



## EDITORIAL

### VISION **Balanced and Committed**

Kerala enters a new phase of development. The Call 'Fast Forward' becomes the creative impetus for the entire governance and the social order. A span of five years is not so long while considering the developmental activities as a whole. So it needs Care. Care for the people, care for the country and above all, care for the environment. Our new government offers a 24x7 care and speedy activities for the development of the State and welfare of the people. The Government is coming out with a clear road map for Kerala. It does not believe in mere populist declarations. It believes in creative and constructive activities.

The first hundred days of the new United Democratic Front Government are going to witness multitude of developmental activities in Kerala. It is the committed response to the verdict of the people and its underlying message. The moto, 'Always Alerted' is the positive sign and the potential foundation of the government. The government realises that many a people do not have access to the primary facilities such as housing, water and light. So the government ought to engage itself in fruitful efforts for implementing welfare measures aimed at the poor and needy, especially the tribal and other backward communities. The planned hundred days are marked with enough such laudable and realistic initiatives.

Welfare will not be achieved without development. The Government is exploring new ways for fresh investments. Large scale projects such as Smart City, Vizhinjam Port, Kannur Airport, Kochi Metro will open new realms of development. However, in each step, the Government will stand for equitable distribution of resources among all sections of the society.

The Government has already declared its commitment to provide relief to people reeling under the impact of price rise. We can witness strong measures within the limitation of the State Government to curb the price rise. The Government is also committed to facilitate health care for the common man.

Even now we could not tap the tourism potential of Kerala. The new government has much concern for that. The Government assures a balanced approach, considering our environment and culture for the tourism development. The steps taken by the UDF Government for the Endosulphan victims of Kasaragod and Moolampilli rehabilitation are worth mentioning.

Let us strive together for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Kerala by lending a helping hand to the efforts of the new Government.

**M. Nandakumar IAS**  
Director

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## RESPONSE



### Editorial Materials

The articles/features appearing in this magazine are either commissioned or assigned. Nevertheless, other articles are also welcome. A maximum of 750 wordage is appreciated. Such items should be addressed to

**The Editor, Kerala Calling,  
 First Floor,  
 Secretariat Annexe,  
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 PIN – 695 001.**

These may also be e-mailed to [keralacalling@gmail.com](mailto:keralacalling@gmail.com)

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**VIEW**S expressed in the articles published in *Kerala Calling* are not, necessarily, those of the Government. *Kerala Calling* welcomes free expression of divergent views and exchange of ideas through its pages.

Kerala Calling, please include A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's profile, speech, life, discoveries, merits and demerits etc. for a developed India.

**Mahesh Kumaran M**  
 9747437279

Volume 31 is 'amazing'. Thank you very much.

**Ramshad M.,** Mattannoor  
 9496141081

I congratulate the team of Kerala Calling for its attraction. Please include a column about classic actors in every film industry. Then I wish you all the very best for your future plans.

**Bonson T. Baby,** Ponnani  
 9846792447

The cover story 'Keep Life a Move' (May issue) makes excellent reading. We readily agree that one becomes mellowed and generous when there is love inside. Retirement makes you a busy, compassionate person, if love abounds in you.

**N.K. Vijayan,** Kizhakkambalam  
 9447294766

Kerala Calling is a unique magazine. It included special articles. Please include business articles. Thank you.

**Harsha Yethadka,** Kasaragod  
 9496036071

### Old is not so gold

The May issue of Kerala Calling is really amazing. The world's aged population is growing at a fast pace and they will soon outnumber the young. There will be a major economic crisis. The ageing population will push up pension and health care costs, forcing major increases in public spending that could slow down economic growth in countries world over. An American research team reported that people aged 80 and older are the fastest

growing portion of the total population in many countries. Globally, this "oldest Old" population is projected to increase by 233 per cent between 2008 and 2040. This could strain their children and grand children. If only the countries are at right business plan, the ageing population could create opportunities for economic growth.

**Nithin S.L.**

Chenkottukonam, Thiruvananthapuram

### Like to Subscribe

Sir, I came across to read your publication, the "Kerala Calling." I am earnestly attracted to its structure and contents. I would like to subscribe it.

**Naushad M.P.**

Parappanangadi, Malappuram

### The Princely Pepper

The much talked about Mangattachan story on Thiruvathira Njattuvela is nicely reproduced in the May article of Kerala Calling. But there are arguments that the King himself has made such a comment. Albeit, the pepper remains as black gold even now.

**Santhosh S.R.,** Kozhikode

### A Window to the Wealth

I am too much happy at your decision to publish a piece on backyard trees of Kerala. There are many other under exploited plants and trees like Kodampuli that are grown in the homesteads of Kerala. Most of them have unique scientific features. Appreciate your efforts to vitalise the possibilities behind them which are among the most underutilised natural wealth in the State of Kerala.

**Binitha,** Mannam Memorial Model School, Malayinkil



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# 24x7 Vigil for Caring

**O**n behalf of UDF and on my behalf, I wish to extend my heartiest thanks to all those who continuously voted UDF to victory, in the Lok Sabha and local bodies, and now in the Legislative Assembly.

We fully understand the message underlying your verdict during this election. We believe that the small majority will serve as an impetus to an excellent performance. We realise that your mandate is towards making UDF function with constant vigil, responsibility and effectiveness. Our aim is to put forth a good governance that promotes development coupled with care, that is totally transparent, without corruption besides upholding law and order. I assure you that the Government will stand with you, for you, from start to finish.

Your commitment to change, as demonstrated by your verdict in three consecutive elections, gives us encouragement. We hope to fulfill your desires through hard work. I clarify that this Government would be alert throughout. The principle of social justice is the foundation of Kerala. UDF is governed by the concept of egalitarianism that sees all as equal. We will safeguard this without any harm.

A Government that stands along with the poor, a government which actively participate in

# Development



developmental activities, corruption-free government, care ensuring and quickly acting government – these will be the hallmarks of this Government. The target will definitely be achieved with the cooperation and help of you.

There is no point in concealing the fact that several of our people do not have access to the primary facilities, viz., housing, water and light, even after decades of Independence. We will make strong efforts for implementing welfare measures for the poor, tribals and other backward sections. We will devise creative ways to salvage the agricultural sector that is presently going through a crisis. It is important that the ones that lie backward are brought to the forefront in order to achieve welfare and prosperity in the State. No society can leap forward by being unjust to them.

Welfare activities can be implemented only if development takes place. Fresh investments can usher in new jobs and bring revenues to the Government. UDF aims to propel all sections to the front through equitable distribution. We have only figures of loss when talking about development. Neighbouring States, which were hitherto backward to Kerala, have now overtaken us quickly. Our youth don't have places to run to, as the world is going through an economic recession. Kerala should be made an investor-friendly State. There should

be an increase in basic infrastructure. Large-scale projects that can take Kerala forward should be implemented in a time-bound manner. I am quite aware of the challenges faced by the Government in the realm of development. We should have a consensual voice vis-à-vis development. The Government will adopt an approach that takes the Opposition into confidence.

The greatest threat faced by our country is the growing corruption in our society. The Government will be extremely wary of this octopus, which has the potential to even shake off the confidence of people from democratic systems. Corruption reaches the lower tiers by delaying and derailing services that are rightfully due for the citizens. We will now come up with a solution for this through people's participation and strong action from the Government. Unbiased efforts would be taken up to independently investigate allegations of corruption and to bring the suspects before the law.

The main responsibility of the Government is to safeguard the life and property of its people. The rule of law is the biggest protection that can be given to the people. The challenges to this were manifest through the various disturbances faced by the country in the last years. UDF will respect the right to protest and



The biggest drawback of the previous Government was the gap between speech and action. The UDF staunchly stands by whatever it said while serving as the Opposition.



strike. But it should not be at the cost of others' rights and freedom. Special consideration would be given to weaker sections while imparting justice. The biggest challenge faced by all sections of people today is the price rise. The situation is that all face a toppling of their family budget. We will take up the prime responsibility of providing relief to

people reeling under the impact of price rise through strong measures that also keep pace with reality. The Government will not adopt the stance wherein the blame of price rise is shifted on to somebody else.

Rising cost of healthcare is a major problem confronting the common man. Kerala has the best medical services in

the world. But it is beyond the reach of the common man. The aim of this Government is to make available this facility, hitherto privy to the rich alone, to all. It is proposed to implement this through the comprehensive medical insurance scheme, with the participation of Central and State Governments and voluntary organisations. I assure you that

# 100 days Hundreds of HOPES

The UDF Government  
on the move

- Transparency is the Hallmark of Government • Sternly Against Corruption
- Fast - Forward • Development and Care

## Transparency

### Details of Assets for public inspection

- Ministers and their families
- Senior Officers under the category of All India Service Officers and Department Heads
- Personnel Staff of Ministers and their family members
- Advocate General and Government Law Officers and their family members

### Government Orders for public inspection

- All government orders will be uploaded on the website on the same day of their issue
- The price bid result of all Government tenders will be on the website on the day of opening of the bid itself
- All Government contracts and agreements will be on the website on the same day of their signing .
- Department level action against the officials causing delay in giving copies of the government files in stipulated time on request under Right to Information Act





this Government would serve as a shade tree for the common man.

We do all that is possible for children, both at the individual and family levels. However the current availability of seats in higher education is not sufficient to cater to even students who pass out from Kerala. Malayalis have spent more than Rs.10,000 crores for the education of

children in neighbouring states. We were then blocking the way of such institutions by indulging in ideological debates. We will create an environment that will prompt the setting up of world-class educational institutions in Kerala.

In the last five years, Kerala has not had any fresh investors or investments. They all will come to Kerala if it emerges as an investor-friendly State. People with capital should have trust to make investments.

Entrepreneurs, managements and professionals should develop confidence. The non-resident Keralites should have confidence. Kerala will witness a revolution in development, if non-resident Keralites alone decide to invest in Kerala.

Though Kerala has made enviable progress in the tourism sector thanks to its beautiful landscapes, the percentage of foreign tourists who visited Kerala in 2009 was only 5.5 lakhs. These figures do not tally with the campaign that Kerala is a paradise for tourists.

Kerala, which showed initial momentum by setting up the first IT Park, is now lagging behind in the IT sector. At a time when neighbouring States out progressed Kerala in the IT sector by 25 times, Kerala has not been able to implement the Smart City Project, for which the Opposition

provided full support. The Government will create an environment that can completely harness the potentialities of the IT and tourism sectors. The Government is determined to not have development at the cost of environment. The Government will adopt a balanced approach, in which development and environment will scientifically go hand-in-hand.

The biggest drawback of the previous Government was the gap between speech and action. The UDF staunchly stands by whatever it said while serving as the Opposition. All unauthorised dealings against the well-being of people, acts of violation of law and illegal recruitments will be thoroughly scrutinised. However, there will be no act of vengeance it. No one will be preyed upon.

There will be no acts of conciliations and compromises just for the sake of retaining the Government. We will go forward with strong decisions and measures. The Government will make decisions it has to make; it will be implemented. I hope that we will all form a collective that will work towards achieving common objectives, and that it will take Kerala forward quickly by treading along the paths of development and care. I request each one of your cooperation. ■

- Facility to file applications and pay online under Right to Information Act
- Fee for applying under Right to Information Act will be accepted in all government offices in the State as Postal Order or Money Order

### Battle against Corruption

- By maintaining confidentiality, total protection for the informers of corruption in the model of whistle blower protection policy of Chief Vigilance Commission. Special set up at Chief Minister's Office to receive such information
- Reward for those aiding in detection of corruption
- Citizens Charter in all offices

### Institutional action against Corruption

- Chief Vigilance Commission's guidelines will be followed in the tender / procurement / purchase procedures
- State Lok Ayukta Bill will be revised and strengthened in accordance with the Lokpal Bill, being prepared jointly by the Central Government and the civil society
- Plan for Financial and Social Pre Audit will be prepared for the major projects in Kerala, taking into consideration of the planned resource spending, transparency and the social gain from these projects



### Transparency and Efficiency

- Chief Minister's Office will function 24x7
- Live Web Casting of the functioning of Chief Minister's Office
- Grievance Redressal Cell will function in all District Collectorates

## Governance; right into the problems of the people

- Mass Contact programmes in all districts under the leadership of the Chief Minister
- One minister each will be entrusted with the coordination of developmental and welfare activities of each district
- Mass Contact programmes at Taluk Headquarters under District Collector's leadership

## Sharp Evaluation

- Special arrangements in the offices of Chief Minister and Ministers for monitoring of programme implementation and evaluation. This will be monitored by Chief Minister
- Steps to implement target and goal setting exercise in the developmental programmes at three-tier panchayats
- The Performance Management and Evaluation System of Central Cabinet Secretariat will be implemented
- Emphasis will be given to department level coordination and combining of e-governance programmes on the basis of the recommendations of the National E-Governance Programme of the Central Government
- Workshop for the Cabinet, in association with IIM, Kozhikode

## Kerala Vision 2030 Idea Bank

State-of-the-art system with the help of information technology to receive online suggestions from people as part of the public debate for bringing Kerala fast ahead

## Care

### Against price hike

- 25 kg. rice at Rs.1 a kg for all families living below the poverty line will be disbursed during Onam after completing all procedures within 100 days. Rs.1 a kg rice will be given to the orphans also.
- Ration cards will be issued after clearing three lakh pending applications. Then after ration cards will be issued on the same day of applying
- Tribes who are not government employees or their income does not exceed Rs.25,000 will be included in the BPL List

- Vegetable seed kits will be distributed at houses

## For the poor

- Ashraya Scheme will be expanded in all panchayats. The helpless and the poorest of poor will be included in it
- Totally exhausted people will be protected through Ashraya Scheme
- Anganvadi teachers and helpers, who resigned for contesting in the election for local self government institutions, will be given reappointment. In future, Anganvadi Teachers and Helpers need not resign to contest in the election for local self government institutions. Those who won the elections will be given opportunity to rejoin in their job after their term.
- Wages of cooking staff of Mid-day Meal Programme will be enhanced

## About vital issues

- Package for Endosulfan victims
- Moolampilly Package will be implemented
- After identifying the flaws in the Chengara Rehabilitation, solution will be found
- Stringent steps to prevent child labour and child begging
- Rehabilitation activities of the unmarried mothers of Wayanad will be completed
- Nets damaged by sea-toads will be replaced to fisher folk
- Differently abled people will be identified and certificates will be issued to them in all blocks
- Vayomithram project aimed at giving aid to the aged, will be implemented in 14 districts

## Safety Shields

- Health Care Insurance Programme will be implemented more effectively and extensively
- Police actions and awareness programmes to curb the extensive usage of tobacco and its products including pan parag.
- Insurance Programme to meet hospital expenses of road accident victims
  - Anti-narcotic clubs in college campuses

## Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme

- E-Muster Roll will be implemented with transparency
- Model Social Audit in all districts





- Wage distribution lag of 30 to 40 days prevailing at present, will be reduced to 15 days (Zero Delay)

### Labour Policy

- Labour Policy for protecting the rights of labourers, enhancing job opportunities and ensuring productivity
- Steps will be taken to end the practice of collecting nokkukooli

### Agriculture Sector

- Arrears of those procured paddy at Kuttanad, will be cleared. Compensation for the loss due to summer rain. Sufficient harvesting machines will be purchased.
- Plan to protect owners of farms adjacent to forest land from the threat of wild animals
- Agriculture Research and Training Institute with Central aid to develop an aptitude for agriculture among students and the youth.

### Filth-free Kerala

Decentralised garbage treatment with the help of local self government institutions. Steps to achieve the target of Clean Kerala with public participation

### Prosperity to Kerala Lottery

- Lottery Ordinance will be made an Act in the first Session itself
- The exploitation of other state lotteries will be stopped
- Will encourage State Lottery

## Bustle of Development

### Kerala again investor-friendly

- Clear steps to make Kerala an investor-friendly state again. Industrial and IT policies needed to this will be formulated
- Investment Promotion and Employment Creation Agency will be formulated under the Chief Minister to attract investment
- An Investment Advisory Council for the Chief Minister will be formulated
- Chief Minister/Minister level meetings with IT, Tourism, Education and Health Care investors in India and abroad. Participation of Non-Resident Keralites will be ensured
- Discussions in Delhi with Ambassadors/High Commissioners of various countries about the investment possibilities in the State
- The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy of the State will be coordinated with that of Central Government

### Mega Projects, Environment

- Environment Impact Study Committee will be organised
- Stringent steps to materialise Smart City, Vizhinjam Harbour, Kochi Metro, Kannur Airport, Capital City Development Programmes etc.

### New Policy for Land Acquisition

- A Land Acquisition Policy acceptable to the land owners will be formulated
- Market price will be given to land owners
- If the evictees do not want money as compensation for the acquired land, they will be entitled to Transferable Development Right



- Land will be acquired only after giving compensation to the owners
- Special Rehabilitation Package for those who lose homes
- The first beneficiary of a projects is the person who loses land for the same

### Development Authorities

- Hill Area Development Authority
- Coastal Area Development Authority



- Kochi Metropolitan Regional Development Authority
- State Maritime Board
- Development Authorities in Kollam and Thrissur Corporations
- Capital City Development Authority
- Constructional activities of the National Waterway and State Waterway will be commenced

### Hand-in-hand with the Centre

Arrangement in Delhi to obtain more projects and packages by making Centre-State relationship more cordial and for the follow up of the same

## Road

Help lines will be to receive complaints about the maintenance of roads under government and to get them redressed.

## Maintenance of Law and Order

- Stringent action against the criminals in Police
- Anti-Goonda Act will be strictly implemented. Strict action against the law breakers and quotation teams after preparing Goonda list
- Legal steps to protect the right of others while retaining the democratic right for agitation and protection

## Swiftness at Sabarimala

A special Committee headed by the Devaswom Minister will be formulated to implement the Sabarimala Master Plan

## Cinema Industry

A Cell headed by DIG to take steps against the racket which destroys cinema industry through internet and fake CDs.

## Red Tape withers away

- Among the 1.40 lakh files held up in Secretariat, those having no legal encumbrance will be disposed off.
- Among the three lakh files held up in departments, those having no legal encumbrance will be disposed off.
- Steps to speedy disposal of the files held up in districts



## National Games

- Steps will be initiated to the implementation of Rs.560 crore activities in seven districts as part of the National Games awaited by sports Kerala. All the documents and the progress of works related to National Games will be published in the website.

## Educational Sector

- Comprehensive programme to enhance the standards of general education
- NOC to Higher Professional Self Financing Colleges

## White Paper

- White Paper on financial status

## Transparency in Appointments

- Appointments to the Universities through PSC
- The three per cent job quota to the physically handicapped, blind, deaf and dumb will be implemented by filling the pending vacancies

## New initiative in Registration

- Commencing of making all registration offices online, online application facility for Encumbrance Certificate and Copy of Deed in 10 Sub Registrar Offices has begun.
- Registration of Partnership Firm will be made online
- Charitable Society Registration through online

## Policies to Pilot

- IT Policy
- Housing Policy
- Excise Policy
- Tourism
- Public-Private Partnership Policy
- Unified Town and Country Planning Bill will be introduced
- State Nutrition Policy
- Youth Policy

## Department Level Policies

- Each Department has envisaged lots of projects and programmes that can be implemented within 100 days. Each department will ensure that they are implemented. Ministers of the concerned Departments will declare it.



## PSC Vacancies

All vacancies will be reported to PSC. In order to mitigate the apprehensions of rank holders after the implementation of uniform retirement, vacancies that would have arisen till the time of expiry of the rank list will be reported to the PSC.



# The Leaders

## Oommen Chandy

### CHIEF MINISTER

Son of K.O.Chandy and Baby Chandy; born at Kumarakom on 31st October 1943; BA, BL; Political, Trade Union and Social Worker.

Wife : Mariamma Oommen

Children : Maria Oommen, Achu Oommen, Chandy Oommen

Entered politics through KSU; was President, All Kerala Balajana Sakhyam (1961-62); President, K.S.U (1967-69) and Youth congress (1969); Minister for Labour and Housing from 11.4.1974 to 27.10.1978; Minister for Home, Agriculture and Co-operation from 28.12.1981 to 17.3.1982; Minister for Finance from 2.7.1991 to 22.6.1994; Served as Chief Minister from 31.08.2004 to 17.5.2006; was Opposition Leader in the 12th Assembly; was UDF Convenor.

Member, AICC; Previously elected to KLA in 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Languages known : Malayalam, English and Hindi

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## G Karthikeyan

### SPEAKER

Son of Shri N.P. Gopala Pillai and Smt. Vanajakshy Amma; born at Varkala on 20th January 1949; Graduate and LLB Course Completed; Social and Political Worker  
Wife : Dr. M.T. Sulekha, Children : Ananthapadmanabhan, Sabareenath

Entered Politics through Students movement; Was Office bearer from Unit President to State President of KSU; Was student member of the Kerala University Senate; Secretary, Kerala University Union; held various posts in Youth Congress including as its State General Secretary and State President; General Secretary, KPCC; The only elected Vice President of K.P.C.C.; Was Chief Whip and Deputy Leader of the Congress Legislature Party; Served as Minister for Electricity in the Ministry headed by A.K. Antony in 1995; Was Minister for Food and Civil Supplies in the A.K. Antony Ministry in 2001; A.I.C.C. Member.

Previously elected to KLA in 1982,1991,1996,2001 and 2006

Constituency : Aruvikkara, Party: Indian National Congress

Languages known : Malayalam and English

Travels Abroad : USA, China, Yugoslavia, Italy, UK, France, UAE, Singapore, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Brunei

Hobby : Reading, Travelling, Enjoying Music and Movies

Recreation : Football

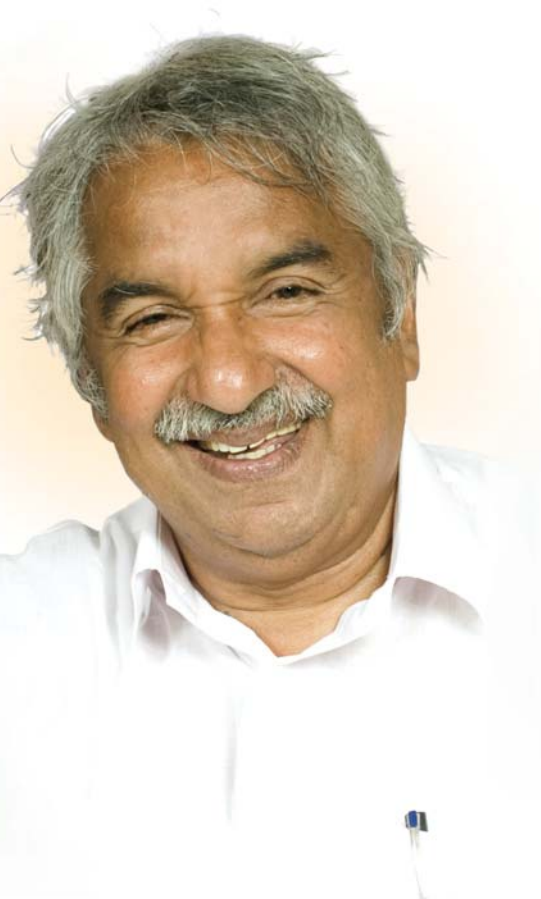
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## P K Kunhalikutty

Son of Mohammed Haji and K.P. Pathummakutty; born on 01 June 1951; Graduate, Diploma in Business Management.  
Wife: K.M. Kulsu; Children: Hashique P.K. (Son) and Lasitha P.K. (Daughter)

Other Positions Held and details:

Minister for Industries & Social Welfare from 24-06-1991 to 16-03-1995, Minister for Industries & Municipalities from 22-03-1995 to 09-05-1996, Minister for Industries & Social Welfare from 17-05-2001 to 29-08-2004, Minister for Industries, IT & Social Welfare from 31-08-2004 to 04-01-2005.

Muslim League Legislature Party Leader from 1991 on wards; Chairman, Malappuram Municipality; General Secretary, Kerala State Muslim League; Director, Chandrika Daily, Mohammed Koya International Foundation.

Address: Pandikadavath House, Karathode, Oorakam, Melmuri P.O., Malappuram District.

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Residence : 0471 2318602, 2314652



## K M Mani

Son of Thomas Mani and Alyamma; Born at Marangattupalli on 30th January, 1933; BA, BL; Advocate and Political worker.

Wife : Annamma Mani; Children : One son and five daughters

Languages known : Malayalam and English

Participated in the Freedom struggle while a student. After enrolment as Advocate, started legal profession at Calicut bar for a short while and set up practice at Palai and District Court, Kottayam.

Entered politics as a worker of Indian National Congress; was a member of kpcc and General Secretary, Kottayam DCC; Was founder member of Kerala Congress and General Secretary of the party; Became Chairman of Kerala Congress (M).

Was a member, State Planning Board; Chairman, State Law Reforms Committee.

Served as Minister for Finance (1975-77); Home Affairs April 1977 to December 1977 and from September 1978 to October 1979, Finance and Law (January 1980 to October 1981, December 1981 to March 1982 and May 1982 to May 1986) Irrigation and Law (from May 1986 to March 1987); Revenue and Law (from June 1991 to May 1996, May 2001 to May 2006); Holds record of getting elected from the same constituency in 12 elections continuously, totalling a period of 45 years and a Minister of 20 years; As Finance Minister Presented 8 budgets. Now Chairman of Kerala Congress (M).

Previously elected to KLA in 1965, 1967, 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Travels Abroad : USA, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Hongkong, Japan, UK, France, Denmark, Norway, Egypt, Germany, Kenya, Italy, Rome, Nepal, Canada, China and Singapore.

Hobby : 1) Reading, particularly Books and current topics on

social and economic problems. 2) Writing articles related to socio-economic problems in Kerala and India in the global situation.

Recreation : Films and Music

Literary Activities : The author of : 1.

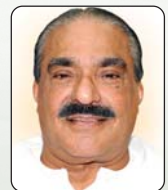
Fiscal Problems of Kerala-Causes and Remedial Measures 2. The People's Socialism 3. The Eighth Five Year Plan-an alternate approach 4. India and Globalisation Asian Economic Community Need of the day-Paper Presented at the National Seminar held in New Delhi on 22nd December 1994. 5. Indian Agricultural Scene - Liabilities and Possibilities in the context of the Global economy 6. Toiling Class Doctrine 7. The fall of Marxist Doctrine and Reconstruction of Democracy 8. Constitutional changes and the special Parliament 9. The Economic Development of Kerala 10. Guidelines for Agricultural Development 11. The Welfare of people People's Right 12. The Toiling class Theory and political and Economic Studies.

Permanent Address : Karingozhakkal, Palai, Pin-686 575.

**PORTFOLIO:** Finance, National Savings, Stores Purchase, Commercial Taxes, Agricultural Income Tax, Treasuries, Lotteries, Local Fund Audit, Kerala State Financial Enterprises, State Insurance, Stamps and Stamp Duties, Kerala Financial Cooperation, Law, Housing

Office: Room No.216, III Floor, North Sandwich Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Prasanth near Cliff House (Temporarily)



## T M Jacob

Son of T.S. Mathew and Annamma Mathew; born on 16 September 1950; Graduate, LLB, LLM Course completed; Advocate.

Wife: Daisy Jacob; Children: One Son and One Daughter

Other Positions Held and details:

Member, 5th KLA [Piravam-Kerala Congress], 6th KLA [Kothamangalam-KC (J)], 7th KLA [Kothamangalam-KC (J)], 8th KLA [Kothamangalam-KC (M)], 9th KLA [Piravam-KC (M)], 10th KLA [Piravam-KC (Jacob)], 11th KLA [Piravam-KC (Jacob)].

Minister for Education from 24-05-1982 to 25-03-1987, Minister for Irrigation & Cultural Affairs from 29-06-1991 to 16-03-1995, Minister for Irrigation & Cultural Affairs from 22-03-1995 to 09-05-1996, Minister for Water Resources from 17-05-2001 to 29-08-2004.

Elected Member of the Kerala University Academic Council

from the Faculty of Law; General Secretary, Kerala Congress (1979-82) & (1987-91); Now in Nationalist Congress (Indira).

Publications: "Ente China paryadanam" (Malayalam); "My China Diary" (English); Selected Speeches of T.M.Jacob

Address : Thanikunnel House, Oliyappuram, Koothattukulam, Ernakulam District.

**PORTFOLIO:** Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection Registration

Office: Room No.140, II Floor, North Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Nest





## K B Ganesh Kumar

Son of R.Balakrishna Pillai and Valsala Balakrishna Pillai. Born in Thiruvananthapuram on 25th May 1966. B.Com, Cine Artiste, Political Worker.

Wife : Yamini Thankachi; Children: One Son

Former Treasurer of Association of Malayalam Movie Actors (AMMA). Was Minister for

Transport in the Ministry headed by A.K.Antony from 17-05-2001 to 10-03-2003.

Previously elected to KLA in 2001.

Languages Known : Malayalam and English

Travels Abroad : U.S.A, Germany, U.K., Holland, Singapore, Dubai and Middle East Countries

Hobbies : Reading and Flying

Permanent Address : T.N.-H 4, Tagore Nagar, J-Lane, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014

**PORTFOLIO:** Forests, Wild Life Protection, Sports, Kerala State Film Development Corporation, Kerala Chalachithra Academy, Kerala Cultural Workers' Welfare Fund Board

Office: Room No.397, I Floor, Main Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: New building near Cantonment



## K P Mohanan

Son of P.R. Kurup and K.P. Leelavathy Amma; born at Puthoor on 3rd March 1950; Pre-degree; A.M.A.E.S.I (Aeronautical Engineering) course completed; Journalist; Social and Political Worker.

Wife : Hemaja Mohanan, Children : Ram Mohan, Rajila Mohan, Ramila Mohan

Started Political life as a member of ISO, the Students Organisation of Socialist Party. Held the post of State Treasurer of Iso; actively participated in many students movements and agitations. Became a Member of the Janatha Party when it was formed; elected as the Kannur District Secretary of Yuva Janatha; Member, National Working Committee of Janatha Dal, Janatha Dal State Committee, Kunnothu Paramba Panchayat Executive Committee for 7 Years. Was President Peringalam Mandalam State Fencing Association; Member, Volley Ball Association, Sports Council.

Now Working as the Chairman, State Unit of Janatha Dal

Parliamentary Board, Janatha Dal Parliamentary Party Leader.

Previously elected to KLA in 2001.

Languages known : English, Malayalam, Hindi, Kannada, Arabic and Tamil.

Travels Abroad : UAE, Qatar, Hobbies : Reading, Martial Arts (Kalari), Travelling

Recreation : Badminton, Literary Activities : Chief Editor, 'Padayani' daily

Permanent Address : Padma Nivas, Puthoor.P.O., Panoor (via) Tellicherry, Kannur-670 692.

**PORTFOLIO:** Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Soil Survey, Warehousing Corporation, Agricultural University, Animal Husbandry, Printing and Stationery

Office: Room No.118, I Floor, North Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Xanadu (Temporarily)



## Shibu Baby John

Son of Baby John (Ex-Minister) and Annamma B John; born on 27 July 1963; Engineering Graduate

Wife: Annie Mathew John

Other Positions Held:

Vice-president, R.Y.F (B) State Committee; Member R.S.P. (B) State Committee; Mechanical Engineer and Businessman before entering politics; Mechanical Engineer and Businessman before entering politics in 1998.

Address : Vayalil Bunglow, Neendakara P.O., Kollam.

**PORTFOLIO:** Labour, Employment and Training, Rehabilitation, Factories and Boilers, Insurance Medical Service, Industrial Tribunals, Labour Courts

Office: Room No.129, I Floor, North Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Ushas



## Aryadan Muhammed

Son of Unneen and Kadiyamunni, born at Nilambur on 15th May 1935; SSLC

Wife : Mariam, Children : Two sons and two daughters  
Agriculturist, Political Worker and Trade Unionist.

Entered politics as Congress Member in 1952; Member KPCC since 1958, President Malappuram DCC, President of various labour unions, Director, NCDC and NAFED; Was Minister for Labour and Forest in the E.K.Nayanar Ministry (1980-82), Was Minister for Labour and Tourism in the A.K.Antony Ministry during 1995-96 and Minister for Power in the Oommen Chandy Ministry (2004-2006); Was Secretary, Congress Legislative Party during 10th KLA, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee of Kerala Legislative Assembly (1998-2001), Chairman, PUC of KLA (2001-2004) Chairman PAC of KLA (2006-2011). Previously elected to

KLA in 1977, 1980, 1987, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Languages Known : Malayalam and English

Travels Abroad : U.S.S.R., U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Brazil, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Canada and Muscat and Sri Lanka; Hobby : Reading

Permanent Address : Aryadan House, Nilambur, Nilambur P.O., Malappuram - 679329

**PORTFOLIO:** Electricity, Railways, Post and Telegraph

Office: Room No.208, II Floor, North Sandwich Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Manmohan Bunglow



## A P Anil Kumar

Son of A.P.Balan and K.L.Devaki; born at Malappuram on 15th March 1965, B.A. course completed; Political Worker.

Entered Politics through K.S.U and was its Unit President (1979), Taluk President (1982) and Malappuram District Secretary (1984); Was Chairman. P.T.M. College Union; Youth Congress District Vice-President (1986); Was Kerala Youth Congress State General Secretary. Was Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Communities and Youth and Cultural Affairs in the Ministry headed by Shri Oommen Chandy in XI KLA.

Previously elected to KLA in 2001.

Languages Known : Malayalam and English,

Hobbies : Reading and Travelling  
Recreation : Football

Wife : Praseeja P; Children : Two Sons

Permanent Address : Akkarapurakkal House, P.O.Downhill, Malappuram

**PORTFOLIO:** Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Tourism

Office: Room No.397, I Floor, Main Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: New building near Cantonment



## K C Joseph

Son of Shri.K.M.Chacko and Smt. Thresiamma Chacko; born at Poovam on 3rd June 1946; M.A., LLB; Advocate; social and Political Worker.

Wife : Sarah Joseph; Children : Two Sons and One Daughter

Entered Politics through All Kerala Balajana Sakhyam and KSU. Was General Secretary of All Kerala Balajana Sakhyam; President, KSU Kottayam District Committee; Vice President, KSU State Committee; Secretary, Kerala University Union; General Secretary, National Council of National Students Union of India; Was President Kerala Pradesh Youth Congress; Was Member, Kerala University Syndicate, Executive Committee of Kerala Agricultural University; Convener, Standing Committee of Syndicate on Finance; Managing Editor, "Socialist Youth" Weekly.

Also served as Member, AICC; Secretary, Congress Legislature Party; Chairman, Committee on Privileges and Ethics; Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions.

Previously elected to KLA in 1982, 1987, 1991, 1996 and 2001.

Languages Known : Malayalam, English and Hindi, Travels Abroad : Yugoslavia, East Germany, Soviet Union, Italy, Rome, U.S.A, Qatar, Kuwait, Dubai, Bahrain

Hobby : Reading, Recreation : Football, Carams and Basket Ball

Literary Activities : Writing Articles

Permanent Address : Karavelithara, Vadavathoor P.O., Kottayam - 686010

**PORTFOLIO:** Rural Development, Planning and Economic Affairs, Dairy Development, Milk Cooperatives, Culture, Information and Public Relations, Non-Resident Keralites Affairs

Office: Room No.358 B, I Floor, Main Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Kowdiar House



## Adoor Prakash

Son of N.Kunjuraman and V.M.Vilasini; Born at Adoor on 24th May 1955; BA, LLB, Advocate, Social, Political and Trade Union Worker.

Wife : Jayasree Prakash; Children : Two Sons and One Daughter

Entered politics through Students Movement; Was President, KSU(1) Kollam Taluk Committee (1978-79); Vice President, KSU(1) State Committee (1979-81); President, Youth Congress (1) Kollam District Committee (1981-84); President, Youth Congress (1) Pathanamthitta District (1984-88); General Secretary, Youth Congress (1) State Committee (1988-92); During the tenure of Pathanamthitta District Youth Congress (1) President, conducted a 'Padayatra' which had lasted for 18 days and went throughout the district demanding the overall development of the district.

Was President, Adoor Taluk Taxi and Mini Vehicles Drivers Congress (INTUC); Director, Kerala State Co-operative Bank, Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation, District Co-operative Bank, Pathanamthitta; President, Adoor Taluk Co-operative Rubber Marketing Society, Other Backward Class Co-operative Agriculture Society; Joint Secretary, KPCC(1) (1997-2001); Elected member of the KPCC(1) from 1992; DCC(1) Vice President, Pathanamthitta from 1993, Served as member, Library Advisory Committee and the Committee on Environment, Kerala Legislative Assembly; Was Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs from 5-9-2004 to 12-5-2006.

Now working President, Kerala Private College Employees Association and General Secretary, Kerala State Electricity Employees Congress; President, Pampa Rubber Employees Association, Traco Cable Employees' Association.

Previously elected to KLA in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Languages Known : Malayalam, English and Hindi

Travels Abroad : Thailand, Japan, Hongkong, Malaysia, Italy, Singapore, Muscat, London, Holland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia, UAE, Kuwait and Doha

Hobby : Reading

Permanent Address : Ramanilayam, Adoor P.O., Pathanamthitta - 691523

**PORTFOLIO:** Health, Family Welfare, Medical Education, Indigenous Medicines, Drugs Control, Pollution Control, Homoeopathy, Naturopathy, Coir  
Office: Room No.731, Ground Floor, Old Legislative Assembly Building

Official Residence: New building near Cliff House





## Dr. M K Muneer

Son of C.H. Mohamed Koya, Ex-Chief Minister of Kerala, Dy. Chief Minister, Minister, Speaker, MP, Editor of Chandrika Daily, Writer, Orator, Humorist, Social Reformer, IUML Leader etc. and Amina Mohammed Koya; born on 26 August 1962; MBBS; Medical Practitioner.

Wife: Nafeesa; Children: Muhammed Muflih (Son), Muhammed Minnah (Son), Amina Fathima Maleeha (Daughter)

Minister for Works, Government of Kerala from 26-05-2001 to 29-08-2004, from 05-09-2004 to 12-05-2006).

Other Positions held: Member, 9th KLA Kozhikode-II, 10th KLA Malappuram-ML, 11th KLA Malappuram.

Secretary, Kerala State Muslim League; President, State Muslim Youth League; Councilor, Kozhikode Corporation.

Recipient of C. Achutha Menon award for literature in 1998 for the book, "Fascisavum Sanghaparivarum". Best singer, Best Actor and Best Cartoonist Award in

Intermedicos Festival.

Cultural Activity: Singer, Cartoonist, Painter, T.V. Anchor

Literary Activity: Writer, Publisher, Orator

Hobby: Stamps & Coins Collection

Countries visited: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait, Japan, Thailand, Hongkong, Singapore, Germany

Permanent Address: MEHFIL, Jaffer Khan Colony, Kozhikode.

**PORTFOLIO:** Panchayats, Social Welfare, Kerala Institute of Local Administration

Office: Room No.401, IV Floor, Secretariat Annexe

Official Residence: Rented House

Telephone No: 0471-2327895, 0471-2327706

Email ID: minister-panchayat@kerala.gov.in; minister-socialwelfare@kerala.gov.in



## P K Abdu Rabb

Son of Shri.K.Avukader Kutty Naha and Smt. Kunhibiriyam Umma, born at Parappanangadi on 15th May 1948; M.A.(English Literature); Social and Political Worker.

Wife : K.Nazeem; Children : Four Sons

Was President, Parappanangadi Grama Panchayat for 12 years; Member Calicut University Senate and Syndicate.

Now President, Parappanangadi Educational Society, Ansar Arabic College, Valavannoor, Malappuram District Body Builders Association, Muslim League Committee, Tirurangadi Constituency; Secretary, Eranad Muslim Educational Association, Kondotty; Member Governing body, S.S.M Polytechnic, Tirur, State Muslim League Executive Committee, Kerala Muslim Educational Association Executive Committee, Tirurangadi Muslim Orphanage Executive Committee.

Previously elected to KLA in 1996 and 2001.

Languages Known : Malayalam, English, Arabic, Hindi and Urdu; Hobbies: Travelling and Reading, Recreation: Badminton and Walking

Permanent Address : "Grace", Beach Road, Parappanangadi, Malappuram District - 676303

**PORTFOLIO:** Collegiate Education, General Education, Technical Education, Universities except Agricultural University, Entrance Examinations, Literacy Movement, National Cadet Corps

Office: Room No.501, V Floor, Annexe, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: New building near Cantonment



## Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan

Son of K.P. Parameswaran Pillai and Gourikutty Amma M.G; born at Thiruvanchoor on 26th December 1949; B.A. LL.B; Advocate and Political Worker.

Wife : Smt. Lalithambika Radhakrishnan

Children: Two sons and one daughter

Entered politics while a student; Was School Leader; Marthoma School, Kottayam (1963); Chairman, Baselias College Union (1967); General Secretary, All Kerala Balajana Sangham (1965); KSU State General Secretary (1969); Kerala University Union (1972); Youth Congress (1978); KPCC General Secretary 1984-1992 and 1994-2000); President, KSU District Level Committee, Kottayam (1967), KSU State Committee, Youth Congress State Committee, Premier Tyres Employees Union; Syndicate

Member, Cochin University of Science and Technology (1986-96); Senate Member, Kerala

University. Was minister for Water Resources Forest, Health and Parliamentary Affairs during 2004-2006 period. Opposition Chief Whip; Member, AICC, KPCC Election Committee.

Previously elected to KLA in 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006

Languages known : Malayalam, English and Hindi

Travels Abroad : America, England, Germany, Iraq, Egypt, Qatad, Muscot, uae, Bahrain, Kuwait, Russia and France.

Hobbies : Stamp Collection, Reading and Listening to music.

Recreation : Badminton

Permanent Address : Manasa, Kodimatha, Kottayam.

**PORTFOLIO:** Land Revenue, Land Reforms, Survey and Land Records, Legal Metrology

Office: Room No.532, III Floor, South Sandwich Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Ashoka



## K Babu

Son of K.K.Kumaran and Ponnamma, born at Angamaly on 2nd June 1951. B.Com, Political and Trade Union Worker.

Wife : Geetha; Children : Two Daughters

Entered Politics through K.S.U. in 1966; Was the First Chairman of Angamaly Municipal Council and the youngest Municipal Chairman then in Kerala; Served as Director, Kerala Plantation Corporation and Kerala State Consumer Federation; Was Vice-Chairman, Kerala University Union; President, Block Youth Congress, District Youth Congress (1977), Ernakulam District Football Association; General

Secretary, Ernakulam District Congress committee from 1982-1991, INTUC State Committee; Was Office bearer of Several Trade Unions in Kerala and founder of Fine Arts Society, Angamaly.

Previously elected to KLA in 1991, 1996 and 2001.

Languages Known : Malayalam, English and Hindi

Hobbies : Reading and Cinema

Recreation : Foot ball, Permanent Address : Kannuparambath House, Sanskrit College Road, Trippunithura P.O., Kochi

**PORTFOLIO:** Excise, Ports, Harbour Engineering, Airports

Office: Room No.648, III Floor, South Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: New building near Cantonment



## C N Balakrishnan

Sixth son of Puzhakkal Chemangad Narayanan and Paruamma, C.N. Balakrishnan completed his education in Sree Ramakrishnasramam School.

Wife: Thankamma Teacher, Children: Geetha Vijayan and Mini Balaram

Started life as a Khadi worker. Gave leadership to Thrissur Milk Supply Union, Puranattukara service cooperative union. Was also able to become the vice-president and president of district cooperative bank. Was president of Kerala Khadi and

village industries association for 32 years. KPCC treasurer for many years, Thrissur DCC president for fifteen years.

**PORTFOLIO:** Cooperation, Khadi and Village Industries

Office: Room No.619, I Floor, South Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Pournami



## P J Joseph

Son of P.O.Joseph and Annamma Joseph; born at Varapuzha on 10th June, 1942; M.A; Agriculturist; Social and Political Worker.

Wife : Dr. Santha Joseph; Children : Three Sons and One Daughter

Joined the Kerala Congress in 1968; Held the portfolio of Home Affairs from 16-1-1978 to 15-9-1978 in the A.K. Antony Ministry; Was Minister for Revenue and Education from 28-12-1981 to 17-03-1982 and Minister for Revenue and Housing from 24-05-1982 to 25-3-1987 in the Ministry headed by K. Karunakaran; Was Minister for Education, Works, Housing and Registration in the Ministry headed by E.K. Nayanar from 20-05-96 to 13-05-2001; Was Minister for Works in the V.S.Achuthanandan Ministry from 18-05-2006 to 4-9-2006.

Also served as the Member of the syndicate of Kerala University; Founder and Chairman of Gnadhiji Study Centre, and N.G.O promoting Organic Agricultural activities.

Previously elected to KLA in 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987 and 1996.

Languages known : Malayalam, English and Hindi

Travels Abroad : Almost all European and Asian Countries besides United States and Australia

Hobbies : Music and Floriculture

Recreation : Shuttle Badminton

Permanent Address : Palathinal House, Purapuzha P.O. Thodupuzha-685 583

**PORTFOLIO:** Irrigation, Command Area Development Authority, Ground Water Development, Water Supply and Sanitation, Inland Navigation (Construction of Water Ways)

Office: Room No.264, II Floor, South Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: New building near Cliff House





## Jayalakshmi

Daughter of Kunhaman and Ammini Kunhaman, completed school life in Kattimoola At. Sebastian U.P school and Thalappuzha Government Higher Secondary School. Took BA from Mananthavady Government College and have a diploma in Computer Science. Representing Mananthavadi constituency, Wayanad District. An ace archer and a silver medallist in the State.

Other Positions Held: Youth Congress General Secretary. Mananthavadi Block Congress Committee Secretary. Health and Education Standing Committee Chairperson, Thavinhal Grama Panchayat

Permanent Address: Palot, Kattimoola, Poroor (PO), Thalappuzha (via), Mananthavady - 670 645

**PORTFOLIO:** Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Youth Affairs, Museum and Zoos

Office: Room No.647, II Floor, South Block, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: New building near Cantonment



## V S Sivakumar

Son of K.V. Sadasivan Nair and B. Subhadra Amma, V.S. Sivakumar was born at Amaravila, Thiruvananthapuram. Having B.Sc. and LL.B., he worked as Political worker and trade unionist.

Wife: Sindhu Children: Gowri, Gayathri

Started political career activist of the Kerala Students' Union and rose through the Youth Congress. Served as DCC President, AICC Member, KPCC Member and General Secretary. Working as District Congress Committee President since February 2007.

Was Member of Parliament in the 13th Lok Sabha representing Thiruvananthapuram Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala. (Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee for Science, Technology, and Commerce. Member, Consultative Committee for Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.)

Positions Held: 1978-79 University Union Councillor (Kerala University)

1980-82 General Secretary, Block Congress Committee

1982-87 President, Block Youth Congress, Parassala Block, District Thiruvananthapuram

1987-93 Vice-President, District Youth Congress Committee, Thiruvananthapuram

1993-2000 President, District Youth Congress, Thiruvananthapuram

**PORTFOLIO:** Road Transport, Motor Vehicles, Water Transport, Devaswoms

Office: Room No.505, V Floor, Annexe, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Essen Dane



## V K Ebrahim Kunju

Son of V.U.Khader and Chithumma, born at Kongorpilly on 20th May 1952, SSLC, Political Social and Trade Union Worker.

Wife : Nadeera, Children : Three Sons

Entered Politics through M.S.F and then the Youth League; Was Chairman, Premier Wood Engineering Unit of South India, Forest Industries (Travancore) Ltd. from 1993 to 1996. Was Member, Cochin University of Science and Technology Syndicate, Gosree Development Authority Executive Committee, GCDA Executive Committee, Granthasala Sangham District Board, Ernakulam District Development Committee; Director, Cochin International Airport Ltd; Vice President, State Level S.T.U; President, T.C.C. Officers' Forum, Traco Employees Organisation, Thiruvalla; General Secretary, Binani Zinc Workers' Federation.

Was the Minister for Industries and Social Welfare from 6th January, 2005 to May 2006.

For the last 25 years working as the District Secretary of IUML Ernakulam Unit and District General Secretary of IUML. Now working as the State Working Committee Member of IUML, President, Elloor Industrial Area S.T.U,

Technical Employees Association of TELK, Angamaly. Traco Cable Staff and Workers Organisation, Irumpanam, Kerala Minerals & Metals Employees Organisation, Chavara, KEL Employees Union, Mamala, IHRD Employees Organisation, T.C.C. Thozhilali Union, Udyogamandal, Thiruvalla Sugars Union; Also, Vice President of KMEA, Secretary of Al-Manar Public School, Kuzhuvelipady, Secretary of the C.H.Mohammed Koya College of Engineering Technology, Edathala. Previously elected to KLA in 2001.

Languages Known : Malayalam and English

Travels Abroad : Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, UAE, Malaysia, Singapore, U.S.A, U.K., Germany, France and other Countries

Hobby : Reading, Recreation : Boating and Sight Seeing

Literary activities : Was Editor of the 'Eeyugam' daily published from Aluva

Permanent Address : Grace Garden, Panayapilly, Kochi-682005

**PORTFOLIO:** Public Works

Office: Room No.603, VI Floor, Annexe, Government Secretariat

Official Residence: Rented House







## Communist dictator's plane becomes Black Sea reef

The airplane of former Bulgarian Communist ruler Todor Zhivkov was submerged in the Black Sea waters near the city of Varna to attract scuba divers and tourists to the sunny coasts of northeastern Bulgaria. The Soviet-made Tupolev-154, ordered specially for the needs of Zhivkov, eastern Europe's longest-serving communist leader, was grounded in 1999 but once flew with famous passengers such as former Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The machine was placed at about 22 metres (24 yards) deep in the bay of Varna and 700 metres from the coast to form an artificial reef, Orlin Tsanev, chairman of Black Sea Dive Odesos association, which ran the project, said.

"The submerging of the plane aims to make it an attraction and (a place) for training divers. Some 30 divers swam round the plane and Russian diving clubs have already expressed interest in exploring it. Tsanev said the Tupolev-154 was the biggest plane to be placed under water in the world and has considered applying to have it recorded by Guinness world records. Sea vegetation around the 49-metre long airplane is expected to boost fish population and make it attractive to divers, especially for the ones with a nostalgic touch for the totalitarian era. Zhivkov ruled Bulgaria for 35 years until the fall of communist regime in 1989. He died in 1998. Four years ago a private firm bought Zhivkov's private yacht to organise cruises with it along the Danube River.

## Non-surgical facelift

A hot-wax mask is nowadays the latest rage in skin care - the paraffin wax facial is a thermal mask billed as the quickest way to a "non-surgical facelift". Celebrity facialist Emma Hardie came up with the idea of the mask, which is painted on to the skin and then kept warm under infrared light, after an hour's intensive massage.

During the massage, she uses moisturising oils and massage

It's game up for video game-addicted husbands as a new research has revealed that increasing numbers of women cited their husband's obsession with video games as reason for filing for divorce. It showed that men now prefer World of Warcraft and Call of Duty to their wives. Of those wives who cite unreasonable behaviour for ending their marriage, 15 per cent believe their partners put gaming before them. According to the study by Divorce Online, the numbers have soared from five percent a year ago, reports the Daily Mail.

In particular, disgruntled wives blamed World of Warcraft, which allows gamers to create their own fantasy character for mythical adventures, and Call of Duty, where gamers battle in various war zones. The games have faced heavy criticism in the past for their addictive properties, with some claiming that World of Warcraft is more addictive than cocaine. The study looked at 200 unreasonable behaviour petitions filed by women. Divorce Online managing director Mark Keenan said his team carried out the research after noticing World of Warcraft was repeatedly cited by unhappy wives. He said, "I was surprised by the result at first, but I would expect the number to be even higher next year. The increase could be a consequence of people staying indoors more because of the recession, or it might be being used by men in particular as a means of escape from an already unhappy relationship," he added.

## Blame hubby's video game addiction for divorce



to stimulate the skin cells and a "deep-tissue" kneading technique to give softer, plumper skin. And then comes the mask, which helps the skin to absorb the moisturising oils and soothes and relaxes the facial muscles to help release tension and leave the skin bright and glowing. The treatment, which costs 160 pounds, is the quickest route to a non-surgical facelift and promises "instant and noticeable results after one session." Sophie Dahl, Denise Van Outen and Anjelica Huston are amongst few of her celeb customers.

"This facial is a wonderful treat for a cold, winter's evening and the warm wax helps you feel like you're in the Tropics. The massage and wax helps to boost circulation in the skin and helps to relax the facial muscles. She also claims that the treatment can help with migraine relief, sinus problems, head, neck and shoulder tension, depression, menopause, grief and insomnia. "Wax is very softening and it's very good as a skin treatment. "We use it a lot on dry hands and chapped skin. It helps to oxygenate and detoxify the skin," she said.



## You are what your father ate!

Scientists have discovered evidence that environmental influences experienced by a father can be passed down to the next generation, "reprogramming" how genes function in offspring. The new study, conducted by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the University of Texas at Austin, shows that environmental cues—in this case, diet—influence genes in mammals from one generation to the next, evidence that until now has been sparse. These insights, coupled with previous human epidemiological studies, suggest that paternal environmental effects may play a more important role in complex diseases such as diabetes and heart disease than previously believed.

"Knowing what your parents were doing before you were conceived is turning out to be important in

determining what disease risk factors you may be carrying," said Oliver J. Rando, principal investigator for the study. To test their hypothesis Rando and colleagues fed different diets to two groups of male mice. The first group received a standard diet, while the second received a low-protein diet. To control for maternal influences, all females were fed the same, standard diet. Rando and colleagues observed that offspring of the mice fed the low-protein diet exhibited a marked increase in the genes responsible for lipid and cholesterol synthesis in comparison to offspring of the control group fed the standard diet.

## Japan jobless rate rises

Japan's unemployment rate rose while the nation's factory output posted a weaker-than-expected rebound amid sluggish output following the March earthquake and tsunami. The April jobless rate climbed to 4.7 per cent from the March unemployment rate of 4.6 per cent, the ministry of internal affairs and communications said.

The number of jobless people in Japan stood at 3.09 million in April, down 300,000 from a year earlier. Japan's industrial output in April rose 1.0 per cent from the previous month, recovering from a record 15.5 per cent drop in March, the government said. But factory output - a key barometer of Japan's economic health - posted a weaker-than-expected rebound as economists forecast a 2.2 per cent output increase on average in a Kyodo News survey.







# an Interface

The role of information and dissemination of the same in enlightening the recipient, at any last mile, is becoming more and more important as there are more innovative technologies available. Whether it is corporate bodies or Governments, the medium is gaining increasing importance. Convergence technologies have enabled text, image and sound to be transmitted at the fastest imaginable speed. In the current scenario of stiff competition and information bias to suit specific objectives and targets, it is imperative that the Government has an agency that is fair, unbiased, objective and professional to precisely disseminate its information and to educate the public and all concerned agencies.

Development and citizen's welfare are the avowed objectives of any Government in a democracy and the role of information dissemination cannot be ignored. It is absolutely essential that a professional and compact workforce is at hand and that they are the best equipped with dedication of mind and up-to-date in the usage of modern technologic. Fortunately the technologies are user friendly and therefore training on them is a fairly inexpensive process. The Government Department should function as an interface between the watchdog of media and the Governing process and serve as a pillar of strength for all the stake holders.

The functioning should be a constant two-way interactive process.

The Department of Public Relations in Kerala, with whose personnel, this writer had the good fortune to interact with, have a very good professional team at all levels. Unfortunately they are bogged down with the managerial structure of the Secretariat and are not adequately supported with the required level of competency, and often bogged down with improper understanding of the urgency of the information needs. Information cannot wait and the needs of the moment or hour have to be met. That is possible only when the whole Information wing is able to act independently and insulated sufficiently, of course, with accountability, from the cudgels of die-hard bureaucracy.

Digital technology has been recognised as a vital media for dissemination of information. A new electronic wing has been functioning in the Government of Kerala and as compared to several other states, it is running well. But it is still not an interactive one. If the public participation is not ensured, the system does not measure up to the right level of transparency and speed in administration, watchwords of the new Governments. Every website of the Government should be interactive and anyone who 'hits' with a grievance or complaint should be able to not only track



it but also get satisfaction that justice and fairplay do exist and the Government is concerned and action is being taken. The Information and Public Relations Department should be able to play a pivotal role in this, in running the electronic division, with a futuristic vision and an enlarged mission. Every official in the Department should be trained professionally and equipped with new gadgets and provided ample facilitation to carry out the task round the clock. Feedback from the public or visitors to the sites should be monitored at the senior most echelons of the Government for issuing policy directives and to ensure efficient functioning of the Government through the medium. What is done at the nerve centre of governance and Government should also be replicated at district levels. With instant communication gadgets, round the clock functioning is absolutely easy.

While access to website portals at the moment is limited, though there is a fast progress, limits regarding bandwidth is an issue to be addressed as spectrum is limited and precious, and is also used for other communication purposes. Servicing and utilisation of all other traditional media are also of paramount importance. Newspapers and television channels do contribute substantially as the fourth estate. While technology has again reoriented the innovations in the media, the Department of Information should be able to cater to their professional needs by being equipped properly. Archival materials are hard to find now and one really has to struggle to get information from the Department. Fortunately some committed professionals do their best despite all odds, and what is required is to motivate them by training. Substantial amount of software will be available at the disposal of the government when the web portals are fully operational. The private media, both print and electronic tend to sensationalise information in their

completion for eyeballs and ears.

At present, there are 540 television channels beaming into the India skies. Even in the limited Kerala market, there are nearly 20 television channels already functioning. At present, the most cost-efficient medium for dissemination of information is a television channel. A combination of public service, including education, commercial entertainment is possible and the Government can earn revenues. If professionally run it could also be a source of substantial income after the initial period. Government of Kerala should urgently set up a company for the start up work and establish the TV Channel, which should be the brand Kerala, in providing education, information and entertainment. It can also be a strong vehicle for the promotion of Malayalam, the language of Kerala. The TV channel can be distributed abroad for Keralite Diaspora, which is substantial in number and look forward to authentic information and education for the second generation on Kerala, which can be wholesome through a television channel. Those outside India can receive the channel through DTH platforms. The Government should not only establish the TV channel and also make sure that it reaches the people. For the purpose, as the neighbouring Tamil Nadu had done in 2008 and as revived by the new Government, set up a cable distribution company. At present the cable TV distribution is monopolised by a single company, who keeps the customers at their mercy, by violating all rules. They charge the customers and also the broadcasters as they please, without any norms and do not provide the service that they should; in fact they work like a mafia group. If the Government sets up a cable distribution company it can work as a MSO and render fairplay and justice to cable television households and free the customers from the cudgels of the monopolistic distributors. It can also be a substantial revenue source.

Establishing community radio stations in the development sectors of the economy, especially agriculture, tribal development, fisheries, major educational institutions etc. is another aspect that should be seriously considered. Radio is the most traditional and personal medium for effectively reaching out the people and democracy is all about Government of the people, for the people and by the people. If this dream is to be fully realised there should be information and education at the saturation levels. ■

The writer is former Deputy Director General, Doordarshan.



The south-west monsoon sets in over South Kerala on first June and covers the entire State by 5th June with a standard deviation of about eight days. In the month of June Kerala receives a normal rainfall of 67.8 cm. The rainfall comprises 32 per cent of the principal rainy southwest monsoon season June to September and is about 21 per cent of the annual rainfall. June and July are the rainiest months of southwest monsoon season in Kerala. The coefficient of rainfall variation for the month of June is 30-40 per cent.

In meteorological parlance + 19 per cent to -19 per cent is considered to be normal. Looking at the rainfall the meteorological way, the rainfall of Kerala

for the month of June during the period 1901-2010 was deficient in 31 years, excess in 22 years and normal in 57 years.

The best rainfall for the month of June was recorded in the year 1991 with a rainfall amount of 104.7 cm. The poorest rainfall amount for the month of June for Kerala was recorded in the year 1976 with a rainfall amount of 18.1 cm. There have been 17 years when the rainfall deficiency was more than 30 per cent of the 31 years of deficient rainfall. There have been 5 years when the deficiency was more than 50 per cent and the worst was in 1976 with 73 per cent deficiency and it may be mentioned that 1976 was a drought year for the country. It may be of interest to note that the

decade 1961-1970 had the highest number of six years of deficient June rainfall for Kerala during the period 1901-2000.

The highest decadal average of June rainfall of 72.6 cm was recorded in the decade 1911-1920 while the lowest decadal average rainfall of 52.1 cm was recorded in the decade 1961-1970. The long term average of June rainfall of Kerala during the period 1901-2000 for the month of June is 63.0 cm as against the present normal of 67.8 cm.

Let us hope that June rainfall of Kerala 2011 turns out to be normal. ■

The writer is Retired Director, Meteorological Centre, Thiruvananthapuram





# Twenty Years After The Best Rain Fall

A frequency distribution of rainfall of the month of June of Kerala during the period 1901-2000 is given below

| Rainfall in cm | Number in years |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 0.0 - 10.0     | 0               |
| 10.1 - 20.0    | 1               |
| 20.1 - 30.0    | 3               |
| 30.1 - 40.0    | 8               |
| 40.1 - 50.0    | 10              |
| 50.1 - 60.0    | 23              |
| 60.1 - 70.0    | 26              |
| 70.1 - 80.0    | 8               |
| 80.1 - 90.0    | 11              |
| 90.1 - 100.0   | 7               |
| 100.1 - 110.0  | 3               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>100</b>      |

The decadal average of June rainfall distribution is given below

| Decade         | Decadal average of June rainfall in cm |
|----------------|--|
| 1901-1910      | 66.8                                   |
| 1911-1920      | 72.6                                   |
| 1921-1930      | 69.5                                   |
| 1931-1940      | 59.1                                   |
| 1941-1950      | 69.2                                   |
| 1951-1960      | 60.5                                   |
| 1961-1970      | 52.1                                   |
| 1971-1980      | 55.6                                   |
| 1981-1990      | 59.1                                   |
| 1991-2000      | 65.1                                   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>629.6</b>                           |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>63.0</b>                            |







## Male Tiger to rewrite paternal attitude

Cubs are usually raised by their mothers and male tigers often kill cubs they come across. But now a different story from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. Forest officials say a male tiger appears to be caring for two orphaned cubs in an extremely rare display of paternal feeling. The cubs lost their mother in February in the tiger reserve. Officials believe there is no recorded evidence of males behaving like this. Wildlife experts say that it is common for male tigers to never even set eyes upon the cubs they father - especially when the mother is not present and many male tigers will simply see cubs as food.

## Rising Forests Reversing Climate Change

A new study report based on survey of 68 nations says that rising forest density in many countries is helping to offset climate change caused by deforestation from the Amazon basin to Indonesia. The amount of carbon stored in forests increased in Europe and North America from 2000-10. And in Africa and South America, the total amount of carbon stored in forests fell at a slower rate than the loss of area, indicating that they had grown denser. Another positive aspect is that the rate of destruction of the world's three largest forests fell 25 per cent this decade compared with the previous one!



## No escape from Ugandan lions

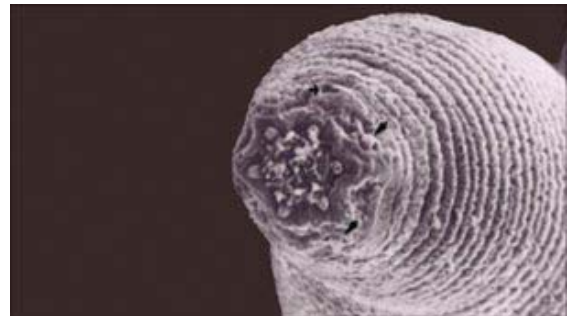
Usually, if we find ourselves being chased by a lion, no doubt, we will try to climb a tree to escape. But this will not be much help in the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. Lions have been spotted sleeping in trees as they digest their lunch and escape the hottest part of the day.



## Natural disaster refugees doubled

In the last year, about 42 million people were forced to flee their homes because of natural disasters around the world. This is more than double the number during the previous year. Overall number of disasters has also doubled from around 200 to more than 400 a year over the past two decades. Fingers point towards climate change as the main reason. The increase from 17 million displaced people in 2009 was mainly due to the impact of "mega-disasters" such as the massive floods in China and Pakistan and the earthquakes in Chile and Haiti. Asia was the hardest hit region, with 32 million displaced. The largest numbers were in China (15 million) and Pakistan (11 million), both from flooding. The worst part is that the onslaught of natural disasters so far this year also has been grim.

## Full many a fathom these land animals live



Until now scientists believed only single-celled bacteria could thrive in 48C under the earth. But they are surprised to find roundworms living at depths in the Earth where it was previously thought animals could not survive. Discovered in South African mines, the roundworms can survive in the stifling 48C water that seeps between cracks 1.3 km beneath the Earth's crust. Two species of worms, one a previously known roundworm known as *Plectus aquatilis* and a new one have been found there. The Earth's subterranean world is only accessible to researchers in a handful of places worldwide where ore-mining requires drilling to reach depths of more than three kilometres.





# Love the Linn

Survival of mankind is possible only by the survival of all life forms on earth. Because all living beings depend each other for existence. Nature is indiscriminate among species. The sensitive and fragile web of life is intricate and loss of any one species is a threat to the existence of all other species. This awareness is the chief motivative factor behind the observance of international days designated for the cause of nature and environmental conservation.

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations Organisation in 1972 to commemorate the opening of the eventful Stockholm conference. It was on 5th June 1972, the International Conference on Human Environment commenced at Stockholm and on the same day the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution marking the creation of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In the same landmark conference the Stockholm declaration – the Magna Carta of Our Environment – was also adopted.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Forests: Nature at Your Service."

It highlights the crucial environmental, economic and social roles played by the world's forests. It envisages to encourage

forest conservation and sustainable consumption for green growth. Since this year is designated as International Year of Forests – with the theme 'Celebrating forests for people' – stressing the importance of afforestation and greening campaign, the Environment Day theme also supports the same.

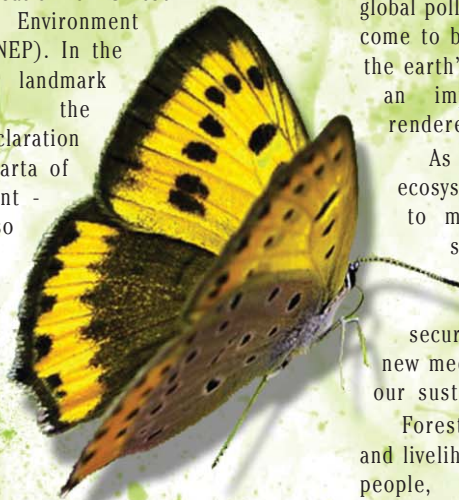
## Forests: Our Natural Heritage

As the relics of our prehistoric past, forests have the potential for the sustainable development of the present and future generations. They are the source and reserves of clean water. More than three quarters of world's accessible fresh water comes from forested catchments. As a result of the growing global pollution levels, forests have often come to be referred to as the 'lungs of the earth'. Providing us with clean air is an important eco-system service rendered by our precious forests.

As the most biologically diverse ecosystems on land, forests are home to more than half of terrestrial species, from the elephants to the smallest of creatures.

Biodiversity enables us food security, health care, development of new medicines, scientific advances for our sustenance and survival.

Forests also provide homes, security and livelihoods for 60 million indigenous people, whilst contribution to the livelihoods for 1.6 billion people worldwide. Forests cover 31 percent of total land area, at the same time





# Quality of Earth



supporting 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity that live in them. Many of the world's most threatened and endangered animals live in these forests, making them crucial to sustaining ecosystems. Not only animals live in the forests, but they also provide a home to more than 300 million people world-wide.

As a resource, forests provide many important natural resources such as timber, fuel, rubber, fibres, resins, paper and medicinal plants. Forests have got a high recreational value due to their aesthetic as well as salubrious effect on climate. A mixed selection forest brings about diversity of colour and forms and is highly appealing to the human mind.

## Climate Change Mitigation

Forests are often called Carbon Sinks. Storing carbon and sucking in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and locking it into their biomass, forests play a key role in our battle against climate change.

Greening our environment: Need of the hour with all the valuable ecosystem services provided by forests; yet the forest cover all over the world is dwindling in a rapid pace. Deforestation and forest degradation account for nearly 20 percent of global green house gas emission, which forests would absorb it, carefully managed. But deforestation is currently estimated at 5.2 million hectares world wide per year. Clear felling, slash and burn agriculture, fires and fuel wood collection etc. are the main reasons for deforestation.

By understanding the intrinsic link between quality of life and the health of forest and forest ecosystems; preserving forests throughout the world has to be in our collective consciousness. So as to change our lifestyles to enable cleaner, greener, brighter outlook for the present and future generations. ■

## India the global host nation of "WED"

For the first time, India became the global host nation of World Environment Day, this year. Major events of the Day were held in New Delhi and at Bangalore. UNEP released the 'Forest in a Green Economy' report during the function in New Delhi. In the face of continuing deforestation the report outlines how increased public and private investment in forest management and forest resources can boost employment, drastically reduce deforestation and help tackle climate change.

In Kerala, State Government and various NGOs observed World Environment Day with tree planting campaigns, seminars, bicycle rallies, video shows, nature quiz competitions, painting and posture competitions, nature photo exhibitions, pamphlet distribution etc.

Beyond India, WED celebrations were held in cities, towns, villages and communities across the world.

The writer is Under Secretary, Legislature Secretariat



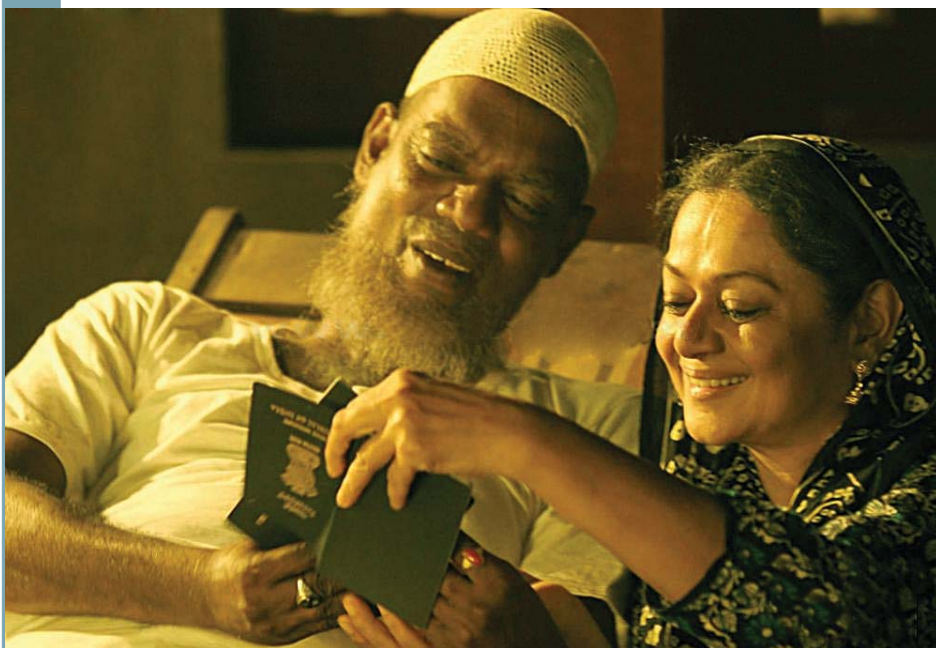


Deepika Susheelan



Malayalam films

# The Legacy continues...



**T**he 58th National Film Awards brought the spotlight back to regional cinema with Malayalam Film *Adaminte Makan Abu*, which portrayed humanist values freeing matters of faith from the constrictions of narrow parochialism, winning the award for the Best Film. The movie, which is different from the stereotypical portrayal of the Muslim community, bagged as many as four National Awards in the top categories. Salim Kumar, usually seen in comic roles, has been adjudged the Best Actor for his role as a 75 year old man, who, along with his wife, has a burning desire to go for the Haj pilgrimage. Through *Adaminte*

*Makan Abu*, debutant Salim Ahmed became the director of the best film, Madhu Ambat picked up the best cinematography trophy and Issak Thomas Kottakapally got the best music director award. Veetilekulla Vazhi, an adventure drama highlighting human relationships, directed by Dr. Biju won the award for the Best Malayalam Film. Though Dr. Biju's former films received wide critical acclaim, he was struggling to get distributors for this film which brought national award home. He is a bit relieved that now this film will definitely reach the target audience.

Some brought the national

recognition home for their works in other language films. Veteran actor Sukumari won the best supporting actress award for her Tamil film *Namma Gramam*. Saranya Ponvannan, who won the best actress award for her touching portrayal of a doting mother in *Thenmerku Paruvakattu* (Tamil) also has a deep Malayali connection. Sabu Cyril who won the best art direction award for *Yenthiran* and Indrans Jayan, who won the best costumes award also did Kerala proud. In the non-fiction category, film directed by K.R. Manoj. The pestering journey on the ill effects of pesticides won the award for the best investigative film. The best film critic award also went to a Keralite- Joshy Joseph.

Salim Ahmed, a graduate in Commerce from Mattannoor Pazhassiraja N.S.S. College, runs a travel agency in Mattannoor. His interest in mimicry brought him to the world of cinema. He was the director of the programme 'Rasikaraja Number One' aired by Soorya TV. He had earlier assisted scenarist T.A Razack and director G. S Vijayan. He had decided to set his debut film in an atmosphere that is known to him. He had dealt with many Haj travellers during his stint in an airline company. He thought it would be interesting if made into a movie. Salim Admed, fascinated by the performance of Salim Kumar in 'Bridge', decided to cast him in his movie. Both the characters go through a similar state of helplessness. "Adaminte *Makan Abu* is an entertainer which uses a simple language and can be enjoyed by all. The film will hit the theatres in June," says Salim Ahmed. He strongly believes that



he was able to alter the concept of award films through his debut film. He opined that superstars prefer to do offbeat films rarely. But it gives him great satisfaction to work with people like Salim Kumar and Madhu Ambat. He looks forward to do films living up to the expectation of his film lovers.

Salim Kumar, who has done some serious roles before in films like Achanurangatha Veedu, Bridge in the Kerala Café anthology and Perumazhakkalam among others, is usually regarded as one of the finest comedians in Malayalam cinema. He started as a mimicry artiste and has been an integral part of almost every entertainer for several years now. The film Adaminte Makan which bagged the coveted award for him is an artistic attempt to project the essential goodness and nobility in humans. The Muslim community is depicted in many films as extremists but this is a work that brings out the nobility of all human beings beyond the barriers of religious divides. He added that while enacting his focus has been on basic human themes like yearning for love and care and the need to protect nature from further assault by a greedy few. "Being mostly seen as a comedian, I approached the role very seriously with lot of preparation. I even asked the director whether he was sure he wanted to cast me. But the director's response was that what he wanted was to make a good film. I am rewarded and I Thank God", he said.

State Film Award verdict was no different. Here also Adaminte Makan Abu hogged the spot light. The State Film Award Jury adjudged that the film, its lead actor Salim Kumar, the man who wrote the score for the film Thomas Kottukapally to be the best in their respective categories. Salim Kumar is the seventh Malayalam actor and the first comedian to win national and state best actor award the same year. Jury Chairperson, Budhadeb Dasgupta, opined that he was overwhelmed by the performance of Salim Kumar. For the first ten to fifteen minutes he couldn't believe his eyes since he had seen the same person in comedy roles in some other films which were competing for the awards. Issac Thomas got credited to be the first Malayalam Music Director to win both National and State Film Awards simultaneously. The debutant Salim Ahmed (Adaminte Makan Abu) won the award for the best script writer.

The second innings turned out to be luckier for Kavya Madhavan who won the award for the best actress. She made a terrific come back to industry through her film Gaddama directed by Kamal which attempted to portray the life end struggles of expatriates. She had bagged a state award for the first time through Perumazhakalam by the same director. Though Elektra directed by Shyama Prasad could not make it to the top in the National Award, it won Shyama Prasad the state award for the best direction. T.D. Dasan, Std. 6 B, which bagged award for the best screenplay at the 11th New York Indian Film Festival, won two awards: Best debutant director for Mohan Raghavan and Best second actor for Biju Menon.

The controversial experimental film Chitrasoothram won three awards: Special Jury Award for the director Vipin Vijay, best cinematography award for Shahnad Jalal and the award for the best sound recordist Shubhadeep Sengupta and Ajith M. George. Shahnad Jalal shared the award for the best cinematography with M.J. Radhakrishnan, who did the camera for Veetilekkulla Vazhi.

Makaramanju directed by Lenin Rajendran which depicts the life of celebrated painter Raja Ravivarma received the award for the best second film. On the other hand Pranchiyettan and the Saint directed by Renjith became the most popular film with aesthetic appeal. ■



# Another campus

Vyshakh, director of last year's hit 'Pokkiri Raja' is back with another out and out entertainer. This time the director tells a story of four middle-aged men going back to college to continue their studies. Though the story thread seems interesting, it needs utmost care in execution and the good news about 'Seniors' is that it works, and big-time.

The film is about friendship of Padmanabhan aka Pappu (Jayaram), Idikkula (Biju Menon), Rex (Kunchako Boban) and Munna (Manoj K Jayan). These guys decide to return to college to continue their post graduation studies, which they dropped 12 years back following a tragedy. Pappu, who was at jail following those incidents is back now and he is the master brain of this new 'education plans'. But studying was not the real intention of Pappu's revisit to college, and his plans were more complex too. Will he succeed in his mission? Second half and climax, which is complex and psychological in approach, gives answers to all questions.

Vyshakh, as in his first film, this time too has concentrated in presenting a colourful entertainer rather than trying something innovative. Sachin-Sethu duo, the script writers, have worked a lot on college wits to engage audience like in their previous hit 'Chocolate'. Frankly, they've just wanted to make a masala film with an absolute lacking in sense and logic. Well, these things worked well in screen and college sequences of four friends



Suresh Muthukulom

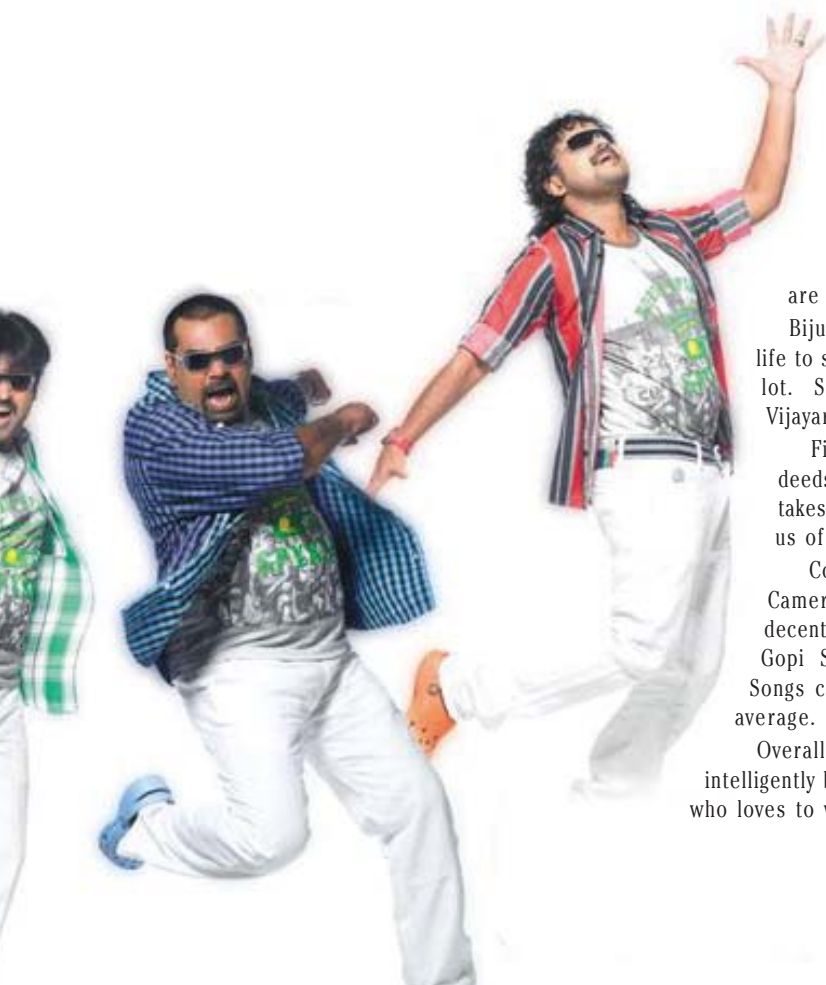
FLORICULTURE

## The humming bird vine

The humming bird vine with its original name 'Cypress Vine' is widely grown as an ornamental plant throughout the tropics. The Binomial name being 'Ipomoea quamoclit' is also called Cardinal Creeper, Cardinal Vine, Star Glory. In Southern India it is called as 'Mayil Manikkam' and also 'Mayilpeeli Valli.' It is a fast growing, flowering vine, with an abundance of bright, star shaped flowers. Native to tropical areas of South America, the Cypress Vine will grow and climb to quickly cover its support. It



# entertainer again



are really entertaining, though seen several times.

Biju Menon, Manoj K Jayan, Jayaram and Kunchacko give life to seniors nicely. Biju Menon's Idikkula is the best of the lot. Supporting roles by Suraj Venjaramood, Jagathy, Vijayaraghavan, Ananya, Padmapriya etc are good.

First half of the film deals completely with the campus deeds of seniors, which are funny. In the second half, story takes a turn into a psychic thriller. These parts may remind us of 'Classmates' and 'Manichitrathazhu'.

Considering technical parts, 'Seniors' is above average. Camera by Shaji is good and editing by Mahesh Narayan is decent, helping the movie to attain its gritty, fast-paced feel. Gopi Sunder's back ground music is worth mentioning. Songs composed by Jassie Gift, Alphonse and Alex Paul are average.

Overall, holding the right amounts of thrills and chills, this intelligently blended comic entertainer will be a treat for someone who loves to watch racy thrillers, leaving their brains behind. ■

is an easy to grow annual plant which extends upto 10 to 15 feet in a simple season. The flower colours include white, red, rose and pink. Butterflies and humming birds are attracted to the bright blooms. As a vine it needs some type of support to climb.

Cypress Vine is grown from seeds. Seeds are sown in a potting mix ¼ "deep and it sprouts in 5-10 days. Mix a healthy doss of compost into the soil prior to planting. Plants like a lot of water and nutrients. Keep soil moist, not wet; the vine grows quickly, producing beautiful scarlet flowers in less than 30 days. All lovely flowers produce enough of little black seeds. So if you plant cypress vine, it will self-sow from seeds that remain in the ground and can become invasive!

Add fertilizer when planting and every month during the season. It can be organic foods like well dried cow dung on leaf manure and fertilizer mixtures like 17:17:17/18:18:18 well diluted. Deadhead spent flowers to promote a continuous, summer long bloom. Cypress-vine is a good choice to cover trellises in a hurry.



# OVERBURY'S FOLLY

## Overburry's Folly An Evening Resort

Nature and history joins together to form a loners spot at Thalassery sea coast. This is Overburry's Folly, a natural terrace structure with steps leading to it, rising above the rocky sea shore, a healthy natural and environmentally friendly spot.

To spend evenings at this graceful and enchanting place, overlooking the Arabian sea and enjoying the cool sea breeze and surf and the sight of the crimson radiant sun bidding goodbye and going down the Arabian Sea is a breath taking experience. The twilight hours are also ideal for lazing on the terrace and enjoying the amazing sight of the lights emitting out from the fishing boats plying in the sea. This beautiful rendezvous is full of surprises and hidden treats, the beauty of this hidden spot lies in its spotless glory.

Overburry's folly as it is known for more than a century old is the result of an idea conceived by E.N. Overburry, the British Malabar Collector and the presiding judge of Thalassery court and built in 1869 on the high rocky edge of the land overlooking the Arabian Sea. It

was carved out of the sea side hillock protected by natural break water. With the construction of a terrace it turned out in to a delightful evening resort commanding a panoramic view of the sea. Overburry could not complete the work prior to his departure from Tellicherry.

This pictorial sight of the natural terrace made the glossary of Madras Presidency describe Tellicherry thus 'Sight picturesque open to sea on the west and on opposite side beckoned by wooded hills. interspersed and watered by a fine river has been called the Montpellier of India, ornamental terrace overlooking the Arabian Sea like Montpellier of South France ( Montpellier is a coast town in South France).

Arabian Sea appears in splendid glory here. The sea is delightful and

companionable than anywhere. Overburry was fascinated by the beauty of the spot and so he built a flight of steps leading to the rocky mountain and erected seats on the raised terrace. It is said that Overburry a man of imagination and creation has failed to complete the structure in full swing. So the spot came to be called Overburry's Folly. The word folly as per dictionary meanings is foolishness act or idea or an excessively costly or unprofitable undertaking. Since he could not complete his dreamland the word folly was associated with the name of the originator of the terrace which in course of time came to be known as Overburry's Folly

This unique structure is mostly visited due to its proximity to the town. The calm atmosphere charms the senses at once. The high cliffs and the imposing boulders

Overburry's folly as it is known for more than a century old is the result of an idea conceived by E.N. Overburry, the British Malabar Collector





projecting forcefully in the sea gives it a mysterious aura, This literate cliff also preserve the eco system of the land and act as natural protective barrier, This ornamental spot has been an evening haunt foe the citizens of Tellicherry for more than a century. Now tourists from far an near also has been driven to this spot by its enchanting charm and beauty.

Overburry's dream land has been neglected for decades and misused by the public and the first step to renovate the structure was done by R.Mukunda Maller, the Chairman of Thalassery municipality. But in course of time folly again slipped back to its neglected state by the authorities.

This beautiful site and the adjacent ruined fort however due to time and vagaries of nature show signs of degeneration when an enthusiastic entrepreneur a north Indian named Amitabh Kant arrived in Thalassery to assume charge as the sub collector. The youth oriented non political ,social organisation named Angry Young Men of Thalassery headed by C.P. Aluppy Keyi a consumer activist brought the misuse

Tourists use to alight here and enjoy the enchanting panoramic view of the Arabian Sea. The residents of Thalassery for generations had found this magnificent and unique structure an ideal spot to spend their evenings.

and neglect of the folly to the notice of the collector who renovated the structure and restore it to its pristine glory.

Overburry conception of blending natural beauty with his creative imagination was finally fulfilled by the district tourism council by constructing an open air theatre and strengthening of the adjacent fort by constructing steps leading to the top of the fort with seats. Fencing and arches and made it a magnificent view point. Overburry's folly became an ideal spot for beach goers and enthusiastic visitors from far and wide. Tourists use to alight here and enjoy the enchanting panoramic view of the Arabian sea. The residents of Thalasseryfor generations had found this magnificent and unique structure an ideal spot to spend their evenings.

Thalassery has been declared a heritage town by the Govt. of Kerala and so a heritage circuit through the sea coast connecting Overburry's folly with the nearby centenary park is under implementation. Further an attempt to demolish the adjacent fort to construct a watch tower created a stir among the old timers who were used to associate with it, recently a watch tower has been constructed without damaging the fort keeping in view of the environment. folly is now renovated by ensuring the valuable remnants of history by the department of tourism, Government of Kerala. If the proposed heritage path if fulfilled without spoiling the concept of Overburry would have become an important tourist destination for beach goers and nature lovers.■

# Handloom Weave Policy Novel

The history of Indian handloom industry dates back to the epic ages. It is one of the most important, ancient, national traditional industries of India. It is still the largest employer in the country after agriculture. The industry directly gives employment to 120 lakh people in India. The sector accounts for 13.12 per cent of the total cloth produced in the country (excluding clothes made by wool, silk and handspun yarn) and also contributes substantially to the export earnings. The Handloom Industry is the major traditional industry of Kerala, after coir. It directly gives employment to 1.75 lakhs of people. The industry is dominated by the cooperative sector with 94 per cent of the looms.

It is widely believed that liberalisation and globalisation policies produced serious repercussions on the handloom industry in Kerala but nobody proved the merit and magnitude of such impacts. In this scenario we have made a study on the performance and future of the industry in Kerala. Based on the findings of the study some recommendations have been presented for policy implications. For the realisation of the study primary data collected from handloom weaving cooperative societies and households of central Kerala. To substantiate the same, secondary data also collected from various sources including Economic Review, HANTEX, HANVEEV, Handloom Exports Organisation, Kannur, Statistics for Planning, other published books, official and reliable websites, various periodicals, news papers etc.

## Impact of Globalisation

The globalisation policies came in the forefront in 2001 in Kerala. Therefore we consider period before 2001 as pre globalisation period. Handloom industry in Kerala is dominated by the cooperative sector. However, it is found that production of handloom cloth has decreased by 17.2 per cent under the cooperative sector during the last five years.

On the other hand production has increased by 12 per cent under the unorganised/ private sector. Production of cloth and sales turnover of HANTEX, the apex cooperative society, has been declining during the period of globalisation. Production has declined by 16 per cent and sales turnover has declined by 50 per cent during the last five years. The study shows that production and sales of HANVEEV (apex promotional agency) have declined by 41.6 per cent and 13.7 per cent.

The study shows that majority (79.5 per cent) of the handloom households have not introduced any change in the production pattern during the period of globalisation. It is found that HWCs have adopted modernisation only to a limited extent in their factory looms.





It is found that daily output of 90 per cent of the handloom household units is below 5 metres of cloth, which represents low production and productivity during the period of globalisation. It is also found that 91.5 per cent of the handloom workers receive only a low average daily income, which is less than Rs. 50. One of the important findings of the study is that 66 per cent of the weavers in the region had never attended any training programme in connection with modernisation of looms. The HWCSs in the district have taken only a few steps to improve the quality labour.

The study reveals that globalisation has encouraged the exports of handloom products from Kerala. It is also found that nearly 98 per cent of the handloom exports from Kerala (and 10 per cent of the national exports) are made from Kannur district. Handloom exports from Kannur had increased by an

export performance. The statistics represent that the export of handloom products from Kerala has declined by nearly 30 per cent during the period of financial crisis. The total exports of handloom products from India also declined during the same period though it has shown a positive trend during the post globalisation.

### Recommendations

Our study shows poor performance and inefficiency of the cooperative sector during the period of globalisation. Therefore it is suggested that the handloom cooperatives should be reorganised and strengthened with the help of the following steps:

(i) Handloom cooperatives should be depoliticised and the membership should be strictly limited to the actual /regular weavers. Among them, experienced, workers should be given the 'effective

average growth rate of 2 per cent during the pre-globalised period. But, it has increased by 6 per cent during the post-globalised period. In 2004, Kannur district in Kerala has been declared as the "Town of Export Excellence" by the Central Government. However a paradox is also found from the study. While the export of handloom fabrics from Kannur has encouraged during the period of globalisation, the export of HANTEX has discouraged during the same period. Export of HANTEX had increased by 52 per cent during the pre globalisation period, but it has declined to -48 per cent during the post-globalised period.

### Impact of Global Financial Crisis

The impact of Global financial crisis on the handloom sector may be examined along with the

membership'. The effective membership should be given only to those weavers/workers who have an experience of minimum 10 years and who undertake handloom work/weaving regularly, as per the audited records of the HWCS.

(ii) Excessive dependence of the HWCSs on HANTEX is proved as a perfect failure. Therefore it is recommended that HWCSs have to be de-linked from the orbit of HANTEX and the handloom clusters should establish their own sales outlets in urban and semi-urban centres. In short, it is suggested that the marketing function of the HANTEX should be replaced by the handloom clusters

It is found that the unorganised/ private handloom sector has made a much better performance in production, productivity and employment generation





# Glory of Palakkadan

Like the popular Palakkadan matta rice, the Palakkadan Koorcka (*Coleas Pavy fiorus*) is also becoming prominent in the kitchens of Kerala. Koorcka (Chivakizhangu) cultivating season in the agricultural dominated rural villages of this district is July -August. The origin of the species Lamiaces was in Africa.

It is the smallest tuber crop which is cultivates at the length and breadth of Kerala. Whether you are vegetarian or, not you can enjoy the relish taste of it. Koorcka is enriched with calcium, iron and

valuable vitamins which are essential for man's health.

Until recently, Koorcka has been cultivated in the dry lands in Palakkad District, when a majority of dry lands and semi- dry lands in the district paved the way for rubber cultivation and coconut plantation abundantly, the traditional koorcka was compelled to be cultivated in the paddy fields. No survey had been made to know the extents of this cultivation and the total production of this type of crops. Koorcka is still considered as a poor man's delicious

in Kerala. However, it is observed that most of the Government schemes are biased in favour of the cooperative sector. Hence, it is suggested that the Government funds should be extended to the individual handloom entrepreneurs/ private weaving institutions and individual weavers.

It is observed that the demand for Eco Tourism, Ayurveda Tourism and the demand for herbal clothes are rising in foreign countries. Herbal clothes or herbal dyed garments are mainly manufactured by the handloom sector. The study shows that 'Tulasi cloth', 'Sandal cloth', 'Ramacham Purdah', herbal dyed undergarments, etc., is produced in some parts of Kerala.

It is recommended that such experiments must be widely adopted and the handloom clusters in Kerala should be linked with the tourism destinations.

From the case study it is observed that one of the major market problems faced by the

Globalisation has produced a negative impact on production, sales and profits of HWCSs in Kerala. At the same time, it is observed that the industry in Kerala was less prepared for globalisation.

HWCSs is the lack of advertisement. Lack of finance is the major difficulty that limits advertisement of new handloom products. To overcome this problem the following suggestions are made:

i) Collective advertisement by handloom clusters can solve this problem to an extent.

ii) For effective advertisement, it is suggested that advertise-

ment captions such as "Eco friendly fabrics", "Natural Dress", Herbal Cloth", "Dress for Health", etc., should be given wide coverage and circulation through various sources including mass media

iii) It is also recommended that advertisements of handloom clusters must be sponsored by the Department of Tourism

Modernisation of looms/ installation of new machines and training of workers should be implemented simultaneously. The survey shows that the existing system of training for handloom workers is misused. The workers attend the training only for acquiring the Government stipends. Their training potential is often wasted without modernisation. Therefore, the Government sponsored training should be given only for those weavers who implement modernisation.

It is observed that regular marketing is the main problem of the handloom sector. Therefore it



## Koorka



dish. Though it is a tasty ingredient in the cousin, eminent star hotels are still not patronising Koorka for their dining tables. From time immemorial, Koorka is produced in Palakkad district, especially in Mundur Panchayat, just 15 Kms from the headquarters. There were traditional farmers at Velikkad in the Panchayat; Koorka cultivation enjoys some benefits, it is a sturdy plant and can resist pests - insects of all varieties. Once most of the farmers were interested in cultivating Palakkadan koorka and were proud to sell it in the markets of Thrissur,

Ernakulam and Kozhikode. Nowadays traditional koorka farmers lost their keen interest to cultivate it due to the menace of wild animals like boars and monkeys. A few farmers have gone to neighbouring Panchayats like Pudukkottai, Keralassery, Kongad, Karimba, Akathethara and Malampuzha taking land on lease for cultivation since these places are some what safe from these wild animals. Wild animals like monkeys, elephants, boars, deers, peacocks have become a nightmare to the lives of the toiling farmers of these area.

Koorka can be cultivated with great profit if it can be exported to Gulf markets since there are a number of Keralites are residing there. It has a good market in Kolaba (Mumbai) and Connaught Place (New Delhi) since there is a large numbers of Malayalis. Koorka Achar is an attraction in the super markets. Like Palakkadan matta, Palakkadan koorka has also got pride in the above said markets due to its delicious taste than Pandy Koorka which comes from Tamil Nadu. ■



is recommended that the domestic and local marketing of handloom products can be extended through the service of 'Kudumbashree' units. Kudumbashree units are micro enterprises of women below poverty line, with focus on self-help, demand-led convergence of available resources and services under the leadership of Local

Governments in Kerala. . Sales agents of these units can definitely encourage the retail sales/ home delivery sales if new demand-oriented varieties are produced by the HWCSs. This marketing system will be more effective than the present system of selling through HANTEX, the apex society, because in the latter case the HWCSs are suffering recurring financial crisis.

It is also recommended that an organisation/ agency should be formed (like the Handloom Exports Organisation in Kannur) for the promotion of handloom exports from central Kerala. Being the presence of good export infrastructure, Kochi must be the seat of such an organisation.

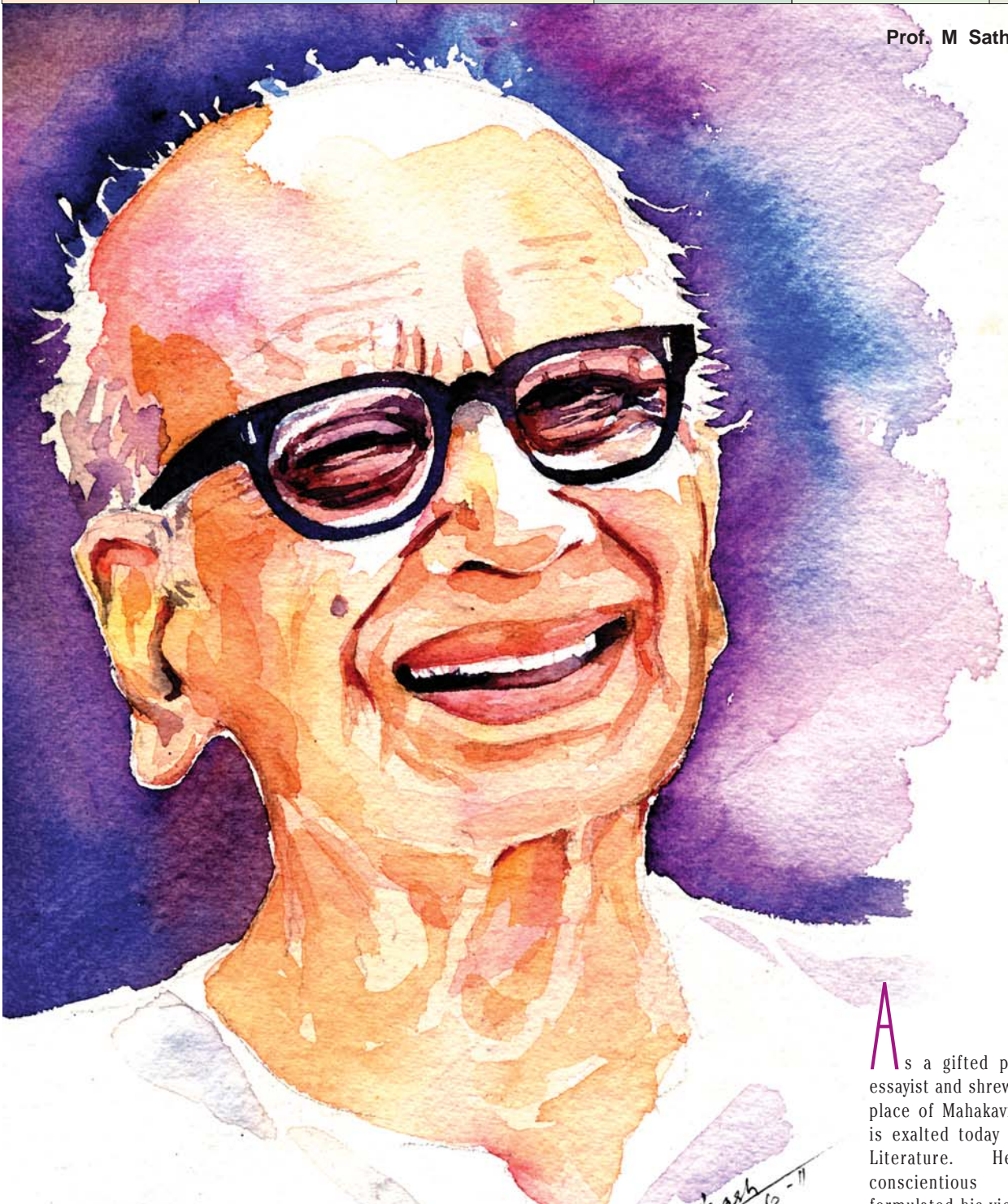
In short, it is concluded that globalisation has produced a negative impact on production, sales and profits of HWCSs in Kerala. At the same time, it is observed that the industry in Kerala was less prepared for globalisation. Therefore, the reason behind this

negative performance is nothing but the incompetence of the industry during the post-globalisation period. However, the industry depicted a better export performance in Kerala (especially from Kannur) during the post globalisation period. This reflects a good prospect for the handloom industry in Kerala.

It is expected that the above suggestions will help to resolve the problems faced by handloom industry in Kerala. Cooperation and willpower of the HWCSs, weavers, Government, NGOs and other supporting agencies are also expected for the realisation of the above recommendations and to brighten the future of handloom industry in Kerala. Moreover, it is expected that the recommendations may be applicable to the traditional handloom sector in India during the post globalisation period. ■

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*Mahakavi Appan*

# *Fragrance never Fading*

**A**s a gifted poet, brilliant essayist and shrewd critic, the place of Mahakavi M.P. Appan is exalted today in Malayalam Literature. He is a conscientious artist who formulated his views about the nature, function and place of poetry and expatiated on the role of the poet in human society. He is endowed with simplicity in style, humility in dealings and nobility in work. He won "Mooloor Award for his work, 'Jeevitha Sayannam'.

After taking his Master's degree in Mathematics, Appan made option for teaching and he rose to the position of D.E.O, in his official career, He also



worked as an assistant editor of the Malayalam Encyclopaedia. Appan is devoid of envy, arrogance, pride, wrath, vengeance, cursedness and doggedness. He became noble and humble only because of the influence of Swamy Vivekananda and Sree Narayana Guru on him. The divine impact of the Guru can also be seen in other Malayalam poets like Ulloor, Vallathol and Kumaran Asan. Propagating the ideals of the Sre Narayana Guru, Sivagiri Mutt had given him a gold medal in 1962. His poems in praise of the Guru, are included in Appan's work "Prasadam". The poetic qualities of Appan and his devotion to the Guru have been detailed in the books under the title "Guru Prabhavam" and Mahakavi Appan (Biography).

When we assess the poetic qualities of Appan, he can very well be compared to John Keats. Both of them have many things in common. This quality makes Appan admirable. In the early stages of their lives, their appreciation of beauty was purely physical. They were interested in the beauty of women and nature. In a sense, these sensuous thoughts provided them the joy for which their soul hungered.

This kind of descriptions can be found in the poems of Appan as well. Some of his works titled 'Maniyarayil Ninne;', 'Nakshatra Kanyaka., (starry damsel) Pramada, Youvanolsavam (excitement of youth) Premamkuram (The origin of romance) Avivahitha (The Spinster), Soundarya Dhara (a stream of beauty, and Vellinakshatram (Twinkling star), can be cited as the excellent examples of his sensuousness. Keats in his poem 'Endymion' presented his joy in the beauty of nature in her varied moods and came out with the assertion:-

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever  
Its loveliness, will never,  
Pass into nothingness....."

The ideas on love and beauty can be seen in Appan's famous works 'Udyana Sunam', (A flower in the garden), Leela Soudham (House of Joy) and Kilikonchal (Bird's talk). Some of his poems (34 poems) were translated into English by M. Prabha.

Appan was also influenced by the pleasant and beautiful poems of Tagore and the thoughtful essays of Swamy Vivekananda.

The impact of the revolutionary poets like P.B. Shelley, Byron and the Malayalam Poets Mahakavi Kumaran Asan and Saras Kavi Mooloor on Appan are equally great. He himself has admitted this fact in some of his articles. His poems on Tagore, Swamy Vivekananda, Shelley and Asan are also very popular among the lovers of art and literature. He glorified Shelley in the following lines.

"With gorgeously beautiful golden wings

in tranquil and cool radiance,  
O, Sacred souled one, to the earth  
joy come like a messenger divine....

Your thoughts that burst forth  
cleaving the wells of your cleave  
stirred up ripples in the river  
beside it,

and how strange, that even now  
in the very heart of the world  
thy mighty roars of the seven seas

In a voice wherein winged  
You resounded like truth's  
clarion call

to wake up humanity".

(translated by M. Prabha in English)

We can also appreciate his patriotic and revolutionary ideas from his famous work "A sword and a Panineerpoovu' (A Flower and a Sword). He appeals to the youngsters "to work hard joyfully so as to enable us to create a Rama Rajya. He was also attracted by the ideas of Emerson. This American poet says that "Young generation is the very beauty of the world and the promise of tomorrow",

The greatness of Appan's poetry is that, it is characterised by moral rectitude and probity which never

lead, the readers to frustration and unhappiness. He tries to hoist a flag of optimism in their hearts. To put it in a nutshell, there is no place for pessimism in his poetry. Mahakavi Vallathol, the late poet laureate of Kerala, once said that "Shri. Appan is a genius and his poems are nothing but the gems and jewels of the treasure house of Malayalam literature. "

As Keats died at the age of 26, his thoughts and ideas are highly sensuous and immature. He could not face the agonies of human life and therefore he was criticised as an escapist by his critics. He took pride in being a votary of beauty. "If I should die," he wrote "I have left no immortal work behind me, nothing to make my friends proud of my memory, but I have loved the principle of beauty in all things and if I had time, I could say that made myself remembered." Nobody can say that Appan is an escapist. But John Keats is criticised, that he was an escapist.

Appan does not disagree with the views of Shakespeare and Goethe on life. According to Shakespeare, "Life is a tale, told by



# Guide the farmers to esteem

Wayanad district is very rich in terms of the diversity of life forms and culture. Agriculture is the principal activity of both the native inhabitants and also the migrant settlers of the area. The virgin forest soil and rich climate helped the migrated settlers to establish in the area and also to develop agriculture and flourish. Till recently Wayanad was a heaven to the natives and settlers and

also to the nature loving traveller searching the diversity of life and culture, in spite of the limited availability of modern facilities. But, the past few years witnessed acute agricultural crisis and associated social problems. This article is based on a study carried out in 2007-2009 period as part of a project financed by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment.

The district is very rich in the diversity of flora and fauna and also in the diversity of tribal races and more than 35 per cent of the area come under forest cover. The district has the highest tribal population in the state of Kerala (17.1 per cent as per the 2001 census). Paniyar, Adiyar, Kurichyar, Kurumar, Kattunaikkar and Kadar are the major tribes of Wayanad. Non tribal people migrated to Wayanad



an idiot full of sound and fury signifying nothing". Goethe also says that "Life is a tale, written in tears". As gifted poet, Appan's attempt is to blend beautifully the two elements of life, (cheers and tears) brilliantly and bravely by giving people, the very sweetness of life instead of conveying to them the bitterness of misery. His poetry also elevates the readers to the realm of spirituality. He says, "Everything has an existence that is eternal whatever from, it may in this

universe, assume." Appan is really indebted to Swamy Vivekananda and Sree Narayana Guru, to cultivate a spiritual outlook in his life. Appan has also great appreciation for the philosophy of Omarkhayyam, the great Persian poet. He was delighted to translate Omarkhayyam's work "Rubaith" into Malayalam as "Jeevitholsavam" and his translation is acknowledged to be the finest among the nine other Malayalam translations. To quote Dr. Vidyaratnam

Suranat Kunjan Pillai, "We enjoy the flavours, sweetness and beauty of an original work in Appan's translation "Jeevitholsavam". No wonder, this book is highly appreciated by the whole aesthetic world.

Appan introduced a novel method of writing sonnets in Malayalam. Mahakavi Sankara Kurup also did a notable service in this arena. A sonnet is a form of poetry, containing fourteen lines and in those lines a profound idea should be





during different periods of time. Wayanad has a small Jain community consisting of the Gounders who migrated from Karnataka. One fourth of the population of the district is constituted by Christians. Almost all sections of Christianity are well represented. They migrated from the central and southern districts of Kerala. Muslims also form a prominent part of the population. They are the Mapilas who mainly migrated from Malappuram and Kozhikode districts. Ezhavas and Nairs are the major Hindu groups represented

in Wayanad and they also migrated mainly from the central and southern districts of Kerala. Non tribal settlers migrated to Wayanad from different parts of Kerala during the middle decades of the twentieth century. The migrated people settled in groups at different regions of Wayanad and started intensive agricultural practices in the virgin forest land and their sincere and hard work resulted in very good returns. The tribal people were highly submissive and very often they served as agricultural labourers for nominal wages. Slash and burn agriculture was practiced by the settler population and the pioneer crops were tapioca and rice.

Slowly they were considerably displaced by annual and perennial cash crops. Almost all the major cash crops from rubber, tea

and coffee to pepper, ginger and vanilla have been tried by the farmers of the area and they have experienced both the pluses and minuses of different agricultural practices.

However, until 1980s the farmers of Wayanad were proud of their livelihood and in spite of all the shortcomings they enjoyed their life. But, the last decade of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty first century witnessed undesirable fluctuations in land use patterns, crop preference, attitude towards agriculture and the social identity of the society. There were declines in quality in every component of the agroecosystem including its environment, productivity, sustainability, economics and cultural identity. In the present decade it has turned up as a critically unstable pocket of peasant



conveyed by the poet. Appan has also written many beautiful Odes. The immortal Odes of Keats have ravishing and rapturous influence on him. So also, his prose writings are highly felicitous and ecstatic to the readers. Referring to his genius, Dr. Vellayani Arjunan, former Director of Malayalam Encyclopaedia Institute, has recently pointed out that "Appan is a born poet. His Vivacious, blithesome and hilarious qualities are highly appreciative. We should

understand the hidden beauty and worth of his precious poems". There are fifty works including prose collections to Appan's credit.

A thorough study of his poetry reveals the truth that he was the only poet in Kerala who followed the foot prints of Mahakavi Kumaran Asan and Sarasa Kavi Mooloor who are admired as great poets, jewelled scholars and social reformers of Kerala. Appan has also studied deeply the philosophy of Jagad Guru Sree Sankara

Acharya, Swamy Vivekananda and Chattampi Swamikal. He was out and out an atheist with cosmopolitan outlook in life. In the introduction to the book "Golden Goblet" the late great thinker and writer K.P.S. Menon says Appan is a copious and versatile poet. When Appan "drops down as a delicate flower into the flower basket of time may that even be long deferred, it will be said of him too that the fragrance that he shed will never vanish". ■

crisis. The poor and marginal farmers who are not regular agricultural workers and who do not have the potential to procure their livelihood requirements from their peasant agriculture faced the acutest of threat. The years 2005 and 2006 witnessed farmer suicides in the district and very often the persons who committed suicide belonged to the lower strata of life like agricultural workers and marginal farmers.

### Family structure and education

As in other places of the state, majority of the families were found to be nuclear in nature with five or lesser number of members. Persons with high educational qualifications were low in number in the study area. A tendency to opt for nursing education has increased recently in the area. Dependence on private schools and colleges is high. This indicates the insufficiency of the net work of government schools and colleges in the area. Starting educational institutions in the government sector should be a priority so that secular and progressive education is made available to all the sections of the society. Free education of good quality and social relevance should be available at proximity. College education is not a common phenomenon in the case of the families in the study group. Contrary to the general trend in other parts of the state of Kerala, a higher proportion of female children are sent for professional education in Wayanad. But the fact is that most of them go to study nursing and not the other new generation professional courses.

### Residence, social structure and economic background

Majority of the poor and marginal farmers of the study area lives in tile roofed/ sheet roofed houses. 17 per cent of them live in very poor circumstances, 81.4 per cent in moderately comfortable houses and 1.6 per cent in comparatively better houses.

Majority of the families coming under the study group belongs to forward community minority. 28.2 per cent belong to OBC (including Muslim), 7.8 per cent belong to Hindu forward communities, 1.6 per cent belong to OEC, 2.2 per cent to SC and 5.2 per cent to ST. The community structure is different from the general pattern in Kerala state.

Even though agrarian in culture and life style, a considerable part of the study population depends on other

occupations for their livelihood on a considerable scale. Even though poor and economically unstable, only a very few percentage of the respondents depends on paid agricultural labour for their livelihood. Percentage of working women is low in this agricultural hamlet also even though women can significantly contribute towards the sustainability of agriculture. Annual income of the families is comparatively low. However, most of them are not below the poverty line.

The major source of income is agricultural only in 37 per cent of the families studied. 15 per cent get their major livelihood from livestock. Others depend on non agricultural income as their major source. The importance of livestock in sustaining the families of poor and marginal farmers should be stressed by welfare agencies and implementing officers especially in an ecosystem like Wayanad where cattle food is not as scarce as in other parts of Kerala. Moreover, cattle provide farm yard manure which is vital in the sustenance of agriculture in the area. Use of farm yard manure produced locally should be encouraged since many fungal diseases of crops are carried by farm yard manure brought from other states.

It is seen that National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is not being utilised to the optimum by the families of the study group. Reorientation of NREGP for the benefit of farmers including the extension of it to the agricultural sector and planning it based on local requirements of agricultural labour should be carried out.

### Participation in public life

The present study revealed that 12.6 per cent of families have members involved in political activities, 6.6 per cent of the families have members working in trade unions or service organisations and 17 per cent of the families have members working in social service organisations. The single largest organisation in which they were members was Kudumbasree, a self help group of women under the control of the local self governments. Involvement in kudumbasree activities is a very positive trend since it can ensure social and economic security. But, organising orientation programmes, counseling, training activities, etc., targeting the poor and marginal farmers is the need of the hour since social involvement, social participation and

sharing is needed the maximum in the case of any society that is socially or financially at risk.

### Land holding and farming practices

Majority of the farmers of the study population has got a land holding ranging from 0.25 ha to 0.75 ha. Majority of the farmers of the study group has no preference of crops. Regular crop rotation is practiced in paddy fields by 5.4 per cent of farmers only and occasional crop rotation by five per cent of farmers belonging to the study population. 7.8 per cent of the farmers are regularly cultivating other crops in paddy fields and 4.4 per cent of farmers are occasionally cultivating other crops in paddy fields. 8.4 per cent of them are not cultivating any other crops in paddy fields.

Optimum utilisation of the small area of land most effectively is the only alternative and this should be carried out with both economic returns and sustainability in mind. Use of paddy fields for other crops may sometimes bring about short term relief. But, the basic food security is threatened by it. Rice is consumed in considerably large quantities by the farmers of the study group and it is even given to cattle. Rice hay is an important byproduct essentially useful to maintain the livestock.

### Crop marketing

Majority of the farmers coming under the present study sells their produces to local merchants. Better marketing channels like marketing societies that suit the needs of the poor farmers is required to make sure that the farmers get better returns.

### Source of labour

34 per cent of the farmers of the study population use domestic labour only for agriculture and 39.6 per cent use domestic plus hired labour. Mechanised farming is being practiced by 18 per cent of the farmers only. 8.4 per cent use hired labour only. The farming activity of marginal farmers should be a family activity and also they should be ready to share labour with neighbours and relatives. Group farming, mechanisation and utilisation of NREGP labour should also be thought of. Kudumbashree units may be encouraged to take up agriculture related activities like post harvest processing so that long term storage and value addition is made



possible.

### **Livestock and agroforestry components**

Livestock components and agroforestry components have now been incorporated in a very few cases only. Incorporation of these would invariably improve the life status of any weak agrarian society in different ways. Live stock acts not only as a donor of supplementary income and nutrition, but it generates farm yard manure. Poultry also serves as a supplementary income and nutrition generator. Fish and honey bees should also essentially be made components of the agroecosystem of the study area since those are completely neglected now. Agro-forestry components have been incorporated only to a limited extent.

### **Crop wise income**

A study of crop wise mean income per hectare in 2006-07 showed that banana yielded the highest income followed by pepper and rubber. Agricultural income per hectare per year in 2006-07 in the case of the study group of families ranged from rupees below ten thousand to rupees above one lakh. However, majority had per hectare income below rupees fifty thousand only. Crops like pepper, coffee, vanilla, ginger, coconut, cashew and arecanut resulted in financial loss in the area. The major reasons were crop loss, diseases, price fluctuations, drought, low price and pest attack. Some crops were abandoned by some of the farmers of the study group due to several reasons. The farmers of the study group are not utilising expert advice from different sources for the improvement of their agriculture. However, 58.2 per cent of the families have frequent contact with krishibhavan.

### **Expenditures of the families**

Food expenditure of the families per year varied from rupees below ten thousand to rupees one lakh. Majority of the families had a food expenditure range between 10000 to 20000 rupees. Expenditure on clothing ranged from below rupees one thousand to rupees five thousand and above. Majority of the families had an expenditure of Rs. 3000-4000 in this regard. Expenditure on

house maintenance per year was below rupees one thousand in the case of most of the families studied. A very few families spend rupees five thousand or above annually for house maintenance. Expenditure on education varied from rupees below one thousand to rupees one lakh or above. However, in majority of cases, the expenditure was below rupees one thousand. Expenditure on health varied from below rupees five hundred to rupees fifty thousand and above. In majority of cases, the expenditure was below rupees five hundred annually. Expenditure on transport per year ranged from rupees below one thousand to rupees twelve thousand and above in the case of the

case of the families under study. In majority of cases it was below rupees five hundred. Total annual family expenditure of the study population varied from below rupees ten thousand in 0.6 per cent cases to rupees one lakh and above in 6.4 per cent of cases. In 31 per cent of cases it was rupees twenty thousand to rupees thirty thousand.

### **Sources of financial advances**

The major sources of finance, whether agricultural or otherwise, are nationalised banks and cooperative societies in the case of the study population. Microfinance programmes also serve a considerable role. House construction is the single major purpose



families of the study population. Majority had an expense below rupees one thousand. Annual expense on recreation ranged from nil to rupees two thousand. However, in majority of the families, expenditure on recreation was nil. Expenditure on communication varied from nil to rupees five thousand and above annually. In 49.6 per cent of families, there was no expenditure on communication. Annual expenditure on electricity varied from nil to rupees five thousand. In majority of the families, it varied from rupees five hundred to one thousand.

Expenditure on donations per year varied from below rupees five hundred to rupees five thousand and above in the

for which non agricultural loans have been availed. Proper financial advices and guided financial planning are necessary to make the investments in the sector useful and profitable. All socially committed financing agencies should act as per the needs and requirements of the farmers and they should be guided in all financial matters.

### **Liabilities**

The study showed that only a small percentage of the farmers was free from agricultural liabilities. But, 61.5 per cent of the farmers were free from non agricultural liabilities. Major share of the liabilities was with nationalized banks. The single major reason for non agricultural liability was housing loans





followed by educational loans.

### Supports rendered by the banking sector

The study has shown that 40 to 75 per cent of the farmers depending on co-operative banks belong to the marginal class, 22 to 60 per cent belong to the middle class and up to 10 per cent belong to the upper class. According to the banking personnel, 45 to 75 per cent of the agricultural loans are being utilised for the purpose itself by the marginal farmers and middle class farmers. The land development bank in the area has no information to spare in this regard. According to the authorities of scheduled banks, 80 per cent of the agricultural loans are being utilised for the same purpose itself. In their opinion, agricultural loans are being utilised for other purposes since such loans are available more easily and the interest rates are also low. The banks have got systems like pre sanction inspection, post sanction inspection, verification of utilization etc. to monitor the utilisation of agricultural loans. Regularity in repayment of agricultural loans ranged from 20 per cent to 50 per cent in the case of marginal and middle class farmers and

it was about 20 per cent in the case of upper class farmers.

All the three categories of banks namely co-operative banks, land development banks and scheduled banks make non agricultural loans available to the farmers. Repayment of non agricultural loans is also not regular. Another recent trend in the loan sector is availing educational loans to send children to self financing programmes of education. Scheduled banks of the area have sanctioned considerable quantum of educational loans to all the sectors of the society. Major share of the loans have been availed by the marginal class of families of the area. However, the bankers have informed that about 75 per cent of the educational loans are being repaid regularly.

### Opinion of the bankers

To the knowledge of the banking staff, 17 farmers who had availed loans from different branches in Wayanad committed suicide during the 2002-2007 period. 16 of them belonged to the marginal class and one belonged to the middle class. In the opinion of the bank officials agricultural loss, over financing, peculiarities of life styles, different types

of financial liabilities, personal problems, liquor consumption, expensive marriages, financial indiscipline, other problems and frustrations, etc. are the major causes for farmer suicides. The banks have taken different steps like reporting the event to the regional offices, sending applications to write off the loans to the government and writing off of agricultural loans in the case of the farmers who committed suicide. They have also taken steps to ensure that the farmers get benefits of various government schemes. The banking personnel have organised seminars, participated in farmer counselling programmes, meetings of farmers, dissemination of messages on agricultural self dependence and life style changes through self help groups, formed farmers' clubs, conducted recovery adalaths, etc. to motivate farmers in the area.

### Responses

According to the people's representatives and implementing officers of the area, the marginal farmers are provided with different types of assistances like subsidies. However, the availability of relief and benefits on time



is rare in the opinion of majority of them.

In the opinion of 27 per cent of the respondents from implementing officers and people's representatives, agricultural loans are not usually utilised for genuine agricultural purposes. However, in the opinion of 71 per cent of the respondents, those are occasionally used for agricultural purposes. Only two per cent are of opinion that the loans are invariably utilised for agricultural purposes. Different reasons have been attributed by the people's representatives and implementing officers for the farmer crisis in Wayanad. In the opinion of majority of them price fall and crop loss are the major reasons. Changes in climate and soil conditions have been described as the third major reason. Crop diseases, low yield, overuse of pesticides and fertilisers, increased cost of production, over burden due to loans, lack of proper marketing facilities, etc. also have been described as reasons for

suggestion of remedial measures on time, soil testing and treatment, crop insurance, proper implementation of agricultural schemes, ensuring market facilities, genuine use of agricultural loans and also changes in the life style of farmers for the improvement of the situation.

In the opinion of majority of the respondents from people's representatives and implementing officers, transfer of knowledge/ training programmes are conducted only rarely. The poor and marginal farmers participate in such programmes only occasionally in the opinion of majority of them. But, the people's representatives and implementing officers have revealed that majority of them has not involved directly in organising such programmes. However, they are of the opinion that in most of the cases, when such programmes are conducted, it has brought about positive changes among the farmers.

programme should be extended to the agricultural lands of deserving farmers.

The single major reason for farmer suicides in the opinion of the people's representatives and implementing officers is failure of agricultural crops. However, liabilities due to loans, alcoholism, social isolation, problems related to life style changes, family problems, psychological problems, etc. have also been pointed out as reasons for farmer suicides. Steps like counselling, strengthening family relationships, strengthening neighbourhood relationships, awareness programmes, media level intervention, measures to solve financial crisis and for income generation, measures to improve the agricultural sector, etc. should be taken up to overcome the crisis.

Majority of the people's representatives and implementing officers are of opinion that the interest rates of agricultural loans are not affordable to the poor and marginal farmers. No respondent from the above category is of the opinion that the agricultural loans are being repaid regularly. Majority of them opine that the irregularity in repayment is due to crop loss.

## Conclusion

The above study was an effort to analyze the situation of the poor and marginal farmers of Wayanad District of Kerala based on primary data collected for the purpose. The major weaknesses and the reasons for the same have been revealed to a considerable extent. Prosperity of future lies in the hands of the farmers who have to redesign their life style in relation to their agricultural, social and economic planning and activities. While redesigning the same care should be taken to see that the agrarian set up and peasantry nature of their livelihood are enriched further, simultaneously giving proper importance to other types of income and employment. The government and the implementing officers should see that proper planning is made and the plans executed scientifically so that the limited land available is utilised to the maximum with minimum ecological damage. Care should be taken to see that the esteem, honesty and integrity of the weaker sections including the poor and marginal farmers are upheld and the society is guided towards the goal of a secular, enthusiastic and prosperous tomorrow. ■

According to the people's representatives and implementing officers of the area, the marginal farmers are provided with different types of assistances like subsidies. However, the availability of relief and benefits on time is rare in the opinion of majority of them.

the farmer crisis.

The people's representatives and implementing officers suggest remedial measures like declaration of support prices for agricultural products, providing interest free loans, writing off agricultural debts, distribution of planting material and fertilisers on time with quality assurance, rescheduling agriculture loans, providing financial support for cultivation, innovating and implementing scientific agricultural practices, avoiding monocropping, promotion of mixed farming, avoiding the practice of changing crops based on temporary profit, planning of farming, promoting organic and integrated farming, cultivation of substitute crops, promotion of rice farming, improving irrigation facilities, promotion of group farming, trainings on farming practices, popularising value addition, promoting other income generation activities based on agriculture, detection of diseases and

In the opinion of only 19 per cent of the respondents from the people's representatives and implementing officers, the government initiatives to solve farmer problems are satisfactory. In the opinion of 62 per cent of them, all farmer debts are to be written off, 16 per cent say, debts of all deserving farmers are to be written off and 10 per cent say, the interest part only is to be written off. In their opinion, provisions should be there for interest free loans to farmers, financial assistance for irrigation, support for other income generating programmes, financial assistance to introduce new crops, stable price and market, crop oriented loan system, etc. In the opinion of 31 per cent of the people's representatives and implementing officers National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is beneficial to the poor and marginal farmers to get alternate income. In the opinion of 31 per cent of them, this



## Mass extinction: Snail survives

*A view of Choccolocco Creek, Talledega County, Alabama, where a surviving population of the wicker ancyloid limpet *Rhodacmea filosa* was recently rediscovered. The limpet in inset.*

Freshwater limpet (snails with shells shaped like caps rather than coils) last seen more than 60 years ago and presumed extinct—has been found in a tributary of the heavily dammed Coosa River in Alabama's Mobile River Basin in U.S.A.

The story of the limpet *Rhodacmea filosa*'s disappearance and reappearance is both a conservation success story and a cautionary tale for other parts of the world where rivers are being dammed. It's also an example of how museum specimens collected generations ago can inform scientists of today.

Limpets make their homes in the riffles and shoals of fast-flowing rivers and streams, where they graze on microscopic algae. When rivers are dammed, shoals and riffles are replaced with reservoirs, and the swiftly-moving water the limpets require is stilled.



## 13-year boy's doorbell tricks burglars

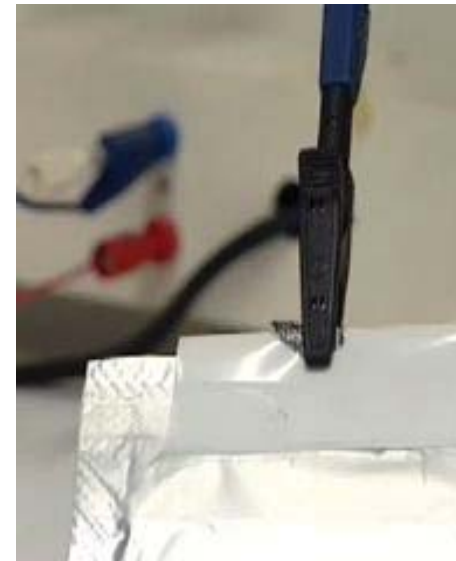
A schoolboy is on course for a Rs Two crore bonanza after inventing a doorbell that fools burglars into believing somebody is home at an empty property.

Smart Bell, designed by 13-year-old Laurence Rook in U.K. dials the homeowner's mobile phone when pressed,

## Rechargeable batteries through nanotechnology

Researchers are testing different ways of improving rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles have come to the conclusion that nanotechnology plays an important role in this direction. The aim is to offer batteries that have fast charge and discharge rates as well as high stored energy per mass. This can make electric vehicles a competitive alternative to petrol-powered vehicles.

Researchers at the University of



allowing them to talk to whoever is outside their front door.

The device even produces a small amount of white noise to give any unexpected guest the impression they are speaking to someone inside the house on an intercom system.

The invention, which uses an inbuilt SIM card and existing mobile-phone technology, would also allow homeowners to give instructions to drivers making deliveries at their property.

Laurence has already sold 20,000 units to a telecom giant and is finalising a deal with an unnamed second company for a further 25,000 units. When the deal is signed, he will be two crore richer.



Illinois in the U.S. have recently developed batteries which reduces the energy capacity loss, when very fast charge and discharge rates are offered. Only two minutes are needed to charge a lithium-ion battery to 90 percent. This approach involves cathodes created from a 3-D nanostructure.

However, it will take years before this innovation is used in electric vehicles. The researchers need to make sure that the vehicles can travel with the same speed as vehicles using petrol



and that the batteries don't need to be recharged too often. It will only take a few minutes to fully charge these batteries like the refuelling process in a petrol pump, which is important in order to be competitive, and they need to last longer in the automobiles.

The researchers are far from offering batteries that can sustain as long drives as petrol. However, the progress made is an important step towards reducing the environmental impact of vehicles.



## Birth control pill for men

Researchers at Columbia University Medical Centre are exploring the development of what may be the first non-steroidal, oral contraceptive for men. The researchers found that low doses of the drug stopped sperm production with no apparent side effects. Crucial for a typical contraceptive, normal fertility was restored soon after drug administration was terminated. To investigate whether the compound prevented conception at

even lower levels than those cited in the experiments the research team placed the treated male mice with females and found that reversible male sterility occurred with doses as low as 1.0mg/kg of body weight for a 4-week dosing period.

One advantage of using a non-steroidal approach, the researchers say, is avoiding the side effects commonly associated with steroidal hormone-based methods. Male steroid-based options have been plagued with adverse effects, including ethnic variability in efficacy, as well as an increased risk of diseases including some which affect the heart

## 'Cry for help' gene identified in plants

A genetic mechanism that enables corn plants to "cry for help" and attract beneficial insects has been clarified by scientists. Corn plants emit a cocktail of scents when they are attacked by certain pests, such as a caterpillar known as the Egyptian cotton leaf worm.

Parasitic wasps use these plant scents to localise the caterpillar and deposit their eggs on it, so that their

offspring can feed on the caterpillar. Soon after, the caterpillar dies and the plant is relieved from its attacker. In the case of corn, only one gene, TPS10, has to be activated to attract the parasitic wasps. This gene carries information for an enzyme forming the scent compounds that are released by the plant and attract wasps toward the damaged corn plant.

At least 15 species of plants are known to release scents after insect damage, thus attracting the enemies of their enemies. Scientists term this mechanism "indirect defence". Deciphering the complex mix of scents that the plants release after damage offered clues as to which classes of enzymes might be important for scent production and scientists hope that this can lead to creation of environment friendly insecticides.



## Festival of Forgotten



The three-day National Jackfruit Fest 2011 at the Kanakkakunnu Palace grounds from 4-6 June

highlighted the importance of jackfruit in local food security. It was the first such venture in the country of origin of this wonderful fruit. The festival was organised by the National Horticulture Mission and Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action.

The festival showcased a plethora of jackfruit products ranging from squash to jams, sip-up, payasam, dried jackfruit seed etc. The festival also included live demonstration and sale of value added products, a food court, cookery competition, a national workshop and skill training on jackfruit products and other promotional activities.

Another highlight was an exhibition of posters, photographs and books on the fruit and the tree. Saji Chunda received the first prize in the photography competition conducted as part of the first jackfruit festival.

The focus of the entire event was to encourage initiatives in the promotion and preservation of jackfruit. It is estimated that around 75 per cent of the jackfruit that grown across the country is wasted annually.

The fest was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Agriculture, K.V. Thomas.

## Our Forests; Our lives

The United Nations declared 2011 as the International year of Forests to raise awareness of sustainable forest management and conservation of all types of forests for the current and future generations. Governments, organisations and civil societies of all over the world are facilitating the organisation of activities in support of the international year of Forests.

Forest Minister K.B. Ganesh Kumar inaugurated the State level World Environment Day Celebrations by opening the comprehensive programme for planting of trees at the Saraswathy Vidyalaya, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram. He invited the participation of Students from standard I onwards in social foresting. "The Government will take all possible steps to check destruction of forests and encroachments upon them. Organic fencing will be implemented to prevent animal-man conflict. Strict measures would also be taken to free the forests of plastic waste", he said.

K. Muraleedharan MLA, Sugathakumari Teacher and other dignitaries were present.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011**