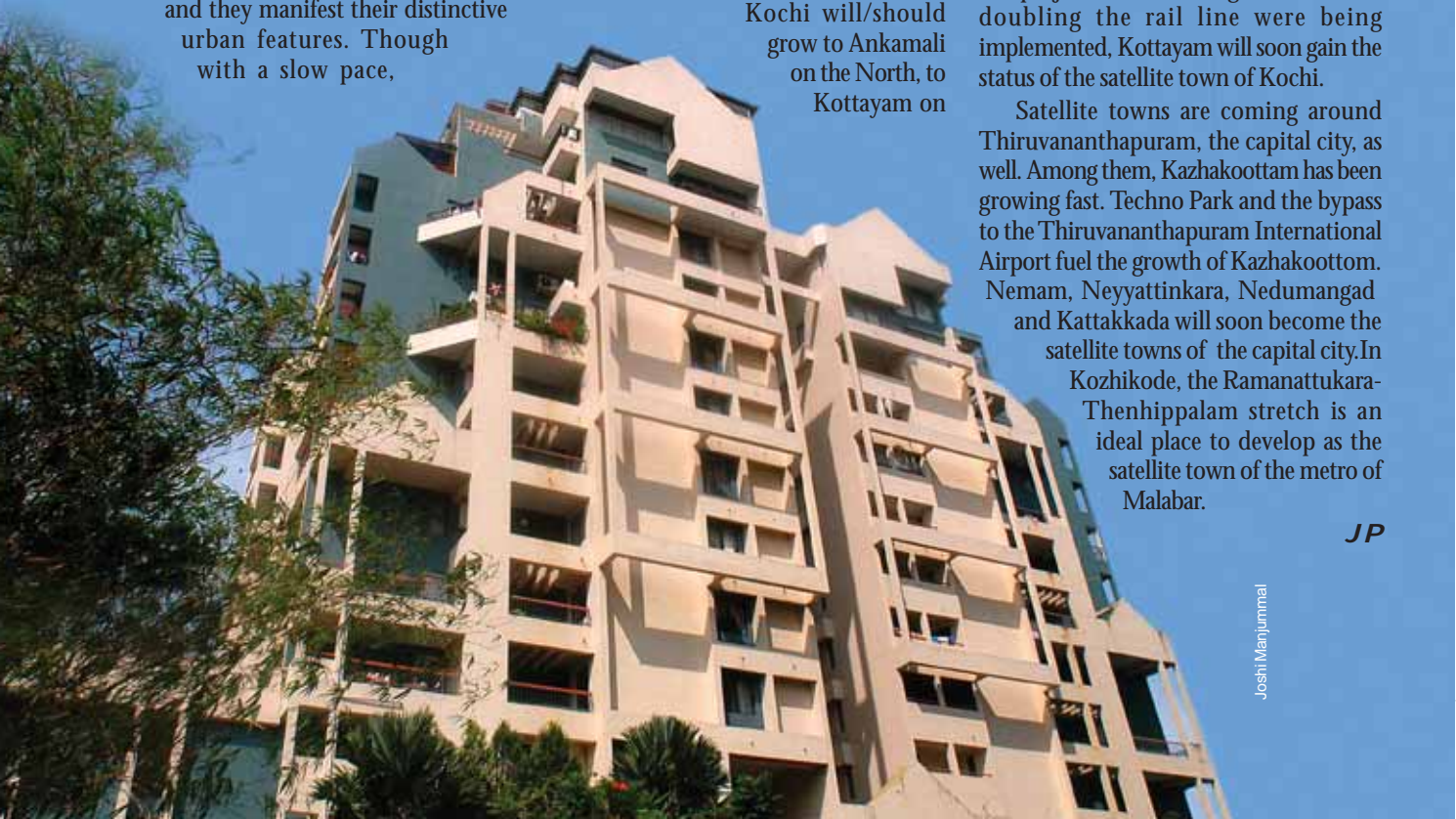
The fast paced development in Kochi has already spilled upto Ankamali. One who travels from Kochi to Ankamali now easily feels this. But the wave of developments in Kochi is yet to reach Kottayam and Alappuzha. Among these two towns, Alappuzha holds better chance, thanks to the proximity to Kochi and better road and rail connectivity, NH-47, the busiest National Highway and Coastal rail line are passing through the town. Once the ongoing doubling of the line is completed, the travelling time between Kochi and Alappuzha by train will come down to half-an hour, if not less. The other advantage of Alappuzha is low land price. Outside the town, the land price is incredibly low.

A slight disadvantage is the inadequate supply of drinking water. When ongoing projects are commissioned, especially the Moovattupuzha project, drinking water problem can be solved to a large extent.

If the road and rail connectivity can be improved, Kottayam will be an ideal place to develop as the satellite city of Kochi. Since the projects for widening the road and doubling the rail line were being implemented, Kottayam will soon gain the status of the satellite town of Kochi.

Satellite towns are coming around Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city, as well. Among them, Kazhakoottam has been growing fast. Techno Park and the bypass to the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport fuel the growth of Kazhakoottam. Nemam, Neyyattinkara, Nedumangad and Kattakkada will soon become the satellite towns of the capital city. In Kozhikode, the Ramanattukara-Thenhippalam stretch is an ideal place to develop as the satellite town of the metro of Malabar.

JP



Vastu

The Soul of Construction

Adarshkumar

Vastu's importance has been explained in the Indian civilization thousand years ago. According to it before constructing our house, hotel, factory, office, clinic, hospital, restaurant, inn or temple etc. we should know the five elements and do the construction accordingly so that one gets Peace, Prosperity and Happiness. Earth, Wind, Light, Energy and Air are these five elements.

Our body is made of these five elements and therefore in this whole process Vastushastra has been very much advantageous.

What is Vastu?

Universe is one of the beautiful creations of nature and everything stands alive only in the limelight of truth. Just like every subject of human aspect, Vastu is also governed with rules, regulations and acts. The nature has also got certain key factor principles for smooth governing of its residents, in which "Vastu stands for nature law".

Vastu is an inherent energy concept of Science. We cannot see energy with our naked eyes but we can realise and see its application in different forms and fashions. We all know that "up to the knowledge of

mind is called Science and beyond the knowledge of mind is called Spirituality." Hence, Vastu is not only a science, but is a bridge between man and nature.

Vastushastra is essentially the act of correct settings whereby one can place himself in such a manner so as to absorb the maximum benefits of the *Panchbhootas* or the five elements as well as the influence of magnetic field surrounding the earth.

Vastu Shilpa Shastra, the ancient mystic science and the art of designing and constructing buildings finds its origin in *Stapatya Veda*. As far as Indian Vastu is concerned, it is based on the Measurements, Position, Direction and the Orientations. It is not confined to any particular group of people. It is applicable to all human being irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

Basically Vastu is required only for the selection of the plot and the time of preparing the plan of the proposed home or other buildings.

Designing the exteriors

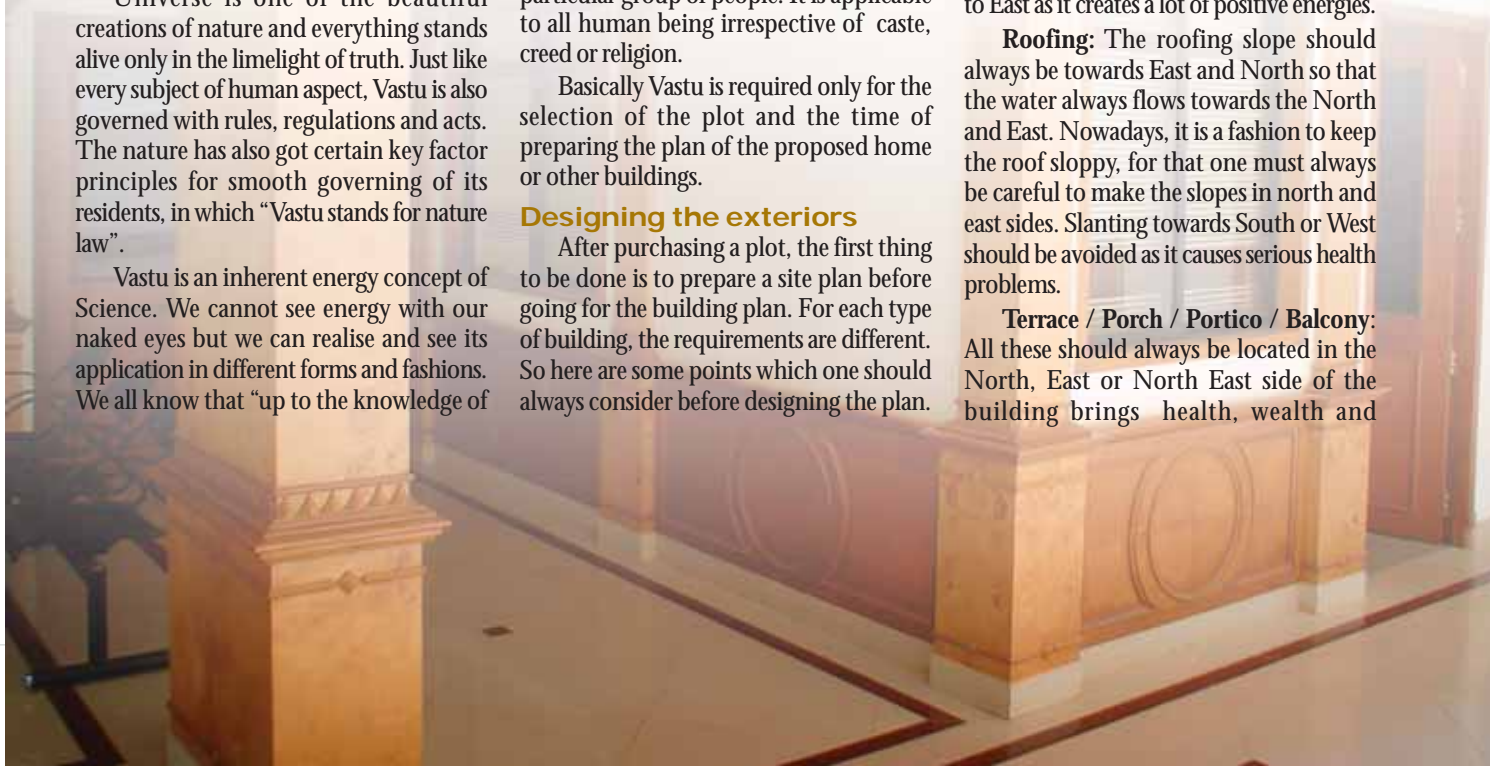
After purchasing a plot, the first thing to be done is to prepare a site plan before going for the building plan. For each type of building, the requirements are different. So here are some points which one should always consider before designing the plan.

The open space around the building: We have to carefully examine the space given to us around the building and make sure that you are leaving the maximum space in North and East side and less on South and West sides. The construction should never be on the Northern and eastern walls. This violates the basic principle of Vastu. The left area in North should not be less compared to the open area left in the South as this is very bad according to Vastu.

The Levels: At any level, the West, South, South / West sides should be more elevated than the North, North / East and East sides. Basically the flow of water should always be from the South to North or West to East as it creates a lot of positive energies.

Roofing: The roofing slope should always be towards East and North so that the water always flows towards the North and East. Nowadays, it is a fashion to keep the roof sloppy, for that one must always be careful to make the slopes in north and east sides. Slanting towards South or West should be avoided as it causes serious health problems.

Terrace / Porch / Portico / Balcony: All these should always be located in the North, East or North East side of the building brings health, wealth and



happiness. The balconies should always face the North, East or North East.

Designing the House plan

Compound wall: The compound wall is the wall that covers the boundary of the house. The South and West sides wall should become heavier than the rest, which is very auspicious.

Over head tanks: These tanks should be placed in the South/West area.

Under ground reservoir: It should always in the North / East.

Pooja room: The pooja room should be at Esanumoola (North East)

Kitchen: The Agnimoola (South East)



is the auspicious place for the Kitchen. Another choice is Vayumoola (North West) and Esanumoola (North East).

Master bedroom: The Niruthimoola or Kannimoola (South West) is the preferred place for the Master bedroom.

Toilet: The toilet should not be positioned at the Esanumoola and Kannimoola. If it is so, the whole family will be suffered from diseases, financial crisis, marital problems etc.

The main door: The Main door should be placed always in the “Ucha sthana” in any direction.

Direction: The house or any building should be faced any of the Axis, i.e. either towards East, West, North or South. But try to avoid the South direction.

The measurements: In Vastusasthra, the measurements are very important. The outer measurements as well as the internal measurements should be as per the Vastu laws. Try to avoid the *Maranachuttu*.

Thus, if we consider all these points, we will never make a mistake to design a house which is against Vastu and then the people will stop suffering from the defects of Vastu.

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Noyal Thomas IFS

The shortage of Housing is a global problem being faced by both developed and developing countries in the world. Even the developed countries are not able to tackle this basic human need to a satisfactory level. Housing is an important economic activity, as an investment of every one crore generates 1.64 lakh man days of direct employment. The investment for Assisted Housing by public sector in the state has been to the tune of 350 crores in the 10th Five Year Plan, which is spent for meeting the subsidy obligations of the Economically Weaker Section category housing especially the “Maithri Scheme” implemented during the 9th & 10th plan periods. The census figures of 2001 shows that 65.95 lakh households are there in Kerala and the demand is increasing by about 20% every year. In order to meet the demand for housing the State needs 10 lakh houses for different categories by 2006-07 to cater to the needs of the ever increasing population. Even though Kerala has been the pioneer state in the country in formulating a State Housing Policy in 1994, due to lack of financial support and commitment, the targets set in the policy could not be achieved to the desired level.

State intervention in Housing sector in Kerala was started in the early 1970’s with the construction of one lakh houses for the poorest of the poor occupying the pavements. This heralded the massive State intervention in the Housing for the EWS category and a total of about 795 crores spent for Assisted Housing from plan funds with a total direct employment generation of 12.72 crores man days in the Assisted Housing sector alone.

Unlike in other states, where EWS housing is taken care of by Rural Housing Corporations, the principal governmental agency for the intervention in EWS category in Kerala has always been the Kerala State Housing Board, which have assisted more than 70% of the houses constructed in this sector. The schemes for Economically Weaker Section category is being implemented with subsidy component and loan from HUDCO and other financial institutions and beneficiary contribution in Kerala. More than three lakh houses have been constructed during the 9th Plan period for EWS category under Maithri Scheme in Kerala which has been considered as a milestone in the EWS category housing in the country. However it has been found that the loan recovery from Economically Weaker Section category is seen to be rather poor. This has led to serious financial crisis in the institutions which had availed loans from HUDCO etc. at high cost for EWS category housing schemes.

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Year of inception	No. of beneficiaries
1	HS for Kudikidappukars	1978	10,000
2	Co-operative HS for EWS	1983	62,600
3	SASH	1984	35,000
4	Rehabilitation HS for EWS(1 to IV Phases)	1985	1,90,000
56	HS for Beedi WorkersHS for Handloom Weavers	19881989	1,000 400
78	Kairali HSHousing complexes under ROMHS	19901992	30,000 4,000
9	EWS CL under ROMHS	1992	8,800
10	HS for Flood victims	1993	20,000
11	Maithri HS	1996	2,64,951

Housing Board

The State's Own Builder



Considering the fact that shelter is one of the primary requisite of a man, the Board at the instance of the government had formulated schemes in the past for providing shelter to the homeless by giving top most priority to EWS housing. The schemes were implemented without any profit motive, but to fulfill the social obligation of the government and Board. The role and achievement of the Kerala State Housing Board in the EWS housing.

It is worth mentioning that no other agency in the State had implemented such massive housing schemes for EWS. It is relevant to point out that the Board was able to cater to the housing needs of about 10 to 25% of the estimated requirements of total number of houses at the beginning of each Five Year Plan. In addition, the Board had played a vital role in catering to the housing needs of LIG, MIG and HIG categories through its cash loan projects. The Board had also constructed 18,000 units through its layout schemes.

Though Government have not provided any budgetary support (other

than subsidy) for taking up the schemes, the achievement was made possible by the unstinted support of the State Government by extending Government guarantee for mobilizing funds for the scheme. But the unprecedented financial crisis on account of the implementation of the government directed EWS schemes has put a set back to Kerala State Housing Board in continuing its activities. To make matters worse, the ceiling on Government guarantee Act, 2003, has made it almost impossible to raise funds for its schemes.

The present Government have embarked on an ambitious total housing programme in the State. The following steps are being taken by the Department of Housing and Housing Board to achieve the above task.

- A High Level Task Force for making recommendations for strengthening the housing programmes and for drafting an Integrated Housing & Habitat policy in the state, has been set up and the deliberations are going on now so as to bring out the State Housing policy by

this year.

- In order to facilitate the Housing for the poor, a relief fund as envisaged under the Kerala Decentralisation of Powers Act 2000 is being constituted for mobilizing monetary support for Housing for Economically Weaker Section category.

- Restructuring of the State Housing Board and Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra is being taken up by strengthening them as facilitators rather than providers. New organizations exclusively for Economically Weaker Section Category Housing as in the case of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is also being taken up now.

- Introduction of Public Private Partnership in Housing sector in the models of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh is also in the pipeline in the State so as to take care of the housing needs of all the categories of the people. Private partnership is essential as the State alone is not able to meet the huge investments and the technical support needed for large scale Housing Programmes.

- Modernising the rules and procedures like stamp duty rates rationalization, amendments in Rent Control Act and Building Rules & Procedures etc. are also being taken up to facilitate increased provisioning of housing in the State.

- Steps are also being taken to plan and co-ordinate the housing activities taken up by the different departments and agencies in the State through the Office of the Housing Commissioner of the State.

Action is also underway for addressing the concern of housing or urban poor in the cities by using the funds available under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission declared by the Government of India.

It is hoped that the above measures will go a long way in achieving the target of "Housing for All by 2011" in the State of Kerala.

■ The writer is Housing Commissioner & Secretary, KSHB Government of Kerala



Building constructed with compressed hard brick (popularly known as interlock brick)

G.Shanker

Architectural legacy of Kerala began centuries back. We have got one of the profound vernacular architectures in the world. Our traditional architecture always responds not only to the climate of the region but also to the social climate of the period. The architectural features were developed taking into consideration of the structural limitations or possibilities of our locally available building materials. Kerala's rich depository of building materials helped the growth of architecture in the State. The texture, colour, durability and strength, insulation, ease of use etc. were the main criteria for selecting the materials and technologies. The local availability and the local skills were also key determinants to the selection process. Most of those houses had been built by those who lived in them, with the assistance of persons skilled in the use of materials from the milieu.

The vocabulary of basic building materials include wood, stone, laterite, lime and our own beautiful building-earth. All these materials have the quality to withstand the onslaught of nature. Various technologies were developed based on the structural characteristics of the materials. The traditional construction methods and materials developed over hundreds of years provide excellent thermal insulation and are cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Ingenious methods were developed to waterproof the base of walls and roofs from rain and snow. For instance, the large overhangs of our traditional homes always protected the walls from the direct hit of sun and rain, which helped to keep the interiors very cool. The windows and the doors always followed the cardinal principles of *sutrams* and *marmams* thereby ensuring good cross ventilation. The design

Harit Peiyad

Housing

Indigenous Technology



Sugathan Vattakkad

Fenestration of a two storied building

of lattices, wooden *jalis*, trellis and other kinds of fenestrations, along with global ends facilitated good ventilation. They were also very strong aesthetic expressions of that time.

The concept of incremental housing is Kerala's contribution to the world of architecture. Our forefathers had never ever struggled to make the buildings happen. They built with resources they had at hand. They always started with the concept of a whole house and expanded it as needs arose.

The traditional architecture also had

answers to the local problems of construction. To combat the attack of ants and termites, we mixed lime with earth. Cashew-nut oil was used to preserve wood. Cut-straw was also used for construction with earth to minimise the cracks that appear on the walls. The rural stabilisers like sisal leaves, cow's urine etc. were used to stabilise earth used for construction.

Our experience with modern materials like concrete and cement is fairly recent. Not enough time has elapsed to enable a proper evaluation and assessment of their

The traditional architecture had answers to the local problems of construction. To combat the attack of ants and termites, we mixed lime with earth. Cashew-nut oil was used to preserve wood. Cut-straw was also used for earth construction to minimise the cracks that appear on the walls.

ability to withstand nature. In fact many of the nouveau riche build cement villas show decaying already. On the other side, more than a century old monumental buildings like our administrative secretariat and much controversial Mullaperiyar dam, constructed using indigenous technology, still withstand climate.

Buildings and construction activities have a considerable bearing on our environment. As the state of environment decides the quality of our lives, and more importantly our common future itself, construction that does not upset the environmental balance is a theme that assumes greater importance day by day.

In this context, our ancestral concern with nature is also noteworthy. For example, asking the permission of a tree before felling. It was done in the form of a *pooja* to appease all forms of life depending the tree, including the tree's own life. It was also mandatory to plant a seedling in the place of the tree felled.

Accumulating strength from traditional building techniques, the builders should give priority to earth constructions for affordable, ecologically sound houses. To build in tune with nature should be the mantra of making our own *mansions*.

■ As conceived by B. Harikumar in a conversation with architect G. Shanker, Chairman, Habitat Technologies Group, Thiruvananthapuram.



Sugathan Vattakkad

Mud plastered walls of a residence



Efforts are on to maintain heritage character at Fort Area, Thiruvananthapuram. A view before the work started. On the right, present view.

Conserve Our Heritage

The Department of Archaeology which protects less than 100 monuments, sites and remains under the *Archaeological Sites and Remains Act* of 1968 is the main state governmental agency, which both addresses and takes care of conservation of heritage; but limiting their scope to those of Archaeological value.

Eapen Varughese

For many urban areas in India, Urban/ Regional /Town Planning Acts, considers 'conservation of heritage' as a matter to be dealt in Town Planning Schemes, popularly known as Master Plans, Development Plans etc. The *UDPI Guidelines* prepared by the Institute of Town Planners, India in 1996 also suggest to treat Heritage and Conservation Areas and scenic value areas as 'Special Areas' while formulating proposals. Of late, more emphasis is being given to this sector in Urban and Regional Planning and the role of urban conservationists is getting widely recognised.

The *Travancore Town Planning Act 1108 ME* and *Madras Town Planning Act 1920* had identified preservation of objects or buildings of archaeological or historic interest or of natural beauty' among the matters to be dealt in a Town Planning Scheme. This shows the importance given for conservation of heritage since the inception of Town Planning

Acts in the pre-independence era. However, in practice, these physical planning exercises had been giving priority for the improvement of facilities, utilities and transportation network and enforcement of landuse regulations. While Town and Country Planning conventionally aims at '*Planning for the future*', the objective of Conservation of Heritage is to ensure '*Future for the Past*'. Thus, in practice, heritage conservation was often get sidelined as a minor item.

The Department of Archaeology which protects less than 100 monuments, sites and remains under the *Archaeological Sites and Remains Act* of 1968 is the main state governmental agency, which both addresses and takes care of conservation of heritage; but limiting their scope to those of Archaeological value. The Archaeological Survey of India has a meagre 26 protected monuments in Kerala and a sizeable portion among them are burial grounds in Thrissur district. Does our heritage worth only this much? Definitely not.

The Heritage conservation projects in relatively large scale were also taken up in the state for the first time with the Fort Area conservation project in



Thiruvananthapuram with the financial assistance of the central government under 11th Finance Commission grant. Formulated by the Art and Heritage Commission and implemented by the state Archaeology Department, the project won many International and national awards and accolades.

Kerala is rich in heritage buildings and heritage precincts of historic, cultural, architectural and aesthetic value of a different league. The natural heritage of Kerala is its strength, which gave it a global recognition as a major tourist destination. If the tourism sector has to be sustainable and made versatile, these man made and natural heritage of Kerala has to be conserved at any cost. The suggestions are:

- Comprehensive *listing* of heritage buildings, heritage precincts and natural heritage of the state shall be carried out and it shall be a continuous process. The listed heritage shall also be graded based on its heritage value. The conservation of top grade heritage shall be assigned highest priority.
- It has become highly essential that new construction activities has to be *regulated* in such precincts and alterations to heritage

buildings shall be *restricted*, with due regard to conservation practices. Steps in this direction has already been taken in the case of Fort Area in Thiruvananthapuram, Fort Kochi in Ernakulam and Canal Environs in Alappuzha.

- The *use/reuse* of heritage buildings and precincts is a critical issue. For heritage properties, hard-line conventional zoning shall give way to *lenient but careful adaptive use/reuse zoning*. Experience worldwide shows that such a practice can contribute to the longevity of such properties by avoiding their disuse or misuse. This is being taken care of in variation of Town Planning Schemes now underway.
- For conservation of our heritage often it is essential to promote sustainable heritage tourism. The sustenance of heritage tourism lies in conservation of heritage, whether man-made or natural. Once convinced, the market forces will take care of the conservation of the heritage properties, as they gain economic value.
- Awareness on Heritage conservation is very crucial. Local Self Government Institutions, Governmental agencies, Peoples representatives, entrepreneurs, property owners and the public at large are

key players. Imparting awareness is essential in a long run.

- Role of Local Self Government Institution is definitely the key. Awareness creation in the first stage, imparting competence in the second stage and enhanced involvement in the third stage.
- Giving monetary assistance for repairs to listed buildings and maintaining the heritage character of the listed precincts is also considered as an option for promoting heritage conservation.
- Promoting conservation of heritage is essential, as controls alone will not yield fruitful results. 'Grihastali scheme introduced by State Tourism Department is an example.
- Appropriate provisions/regulations under *Town Planning legislation* may be thought of as advised by the central government for legitimising the above aspects.
- *Town Planning schemes* prepared by the Local Self Government institutions for such heritage areas shall provide for regulating and promoting conservation of heritage.
- The writer is the Chief Town Planner, Government of Kerala.

Dancing damsels

of Kerala University Youth Festival

Photos: **Venicexpress**



Kathakali



Oppana



Group Dance



Thiruvathira



Mohiniyattom



Economically Developed,

It is always a pleasure to visit this beautiful State of India. Thomas Bracken sometime in the 1880's wrote a poem about New Zealand where that country was referred to as **God's own country**. I am very happy that this title **God's own country** which has been used by New Zealanders to describe their own country for more than 120 years, has

but also in the fields of art and culture and in regard to social and religious harmony. I have personally experienced this when I was fortunate enough to live here for over twenty years working at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. I learnt a lot during those years from the State and its people and its beautiful waterways, seas and above all, the intensive rain in both monsoons

include Kochi, Thrissur, Thodupuzha, Parumala, Kayamkulam, Vallikavu, Thiruvananthapuram. In these places, first I greeted the farmers for their success in organic farming and pesticide free farming. What is important there in Thodupuzha is, value addition to cash crops like pine apple fruit and ginger. In healthcare, I was impressed by the special school being run for special children at Thrissur and the new 350 bed Ayurveda hospital. The important point we discussed was Ayurveda hospital should aim at bringing out a document giving the

The text of the speech delivered by the President of India at the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the formation of Kerala at Thrissur.



Among beautiful minds: Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, the President of India, delivers valedictory speech in the closing ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of formation of Kerala.

been adopted by the people of Kerala to describe their own State. With all its natural wealth, beautiful surroundings and enlightened people, Kerala is really and literally God's own country. My hearty congratulations.

Beautiful minds

On the occasion of the conclusion of celebrations of 50 years of Birth of Kerala State, let me extend my greetings to the people of Kerala. Kerala has been a frontrunner in many fields, the object of envy by many and worthy of emulation by all. It is gratifying to recall that Kerala has been a trendsetter not only in education

and also music. What is that learning? The learning is: beautiful environment creates beautiful mind; beautiful minds are creative. Creativity, indeed, is the foundation for growth. I am also very happy that the cultural capital of Kerala, the culture indeed is the connectivity of human minds.

Vibrant Kerala

During December 2005, after my address to the Kerala Assembly, I visited nine institutions in different districts of Kerala and interacted with the professionals, farmers, students and the members of medical community. The places of my visit

diseases uniquely cured by Ayurveda. The college in partnership with the hospital should embark on the systematic development of molecule to drug as is being done in the Allopathic system. The state-of-the-art hospital at Parumala under the leadership of Dr. Cherian is carrying out valuable research in tissue culture for heart valves and is also performing heart operations. It is a hi-tech hospital in a rural setting. It is indeed noteworthy. At Vallikavu, I handed over 500 ready built houses to the tsunami affected people. I saw there compassion with divine blessings flowing all around. At Thiruvananthapuram in the international

Prosperous Kerala

conference on bio-tech research I suggested that the researchers should examine the possibility of using stem cells for cancer treatment. I also suggested, mapping of the 200 varieties of genetic mutations leading to cancer, which can be beneficial for prescribing the pinpointed treatment to the patients. In essence, the entire visit made me feel that a dynamic situation is flowing all around Kerala touching many walks of life. I was indeed very happy.

Missions for Kerala

I had occasion to visit this State on 28 July, 2005, when I had the opportunity to

undoubtedly is poised for a more brilliant future. God has given you adequate natural resources, Providence has bestowed you with beautiful natural surroundings and you have people who are not only literate but educated in the real sense, who have shown unadulterated commitment to making the State a really progressive one. In fact, the people of Kerala are synonymous with the spirit of adventure, openness, enterprise and above all have absolute tolerance. It is these qualities that go to make a society great. I hope the days ahead will see this beautiful State

normal school like any other children. I am also happy to know that the educational expenses of these two children are being borne by a philanthropic act. With this beautiful experience what you have, I suggest that we ensure such things do not happen in any of the institutions in Kerala and we will ensure in other states as well. I have requested the Members of Parliament while addressing them on the occasion of World Aids Day to take special measures to prevent such occurrence.

Economically developed Kerala

The last 50 years have seen tremendous changes in all fields in this State. Change is a reflection of the urge to develop, for without changes and challenges, a society stales into stagnancy. We are living a world, where we have to veritably run to stay where we are. Thankfully enough, such initiative has been forthcoming in this State in abundant measure and that predicts a brilliant future for the State.

As I mentioned, when I addressed the Legislative Assembly a year and half ago, what is needed is the optimum exploitation of the resources available to you. I would even go to the extent of saying that you identify your strong points, nurture them to blossom forth as total strong-holds in those areas. It is not possible for every State to be self-sufficient in everything. A balanced practical approach to develop would entail emphasis on crucial sectors that the State is strong in and developing those sectors for the benefit of all. I am sure the Government and the entire administrative set up and the people at large of this State are fully aware of this and would pursue it with unflinching, relentless vigour.

In my address to the Legislative Assembly, I had gone in detail on the specifics of Kerala's development missions and I do not want to repeat them here. I only wish to re-emphasise that the initiative taken by the State in pursuing them be sustained and pursued strongly for achieving the goals in the shortest possible time. On this occasion, when you are concluding the celebrations of the State's 50 years of existence, allow me to once again extend my heartiest greetings to all the people of Kerala who are not only in Kerala but all over the world and also wish you a great prosperous future.

May God bless you. ■



address the Members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. I still remember the rapt attention with which the entire Assembly heard me, when I, in all humility, suggested 10 specific missions for the upliftment of the entire economic spectrum of this beautiful State. People and media and the political systems evolved an Action Plan for implementing the missions. In fact, the Government of Kerala last month sent me a detailed action taken report on each of those missions. I am happy about the progress being made and I am sure all the missions will become a reality in a time bound manner.

Progress and Prosperity

With a brilliant past, the State

unmistakably marching towards higher and higher levels of all round progress and prosperity.

I must recall here a very enviable achievement that was made possible only because of the enlightenment of the people of Kerala. I am referring to the case of two children Benzy and Benson who unfortunately were infected with HIV and initially there were problems in accommodating them in the normal school. It is a tribute to the sagacity of the people of this State and the sincerity and efficiency of the administration at all levels that the initial hesitation and even objections were overcome and these children are now studying along with other children in a



Crowning Glory

The struggles he endured has not roughened his edges, sculpting a balanced harmonious personality. Hailing from the social fringes, battling his way up the professional scale to ascend the highest judicial throne in the country, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan is no resident of an ivory tower. The judicial halo has not stranded him in an island of isolation either, inaccessible to friends, colleagues or associates.

Leela Menon

Justice tempered with mercy, it is this Shakesporean concept that Justice K.G. Balakrishnan personifies, according to the legal fraternity in Kochi. A judge who is always even-tempered, patient, who never discriminates between a junior and a senior lawyer.

The struggles he endured has not roughened his edges, sculpting a balanced harmonious personality. Hailing from the social fringes, battling his way up the professional scale to ascend the highest judicial throne in the country, Justice Balakrishnan is no resident of an ivory tower. The judicial halo has not stranded him in an island of isolation either, inaccessible to friends, colleagues or associates

He remains firmly rooted on earth.

Justice Balakrishnan has delineated a historic moment, he is not only the first Malayali Supreme Court Chief Justice but also the first Dalit to harvest this unique honour. Naturally he is a milestone, a beacon for the social discards. He is the ultimate testimony that hard work, honesty, commitment, capability and determination can indeed guide you to your goals.

Robert Frost wrote "Miles to go before I sleep". Justice Balakrishnan translated it into reality. He did walk miles to school and back. His father was a copyist in the high court and retired as a Sirasthadar. Balakrishnan is one of his eight children. His father was indeed uniquely fortunate to live to witness his son donning the

judicial garb to become Justice of the Supreme court before he died.

His educational career is strewn with lucky interludes. He secured a double promotion, which helped him skip one year. The year he took his BL, it was converted to LLB, just as his ML got automatically converted to LLM.

Justice Balakrishnan did his preuniversity from St. Thomas College, Palai, his degree from the Maharajas College in Kochi and his BL and ML from the Government Law College. He began his practice in Kottayam under advocate Varkey and used to undertake cases for the poor landless in their fight for land title, which of course fetched little money but a lot of job satisfaction and moral pleasure.

Later he shifted to Kochi. He became a Munsiff at the age of 27. Again a first in legal history. He became Deputy registrar in high court in 1982 when he decided to quit. Why? "I realized that it is not my destiny to climb the bureaucratic ladder".

He started practicing again, becoming a junior under advocate Santhalingam. It is worth mentioning here that at least three of Santhalingam's juniors became judges. He practiced for 12 years before he was appointed as a judge of the High court and even became the leader of the full bench. Later he was posted as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court and as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court before he was appointed as the Justice of the Supreme Court. He was the 11th Malayali to become a Supreme Court Justice.

To be hailed as a gentleman judge, Lawyers vie with each other to shower praises on him. Mostly about his absence of discrimination between a junior lawyer and a senior lawyer, lending his ears to both with equal patience, which serve to boost the morale of the juniors. He is also wellknown for his balanced judgements, without fear or favour. Justice Balakrishnan never sought the media spot light or glamour. His was a record of real guts and courage, hard work and scholarship.

He always believe that justice should be available to the rich and the poor alike, that the poor should not be deprived of justice just because they cannot afford skilled or efficient lawyers..The legal system is such that the rich and powerful employ the skilled albeit costliest lawyers and get

justice. Which of his judgement does he himself appreciate? "The judgement to distribute noonmeal to students in schools", Justice Balakrishnan answers without hesitation. He feels that a meal a day at least is temptation enough for children to come to school and to make them desist from desertion midway. It was the time when school dropouts were on the increase. It is also his conviction that to feed the hungry at least one meal a day is a social achievement.

There is an equally hailed judgement of Justice Balakrishnan. His verdict banning bandhs and hartals is a very controversial judgement. Yet another of his verdict enforced control over demonstrations and processions that the traffic-jammed state heaved a sigh of relief as jathas started to hug the pavements, allowing vehicles to proceed. He concedes that it is not always practical to enforce such an order. But at the same time, he feels that it is necessary to stress that while the right to agitate is a constitutional right, the same constitution also ensures the right of the individual citizen to move freely.

Justice Balakrishnan seeks to bring justice to the common man. He feels that it is the duty of the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of a new law. He also believes that judges should tread the correct path and should be beyond temptations, prejudices and favours.

If the bar association or the media criticises a judge, it should be taken in its stride, taking it as a directive not to stray from the correct path, Balakrishnan believes. He indicts the increasing trend of trial by the media, which means inviting SMS opinions in a case to be tried. He feels that it could influence the judges in more ways than one...that it was the general opinion and that., passing an unfavourable judgement in such a case might invite public antagonism because of the media trial. He feels that the media should themselves exert self-control over such trends.

That Justice Balakrishnan hails from the land of K.R. Narayanan may be coincidental but Kerala is proud that yet another of her Dalit son adorn the highest legal throne of the land, and that too in the year she celebrates her fiftieth birthday.

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Lend a Hand for a Noble Cause

A.A. Hakkim

A lottery can sometimes change the life of a lucky winner. The Sports Super Bumper Lottery introduced by the Government of Kerala is going to bring about a sea change in the sports arena of the State. Kerala, being the pioneer of many developmental ventures in the country, nets one more goal. The new initiative is in the field of sports. Lack of facilities hindered the growth of our sports personalities to a great extent. Now the Government is committed to the needs of the sports sector so as to attain the peaks of excellence. In the past we could not even provide the infrastructural facilities required due to the paucity of funds.

Our younger generation had proved their mettle even in international competitions. P.T. Usha, I.M. Vijayan, Shiny – the list continues. If we were able to assist and encourage them properly in the right time, they would have achieved more for the country. We have to go miles and miles to make our Olympic dreams true. Yes we have to contribute a lot to fulfil this great dream.

The main source of income of a Government is the tax paid by its citizens. In 1967 for the first time in the country, the State Government under the leadership E.M. Sankaran Namboodirippad had introduced lottery system. The champion of this idea, P.K. Kunju Sahib, the then Minister for Finance, declared that it would be a subsidiary channel of fund flow to the State Treasury. Decades proved that what he said was true.

Now, the State Lotteries department provides livelihood for thousands of unemployed people in the State. Many families make both ends meet through the sale of lottery tickets. The unemployed men and women, hundreds of handicapped, blinds and others became the breadwinners by taking the mission of lottery sales.

As we know, tax is collected, often

forcefully through strict rules and actions. On the contrary, without any pressure and action, people contribute a large sum by purchasing lottery tickets for the development of the State. Every single paise, paid by the public is utilised for the development of the State roads, water supply schemes, electric lines, hospitals etc. This is the main difference of the Kerala State Lottery when compared with the lotteries of the other states.

Now functions of the department of State Lotteries is in a turning point. Normally the Department is enriching the State economy through the business profit of each draw. Now, the Government has entrusted with the Department of State Lotteries to identify the area where it should contribute money for development, well in advance. For this purpose, in addition



My mite: A pedestrian collects sports lottery from a sales counter

to the normal functions, it is expected to launch separate super bumper lotteries. Thus the sports sector received the first attention.

The Sports Super Bumper Lottery is intended to collect crores of rupees for the development of sports activities in the State. The Minister for Finance has appealed the public to cooperate in this novel venture by lending their hands for the excellence of sports - 'Kalimidukinu Oru Kaineettam'.

More than rupees 40 crores is assured as prizes. The ticket will be available in 20

series. As first prize, rupees two crores will be given to the luckiest person. All the 19 losers in other series will get Rs. one lakh each as consolation.

The second prize will be rupees two lakhs available for 200 tickets in all series. 2,000 winners will be awarded Rs.25,000 each as 3rd prize. Subsequently the prize band varies from Rs.5000, 2500, 1000, 500 and 100. 10000000 persons will get Rs.100 each as consolation and at the same time the agent will also get the same amount as Commission. An amount of 4,01,90,000 will be disbursed through 1102220 prizes and Rs.13,21,90,000 will be given as agents prize.

A separate agency system with additional commissions and other offers is followed promoting the sales of sports lottery. The Department is now giving agency to any person ready to pay Rs.100 as registration fee. Non governmental organisations like Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs, National Service Scheme Units, Residential Associations etc., can take up the offer.

Apart from the usual sales channel of the department of State Lotteries, now the Government plan to promote the sales of this lottery tickets through various outlets. Many residents associations and NGOs have come forward to promote the sales. The message of this lottery will be brought to the grass-roots level and with the participation of all, the sales will be enhanced.

The amount collected through this lottery will be utilised for the strengthening of our sports infrastructure sports councils in every panchayat, sufficient sports equipments and playgrounds in every school, stadium or open air facility for a sports get-together in every morning and evening in every town... the ambitious project of the Government is moving very fast in the track. The success of the move lies in the wholehearted cooperation of the generous public.

■ The writer is Publicity Officer, Directorate of State Lotteries.



Fuchsia

For Fashion

Suresh Muthukulam

Fuchsia is not confined to the way in which we dress; garden plants are as much controlled by fashion as are clothes. The latest sensation in the fashion world of flowering plants is 'Fuchsia', which produce attractive drooping flowers resembling a lady's earrings. Fuchsia is a genus of flowering plants, mostly shrubs. There are about 100-110

species of fuchsia. The name fuchsia was a compliment to Lonhart Fuchs (1501-1566), a German doctor of medicine who was a very capable botanist also. The great majority of fuchsia plants are native to South America, but with a few occurring north through Central America to Mexico.

The prominent garden varieties of fuchsia have arisen as hybrids from crosses between the species *Fuchsia fulgens*, *F.*

coccinea and *F. magellaria*. A few species and varieties are trailing and hence suitable for growing in hanging baskets. The species *F. arborescens* is a low-growing tree with small red-coloured and scented flowers. The shrubby species with a semi-climbing habit is *F. corymbiflora*, with larger leaves and long tubular scarlet coloured flowers.

The plants of fuchsia are generally shrubby in habit. The sepals and petals of the drooping flowers are usually of two different colours, namely, white and red, red and purple, lilac and red, salmon and orange-scarlet, white and pink or purple, etc. They produce a wealth of colours, whether grown in pots in the green house or outdoors in the border or rockery as climbers against a wall, decorating a loggia, in hanging baskets, or as houseplants. All flower profusely in sun or shade.

Fuchsias grow exceedingly well on the hills and high ranges, as well as in areas having a mild climate. The plants need cool and moist conditions for a good growth. Our high range tourist spots like Munnar are ideal for fuchsias to grow and flower. The potting mixture of fuchsia consists of two parts loam, one part peat and one part dry sand. A mulch of organic matter such as leaf manure, garden compost etc. can be placed around the plants.

The plants are propagated by cuttings and from seeds. Half ripe cuttings taken before the summer sun gets too hot will be easier to propagate. Pinching out of the plant is done as soon as each shoot reaches the three leaf stage. Pot grown fuchsia need feeding throughout the growing season. In addition to solid fertilizer, a liquid feed will ensure a continuous satisfactory growth with flowers of better colour and more substance. The liquid feed can be either organic or of any garden mixtures like 17:17:17 which is well-diluted with 2 grams in one litre of water. It need be poured only to the base of the plant, around it.

Fuchsia, by their peculiar shape and colour are gaining popularity world wide. It may be interesting to note that in the US there are two large organisations of fuchsia fans – the American fuchsia society and the National Fuchsia Society. For the fuchsia, the future looks promising, for there are a few flowering shrubs with the ability to give such a return for the relatively small amount of cultural effort needed. ■

Dr. G.K.Moli

India's population is young. About two-third of the Indian population is below 30 years of age. If we exclude children, well over a quarter of the population is youth. Youth as a vast human resource at present is away from direct involvement in the National development process. In view of the emphasis that being

countryside, so that the youth find an organizational support and frame of reference for understanding development programmes.

Each year for the past 16 years, UNFPA offices in all parts of the world have raised awareness about important population and development issues by finding creative ways to publicize World Population

of young people and far too many among them confront bleak prospects. Providing for youth is not just a moral obligation, it is a compelling economic necessity. It should be emphasized that the problems that the youth face in terms of education and employment in Kerala are not essentially the problems of youth, but are the problems inherent in the social, economic



Kerala Youth Demographic Analysis

placed on accelerating the tempo of rural as well as urban youth in terms of infrastructure and human development, the need to formulate more programmes for all-round development of the youth and their participation in the National Growth Process has been taken up as the central theme of National Planning Process. As part of this effort both the state and central governments have been encouraging the formation of youth clubs to cover the

Day(July 11th). This year the theme of world population day 2006 is focused on "Young People" and even greater plans for youth participation are encouraged and under way. It focuses on the needs and rights of the nearly 3 billion youth under age 25 around the world. Population in the age group 15-29 is considered as youth in this paper. Today, nearly 9 million people of Kerala are between the ages of 15 and 29 years. They represent the largest cohort

and political conditions of the state. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyze the age structure as well as marital and working status of youth to suggest further course of action for bettering the conditions of youth in Kerala.

Age structure of youth

Proportion of male and female youth by different age-groups based on 2001 census is given in Table.1. They were further categorized broadly by age reflecting

the three stages of youth: 15-19 years as adolescent, 20-24 years as early adulthood and 25-29 years as late adulthood.

About 9.4 percent of the total and 9.6 percent of male youth were in their early adulthood, while the largest gap in the proportion between male and female was in the age group of 25-29 years. Overall, among the total population of Kerala, 27.6 percentage were youth in 2001. In the adolescent stage, males are more or less equal in number as that of females with a sex ratio of 1010 females per 1000 males, while females outnumbered males in the early adulthood and late adulthood periods with 1072 and 1148 females per 1000 males respectively.

Population of youth in Kerala in the Census years of 1901, 1951 and 2001 and the estimated figure for the year 2051 is given in Table.2. In 1901, there were only 6632263 persons in adolescent age group of 15-19 years. This number has increased to 1366116 in 1951 and 2984506 in 2001 census. Between 1951 and 2001, the youth population of Kerala has increased by about 16 lakhs. The estimated figures show that the total number of youth would decline to about 1566278 by 2051. There will, however, be a significant decline in the number of youth from 2021 onwards and reached to about half of it from 2001 to 2051. This indicates that the current level of unemployment problem among the youth will be reduced in the coming years.

Marital status of youth

Average age at marriage in Kerala is the highest among the states of India. According to 2001 census, a considerable percentage of adolescents (7%) are married between the ages of 15 and 19 years and very little of them are found to be widowed or divorced in Kerala. This is more prevalent among girls. About 35 percentage of the youth and 58 percentage of the girls in early adulthood age are get married. In the 25-29 age group, 87 percentage of girls and 67 percentage of youth as a whole were get married according to 2001 census. Proportion married below the age of 30 is high in rural areas.

Most of the girls in Kerala get married when they are in the age group 20-24 years (average age at marriage for females is 21.49 years) and most of the boys get

married when they are in the 25-29 age group (average age at marriage of males is 27.97 years). So the difference between the number of girls in the 20-24 age group and the number of boys in the age group 25-29 years is a measure of the marriage squeeze in the state. Girls in the age group 20-24 years in Kerala always outnumbered boys in the age group 25-29 years. It

inequality and poverty.

According to 2001 census, about 8 percent of adolescents are engaged in any type of work. Even though the rate increased in the age groups 20-24 and 25-29 years, young females participated in labour force are very rare. As a whole, only 26 percent of youth in Kerala are working



January 12 is the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekanandan.

This day is being observed as World Youth Day.

This article analyses the Kerala scenario of the youth.

increased from year to year up to 1971 and since then it has been on the decline. This indicate that in the coming years, girls in Kerala will have a much higher choice in finding a suitable groom than they ever had in the past. Based on this measure, urban girls have a higher choice in finding a suitable groom than rural girls of Kerala.

Working status of youth

Unemployment among the educated is one of the major economic and social problems of Kerala. Also the State can be characterized by unequal distribution of family income and higher cost of higher education. The educational system, especially at higher levels operates to increase

in 2001. This is considered as a serious concern because young people's energy, ideas and determination are already creating change. Including young people in programming and policy decisions not only bolsters their self-confidence but it also helps to prepare them to exercise the rights and responsibilities of adulthood and citizenship. Youth-adult partnerships are also essential to the development of successful programming. So Government must inevitably lead the way to promote the human rights and well-being of young people, and work with them to build a better world for all.

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constituted a minority who do not represent the vast number of people who are film buffs in this country. To cut a long history short, the new face of IFFI reflects the change that has happened in this very minority of film buffs. At a time when the nation no longer defines itself in the post-independence logic of national culture, at a time when it is defined vis-à-vis a notion of nationalist pride in the global arena, it is unproductive to critique the changes that has happened in the conduct of the film festival without paying attention to its history. To put it upfront and polemically; if an Adoor Gopalakrishnan or a Shyam Bengal was the face of Indian cinema abroad a couple of decades back, it is a Karan Johar or his friends in what is termed 'Bollywood' that represents it today. So the symbolic red carpet that rolled itself for the former before, awaits the latter now. The point to note is that always the nature of film festivals is determined by the presence of films in the global scene and not necessarily in relation to its relevance for the audience within the country.

I would like to suggest that both these representations of Indian cinema are partial and that one does not in any essential way top the other in quality. What is shared by both these sets of films is the partial nature of the representation. Whereas it was the lion's share of cinema in India that was marginalised some time back, it is regional art house cinema that is being marginalised now. I would like to argue that there is no objective reasoning within which the contemporary art house films are better than any other film apart from its possible good intentions. As for IFFK, it is important to note that it started in the early nineties almost anticipating the shifts that happen in the way IFFI is conceived. The historical connection and the temporal congruence between the change in the nature of IFFI and the beginning of IFFK should lead us to believe that our attempt should not be one of simple comparison and that we should pay attention to the contexts in which these developments take place and see the continuities between the two events.

To repeat, the relationship between the two events should be understood in terms of a positive relationship. In the context of a changed understanding of the national event, one could surmise that the regional event is one that attempts to complete what the latter imagines to be lacking in the former. The regional now asserts its critique of the national event by performing what lacks in the latter. So a festival like IFFK will make sure that it will give due importance to the art house cinema in Kerala with auteurs from Adoor to Dr. Biju (the director of *Saira*). The attempt here, like the IFFI which attempts to present a national culture, is to foreground a regional culture. Here the difference between the two events arises from a lack of conformity between the imagination of the nation and the region. This was a conformity which existed at one time but is lost later. There could be differences of opinion as to which of the cultural imaginations – the national or the regional – is politically and aesthetically acceptable. Are the auteur films from Kerala better than some of the Bollywood productions? Are commercial intentions as different as they appear between these two kinds of cinema? These and a host of other questions will have to be looked at separately for us to come to a possible resolution for the problem.

At the moment, I end by suggesting that it is the identity of the national event that makes for the regional event. The differences between the two could easily be explained in this context.

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Smitha. S

Garment production training can be a bold and upfront solution to a gigantic problem like unemployment that ravages the social, economic and political face of Kerala for decades. It can be understood from the fact that Garment Production Training is much more than equipping people to start tailoring shops that we find at the nook and corner of our State. If taken up in an organised and scientific manner it would open up innumerable employment opportunities in garment industry within and outside Kerala.

Biggest Production – Service Sector

Being an agricultural country, majority of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood in India. However the percentage of people who live on agriculture is dwindling year after year with myriad of problems that afflict the agriculture sector. However, then and now textile and garment sector together remains the largest provider of employment in India next to agriculture. Employing 85 million people – 35 million directly and 50 million indirectly – textile account for 14 per cent of industrial production of India. India expects 50 billion dollar development in 2010 in textile sector of which 25 billion would be of garment production. With the development envisaged the employment potential in this sector could well be imagined. At present 20 per cent of income from export is generated from textile and garment. It may not be far off that textile would adore the place to be the single biggest foreign exchange earner and the largest provider of employment in our country.

Two Asian Giants

India and China are the two Asian giants competing to capture the world textile market. Though China poses the biggest challenge to India, our products have an edge over that of China in world market thanks to our superior workmanship acquired through centuries. World trade in textile and clothing was freed from the restrictive quota regime on January 1, 2005. With greater policy support from Government, the garment-driven and export-led textile industry of India is poised for a quantum jump in the near future. Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) is of the view that if some unworkable labour laws are amended, we can find employment for over 39 million

Dress Making

Redresses Unemployment

workers currently remains unemployed in the country. Even now serious shortage is felt in the availability of technically trained manpower in textile, especially in garment industry. The study group appointed by Textile Ministry viewed the need for revamping the apparel-training curriculum to adopt value-added textile, functional finishing, apparel technology and smart textiles as part of the syllabus in our textile

much employment already existing and those coming in future. This matter merits serious pursuit both by the Government and the educated unemployed alike in our State. If we take up some deliberate steps by way of policy support by Government and an increased realisation by our youth, we can generate employment many times more than that generated by the IT sector in Kerala. Our textile and garment sector is

Apparel Park, Thiruvananthapuram. It offers Diploma in Apparel Manufacturing Technology, Diploma in Fashion Sampling and Co-ordination and courses on Production Supervision and Quality Control, Pattern Cutting Master Course, Machine Mechanism, Apparel Merchandising, Sewing Machine Operator Course, Garment Construction Course and Computer Aided Design Course. Apart from these, the Centre also conducts Entrepreneur Development Programme and occasional in-service training programmes to industry personnel.

From the above list of courses itself one can imagine the diversified job opportunities that exist in the garment industry. The ATDC has the advantage of having the state-of-the-art machines and a good team of faculty which guarantee placement to all those pass out from here. Started in the last year, the Centre made rapid strides ensuring five fold increase in student admission and starting a new branch in Maruthankuzhi, Thiruvananthapuram.

SSLC, Plus Two qualified candidates can take up courses depending on their qualification and aptitude. Candidate passing diploma course from here with diploma or degree in Textile Science as background qualification can also have chances to become faculty member of ATDC. Candidates with good academic qualification with a diploma from here stand good chances to be placed in higher positions in the industry.

Sponsorship

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Departments and Backward Classes Development Corporation are sponsoring candidates for short term courses in this Centre.

■ The writer is Faculty Member, Apparel Training & Design Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.



training institutions. The study group reported that the industry-institution participation in skill upgradation is unable now to turn out sufficient number of skilled labour due to infrastructure paucity.

The Kerala Scenario

Perhaps the biggest source of strength of Kerala - as true of India as a whole - is its very diligent human resources. Sadly, Kerala seems not to have realised the immense potential of apparel sector as a great solution to the ever-increasing unemployment problem in the State. In the context of the present shortage of skilled manpower in garment sector, Kerala has great opportunity to fully exploit the situation and grab as

terribly small as compared to those of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat etc. and we are considered 10-15 years behind our neighbour State Tamil Nadu itself. Superior craftsmanship, ability to assimilate new ideas, capacity to imbibe scientific developments, speed in execution etc. make our workers demanding in garment units outside our State.

Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC)

In this context, the Apparel Training and Design Centre under the Apparel Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Textiles came as a boon in KINFRA

Dr. K. Gangadharan

Though Kerala has registered a significant improvement in key health care indicators, the health situation in the State reflects a paradox. It is a paradox of high morbidity and low mortality, which resulted in the crucial social problem of ageing. Kerala has made significant progress in improving the key healthy statistics: death rates, birth rates, infant mortality rates and life expectancy at birth. The state performance in the health sector has been better compared to the rests of the states in India. Still there is a long way to go in for improving the key health care indicators, new dimension of health status are emerging which need attention now. These are environmental issues causing for bad health, chronic morbidity in urban and rural areas, shattered health status in urban slums, new contagious disease such as AIDS and diseases of poverty and prosperity. Also much needs to be done to improve the health of the women and children especially among the dalits, marginals and deprived sections of the community.

Health status in Kerala

Kerala has made remarkable advancement in the health status of its population. In India CDR has declined from 27.4 in 1951 to eight in 2004 and the IMR has drastically reduced from the

It is argued that with an increase in the level of development, the prevalence of communicable illness comes down, where as that of chronic illness goes up. This seems to be true of the morbidity profile of Kerala. The morbidity analysis of Kerala reveals that the attack of acute diarrhoeal diseases, measles, pneumonia, pulmonary tuberculosis, dengue fever etc is the major diseases dominating the health profile of

vascular disease, cancer, hypertension and diabetes etc are emerging as the severe health problems of the state. Sedentary life styles, lack of physical activities and obesity increases the risk of chronic diseases. Cancer in fall forms is causing about 12% of deaths throughout the world. In the developed countries cancer is the second leading cause of death accounting for 21% of all mortality. In the developing countries



Health For All Kerala Perspective

In India cancer has become one of the ten leading causes of death. It is estimated that there are nearly 1.5 to two million cancer cases at any given point of time.

estimated 200-225 per 1000 live birth at the time of independence to 60 in 2004. The IMR has declined mainly due to decline in the neo-natal mortality in achievement of widespread immunization programme in the country. The performance of Kerala has been well in all these periods. The CBR and CDR are very low in Kerala compared to that in India and it is at par with the advanced countries of the world.

Kerala. Increasing pollution, increase in the use of fossil fuel, tobacco use, vehicle transport, increasing sedentary habits and ageing are the basic reasons for increasing respiratory infectious diseases.

Though Kerala succeeded to a great extent in reducing the vagaries of major public health diseases like small pox, filaria and malaria, but the diseases like respiratory infections, acute diarrhoeal diseases is increasing. Among the chronic illness cardio

cancer ranks third as a cause of death and accounts for 9.5% of all deaths (Govt. of Kerala, 2005)

In India cancer has become one of the ten leading causes of death. It is estimated that there are nearly 1.5 to two million cancer cases at any given point of time. Over seven lakh new cases of cancer and three lakh deaths occur annually due to cancer. The contribution of Kerala towards this account seems to be of very high. In 2004

the Regional Cancer Centre at Thiruvananthapuram alone treated 10225 patients for different leading sites of cancer (Govt. of Kerala, 2005)

Though Kerala has achieved revolutionary progress in the health care development, recently the State is under the octopus hold of both communicable and chronic diseases. With the arrival of rainy season communicable diseases began to dominate both in the rural and urban slum areas of the State and in the pervasiveness of chronic diseases Kerala tops all the Indian states. The dominant chronic illness like diabetes, blood pressure, mental illness, cardiac illness etc. are common among all households in Kerala. Thus the paradox is that on the one side Kerala stands as the state with all indicators of better health care development in terms of IMR,MMR,PNMR, NNMR, birth rate, death rate etc. on the other it outstrips all other Indian states in terms of morbidity especially the chronic illness. Studies conducted in the pharmaceutical sector revealed that major chunk of the medicines manufactured in India are marketed in Kerala.

The attack and death due to chikungunya a vital illness affected by the people of Kerala reveals that within a short span of three months it affected around 42750 and resulted in the death of 75 persons. Since the illness has been spreading in a massive way the Govt. of India has been compelled to declare a health package for the state to liberate it from of this vital illness. The vagaries of the illness were most affected by the Alapuzha district. The bad living environment and lack of proper environmental sanitation has been identified as the root cause for the hike in morbidity of this illness

What Ails in Kerala?

Though the health status of Kerala is comparatively far better compared to other Indian states, Kerala still ails in the health front. First and foremost event is the issue of high morbidity reported both from urban and rural Kerala. As discussed earlier the communicable and chronic illness are equally disturbing the State causing for the hike in morbidity. Lack of basic infrastructural facilities in the interior rural, urban and slum areas are responsible for the hike in illness prevalence rate.

Kerala is now moving at higher rate urbanisation. It would therefore become a difficult task to deliver health care and other essential services to the unlimited and ever increasing population. Similarly the health budget of the government of Kerala is very fragile in the sense that the allocation for medicine and supplies has been very meager and the major chunk of the budget is meant for salary and allowances. Ageing is another area of concern of Kerala health. This also accounts for the hike in morbidity.

Another peculiarity of the State is that dependence on private health care is quite high even among the lower expenditure classes and rural areas especially for outpatient treatment. Public health centres are being utilised mostly for maternal and child health care programmes especially for immunisation schemes. In Kerala the utilisation of maternal and child health services too is weak in tribal and hill areas where marginal, deprived and vulnerable sections of the communities are residing. The low utilization of public health centres is mainly due to lack of medicines and supplies in government hospitals which makes them as mere scarecrow. What the people can save from a government hospital or health centre is the consultation fee of Rs 20 or Rs25, for the same they have to waste one whole day due to rush in the Government hospitals.

What needs attention?

Though we have retained better health care indicators, massive effort is still needed to attain health for all a stark reality. Since high morbidity prevalence is the basic issue of Kerala's health sector, greater attention is needed to reduce the intensity of morbidity prevalence communicable and non-communicable. Better provision of safe drinking water and sanitation is to be provided to the urban and rural community and thrust should be provided to better drainage and environmental facilities in the urban areas. If antibiotics have helped to save millions from dying from typhoid, cholera and dysentery, hundreds of millions have been saved from contracting these diseases through improved water supply, hygiene, sanitation and safe waste disposal. If thousands of cancer patients are given an extended lease of life through radiation and chemotherapy, millions and millions can

be saved from cancer through measures to reduce air pollution and clean up the environment.

To improve the utilisation of government hospitals more medicines and supplies are to be provided to the government hospitals and health centers and for this budget allocation should be augmented to the medicines and supplies in the health budget of the government. Private health care can only be complementary to public institutions and not as a substitute to achieve health for all at least in the near future. To attain the status of health for all, the aged population has to be properly rehabilitated and measures have to be devised for their health



and happiness since majority of them are under acute loneliness and in the stage of negligence. Efforts should be made to increase the utilisation of maternal and child health services among the marginal, deprived and vulnerable sections in the country.

Health is a broad concept and health status is a function of large number of factors. The major issues discussed above are to be sorted out with support and co-operation from all the authorities and people connected directly or indirectly with the health care development of the State. It is high time that the paradox of high morbidity and low mortality is to be viewed very seriously in relation to the overall social sector advancement of Kerala to make health for all a reality in the near future.

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KSBCDC

To bring forward

For inculcating the spirit of self-reliance among the women of other backward classes the NBCFDC has introduced a special scheme for women below the poverty line. The maximum loan amount is Rs. 50,000. The rate of interest is fixed as four per cent per annum and the repayment period is five years.



Dileep Kumar B.

Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd. (KSBCDC) is a company fully owned by the Government of Kerala, registered under the Companies Act 1956 on February 28, 1995 with Registered Office at Thiruvananthapuram. The Corporation has offices in all the 14 Districts of the State. The Mission of this Corporation is "Freedom from poverty and backwardness" of

the targeted communities in the State of Kerala.

Acting as a major State Level Channelising Agency (SCA) of National Financing agencies, viz. National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), KSBCDC implements their schemes by providing financial loan assistance to the members of Backward and Minority communities

living below double the poverty line for their overall development. Persons whose annual family income should be below Rs.40,000 in rural areas and Rs.55,000 in urban areas are considered as below double poverty line. Total population of the State as per Census 2001 is 3.18 crores, out of which 1.39 crores belonged to Minority Communities i.e. 43.8 per cent of the total population. About 30 to 35 per cent of the total population belonged to other Backward Classes. Hence 70 to 75 per cent of the total population belonged to OBCs and Minorities and most of them are poor and they are the target groups of the Corporation.

NBCFDC SCHEMES (Schemes for the welfare of OBCs)

Self-employment loan upto Rs. 5,00,000

In order to promote self-employment for the benefit of other backward classes, NBCFDC is providing financial assistance to any viable project through KSBCDC. For projects above Rs.50,000 but below 5,00,000 applicants should submit project proposal with the application. The rate of interest is six per cent per annum and the repayment period of five years. Assistance under this scheme is available for any commercially viable and technically feasible venture in different sectors like (a) agriculture and allied (b) technical trade (c) small business (d) Artisan and traditional occupation and (e) transport and service sector.

Self-Employment Loan for Women (New Swarnima)

For inculcating the spirit of self-reliance among the women of other backward classes the NBCFDC has introduced a special scheme for women belonging to below the poverty line of other backward classes. The maximum loan amount is Rs. 50,000. The rate of interest is fixed as four per cent per annum and the repayment period is five years.

Swayam Saksham Scheme

NBCFDC has introduced an innovative scheme viz "Swayam Saksham" Scheme for professionally trained and educated, unemployed youths belonging to other backward communities.

The eligible youth may get financial assistance for any technically viable and

financially feasible project. The maximum loan amount is Rs.5,00,000 and interest rate is five per cent. The repayment period may extend upto 10 years depending on the project. Age limit is 18 to 35 years.

Education Loan

NBCFDC provides education loan to the students of backward classes for pursuing general/professional/technical courses at graduate or higher level. Maximum loan limit is Rs.30,000 per annum subject to maximum of Rs.1.5 lakhs. Rate of interest is 4per cent. Recovery will commence after six months of completion of course or three months from getting employment, whichever is earlier.

Micro-Credit Schemes

This scheme is framed for helping the poorest among the poor who need loans of very small amount, and need the money as quickly as possible at their doorsteps. The poor have demonstrated their potential for self-help to secure greater economic and financial strength and many self-help groups have come into existence spontaneously or with active involvement of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Our experience has proved that validity of supplementary financial services through operationally flexible NGOs could do much to improve the income of the poor and their families.

Recognising the above needs, KSBCDC has decided to support NGOs with good track record for Micro Credit Schemes. Through the identified NGOs, KSBCDC will arrange fund from the National Agencies like NBCFDC and NMDFC for implementing micro-credit schemes. KSBCDC will ensure the proper utilisation of loan given to NGOs for the purpose it was released and recovery of loan from NGOs.

NMDFC SCHEMES

Self-employment loan upto 5,00,000

NMDFC is providing financial assistance to any viable project through KSBCDC. For projects above Rs.1,00,000 but below 5,00,000 applicants should



submit project proposal with the application. Prior sanction from NMDFC is required for sanctioning such projects. The rate of interest is six per cent per annum and repayment period is five years.

Education Loan

NMDFC provides Education loan with a view to help students belonging to minority communities pursue job oriented education. The scheme envisages maximum loan of Rs.30,000 every year for pursuing professional and technical

courses.

Maximum loan per course is fixed as Rs. 1,50,000 and the rate of interest is three per cent. Moratorium period would extend upto six months from the date of completion of the course or till the beneficiary starts earning whichever is earlier. Maximum repayment period is 60 months.

Micro-Credit Schemes OWN SCHEMES

Apart from the schemes of the National Corporations, KSBCDC is implementing other welfare schemes also, utilising its own fund.

Loan for seeking Employment Abroad

KSBCDC has introduced this scheme, aimed at financing the travel and allied expenses of persons belonging to other backward classes in the State who have obtained employment in foreign countries to meet their travel expenses, expense for visa etc.. The loan amount is Rs.30,000 and interest rate is 8.50per cent.

Marriage Assistance Scheme

This scheme is aimed at financially assisting the marriage of a girl child who has attained the age of 18. This scheme is applicable only to the backward classes of the State. The maximum loan amount is Rs. 30,000 interest rate is 8.5 per cent.

Computer Loan for Students

This is a scheme of KSBCDC for students who belong to other backward classes to purchase computers. The



maximum loan amount is Rs. 50,000 per cent and interest rate is 8.50 per cent.

Two Wheeler Loans for employed

This scheme is for those employed with the Government / Public Sector / Reputed Private Sector organisations and belonging to the other backward classes. The maximum loan amount is Rs.50,000 and rate of interest is 8.50 per cent.

Consumer Durable Loan

Employees who belong to Other Backward Classes and working in Government, Public Sector, autonomous bodies and reputed private sector organisations are provided loan up to Rs. 50,000 @ 8.50 per cent interest for purchase of consumer durables for personal use.

Swastha Griha (House Maintenance) Loan

Employees who belong to Other Backward Classes and working in Government, Public Sector, autonomous bodies and reputed private sector organisations are provided loan up to Rs. 1,00,000 @ 8.50 per cent interest to renovate their houses.

Institute/Franchise Development Loan

This loan is intended for qualified and competent persons from the backward classes who wish to take up franchise of reputed institutions/ organisations like NIIT, Computech, etc based on a detailed project report on the franchise to be taken up. Loan up to 50 per cent of project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,50,000 is to be provided @ 8.50 per cent interest.

Other Welfare Activities/Programmes

Scholarship for best students

A Merit Scholarship Scheme for the benefit of 15 students of Professional Courses hailing from the Backward Classes had been implemented. Three scholarships each for students of MBBS, Ayurveda, Homoeo, Engineering and B.Sc. Nursing will be given yearly. Quantum is Rs.10000 per year, per selected student. Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of qualifications in the Entrance Examination and Income criteria.

Vocational Training Programme

The Corporation has introduced a scheme of vocational training for persons belonging to our target groups to develop their skills and knowledge with a view to make them competent for self-employment. Such programmes are generally of duration around six months. The trainee can obtain loan to start his business after successful completion of the training. Over the years, training programmes in Home Nursing, Computer Awareness, garment making, MS Office, Milk Production and Dairy Units and Offset Printing had been held.

Exhibition cum Trade Fairs

Corporation has been organizing Exhibitions Cum Trade Fairs or participating in fairs for supporting our beneficiaries in marketing and popularising their products. During the year 2005-06 two Exhibition cum Trade Fairs were organised by this Corporation one each at Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad where beneficiaries were given opportunity to exhibit their products, gaining exposure and obtaining orders/enquiries from potential buyers. More than 150 beneficiaries participated, exhibiting products and attaining sales of over Rs. 15 lakhs. KSBCDC also participated in two exhibitions at Kottayam and Thiruvananthapuram which were organised by other agencies.

Awards for Excellence

Based on the criteria of timely implementation of schemes, recovery rate and repayments to the National Agencies this Corporation received several National Awards from the National Corporations, NBCFDC selected KSBCDC as the Best Performing State Channelising Agency for the year 2001-02 and as the second Best Performing State Channelising Agency for the year 2002-03 and 2004-05. NMDFC also selected KSBCDC as the Second Best Performing State Channelising Agency for the year 2004-05.

■ The writer is the Managing Director, KSBCDC.



Dr A.K. Nambiar

Kerala has rich and varied traditions of Rituals. Most of the performing arts of Kerala are rituals. It is difficult to separate ritual contents from performing aspects as they are intermingled. Theyyam is a typical example of Victor Turner's definition of Rituals. According to him, Rituals are 'social dramas'. The world view, the religions beliefs, sociological aspects and the artistic manifestations of the folk of North Malabar are reflected in Theyyam. Theyyam is rich in visual elements and diversified myths. It is the ritual art form of Kasaragod and Kannur, the places included in the erstwhile Kolathunadu. Thirayattam is the local variation of Theyyam, which is performed in Kozhikode district. The 'Bhootha' of Tulunadu has close similarity with Theyyam. Theyyam is performed mainly in the shrine, the worshipping place



Theyyam

Ritual Theatre of North Malabar

Durga and Kali are the most popular mother deities in India. They are known as Chamundi, Kannaki, Ottamulachi and Bhadrakali in South India. Most of the deities worshipped in Theyyattam are mother-goddesses.

of the castes below Brahmins.

Vannan, Malayan, Anhuttan, Munnutton, Velan, Mayilon, Kuppalan Karimbalan, Chunkathan and Pulayan are the castes who perform theyyam. All are low caste Hindus in which Koppalan, Velan, Mayilon and Chunkathan are tribes.

Theyyam originated as part of the cults of serpent, animal, ancestor, mother goddesses, spirits and heroes. Even today the belief that serpents destroy fertility is ardent. People are hesitant to cut down the trees from a sarppakkavu (serpent - grove). People believe that killing a divine snake like 'Sarppam' would be causing destruction to the entire family of the person who does it. As a remedy, they

worship snakes at serpent groves and perform usual rituals for the serpents. Moreover some of the snakes are propitiated in the form of Theyyams in which Nagakkanni, Nagarajavu and Nagappothi are important. The offerings given to these deities are the same as those given to snakes such as *Noorum palum* and eggs.

As part of the animal worship, tiger Theyyams such as Pulikkandan (Father), Puliyoorkandan (son), Pullikkarinkali (mother), Puliyoorkali (daughter) are propitiated. Bali and Bappuran (Hanuman) are also animal Theyyams. The origin of animal worship is traced back to totemism as mentioned above. But here the animals are worshipped by attributing supernatural

powers to them. For example, Puliyoorkali is not treated as Puli (tiger), but as a mothergoddess Kali. Pullikkarinkali, her mother is Parvathi and Pulikandan is Shiva.

Durga and Kali are the most popular mother deities in India. They are known as Chamundi, Kannaki, Ottamulachi and Bhadrakali in South India. Most of the deities worshipped in Theyyattam are mother - goddesses. Kali is propitiated in the name Kundorchamundi, Rakthachamundi, Made Chamundi, Panchuruli, Puthiya Bhagavathi, Raktherswari, Kolaswaroopathinkal Thai etc. Apart from these, they are known as 'gramdevatas' also. Veeranchira Bhagavathi, Kakkara Bhagavathi, Narambil Bhagavathi and Edappara chamundi are some of the village deities. Whenever epidemics like smallpox are spread, villagers erect a temporary shrine, in the open places and arrange the performance of Puthiya Bhagavathi. Ghandakarnan, a male deity is also worshipped to eradicate smallpox. Vasurimala is another deity performed for the same purpose. Muchilottu Bhagavathi is another mother goddess. A Brahmin virgin committed suicide to prove her chastity and was later on deified in the form of Muchilottu Bhagavathi. Makkapothi is a Theyyam propitiated as part of the hero worship. This could also be included in the category of mother goddess as this is widely considered as a mother deity.

The heroes who had shown extraordinary ability and chivalry were deified in the form of Gods. It was a practice in the Sangam period that those who had fought and died in the battlefield were commemorated by the erection of 'hero stones'. Women were also commemorated by erecting certain stones known as 'masatikallu'. Warriors like Kathivannur veeran, Thacholi Othenan and Payyamvalli Chandu were personified in Theyyattam. Even though the costumes and make-up of these heroes are similar to those of the heroes of spirit worship they are put in another category. All the characters in the hero worship belong to the castes below the Brahmins. The myths of Thacholi Othenan and Payyamvalli Chandu are the same as depicted in the Ballads of North Malabar.

(To be continued)

■ The writer is the Secretary, Kerala Folklore Academy, Kannur.





Realising the potential of the entertainment industry, KINFRA would develop a special economic zone for animation and gaming industries in 25 acres at the KINFRA Film and Video Park near Thiruvananthapuram. The zone would offer all facilities such as air-conditioned animation studio modules, incubation centres and motion capture laboratory and an ideal working atmosphere for export-oriented animation units. It was expected to provide employment to 5,000 persons, the minister added.

Animation industry was poised for a major growth in the country. The number of animation television channels had risen exponentially. It had the potential to

KINFRA to set up Animation School

THE KERALA Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) will set up an animation school in the State, said the Industries Minister Mr. Elamaram Kareem.

Delivering the special address at a seminar on animation, gaming and visual effects organised jointly by the KINFRA, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Animation and Gaming Forum and FICCI Visual Effects Community at Thiruvananthapuram, he said the proposed

animation school would be set up to meet international standards. Considering the demand for animators and skilled personnel, the Government is committed to providing a launching pad for the animation industry with state-of-the-art facilities. The Government decided to set up an infrastructure development company with private participation, in which the Government equity will be restricted to 26 per cent. The company will acquire land and develop world-class infrastructure facilities to attract private investment.

generate revenue like information technology and IT-enabled services sector. Investors were keen on setting up studios across the country and were looking for a place that had all infrastructure facilities and a talent pool. Kerala had all the potential to become the destination of animation industry and the Government was committed to providing all assistance, Shri Karim said. FICCI State Council Chairman Shri M.G. George Muthoot welcomed the gathering. KINFRA Managing Director Shri A.S. Suresh Babu proposed a vote of thanks.

CD mart goes on dream

THE EDUCATION minister M.A. Baby has formally inaugurated the CD mart housing compact discs pertaining to education. The CD mart has been set up at the government run Science and Technology Museum, Thiruvananthapuram. Publishing houses and libraries are the means by which equitable dissemination of knowledge and information stored in the cd's would be tried out, the minister said. He announced that a science and technology library would soon be set up in the State capital.



KCHR Fellowships

THE KERALA Council for Historic Research (KCHR) has instituted two categories of fellowships, as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the formation of Kerala. The fellowships offer both academic and monetary support.

Fellowship for Preliminary Post Doctoral Research is meant to initiate scholars into post doctoral research. The fellowship is open to Indian Nationals below 45 years. The seed money is limited to Rs 25,000 and can be utilised for field work, travel within India and for contingency expenses. Priority will be given to gender studies, dalit history, local history, environmental history and themes related to class consciousness. Selected researchers will be attached to senior subject experts or a committees of experts for academic consultation and guidance.

Fellowships to revise PhD Dissertation is available to scholars to modify their PhD thesis for publication. The financial assistance will be a maximum of Rs 50,000 and can be utilised for field work, travel within India and contingency expenses. The revised thesis should be submitted to the Council within one year.

Researchers may apply before February 28, 2007, to the Director, KCHR, PB No. 839, Thiruvananthapuram – 3, with CV and a detailed proposal. More details can be had from www.keralahistory.ac.in . E-mail: kchr@sancharnet.in. Phone: 0471 2310409, 6574988.

Kochi begins Birth Control



KOCHI HAS BECOME the first city in the State to implement the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

Smt. Maneka Gandhi MP, Chairperson of the Animal Welfare Board of India, handed over the fund for implementing sterilisation programme for street dogs to Kochi Mayor Smt. Mercy Williams in a function held at Kochi under the auspices of District Administration and SPCA.

In the first phase, 1000 dogs will be sterilised. The Animal Welfare Board of India is providing Rs.4.50 lakhs for the programme. The District Collector Shri. A.P.M. Muhammed Hanish said that the sterilisation project is a community programme.

Narrating her experience, Amala Akkineni, former film actress, said the very similar programme that launched in Hyderabad 14 years ago had helped to protect the society a lot. Those dogs guarded their area from the invasion of street dogs.

Earlier, Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Chini Krishna, Member, Animal Welfare Board for India and Shri Roy Thomas, Wildlife Warden, Eravikulam National Park attended the seminar on Animal Welfare and related laws at the Town Hall, Kochi. An exhibition was also conducted with the cooperation of SPCA, Animal Husbandry Department and Information and Public Relations Department.

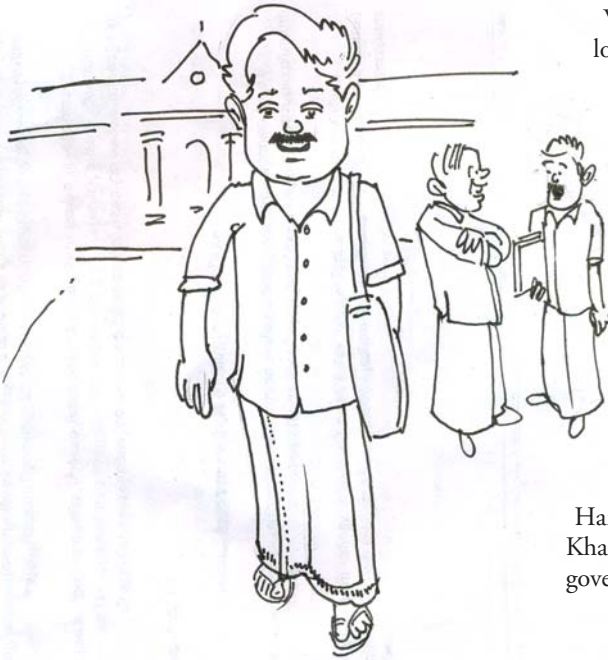
Malabar Shopping Festival

THE FOLKS OF KOZHIKODE have once again welcomed the great Malabar Shopping Festival with cheers. The festival organised in a way similar to that of Singapore and Dubai Festivals has attracted a large number of people even from the neighbouring districts. They are busy with shopping in the month long celebration which will be concluded on January 20.

'More Shopping, More Entertainment' is the motto of the festival. Helicopter travel facility is the main attraction in the Festival. Many other entertainment events like Flower Show, Film Festival, Circus, Football Match, Package Tour, Food Festival etc. are the other major attractions. Total estimated budget for the affair is around Rs Five crores.



Wearing the way out



What does dressing have to do with culture? The State Government find a lot in dressing, mainly in Malayali's own traditional dress 'MUNDU'. Government servants have come forward with a good model by holding our Khadhi products close. They have decided to wear Handloom khadhi dress on Saturdays to office. It's not only a respect to culture but for the over all development of the Khadhi and Handloom industries. The suggestion was put forward by the Principal Secretary of Industries Department T. Balakrishnan and Secretary P.H. Kuriyan.

Sri. V.S.Achuthandan, the chief minister, has inaugurated the grand idea of dress code for the government staff in a function on 6th Jan. 2007 at Durbar hall, Thiruvananthapuram.

Industries Minister Elamaram Kareem has welcomed the new endeavour, which will be an inspiration to all. When the mission attains the expected response, it will revamp the Khadhi and Handloom industries. At present the Khadhi and Handloom industry is subsisting on the rebate sales during festival season. At present there are about 35000 Handloom workers and 10000 Khadhi workers in the State. By popularising Khadhi and Handloom products among the five lakh government servants the government are planning to give a fillip to that traditional industry.

Priya Thuvassery

Life & Line

Ravindran





The inaugural ceremony was so colourful and unique with the lighting of lamps by the veterans of yester year Malayalam Cinema followed by the cultural show 'Incredible Kerala'.

Madhu Eravankara

The International Film festival of Kerala (IFFK-2006) held at Thiruvananthapuram has made yet another indelible mark in the map of International Film Festivals. As the Festival's Artistic Director claims, it is a 'Festival with versatility', showcasing the current trends in World Cinema.

A Festival With Versatility

The inaugural ceremony was so colourful and unique with the lighting of lamps by the veterans of yester year Malayalam Cinema followed by the cultural show 'Incredible Kerala'. The opening film, *Sounds of Sand*, directed by Marion Hansel, set in the wilderness of African desert took the audience to an unparalleled cinematic experience that

necessarily gave an insight into the characteristics of the films to come in the following days.

IFFK Competition

The standards of the films for the competition determine the character of a particular film festival. The IFFK-2006 could attract a bunch of renowned filmmakers from Asian, African and Latin



A still from the film 'Paradise now'



A still from the film 'Kiss me not on the eyes'



A view of the closing ceremony of IFFK 2006.

American countries for the competition, restricted to films from these countries. The devastating reports in the local media created an impression that the competition films were not up to the mark. To a serious cineaste these films were not disappointing as they represented various schools of filmmaking with distinct forms of narratives. However one should not discard the fact

that the general fall in the standards of films from these countries naturally reflect on the competition films too.

Malayalam & Indian Cinema

These sections could bring out a package of films, which do not necessarily represent the mainstream. The films like *Pulijanmam*, *Pranju Theeratha Visheshangal*, *Saira* and *Nottam* were refreshing. But the

Indian Cinema section is a warning to the alarming conditions of Regional Cinema where parallel cinema movement has already died out. But films like *Mati Maayi* (Marathi), *Naayi Neralu* (Kannada), *Kathanthar* (Oriya) and *Dosar* (Bengali) are rays hope indicating the green contour of real Indian Cinema.

World Cinema

This was the most attractive section of IFFK with a lot of brilliant selections. The festival audience had the opportunity to view some of the extra ordinary films like

The Bow (Kim-Ki duk), *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* (Ken Loach), *Volver* (Pedro Almadovar), *Climates* (Nuri Bilge Ceylan), *It's Winter* (Raffi Pitts), *Scream of the Ants* (Makhbal baf), *The Journey* (Gautam Ghosh) and *Hidden* (Michael Haneke).

Retrospectives, Contemporary Masters, Country Focus and Homage

One of the exciting highlights of IFFK-2006 was the retrospectives of the Phalke Award winner Adoor Gopalakrishnan, the mighty Brazilian director Glauber Rocha and the uncompromising French master Louis Malle. The films of Abderahmane Sissako, the celebrated second-generation African filmmaker and Albert Dupontel,



In the Country Focus section, films from South Africa, early Iranian films, French comedies and short films from Spain were presented of which the South African films have stolen the glamour of the show. *Sarafina*, *Cry the Beloved Country* and *The Red Desert* addressed the issues of South Africa of the post independence period.

Man is an absolute riddle. His moods and behaviours are unpredictable. Keeping the inner anarchy and restlessness within him, he smiles and shouts like a performer in a running drama show. But at times a sudden outburst occurs inviting the unexpected and putting the system in entropy. *Angel's Fall*, set in the backdrop of the modern city life, explores the inner world of human beings where loneliness, absence of love and longing for love forms an integral part.

An young lady Zeynep is working as a chambermaid in a big city hotel. She has no attachment with the people or world around her. She lives with her father to whom she has no intimacy at all. At times he becomes violent too. His behaviour seems to be unpredictable. She neither wants to be friendly with her colleague who unsuccessfully

ANGEL'S FALL



Angels' Fall/ Turkey- Greece/ 2005/35mm/Colour/98'/ Turkish

woes her. When her life was thus flowing uneventfully, she happens to meet an abandoned husband, which turns her life drastically.

FOREVER FLOWS



Forever Flows/Bangladesh/2006/35mm/Colour/95'/Bangla

And, yet another story of a sex worker who sacrifices her life for the sake of her family, *Forever Flows* dwells on the human predicament, the coldness of relationships, and the immaculate flow of life in its trials and tribulations.

Forever Flows, in Bangla language, is an adaptation of the acclaimed novel 'Janam Janam' by the celebrated novelist Humayoon Ahmed. The protagonist Thithi, the eldest daughter of an aristocratic but financially weak family, had to resort to the job of a sex worker to keep her family alive. Her old sick father, complaining mother and unemployed younger brother are very much dependent on her. A pimp, who dislikes his own unholy profession, helps her to find out suitable customers. For a brief period she enters into an uncomfortable relationship with an ill-fated wife of one of her client's. Thithi helps her brother to establish his business and soon he shifts to a modern

the cult figure from France were included in the Contemporary Masters section. In the Country Focus section, films from South Africa, early Iranian films, French comedies and short films from Spain were presented of which the South African films have stolen the glamour of the show. *Sanafina*, *Cry the Beloved Country* and *The Red Desert* addressed the issues of South

Africa of the post independence period. It was simply fair on the part of the festival to pay homage to one of the greatest cinematographers of the world Sven Nykvist, the noted Malayalam filmmaker Pavithran and the celluloid enchantress Srividya.

Jury Films, Documentaries

and Short Fiction films

A presentation of films by Jury members added charm to the festival. Patricio Guzman's *Salvador Allende*, Elia Suleiman's *Chronicle of Disappearance* and Revathi's

Phir Milenge need special applause. IFFK has paid due importance to otherwise marginalized documentaries and short

IFFK-2006 AWARDS

Angel's Fall is slow paced. Profusely employing wide frames to convey the melancholy mood of Zeynep, the director Semith Kaplanoglu, catches up the emotional build up of the protagonist. In craft, characterisation, and in the attempt of reaching the spectator, *Angel's Fall* excelled many of the films in the competition section and so rightfully shared the Suvarnachakoram of the 11th IFFK.

Angel's fall is Semith Kaplanoglu's second feature film, made in 2005, as a Turkey Greece co-production. The film has won many laurels in International Film festivals. The film had an entry in Berlin, Istanbul, Nantes, Pusan and Rootterdam film festivals before being screened in IFFK-2006

flat in the city with the parents. She is left alone in the ancestral house and realizes that her life will flow like this eternally without any change.

Even though the film has come from Bangladesh, directed by Abu Sayeed, it looks very much Indian in its set up and depiction of family drama. For an Indian viewer, there is nothing new in the theme, but the creative use of the film medium to expose an oft-repeated story is really commendable. And this might be one of the reasons for sharing the Suvarnachakoram by the film in IFFK-2006. Interestingly this may not be one of the best films in the competition section, but the assessment of an international jury is not to be taken in mistrust.

fiction films from all parts of the world and in addition special avenues were extended for animation films and diploma films from Film Schools.

Apart from screening the films IFFK could provide enough space for interactions and deliberations. The 'Open Forum', which dwelled on issues pertaining to cinema and the 'Meet the Director's

Programme' were daily events. A seminar on 'Digital Aesthetics and the Future of Cinema', lecture on 'The origins of American Film Noir', Workshop on 'Emerging Trends in Sound Recording' Lecture Demo on 'Digital Special Effects' and the Aravindan Memorial Lecture by Mani Kaul were the other highlights.

IFFK-2006 had more than six

IFFK-2006 had more than six thousand delegates registering a record. Does this in any way increase the quality of the festival? The answer is definitely negative. Issuing the delegate passes double the seating capacity naturally invited troubles in proper viewing.

- Suvarna Chakoram for the Best Film (Rs 10 Lakhs) Shared by the films *Angel's fall & For Ever Flows*
- Rajata Chakoram to the Best Director (Rs 3 Lakhs) Ashar Farhadi (Director of *Fireworks Wednesday*/Iran)
- Rajata Chakoram to the Best Debut Film of a Director (Rs 2 Lakhs) *Sankara* (Srilanka) directed by Prsanna Jayakodi
- Special Mention by the Jury *The Whispering Of The Gods* (Japan) directed by Tatsushi Omori
- Audience Prize Rajatachakoram to the Best Film in Competition voted by the festival delegates (Rs 1 lakh) *The Violin* (Mexico) directed by Francisco Vargas

Other Awards

Fipresci : Award for the Best Film in Competition

Forever Flows (Bangladesh) : Directed by Abu Sayeed

Netpac : Award for the Best Asian Film in Competition

Sankara (Srilanka) : Directed by Prasanna Jayakodi

thousand delegates registering a record. Does this in any way increase the quality of the festival? The answer is definitely negative. Issuing the delegate passes double the seating capacity naturally invited troubles in proper viewing. It may be an unpleasant observation that the decrease in the number of matured audience deteriorates the quality of the Kerala festival. The majority, it seems, are not interested in understanding the dynamics of cinema. The absence of a fine culture of film viewing has long lasting effects. The new audience cultures of 'impatience' coupled with lack of state-of-the-art exhibition centres make the other side of the IFFK not encouraging.

In spite of the shortcomings, IFFK is emerging as the topmost International Film Festival of the subcontinent with its wide acceptance in the International circuit, participation of domestic and foreign delegates, the organizational merits and providing a different platform for contemporary world cinema.

■ The writer is a filmmaker and Member of International Film Jury.

Sven Nykvist

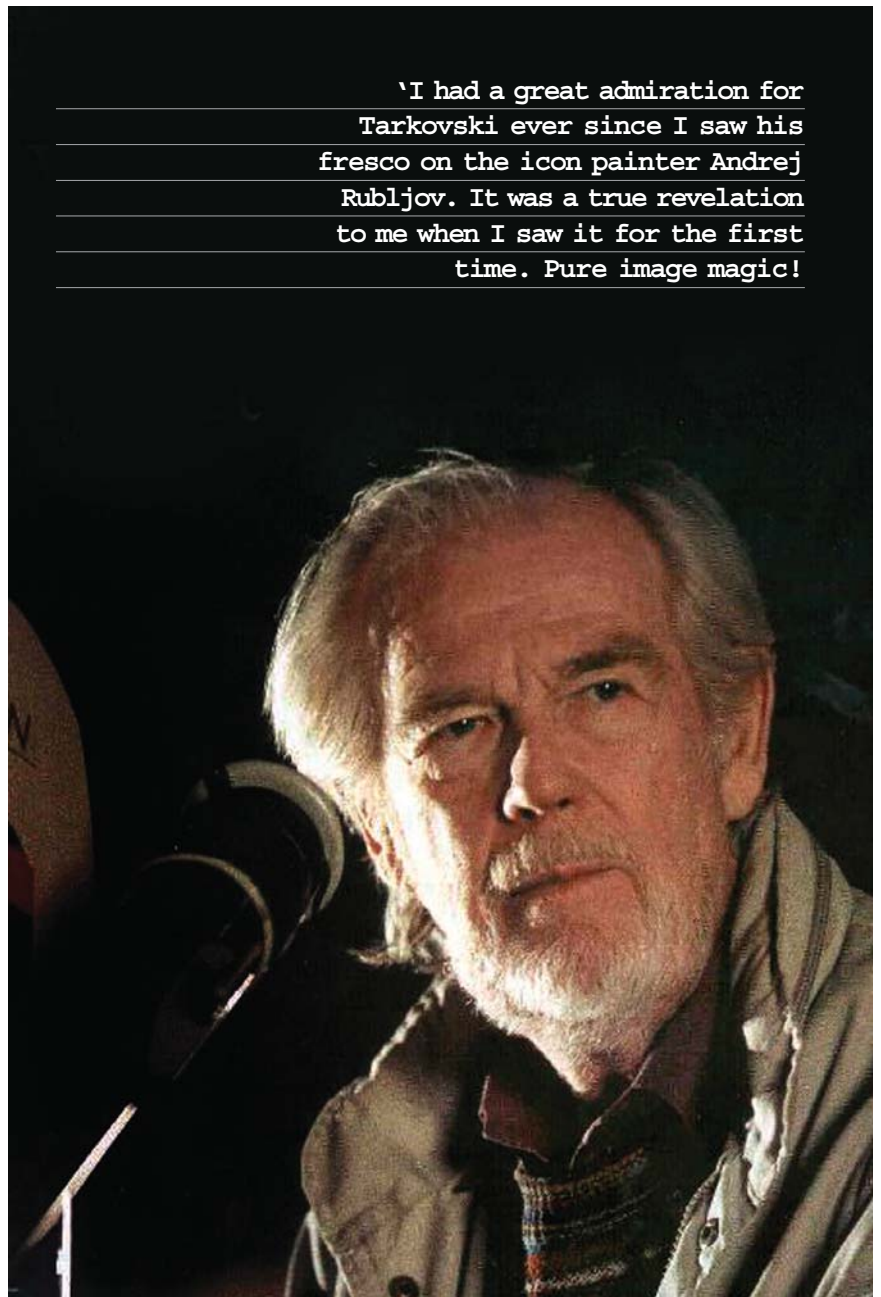
In the 11th IFFK

K.K.Chandran

Sven Vilhem Nykvist passed away on 29th sept.2006 after a prolonged career as one of the most admired poetic cinematographers of the world, having worked with world's number one film directors- like Andre Tarkovsky - Ingmar Bergman, Roman Polanski, Alan J. Pakula, Bob Rafelson, Paul Mazursky, Woody Allen and Louis Malle, to name a few. But he first gained prominence shooting for Bergman and he remained the only Bergman's cameraman until his death. Sven Nykvist, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Cinematographers at their 10th annual ASC. Nykvist has earned Oscars for *Cries and Whispers*, *Fanny and Alexander*, and a third nomination for *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. Perhaps he is the only cinematographer who had worked with top class intellectual film directors including Ingmar Bergman and Andre Tarkovsky.

When Sven Nykvist died I thought of writing an article on Sven Nykvist ,but got postponed. When the festival came in I heard that the Chalachitra Academy had included four selected films of Sven Nykvist to honour the gone Sven Nykvist.His son Carl-Gustaf Nykvist, made a documentary on his father's special talent and affinity towards light and shade in 2000 May, called *Light Keeps Me Company* in which there is a statement of Bergman : "Sven and I saw things alike, thought things alike; our feeling for light was the same. We had the same basic moral

'I had a great admiration for Tarkovski ever since I saw his fresco on the icon painter Andrej Rubl'jov. It was a true revelation to me when I saw it for the first time. Pure image magic!



positions about camera placement.” The closeness between the two makes it difficult to isolate Nykvist’s contribution to Bergman’s work, especially since Bergman’s own concept of cinema was changing at about the same time Nykvist became his regular cinematographer. But working with Tarkovsky in the film ‘Sacrifice’ gave him entirely a different experience. In his book *In Reverence of Light*, Sven Nykvist is as follows:

‘I had a great admiration for Tarkovski

ever since I saw his fresco on the icon painter Andrej Rubljov. It was a true revelation to me when I saw it for the first time. Pure image magic! His exile from the Soviet Union led him, by chance, to Sweden via Italy where he did *Nostalghia* in 1982. In 1984 in Cannes, Tarkovskij was invited to shoot his next film in Sweden. He had several potential film candidates, but in the end the choice fell on me for *The Sacrifice*.

I and Andrej got along very well indeed. We started out by watching each other’s movies. His appreciation for Bergman, and mine of his movies, caused us to muse on the many obvious differences. I could see that he obviously was not very

interested in lighting. To him, of primary importance were composition, camera movements, the literally moving image and choosing the correct types of people, with a particular kind of look, and to see to it that they had the right way of expressing themselves. Close-ups are also strikingly rare in Tarkovskij’s movies. He preferred to see the actors’ movements at a distance, almost choreographed, and *always* in the center of the frame.

It was not at all like Bergman you see!, but certain experiences are well worth the money, and, besides, I received a prestigious prize in Cannes for the film *The Sacrifice*.

Sven Nykvist was born in December

3rd, 1922 in Moheda, Kronobergs län, the son of non-conformist missionaries. His parents were in Africa and there in Africa his father used to photograph African wildlife and after coming back in Stockholm he happened to observe Nykvist’s interest in the visual arts, and his father gave him an 8mm camera. Later he had learned the fundamentals of cinematography at the Municipal School for Photographers in Stockholm. In 1945, aged 23, he became a full-fledged

intellectual themes and convert it into visual language, peculiar use of natural light sources complete His intense close-ups of Bibi Andersson and Liv Ullmann in Bergman’s *Persona* described by one critic as setting “a new standard in modernist film-making”. He was to accomplish a similar intensity and poetic use of close-up, in his colour films also.

Sven says, “Every picture defines its own look, and that definition begins with the director’s intentions for the script. Some



“The film camera is an incredible instrument for registering the human soul as reflected in the human face,” said Bergman. “Sven had a deep, intuitive feeling for the human face.”

cinematographer, and he started his career with Bergman in 1953 with ‘Sawdust and Tinsel’ which was screened in the festival. “The film camera is an incredible instrument for registering the human soul as reflected in the human face,” said Bergman. “Sven had a deep, intuitive feeling for the human face.”

His films with Bergman include such classics as *Virgin Spring*, *Persona*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Hour of the Wolf*, *Scenes From a Marriage*, *Winter Light*, *Cries and Whispers*, *Blue Moon*, and *Fanny and Alexander*. It is difficult to untangle their mutual influence on each other’s work. Nykvist’s unbelievable ability to conceive Bergman’s complex

directors have their own ideas about staging, lighting and composition. Others are mainly interested in the actors. You must be able to form a relationship with both types of directors, and also establish a feeling of trust between the cast and crew. I always tell the actors what I’m doing and why I’m doing it.”

“A motion picture doesn’t have to look absolutely realistic,” he says. “It can be beautiful and realistic at the same time. I am not interested in beautiful photography. I am interested in telling stories about human beings, how they act and why they act that way.....Sven Nykvist.”

■ The writer is a film maker.

IFFI vs IFFK

An onlooker's version

Ratheesh Radhakrishnan

For some years now, the month of December is the month of films for those Malayalis who actively seek the best of world cinema. In the space of less than a week, we have the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) now stationed in Goa – a destination made closer for us by the Konkan Railway – and our own International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) now stationed at Thiruvananthapuram. Like it or not, one ends up comparing and contrasting the experiences that is made available by these festivals. This year the comparison was its height as, for the audience of IFFK who couldn't make the Goa trip, the latter was marked by the well-publicised challenge posed by the Malayalam filmmaker TV Chandran that the Malayalis will show the Goans how to organise a film festival. By the time IFFK began, the popular understanding in Kerala, aided by the media, was that the Goa festival was a sham. As the festival at Thiruvananthapuram progressed, its conduct too came in for severe criticism. It is in this context that one will have to compare the two festivals.

What are the apparent differences between the two festivals? Let's take up some of the most discussed differences.

The most oft heard issue about lack of infrastructure and technology in IFFK in comparison to IFFI is one that would be accepted by anyone who has been to both the festivals. From cleaner toilets to better projection facilities with good sound (the case in point being *Volver* debacle), Thiruvananthapuram needs better facilities. This would be an uncontroversial desire on the part of film lovers unlike many other issues related to the quality of the film festival itself.

It was suggested by many that IFFK,

as opposed to IFFI, is more film centred. This suggestion – one that is accepted by most in Kerala – needs to be critically examined. This argument, when seen from the point of view of those of us who went to these festivals to watch films, does not hold water. In 2006, it could be argued that there were more interesting films in Goa while there were more number of films to choose from in Thiruvananthapuram. As this need not be the case in the past years, one cannot decide in favour of one festival or the other for all times to come. IFFK seemed to have more investment in filmmakers who are already constructed as 'Masters' unlike in Goa the big names of

filmmaking did not pose hurdles in our choices of films. To cite an example, I was witness to most delegates missing one of the best films of IFFK – *Takeshi's* by the Japanese director Takeshi Kitano – just because a film by the Iranian director Mohsen Makmal buff was being screened. That the former had only one screening while the latter was to be repeated did not deter people from missing out on a different filmmaker, lesser known in Kerala. On a personal note, my experience was that the number of films I liked was more in Goa compared to Thiruvananthapuram. It looked like while films in the former were thematically diverse and interesting than

It was suggested by many that IFFK, as opposed to IFFI, is more film centred. This suggestion – one that is accepted by most in Kerala – needs to be critically examined.



A scene from 'Half Moon'



A scene from 'french fried vacation'

the latter. The suggestion is not that this is an intrinsic quality of either of the festivals. This accidentally or otherwise was the case for this year.

A critique like the one made by T.V. Chandran was not about the films that were screened in Goa but about the 'excessive' consideration given to Bollywood stars. Was this then a lament about not getting a piece of the limelight? Interestingly actresses like Revathy and Suhasini and actors like Pashupathy (Tamil) were seen to be standing in queues like common delegates to watch films at the festival in Goa. It is interesting that none of them were interested in making a critique like the one made by T. V. Chandran. In IFFK on the other hand, one didn't see a single actor or director of repute watching films with the same curiosity and excitement shown by delegates. For those who were upset by the marginalisation of the 'Open Forum' in Goa, it was a shock to see the discussion space in the Thiruvananthapuram festival having a similar fate.

A related problem raised by many was about the allied activities that were organised around IFFI being central in Goa as opposed to films. One is referring here to the stalls of food, coffee and alcohol that were erected outside the INOX theatre where the films were screened. For the delegates who had come from various parts of the country, the atmosphere of a carnival full of music and fun, was an added attraction to the collection of films.

The way in which the film festival is linked to the everyday life of local population is important. In Goa, the local

people were involved in the festival by visiting the venue and taking part in the fun and fiesta around. The colour and splendour at festival is an asset rather than a diversion. The question to ask is also why in Thiruvananthapuram, the festival is unable to take the local populace into confidence. It is surely not a crime to be not interested in world cinema. It is then important to provide openings for the non-film buff to visit and possibly take interest in future festivals. One wonders why the critics are more interested in these fringe issues rather than discussing issues related to, say, the selection of films for the Indian Panorama for example? At a time when the Indian Panorama is showcasing pathetically outdated films, isn't it important that the quality of Indian cinema is discussed instead of whether people are drinking coffee or alcohol?

One of the best things about the Thiruvananthapuram festival is its wide participation. The profile of the festival audience has had a significant shift in the last few years. More young people, students and women are seen at this festival compared to earlier times. The democratic impulse behind this is laudable. But this takes a disturbing turn when one hears people with diverse investments in democracy from Adoor to the film scholar C.S Venkiteswaran writing in the media about the unruly behaviour of the audience. Let me suggest that these two desires – for democracy and for a disciplined audience – is not compatible. One encounters a disciplined audience in Goa, for example, because the location

(along with the projected expenses of staying Goa for 10 days etc.) and the hype itself which ensures an elitist audience. It is only a specialised elitist audience who could be asked to behave themselves in the cinema theatres. Once the democratic impulse is accepted, a fan-like response from the audience has to be expected. For someone like me who has been constantly irritated by the comments and the catcalls by the audience, the solace was in the fact that responses these generated were effective and did silence most of these 'unruly' ones.

IFFK will have to decide one way or the other. Is it an elitist (in intellectual terms, not in economic terms) enterprise or is it a democratic event? Pretence of democracy, I would like to remind, does not stand in for democracy itself. A related issue is that of cinephilia or the desire to devour cinema, which seems to be bottom line of IFFK. A discussion of the causes and results of an uncritical cinephilia is beyond this piece. What desire is being fulfilled by the consumption of world cinema?

Before we compare IFFI and IFFK, we will have to look at the historical contexts within which these film festivals function. This is important because it is possible that these film festivals occupy different locations, which might make an evaluative comparison impossible. IFFI started in 1952 as part of a series of post-independence initiatives that attempted to produce a national-modern cultural imagination. A series of such developments including the canonisation of Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* (1955) as the model for national cinema, the institutionalisation of Film and Television Institute of India (Pune), the National Film Archives of India etc. should be read in tandem with the shaping of the character of IFFI. Another significant initiative that had immense influence in shaping the ideal audience for IFFI was the Film Appreciation Courses organised by FTII. The film viewing culture developed in these contexts was instrumental in the mushrooming of film societies all over the country including Kerala. The production of a 'good' audience who could appreciate 'good' cinema was important in the success of IFFI over the years.

As many film scholars and film historians have pointed out, this audience that was shaped by these initiatives



The inaugural ceremony was so colourful and unique with the lighting of lamps by the veterans of yester year Malayalam Cinema followed by the cultural show 'Incredible Kerala'.

Madhu Eravankara

The International Film festival of Kerala (IFFK-2006) held at Thiruvananthapuram has made yet another indelible mark in the map of International Film Festivals. As the Festival's Artistic Director claims, it is a 'Festival with versatility', showcasing the current trends in World Cinema.

A Festival With Versatility

The inaugural ceremony was so colourful and unique with the lighting of lamps by the veterans of yester year Malayalam Cinema followed by the cultural show 'Incredible Kerala'. The opening film, *Sounds of Sand*, directed by Marion Hansel, set in the wilderness of African desert took the audience to an unparalleled cinematic experience that

necessarily gave an insight into the characteristics of the films to come in the following days.

IFFK Competition

The standards of the films for the competition determine the character of a particular film festival. The IFFK-2006 could attract a bunch of renowned filmmakers from Asian, African and Latin



A still from the film 'Paradise now'



A still from the film 'Kiss me not on the eyes'



A view of the closing ceremony of IFFK 2006.

American countries for the competition, restricted to films from these countries. The devastating reports in the local media created an impression that the competition films were not up to the mark. To a serious cineaste these films were not disappointing as they represented various schools of filmmaking with distinct forms of narratives. However one should not discard the fact

that the general fall in the standards of films from these countries naturally reflect on the competition films too.

Malayalam & Indian Cinema

These sections could bring out a package of films, which do not necessarily represent the mainstream. The films like *Pulijanmam*, *Pranju Theeratha Visheshangal*, *Saira* and *Nottam* were refreshing. But the

Indian Cinema section is a warning to the alarming conditions of Regional Cinema where parallel cinema movement has already died out. But films like *Mati Maayi* (Marathi), *Naayi Neralu* (Kannada), *Kathanthar* (Oriya) and *Dosar* (Bengali) are rays hope indicating the green contour of real Indian Cinema.

World Cinema

This was the most attractive section of IFFK with a lot of brilliant selections. The festival audience had the opportunity to view some of the extra ordinary films like

The Bow (Kim-Ki duk), *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* (Ken Loach), *Volver* (Pedro Almadovar), *Climates* (Nuri Bilge Ceylan), *It's Winter* (Raffi Pitts), *Scream of the Ants* (Makhbal baf), *The Journey* (Gautam Ghosh) and *Hidden* (Michael Haneke).

Retrospectives, Contemporary Masters, Country Focus and Homage

One of the exciting highlights of IFFK-2006 was the retrospectives of the Phalke Award winner Adoor Gopalakrishnan, the mighty Brazilian director Glauber Rocha and the uncompromising French master Louis Malle. The films of Abderahmane Sissako, the celebrated second-generation African filmmaker and Albert Dupontel,



In the Country Focus section, films from South Africa, early Iranian films, French comedies and short films from Spain were presented of which the South African films have stolen the glamour of the show. *Sarafina*, *Cry the Beloved Country* and *The Red Desert* addressed the issues of South Africa of the post independence period.

Man is an absolute riddle. His moods and behaviours are unpredictable. Keeping the inner anarchy and restlessness within him, he smiles and shouts like a performer in a running drama show. But at times a sudden outburst occurs inviting the unexpected and putting the system in entropy. *Angel's Fall*, set in the backdrop of the modern city life, explores the inner world of human beings where loneliness, absence of love and longing for love forms an integral part.

An young lady Zeynep is working as a chambermaid in a big city hotel. She has no attachment with the people or world around her. She lives with her father to whom she has no intimacy at all. At times he becomes violent too. His behaviour seems to be unpredictable. She neither wants to be friendly with her colleague who unsuccessfully

ANGEL'S FALL



Angels' Fall/ Turkey- Greece/ 2005/35mm/Colour/98'/ Turkish

woes her. When her life was thus flowing uneventfully, she happens to meet an abandoned husband, which turns her life drastically.

FOREVER FLOWS



Forever Flows/Bangladesh/2006/35mm/Colour/95'/Bangla

And, yet another story of a sex worker who sacrifices her life for the sake of her family, *Forever Flows* dwells on the human predicament, the coldness of relationships, and the immaculate flow of life in its trials and tribulations.

Forever Flows, in Bangla language, is an adaptation of the acclaimed novel 'Janam Janam' by the celebrated novelist Humayoon Ahmed. The protagonist Thithi, the eldest daughter of an aristocratic but financially weak family, had to resort to the job of a sex worker to keep her family alive. Her old sick father, complaining mother and unemployed younger brother are very much dependent on her. A pimp, who dislikes his own unholy profession, helps her to find out suitable customers. For a brief period she enters into an uncomfortable relationship with an ill-fated wife of one of her client's. Thithi helps her brother to establish his business and soon he shifts to a modern

the cult figure from France were included in the Contemporary Masters section. In the Country Focus section, films from South Africa, early Iranian films, French comedies and short films from Spain were presented of which the South African films have stolen the glamour of the show. *Sanafina*, *Cry the Beloved Country* and *The Red Desert* addressed the issues of South

Africa of the post independence period. It was simply fair on the part of the festival to pay homage to one of the greatest cinematographers of the world Sven Nykvist, the noted Malayalam filmmaker Pavithran and the celluloid enchantress Srividya.

Jury Films, Documentaries

and Short Fiction films

A presentation of films by Jury members added charm to the festival. Patricio Guzman's *Salvador Allende*, Elia Suleiman's *Chronicle of Disappearance* and Revathi's

Phir Milenge need special applause. IFFK has paid due importance to otherwise marginalized documentaries and short

IFFK-2006 AWARDS

Angel's Fall is slow paced. Profusely employing wide frames to convey the melancholy mood of Zeynep, the director Semith Kaplanoglu, catches up the emotional build up of the protagonist. In craft, characterisation, and in the attempt of reaching the spectator, *Angel's Fall* excelled many of the films in the competition section and so rightfully shared the Suvarnachakoram of the 11th IFFK.

Angel's fall is Semith Kaplanoglu's second feature film, made in 2005, as a Turkey Greece co-production. The film has won many laurels in International Film festivals. The film had an entry in Berlin, Istanbul, Nantes, Pusan and Rootterdam film festivals before being screened in IFFK-2006

flat in the city with the parents. She is left alone in the ancestral house and realizes that her life will flow like this eternally without any change.

Even though the film has come from Bangladesh, directed by Abu Sayeed, it looks very much Indian in its set up and depiction of family drama. For an Indian viewer, there is nothing new in the theme, but the creative use of the film medium to expose an oft-repeated story is really commendable. And this might be one of the reasons for sharing the Suvarnachakoram by the film in IFFK-2006. Interestingly this may not be one of the best films in the competition section, but the assessment of an international jury is not to be taken in mistrust.

fiction films from all parts of the world and in addition special avenues were extended for animation films and diploma films from Film Schools.

Apart from screening the films IFFK could provide enough space for interactions and deliberations. The 'Open Forum', which dwelled on issues pertaining to cinema and the 'Meet the Director's

Programme' were daily events. A seminar on 'Digital Aesthetics and the Future of Cinema', lecture on 'The origins of American Film Noir', Workshop on 'Emerging Trends in Sound Recording' Lecture Demo on 'Digital Special Effects' and the Aravindan Memorial Lecture by Mani Kaul were the other highlights.

IFFK-2006 had more than six

IFFK-2006 had more than six thousand delegates registering a record. Does this in any way increase the quality of the festival? The answer is definitely negative. Issuing the delegate passes double the seating capacity naturally invited troubles in proper viewing.

- Suvarna Chakoram for the Best Film (Rs 10 Lakhs) Shared by the films *Angel's fall & For Ever Flows*
- Rajata Chakoram to the Best Director (Rs 3 Lakhs) Ashar Farhadi (Director of *Fireworks Wednesday*/Iran)
- Rajata Chakoram to the Best Debut Film of a Director (Rs 2 Lakhs) *Sankara* (Srilanka) directed by Prsanna Jayakodi
- Special Mention by the Jury *The Whispering Of The Gods* (Japan) directed by Tatsushi Omori
- Audience Prize Rajatachakoram to the Best Film in Competition voted by the festival delegates (Rs 1 lakh) *The Violin* (Mexico) directed by Francisco Vargas

Other Awards

Fipresci : Award for the Best Film in Competition

Forever Flows (Bangladesh) : Directed by Abu Sayeed

Netpac : Award for the Best Asian Film in Competition

Sankara (Srilanka) : Directed by Prasanna Jayakodi

thousand delegates registering a record. Does this in any way increase the quality of the festival? The answer is definitely negative. Issuing the delegate passes double the seating capacity naturally invited troubles in proper viewing. It may be an unpleasant observation that the decrease in the number of matured audience deteriorates the quality of the Kerala festival. The majority, it seems, are not interested in understanding the dynamics of cinema. The absence of a fine culture of film viewing has long lasting effects. The new audience cultures of 'impatience' coupled with lack of state-of-the-art exhibition centres make the other side of the IFFK not encouraging.

In spite of the shortcomings, IFFK is emerging as the topmost International Film Festival of the subcontinent with its wide acceptance in the International circuit, participation of domestic and foreign delegates, the organizational merits and providing a different platform for contemporary world cinema.

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