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Special Issue

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MEN**

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MEN'S DAY

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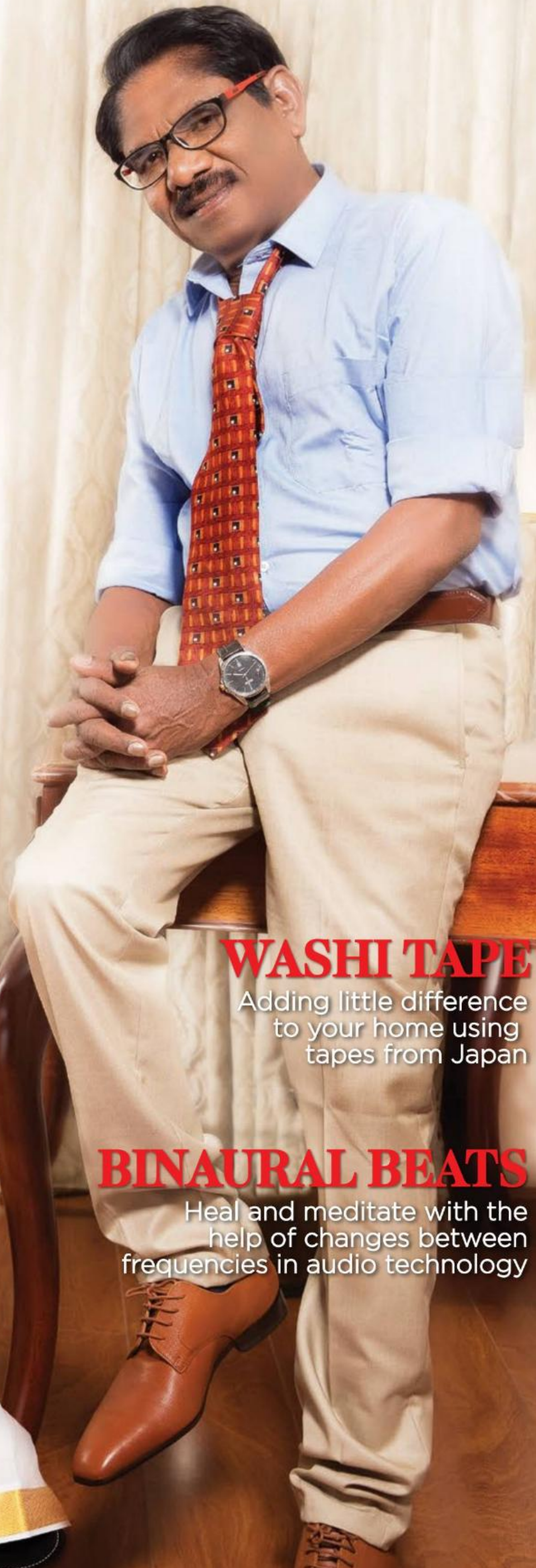
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HAND IN HAND

When we see the changes that are happenings over a century, we could notice women were caged and housed in the name of culture and traditions. But now, they are liberated from all the social nutshells of life. And gone are the days, where women are always shown as weak and, emotional, where mostly treated a representative of home or family. But currently they are also depicted as symbol of strength and power. There was a change in the society and in the minds of men, this transformed the fundamental principles of men's attitude towards women which was once chauvinistic, destructive and aggressive has turned to become moderate and compatible, which is mostly attributed to the growth of nuclear family both urban and rural.

Though we celebrate International Women's Day in a grand manner, somehow we have lost sight of the Men's day. And now time has come up to celebrate event. As Women Exclusive magazine respects equality of both the gender, we have taken a step forward in recognising and appreciating the contribution of men to the society. While we celebrate men's day, few men must also realise on how to overcome the challenges such as domestic violence and abuse on women. We can change the world by moving hand in hand. Our initiative is a small drop in the ocean. We would like to show our appreciation and thankfulness and credit all fathers, husbands, brothers, sons and friends.

Happy Men's Day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sumathi Srinivas".

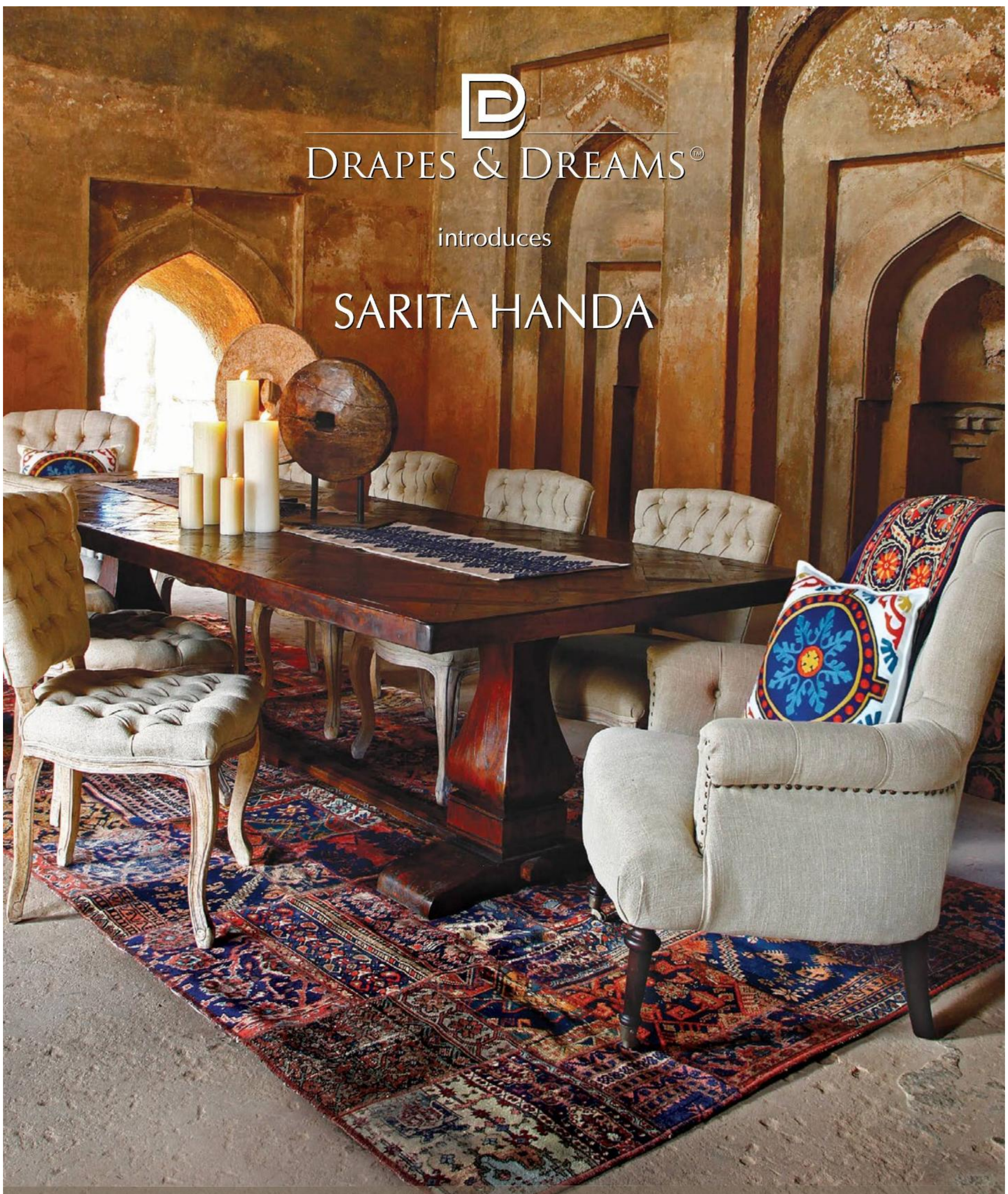
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CONTENTS

22

THE LEGEND BHARATHIRAJA



PEOPLE

19 INSPIRING IDEAL MEN '16

Stories of top personalities from various fields who challenged the rules and broke the odds to rise up

- 32 - ARVIND KATRELA
- 34 - ARUN KUMAR M
- 36 - AASIFE
- 38 - ARUN KUMAR
- 40 - BALAKUMAR
- 44 - BHASKARAN
- 46 - DR. T S CHANDRASEKAR
- 49 - ERIC MILLER
- 50 - GANESH SUBRAMANIAM
- 52 - KARTHIK SRINIVASAN
- 54 - KESHAV
- 56 - LEON JAMES
- 58 - MARIA IRUDAYAM
- 60 - ISAK NAZAR
- 62 - V PONRAJ
- 65 - MURALIDHARAN
- 66 - SABU CYRIL
- 68 - SAMUTHIRAKANI
- 72 - SANJEEV KORADA



TREND

10 - NEW ARRIVALS

Find out what gadgets are trending this month!

FASHION

14 - CHIKANKARI EMBROIDERY

A traditional embroidery styles from Lucknow

15 - SUGAR JEWELLERY

Art of making jewels out of sugar balls

GROOMING

16 - MAKEUP REMOVAL

Some interesting facts and how to remove the makeup

18 - EYE MAKEUP MISTAKES

List of eye makeup mistakes one can avoid

FOOD

74 - THE SPIRIT OF KARTHIGAI DEEPAM

No festival is complete without sweets and it is true with Karthigai Deepam festival too!



HEALING

78 - POWER OF BINAURAL BEATS

Heal and meditate with the help of changes between frequencies in audio technology

HOME

80 - REMEDIES FOR PROBLEMS

Every problem has a solution, according to vastu there are no artificial remedies that can be occupied by self or natural remedies

CAREER

84 - ADVERTISE YOURSELF AT WORK

Methods through which you can blow your own trumpet without coming across as an egotist

RELATIONSHIP

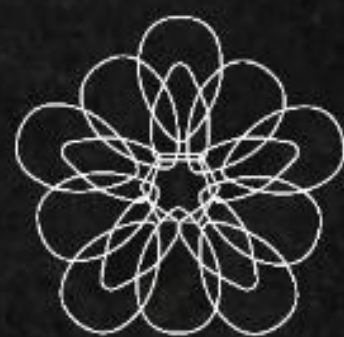
90 - PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Dr Mini Rao answers the queries on the issues on mental health and family relationship



82 - DECORATING WITH
WASHI TAPES
Adding little difference to your home using tapes from Japan





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New Arrivals

-NOVEMBER (GADGET SPECIAL)

LAPTOPS

Razer Blade Pro by Razer

₹2,40,000

Aiming to add more arsenals to the laptop and to play games, Razer systems has launched Razer Blade pro. The new model comes with a mechanical keyboard that has a large-sized touchpad to improve the gaming experience of users. The laptop packs a 17.3-inch 4K (2160x4096 pixels) display that comes with support for Nvidia's G-Sync technology to eliminate screen-tearing. The laptop is also powered by Intel Core i7-6700HQ processor and packs an Nvidia GeForce GTX 1080 graphics card coupled with 32GB of DDR4 2100MHz RAM. The SSD storage options for the laptop range from 512GB to 2TB. In terms of connectivity options, the laptop comes with an HDMI output, an Ethernet jack, USB Type-C, three USB 3.0 ports, and an SD card reader.



Inspiron 5567 by Dell

Price on request

Aiming to suit the requirements of office, home and entertainment, Dell has launched a new laptop named 'Inspiron 5567'. A model with a seventh-generation Intel Core i3 processor has a 15-inch full-HD (1080x1920 pixels) TrueColor display. The laptop is available with configurations that support up to seventh-generation of Intel Core i7 processors, 16GB of RAM, and AMD Radeon R7 Series graphic cards with up to 4GB of GDDR5 VRAM. The Inspiron 5567 is available with up to 2TB HDD storage. The company claims that the battery on the laptop lasts for up to 10 hours. The laptop is just 23.3mm thick and has been coupled with Waves MaxxAudio for better sound performance.



BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

Intex IT 212 SUFB and IT 213 SUFB

₹2,999

Intex Technologies has added two speakers to its home speaker range with the launch of the IT 212 SUFB and IT 213 SUFB models. The new speakers from Intex Technologies comes, with Bluetooth connectivity, a SD card slot, a USB port, an Aux port and a built-in FM tuner. The output from the speakers is 20W + 10W X 2. There is a cordless-mic function that controls digital-mic volume and echo control. Intex IT 212 SUFB and IT 213 SUFB feature a wooden body that comes with a full plastic panel in the front. The front of the speaker also features a LED display. Using Bluetooth a user can control the speakers at a range of 7 to 8 meters. The speakers also come with a remote control. Speakers are powered with 20W + 10W X 2 output power giving a high performance.



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TELEVISION

Sony KD-65Z9D TV by Sony
₹5,04,900

Sony India has launched the new premium HDR TV titled as KD-65Z9D 4K recently. The high-end LED television set features a 4K screen and high dynamic range compatibility, allowing you to watch HDR-mastered video which has better colour and contrast than ordinary standard dynamic range video. One of the best improvement over other (X93 range) come in the form of better processing technology for HDR and SDR content. The TV features Sony's new X1 Extreme 4K HDR processor and Backlight Master Drive technology, which work together to ensure better HDR performance, improved contrast and a wider colour range. Sony claims that the new X1 Extreme processor offers 40 per cent more real-time image processing to deliver a better picture and ensure proper HDR and 4K performance. TV is smart-capable, and is powered by the latest version of Android TV based on Android Marshmallow.

SMART PHONES

Samsung Galaxy On Nxt
₹18,490

Aiming to make a big presence in most competitive mobile market, Samsung India has launched Samsung Galaxy On Nxt. The device which is quite identical on paper to the Galaxy On 7 on the look, seems like it is just a rebranding of the smartphone that launched in China last month. The phone features a full metal unibody design and it comes with 5.5-inch full-HD display protected by 2.5D Gorilla Glass. The Galaxy On Nxt is powered by an octa-core SoC clocked at 1.6GHz alongside 3GB of RAM. The phone packs 32GB of internal storage that can be expanded up to 256GB via a dedicated microSD slot.

Lyf F1 by Reliance Retail
₹13,999

Considered one of the big launch in the Indian mobile market, Reliance Retail launched Lyf F1. This dual-SIM (Micro+Nano) Lyf F1 smartphone runs on Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow, and sports a 5.5-inch full-HD (1080x1920 pixels) IPS display with Corning Gorilla Glass 4 protection and a pixel density of 400ppi. It is powered by a 64-bit octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 617 SoC (four cores clocked at 1.52GHz and four cores clocked at 1.21GHz), coupled with 3GB of RAM.

Nubia Z11 mini
₹12,999

Chinese smartphone manufacturer ZTE has launched Nubia Z11 Mini mobile phone recently. Available in Black and White colour variants, Nubia Z11 mini sports a 16-megapixel rear camera with f/2.0 aperture, 6P lens, autofocus, and LED flash. There is an 8-megapixel front camera also on board. The company also claims that the smartphone carries ZTE's new phone professional photography system called 'NeoVision 5.8'.





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CHIKANKARI EMBROIDERY



CHIKANKARI IS ONE OF THE MOST TRADITIONAL EMBROIDERY STYLES FROM LUCKNOW AND IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY NURJEHAN, THE MUGHAL EMPEROR JEHANGIR'S WIFE. THERE IS A MENTION OF CHIKANKARI IN THE WORKS OF GREAT TRAVELLER, MEGASTHENES IN 3RD CENTURY BC, WHO DESCRIBED ABOUT THE FLORAL WORKS ON MUSLIN CLOTHES USED BY INDIANS. BY **GEETHA GANGADHARAN**



design and embroidery procedures the entire process can take around one to six months. Basically there are 32 stitches in chikankari. Each stitch in a chikan work sticks on to the purpose for it is meant and they are not replaced by any other stitch. For example, the chain stitch will be used for the final outline of a leaf, petal or stem. Tepchi is a long running stitch. Bakhiya or shadow work is one of the stitches of chikankari. Hool is a fine detached eyelet stitch. Murri is the form of stitch used to embroider the centre of the flowers in chikan work. GI status for chikankari was given in 2008 which recognized Lucknow as an exclusive hub of chikankari

There is a story that goes around that, a traveler who passed through Lucknow, taught a certain peasant who had given him water when he was very thirsty, so that he would never remain hungry in life.

Earlier chikankari was done on white yarn or colourless muslin and it was called Tanzeb. But today chikankari embroidery work is carried on all fabrics like georgette, chiffon and cotton.

There are different stories behind chikankari's origins. Some say it has been derived from a Persian word chakin or chakeen which means creating delicate patterns on a fabric. Few others feel that, it is a distorted version of chikeen or sequin, a coin valuing Rs.4 for which the work was sold. Some feel the word

has its origin from the Bengal word 'chikan' meaning fine. Chikankari embroidery work basically involves steps like cutting, stitching, printing, embroidery, washing and finishing.

Mostly done by women, this Lucknow embroidery work involves creepers or floral motifs. Flat stitches, embossed stitches and jalli stitches are used. Various stages and procedures are followed to get a chikan garment. First, the fabric is cut according to the size of the garment by the tailor. This is followed by some basic pre-embroidery work so that the block printer gets the correct shape for further placement of the design. The design is printed on the semi-stitched with fugitive colours and the embroidery of the garment is then begun. The washing takes place in a bhatti and dried. Then the garment is starched and ironed. Depending upon the

Pop icon Madonna is supposed to have worn a chikankari embroidery work in 2000 stretches. The chikankari work is exported to many European countries. Spigel (American direct marketing company), Heine (a German fashion brand) are among the leading buyers.

Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla, India's prominent fashion designers have in fact got Judi Dench of James Bond series to wear one of their majestic chikankari creations, upfront to receive an Oscar in 2004 Academy Awards.

In 1986, Indian Film, Anjuman directed by Muzaffar Ali, starring Shabana Azmi and Farooq Shaikh is set in Lucknow and deals with issues of chikan workers.

There are about 2.5 lakhs artisans associated with this art. ♦

SUGAR JEWELLERY

MAKING JEWELLERY OUT OF SUGAR BALLS IN MAHARASHTRA IS A TRADITION THAT SPREADS SWEETNESS AND LOVE AND HELPS THE JEWELLERY MAKERS TO HONE THEIR CREATIVITY, INSTILL SELF-RESPECT AND MAKE THEM ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT AT THE SAME TIME. BY **KHURSHED DINSHAW**



In earlier days when farm produce would be brought home, the new bride wore a black saree. This was done for two reasons—wearing black protects against the evil eye and since the produce was brought during winter, wearing black helped the bride to stay warm as it not only absorbs but also retains heat. The white sugar jewellery stood out on her sari while she welcomed the produce home.

The technique for creating this jewellery which is also known as halva jewellery involves making elaborate ornaments from intricately woven, tiny balls of sugar. This jewellery making is actually a tradition that is passed down from generation to generation, a custom that is carried forward in various households all over the state. In olden days it was as common as passing down one's cooking recipes to one's daughters. Today however younger generation prefers to buy the readymade jewellery rather than sit and make it themselves. And who can blame them for it takes up to four hours just to make the sugar balls from which the jewellery is then made.

It takes 4-5 days to make a single handmade

set. Before the advent of cooking gas, halva jewellery was made on a smoky kerosene stove. And since there was no instant glue in those days, glue was made using thick sugar syrup. In those times, mostly the female members of the family would make sugar jewellery at home for their personal use and that jewellery was edible. With non edible sets available in the market, edible halva jewellery is done separately on dry fruits and sesame.

Either one can make the sugar balls on their own or buy sugar balls that are sold in the market can be strung together with thread to make simple necklaces for those interested in trying their hand at this craft. Heavier jewellery is made with cashews, almonds, coconut and peanuts. For making light jewellery sets, sesame is used. Many women, who specialize in this jewellery making, take bulk orders from shops who stock it. They make the jewellery in their privacy. Those who do it on a full time basis work the entire year round (except the monsoons) where they prepare sections of the jewellery and as the time to sell the jewellery approaches, assemble it all together to form these stunning sets.

Society's perception has also changed over the years. A few decades ago, halva jewellery was unheard of as a business venture. It was common for personal household use. People would look down upon those who sold sugar jewellery and assume that they were doing it to tide over some sort of financial difficulty at home. Today, people see it as a creative pursuit and refer to them as sugar jewellery specialists.

A basic set comprise a necklace, bangles, bindi and earrings, while more elaborate ones come with 16 accessories right from anklets, bindis, waist bands, amulets, nose rings, toe rings, earrings, necklaces and bangles in two different designs each. Contemporary designs that are simpler, more modern, elegant and can be worn even to office or get to gethers have been introduced in recent times. Around 60 jewellery designs for kids, women and grooms/son-in-laws are available.

For grooms' bouquets, wrist-watches, garlands, rings, decorated coconuts, mobile phone and pen sets are available.

Among Maharashtrians an elephant is considered a symbol of prosperity and a stuffed one complete with dry fruits and a bedecked trunk adorned with a sugar jewellery garland is considered auspicious. For kids (boys) the Shri Krishna set of arm and waist bands, mukut or crown and flute with a garland is available.

For girls there is the set consisting of a waistband, armband, anklet, bangles, pendant and a tiara all made from sugar. For kids various designs on white paper whether it is the crowns or bands are traced, then covered with coloured paper and decorated with sugar balls along the edges. To make the creations more attractive sequins, mirrors, stars, golden thread and coloured lace are also stuck on them.

To cater to the demand, machine made halva jewellery is also offered though the handmade one sells more in comparison to the other. Another innovative option that is available is the inclusion of beads coated with sugar. This helps to avoid wastage as the set can be used even after the sugar is removed.

Though sugar jewellery is primarily worn on Makar Sankranti by newlyweds and babies up to a year, it can be worn for special family occasions like weddings, anniversaries and pujas. It is all a matter of personal tastes. The jewellery needs to be wrapped in butter paper and stored in an airtight plastic container. It should not be exposed or opened during the monsoon season as the sugar melts owing to the moisture and humidity in the air. With proper care the sets last for about 6 months. ♦

GROOMING



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the day. In addition, the liquid soaked in the wet tissues may contain ingredients that do not suit your skin. Problems also occur when removing weatherproof mascara and eye shadow, because that way you make sudden and harsh movements that can create tiny wrinkles around the eyes. By irritating the thin skin around the eyes redness, swelling and subcutaneous acne may occur.

IS BABY OIL SAFE?

Babyoil works but it is bad for your skin, over time it will add up to the unneeded oil in your skin and even after washing it won't come out. what you can use is petroleum jelly. It's very cheap and will get it off.

NATURAL REMOVERS

Castor oil is a great antibacterial agent and is the best for cleaning skin. Other oils to use include olive (perfect for all skin types), jojoba (perfect for all skin types), avocado (best for drier skin), and almond oil (best for oily skin). Not only will this method help your skin regain its natural, dewy glow, but it's also been known to help lessen wrinkles.

NATURAL CLEANSER RECIPE

Ingredients

- ½ cup castor oil
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil

Method

- Mix oils together and store in a glass jar with a lid.

STEPS TO REMOVE MAKEUP

- You can start by massaging your face with cleanser to break down the makeup
- If you wear mascara and eye makeup, rub a small amount onto your lids gently to remove any makeup (for this oil based remover better), dip a cotton q-tip into makeup remover and go over your lashes one last time.
- Another mistake we make is we rub our eye area to remove makeup. This is a huge no-no. We should be patting, never rubbing, around the eye area.
- If you are into bright lip colors, I recommend removing your lip colour before cleansing your face, otherwise you risk smearing lipstick over your newly-cleansed face.
- And finally, we tend to forget to wash into our hairline and under our jaw line, which is very important when we wear foundation.
- Wash again with plain water or a face wash recommended for you

REMOVING MAKE-UP THE RIGHT WAY

A FEW YEARS AGO, MAKE-UP REMOVERS WERE ALMOST OIL-BASED AND YOU ONLY EVER USED THEM TO REMOVE MASCARA OR LIPSTICK. NOW, EVERYTHING FROM MICELLAR WATERS TO CLEANSING OILS HAS BECOME POPULAR PRODUCTS PART OF SKIN CARE ROUTINE. AND WONDERING WHETHER MAKE-UP REMOVER IS NECESSARY? WE CERTAINLY DO THINK SO. HERE ARE THE REASONS WHY, PLUS SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR MAKEUP REMOVER

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CLEANSER

It is always necessary and critical for the makeup remover to be rinse, as well as being able to dissolve and disperse cosmetics efficiently to protect the skin from physical damage. In order to dissolve the oily cosmetics the cleanser must be lipophilic, which means that it should be oil based. On the other hand, in order to rinse, it must be hydrophilic. Therefore to meet both needs, the ideal cleanser must satisfy these features at the same time.

Apart from there are several features and

characteristic are required for an ideal make-up remover so they effectively remove oily materials effectively without damaging the skin. Here are four vital features are

1. Easy to apply on the skin
2. Dissolves oily dirt quickly
3. Easy to rub
4. Easy to rinse off

MAKE UP REMOVING FACTS NO WET TISSUES

A number of studies have shown that wet tissues do not thoroughly clean the skin of impurities and makeup, but just spread dirtiness collected on your face throughout




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AVOIDING EYE MAKE-UP MISTAKES

MASCARA, EYE SHADOW, AND EYELINER CAN CERTAINLY DO THE TRICK. AND THEY CAN HELP MAKE YOUR EYES STAND OUT, BUT SOMETIMES, THEY CAN SPELL DISASTERS A TIMES, SOMETIMES, EVEN EXPERIENCED BEAUTICIAN MAKE SUCH MISTAKES, WHEN TRY NEW PRODUCTS DAILY. HERE IS LIST OF MISTAKES ONE CAN AVOID



AVOID TOO MANY FALSE LASHES

Avoid many false lashes could be the toughest things to do. But if you're a faux lash queen, going overboard with the extensions or stacking strips can make your lids appear heavy. If stepping out without falsies is not an option, opt in for a natural, wispy set for that bright-eyed, baby doll look — without the weight.

NEVER MIX-UP

Many of us line their waterline with black eyeliner aiming to get our eyes look piercing. But, on the other hand, it's going to make them look squinty — especially if your eyes are already on the smaller side. Instead, make those peepers look wide-awake with a white or nude-colored liner like the NYX Wonder Pencil.

NOT CURLING OUR EYELASHES

Since most of the eye make-up is done in last minute many of us forget to apply mascara. Not only has that most of us also forgotten to curl our lashes. If not, you're missing out — on statement eyes. Check out the before-and-after in this lash-curling tutorial and see for yourself.

APPLYING THE WRONG SMOKY EYE

Smoky eye always make our eye good by a making for your eye shape. Landing the perfect smoky eye takes much skill, practice and an endless amount of patience. Now, perfecting one that's specific to your eye shape — that's a whole other level of expertise! For some eye shapes (like hooded or deep set), applying dark shadow all over can actually accentuate your top lid and make it look sunken or heavy. Not the best look. The right smoky eye should make your eyes look big, bold and dramatic.

CHOOSING THE WRONG EYELINE

Applying the wrong eyeliner look for your eye shape is one of worst mistakes. On that note, the way you apply your eyeliner is just as important for your eye shape as a smoky eye. Too thick, and your eyes can look smaller. Wing out too long and they can look smaller. Line all around your eye, and they can look smaller. You get the gist. Get it right with this eyeliner tutorial for your eye shape.

NOT HIDING DARK CIRCLES

Not wearing concealer with dark circles or lids. Don't you just love how serious lack of

sleep (or whatever!) can take attention away from our beautiful eyes and shift the focus onto our dark under eye circles and eyelids instead?! (Sense the sarcasm?) Darkness around your eyes detracts (and distracts!) from the size of your eyes. Luckily, the solution is a simple one. An illuminating concealer like Giorgio Armani Maestro Eraser Concealer will instantly brighten up your eye area and fade dark circles for a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed look.

DOS AND DON'TS OF USING EYE COSMETICS

- Don't hold onto old makeup style or cosmetics— throw it away after a few months.
- Never share your cosmetics with your friends, bacteria and germs might contaminate our eyes and cosmetics.
- Avoid permanent coloring and dye for eyelashes, as they can cause irreversible eye damage if not used properly.
- Never put your eye cosmetics on while you're driving or riding in a car. Your mascara wand can all too easily scratch your cornea — not to mention the risks of inattentive driving. You may also want to avoid applying eye makeup on buses or subways – sudden stops can also increase the risk that you'll scratch your eye.
- Always wash your hands before you dig into your makeup bag and start applying eye cosmetics.
- Skip eye cosmetics when you've got an irritated or infected eye — and if you think that a particular cosmetic is irritating your eyes, stop using it right away.
- Avoid eye cosmetics that are iridescent, glittery, or shiny, as they may contain ingredients that could scratch or irritate the eye.
- Doesn't use mascara that's dried out — and never attempt to moisten it with your saliva or water. It's best to replace mascara every two to four months or sooner if it's dried. A tip: Keep a permanent marker in your make-up kit, and mark the date you open a new tube of mascara, so you won't use it past its shelf-life.
- Keep eye cosmetics cool — always at 85° F or below (that means don't keep them in your car or in a steamy bathroom).
- Don't mix and match cosmetics. Use what's intended for your eyes on your eyes only — don't use the same pencil for both lips and eyes, as that can introduce bacteria. ♦



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ANITHA DEVI

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Personal Fashion Stylist
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Your body language along with the manners you display are the two key things which allow others to form a first impression of you. Observing the basic rules of behavior at dinner is the key to having a great time with your friends and loved ones.

BEWARE OF YOUR POSTURE

It can make people feel really uncomfortable, if someone spends the whole evening with their head staring down at their plate, their shoulders hunched over, their elbows spread out. It gives the impression that they are not only feeling uncomfortable themselves about being there, but also that they are only interested in their food. So remember to keep your back straight, your hands on the table and your head held up to eye level. And don't start eating before your host does

OBSERVE CUTLERY CONVENTIONS

No one likes it, when you leave your knife and fork sticking into their personal space. And it is just downright awkward if you use a spoon when everyone else is using a fork. So use cutlery only for what it is meant to be used for (see what everyone else is using and copy them). Keep your hands only on the piece of cutlery you are currently using. Keep your cutlery close to you.

CUTLERY AND MOUTH LINE

When eating, keeping your cutlery close to the line of your mouth should be avoided. Don't move your hands out to the side – you could easily spill something on the table cloth.

DINING ETIQUETTE

ETIQUETTE AFFECTS ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE AND CAREER. MOST IMPORTANTLY IT ALSO INCLUDES DINING ETIQUETTE, WHICH GIVES A FAVORABLE INFLUENCE ON WHAT KIND OF PERSONALITY YOU ARE. HERE ARE A LIST OF RULES APPLY BEFORE YOU EVER TAKE YOUR SEAT AND CONTINUE YOURSELF FROM TABLE



DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL

It is not only unpleasant, but you could also choke if you are not careful. Even if you are really enjoying your food, don't smack your lips. It is really quite annoying!

EAT AS STEADY PACE

A meal shouldn't be a race. Eating slower is good for you – it fills you up faster, so you will eat less. If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't use a spoon. That's just for stirring in sugar.

TABLE MANNERS

- If you need to leave the table for any reason, excuse yourself.
- If you need something on the table, don't stretch over to get it.
- Don't leave food you've started on the plate. If you want to talk to someone, first finish your meal.
- Don't just concentrate on your food. Pay

attention to what people around you are saying. Take an interest in the conversation.

- When eating spaghetti, either use a spoon to gather it up, or cut it with knife. Otherwise, it can look unpleasant.
- Avoid discussing politics, religion or money at the dinner table. These topics rarely lead to anything good.
- Always look at who is addressing you. Don't interrupt.
- There is nothing wrong with leaving the table. Just don't be absent for a long time.
- Maintain an even tone to your voice at all times.
- Never check your make-up or hair at the dinner table.
- Don't look at your mobile phone while you're at dinner. If you really have to call, deal with business away from the table, and come back when you are able to focus all of your attention on others.
- Don't chew with your mouth open. ♦



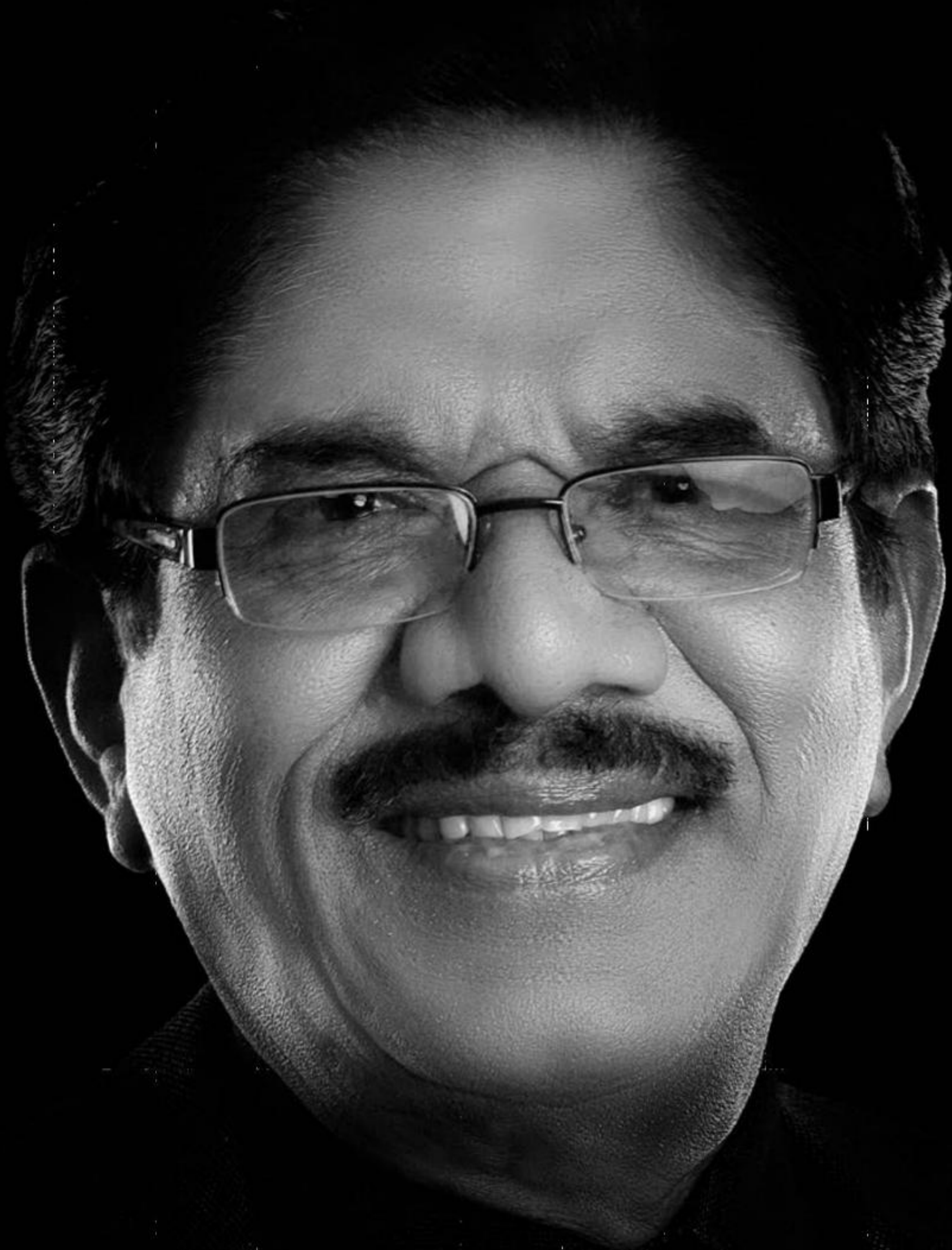
INSPIRING IDEAL MEN '16

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 19th NOVEMBER

Men are not just symbol of strength and stamina, but are also icon of creativity and thinking, and many a times share love and affection. Among them are inspirational men who are considered living proofs that anyone can overcome anything. Among the many men—actors, athletes, doctors, social activists who are featured often in the medias, there are some who have been truly inspirational and ideal to follow.

And what makes them an ideal is their individual perseverance, grit, and cool demeanours make them stand out so vividly in our minds.

Celebrating the greatness of men on 'International Men Day', Women Exclusive brings forth stories men who made the different in not just their field, but to the entire society and continue to inspire all of us.



THE LEGEND

BHARATHIRAJA

VISIONARY, MASTER STORYTELLER, TREND SETTER ARE SOME OF THE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THE LEGENDARY TAMIL DIRECTOR P BHARATHIRAJA. HAILING FROM A VILLAGE IN THENI, TAMIL NADU (THEN MADRAS PRESIDENCY), HE BEGAN HIS FILM CAREER AS AN ASSISTANT TO KANNADA FILMMAKER PUTTANA KANAGAL. BEST KNOWN FOR HIS SENSITIVE STORIES AND REALISTIC CHARACTERS, BHARATHIRAJA MADE HIS DIRECTORIAL DEBUT WITH 16 VAYATHINILE IN 1977, WHICH BECAME A LANDMARK FILM IN THE HISTORY OF TAMIL CINEMA. HE BROKE CONVENTIONAL STORYTELLING METHODS AND CREATED A NEW GENRE, 'VILLAGE CINEMA'. FONDLY KNOWN FOR THE WORDS 'MY DEAR TAMIL PEOPLE, THIS IS YOUR LOVABLE BHARATHIRAJA!', THIS VISIONARY FILMMAKER AS REDEFINED THE TAMIL MOVIE MAKING. AND THIS LEGENDARY SHARES SOME OF HIS NICEST MOMENTS TO **M P SARAVANAN**

PHOTOGRAPHY
RAM PHOTOGRAPHITES

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HAIR & MAKEUP **KAVYA MAKEOVERS**

LOCATION **HABLIS, CHENNAI**

Wishing all the very best for WE magazine

சாரவணன்
M P Saravanan



👉 SINCE MY INNER PASSION WAS ACTING, I DECIDED TO MOVE TO CHENNAI TO PURSUE MY DREAM AS AN ACTOR. BUT DURING THOSE TIMES, FACIAL FEATURES OF ACTORS WERE GIVEN MORE IMPORTANCE AND THOSE WITH SOFT AND FAIR WERE CHOSEN AS HERO 👉

'Life was hard to survive when I came to Chennai, to make a career in Tamil film industry in 1962. I had to do odd jobs to keep my life going. While I was struggling to become a director, Illaiyaraja was also trying hard to pursue a career in music. I already knew him during my village days, as I used to write and act amateur dramas in many village festivals in Dindigul, Pattukottai and he used to compose music for my plays. One day, when I was moving around Pondybazaar (Chennai) to have lunch, I saw the photo cards of movie of Kannada film, 'Belli Moda' (Tamil: Velli Megam, 'Silver Clouds') in erstwhile Rajkumari Theatre. I was highly impressed by the visuals of the film, determined to see the movie. I bought the ticket with the hunger in my stomach.

The plot and story of the movie was realistic and I found that Kannada director Puttanna Kanagal was the man behind the film. The realistic depictions of the characters and stories influence me and I made up my mind to join as assistant director to him. But I had no one to help. At that time, I spoke about my wish to musician GK Venkatesh through Illaiyaraja who was working as guitarist under him. One day, he took me to Puttanna Kanagal and recommended to take me as assistant director. I told Kanagal that his films were great inspiration and wished to join as assistant to learn direction as his style and taste were very different. But he immediately said that film direction cannot be taught and only through observation one can learn the work.

I assured that I will learn through observation and worked as assistant director in his Tamil film 'Irulum Oliyum' which was the remake of his Kannada film 'Kappu Bilupu'. Even though I worked only one film, he was one of the best directors of his time. Being a thorough professional, he understood every emotion of the characters in his film. Moreover, he had ability to grab the emotions from the artists during the shoots. After he moved to Kannada film industry, I continued to work in Tamil

Industry, since I didn't know the language. As an associate director, I worked in 'Thagam' a movie by students from film institute; the entire budget of the movie was around ₹ 1 Lakh. During the movie, I could understand and learn the sound editing, dubbing, effects which were essential for movie making. But still I could not make a movie, since survival was hard, I continue to work as assistant director to Krishnan Nair, Avinashi Mani, A Jagannathan.

Though Bharathiraja was struggling to become a director, he initially want to pursue as an actor in Tamil movie industry. Recalling his early years about his passion for acting, he says, 'during my school days, I showed more interest in drama and performing arts than in studies. Sitting the last bench during my 9th standard, I used to avoid questions from teachers. One day my Tamil teacher, Ramalingam Pillai asked me to read a lesson on Mahabalipuram. I stood and read the notes like uttering the dialogues from famous movies like, 'Parashakti' and 'Manohara' which was routine in many amateur dramas of 1950's and 1960's. He immediately got tensed, 'I asked you to read the lesson not to conduct a drama'. But in the afternoon, he gave me a book to read, which contained dramas written by him for a drama competition among school teachers. I was totally confused by his approach. Then I realised that he was asking me to conduct drama. Though I hesitated in the beginning, later decided to accept and take responsibility.

In the end, our drama was selected the best and I received the award for the best direction, and acting. I got a prize money of '5 from 'Vallal' Vellaisamy Nadar, a philanthropist and industrialist. And this incident became a seed to pursue my dream career in movie industry. After the event, I got several offers to act as hero from many drama troupes. During my tenth standard, I acted in many dramas as hero'.

Recalling his early years in the Kollywood,

he says, 'Since my inner passion was acting, I decided to move to Chennai to pursue my dream as an actor. But during those times, facial features of actors were given more importance and those with soft and fair were chosen as hero, this made me to quit acting. Though anyone can become an actor now, in those days, there were many criteria to be an actor. And I really didn't like depiction of heroes and heroines in the Tamil cinema, because it demanded every actor or actress to be fair and good looking.

Even a 35 year-old hero will be chosen to act as college student and many heroes will continue to don the role of college student for 10 years. And moreover, people accepted those things. But I couldn't, I felt a cobbler need not be good looking; if such a person is to depicting as a hero of a film, a person with dark complexion should be the lead. At this time, film making drew my attention; moreover, I felt that being a 'director' is more than actor in a film. So I joined as assistant director. But after many years, when Cinematographer Nivas became a producer, he forced me to act. Due to his compulsion I played a character, but I didn't feel essence of the role, so I decided not to act in films in future.

Many years later, when top director Mani Ratnam approached to essay a role, I was initially hesitant. But I played the character in due respect to him. But later I essayed role of sad father in 'Pandiya Nadu' for director Suseenthiran, who convinced me to play the role which I was hesitant because, once I saw actor Vishal in an event, remembering his height I thought, 'how could I act as a father to tall hero like Vishal'. When the movie was released everyone appreciated my role. Currently I am acting in two films, 'Kurangu Bommai' and another film (yet to titled soon), while former is old man other is an innocent and I felt very satisfied with roles. Because When I saw my performance I couldn't feel believe myself and really feel that actor in within me has not died.

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Throughout my career I directed a variety of films including Hindi (5), Telugu (4) and Tamil (40 plus) and currently I am directing a film titled 'Om' and also playing a role in it. And I feel thoroughly feel satisfied and enjoyed doing the work. Audience will definitely feel the difference after watching the movie. Even though I came to acting in the 1960's, it didn't materialise, but after so many years, God has realised my inner passion and fulfilled it.'

Describing in the selection of Raadhika for his movie 'Kizhakke Pogum Rail' he says, 'It was my second picture. Initially I booked actor Kamal Hassan and Sridevi for the leading artiste. But later actress Madhavi signed for female lead. But she was too busy as her schedule was full and she couldn't move out of Hyderabad. I tried to rope Subhashini, sister of actress Jayasudha through a telephonic conversation which I managed to convince her. But she too was busy. With no choice, I had to leave the entire my shooting unit in Mettupalayam (Tamilnadu) for searching a heroine in Chennai. At this moment, a famous choreographer approached me to bag the role of female lead for her sister. While going through the album I noticed a photo of a girl (Raadhika) wearing lungi and it happened to her neighbour's daughter. I got the address and went to see the girl in Besant Nagar (Chennai). While stepped into the house, we saw a dark girl watering the plants and as we moved closer, she became afraid and ran away. But her mother recognised me as the leading director in Tamil industry and we were invited in her house. While her mother accepted our offer to cast, the girl hesitated. As part of the procedure, I put a half sari to frame a view. But she once again got angry and shouted in Sinhalese and English language to her mother. After all this tedious chores finally I managed

to convince her. The main reasons for selection are her innocent smile and hair, along with body language and dark complexion was like a village girl. Moreover, I was very sure, that my female lead must not look like a typical heroine. When we planned for a rehearsal for song near a temple on Old Mahabalipuram Road (Chennai), she landed in an ambassador car. When I made enquiries about her I was shocked to know, that she is the daughter of legendary Tamil actor MR Radha, which they didn't inform me.

‘ WHEN I WAS MAKING THE MOVIE, I WAS VERY SURE THE FILM WILL BE APPRECIATED BY JOURNALISTS AND WHILE I WILL BE GETTING RECOGNITION AS TOP DIRECTOR LIKE THOSE IN MALAYALAM AND BENGALI FILM INDUSTRY, AND MOVIE MIGHT FLOP ’

Apart from convincing my cinematographer and I decided to keep Raadhika away from media publicity in order to avoid negative comments and public disappointment about my choice. But when we landed in Mettupalayam along with Raadhika, my assistant directors Bhagyaraj, Viji were shocked at my selection. During the rehearsal, Raadhika could not act or dance along with song, and she began to cry and was about quit the film. But we once again managed to convince her by buying chocolates and other stuffs, as she was third actress and we were in no mood to make her leave. After a week,

everyone appreciated my choice that she is the perfect one for the female lead. Raadhika never even thought that she will become a heroine and even today she would laugh and ask, 'How did you cast me as an actress ?'.

But when it comes to direction, Bharathiraja never thought his first film, '16 Vayathinile' would be trend setter in the Tamil industry. He says, 'I never expected that this film would set a trend in the industry. But when I was making the movie, I was very sure the film will be appreciated by journalists and while I will be getting recognition as top director like those in Malayalam and Bengali film industry, and movie might flop. Moreover, after completing this film I was planning to quit the industry. Surprisingly the film was not only appreciated for its artistic value, it was a commercial success.'

And explaining his zoom close up shot of actor Kamal Hassan in 'Sigappu Rojakkal', he says that the final zoom is the turning point of the movie. 'If I hadn't kept the shot, he would be termed as the villain, since he committed several murders. Even a flash back of the scenes wouldn't be enough. And inside Kamal Hassan's subconscious mind, there is innocence and love for his wife Sharada (Sridevi) and he writes her name, 'Sharada is my wife' in the wall, which tells us that this is the first time he has truly fallen in love. In order to portray the innocence and his love, when Sridevi decides to move away from jail, a final zoom shot is made to show the close-up of Kamal's face to show the tears. If that scene wasn't included he would be considered a criminal. Even during the shoot, I told Kamal Hassan not to blink his eyes and to show tears. And he did that, which defined the climax of the movie'.






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SHOES
KETHINI FOOTWEAR

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TOP HEROES OF THE INDUSTRY NEVER DIE IN THE MIND OF THE FANS. IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, EVEN AT THE AGE OF 75 THEY WOULD FIGHT WITH A SWORD MORE IMPORTANTLY, MEN ARE MOSTLY PORTRAYED AS ICONS OF HEROISM, WHEREAS HEROINES ARE CONSIDERED AS SYMBOL OF BEAUTY WHICH FADES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME

While actors Kamal Hassan gave his complete co-operation in the movie, Bharathiraja says that male actors have the ability to sustain for longer period of time. When questioned about the long standing top heroes in Kollywood like RajiniKanth and Kamal Hassan who continue to act as hero from 1970's to 2016, he says, 'In all kinds of cinema industries throughout the world, male lead are always portrayed as characters steaming with heroism, and the most successful among them will continue to stand for longer period of time. In Tamil industries, MK Thiyagaraja Bhagavathar and PU Chinnappa were the first and next came MGR and Shivaji Ganeshan, later Rajinikanth and KamalHassan. Top heroes of the industry never die in the mind of the fans. If they are successful, even at the age of 75 they would fight with a sword (he laughs). More importantly, men are mostly portrayed as icons of heroism, whereas heroines are considered as symbol of beauty which fades over a period of time.'

Apart from casting top actors like Kamal Hassan and Rajini Kanth, his work with legendary Tamil actor Shivaji Ganeshan in 'Mudhal Mariyadhai' proved to be a fantastic combination. 'Everyone knows that Shivaji Ganeshan's acting style and pronunciation of Tamil words. In 1950's I was greatly inspired by his movies like 'Parashakthi', 'Manohara'. While scripting the movie, I decided to rope in the legendary actor for my male lead and convinced him. When he asked about the story, I said that I could narrate only on the shooting spot and he accepted my word. Usually I started off the movie by shooting the songs before the scenes, because one can bring all sorts of facial reactions in an actor or actress during a song. Moreover, I believe a good artist must provide the lip movement when a song is played. If he

doesn't he will be deemed as unfit to play the role. And it will also be training for him or her. When I was asked the Shivaji Sir to act in the song, his facial expressions were more melodramatic in nature. So I asked him to tone down a little, and make expression through eyes. But his gestures weren't convincing, I postponed the shoot for the next day. Once again, my demands weren't met on the day. After my repeated requests to tone down the expression, Shivaji sir said 'You are asking me not to act?' and I replied, 'Acting is dangerous and according my policy please don't'. He humbly accepted my advice and performed what I said. When the film was completed he said, 'When I have worked with great directors like Madhavan, Bhimsingh, AC Thirulogachander I knew what I did. So I want see the film to know my performance'. When he was watching the film in Manorama theatre, there was a power cut after the second reel. But he didn't create a fuss. When the movie was released, he said, 'I didn't know where you have kept the cameras during the shoot. But after watching this, I couldn't believe, this is a world class film. I don't know whether the movie will be commercial success or not. At your age, your height of thinking is wonderful' and he finally blessed me. He is a great artist and there is nobody to match him even today.'

Describing the sentiments for names starting with 'R', he says, 'After I named Radhika for her debut film, many assistants and friends, appreciated the names beginning with the letter 'R'. So I started off naming debut actors and actress with 'R' as starting letter like Revathi, Radha, Ranjani. Over a period of time, after introducing Suganya, a thought sparked in my mind, 'Who am I to rename the actors or actresses who already have name?' After the spark I quit the decision to name the debut artist'.

WE CAN ADAPT FROM EVERYTHING, BUT WHILE TAKING THE ESSENCE WE MUST PAINT OR DISPLAY WITH OUR CULTURE. ONE CAN TAKE INSPIRATION BUT MUSTN'T COPY. MOREOVER I FIND TOO MUCH VIOLENCE IN THEIR FILMS WHICH I DON'T LIKE. IN MANY FOREIGN FILMS ONE CAN NOTICE A LOT OF VIOLENCE, BUT THE SAME IS REPEATED HERE

And for man who a trendsetter in Tamil industry, there has been no hobbies for him. 'My hobby is only cinema. I don't know anything other than that sometimes I like reading books and listening to music.' But one day he was asked to conduct a workshop on film in US. 'A government agency from United States selected me to conduct a workshop on cinema along with several other artists from various other fields like painting, sculpture, for period of one and half month. Though I initially hesitated, I thought this could be an opportunities to travel to the western nation. When I was struggling to find the airport and planes in New Delhi, fortunately I met a nurse from Usilampatti (Tamilnadu) who helped to locate the plane and accompanied me upto Newyork.

When I landed in Washington airport, an announcement of my name, 'Bharathiraja' in completely different slang in English puzzled me. After the announcement, an official picked and dropped me at a hotel. But I started to sweat when he said that there will be an interview at the embassy. A group of six persons were seated and began bombarded questions and I was once again puzzled with English in American slang. I said, 'I was born and brought up in small village in India and I don't have proficiency in the language. So please talk to me slowly' in a simple English. Embassy official was also shocked as he could understand my English (he laughs).

Finally interview was finished and I heaved a breath of relief. But there was more to come, when I got to know that the workshop was held in New Orleans, a place dominated by people of African origin. In order to avoid more embarrassments I took notes in the English words which I knew for conducting the event. But during the time, they explained about CG works (computer graphics) I just shook my head as though I understood. These academic lessons were more advanced

and much ahead of us. Aiming to save hotel expenses (\$ 120 per day) I stayed in my friend's house and took a train for cut my transportation cost'.

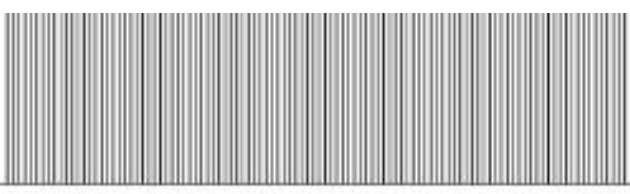
Being veteran director who has transformed the way film making must be done, he feels the film criticism must be accepted social media including facebook. He says, 'Many a times we have to accept those criticisms. In those days, criticism doesn't reach film directors. We could listen to those, only during film festival or 100th day celebration of the movie or public debates. Now the fans have got more opportunity to pose such questions through facebook or youtube. One must realise, when the director has the right to make a film and push his ideas or thoughts in a movie, audience also have the right to question or criticise because it comes under freedom of expression. And if a person teases a story of film and he shares it through a medium, no can express fault in it. Everyone has the right to appreciate or criticise a film. When film critic has right to publish review or criticise a film, why not common man ?'

Spelling a word of advice for upcoming directors, 'Nowadays, films in Tamil industry are different in many aspects. But sadly most of them are influenced by foreign films. We can adapt from everything, but while taking the essence we must paint or display with our culture. One can take inspiration but mustn't copy. Moreover I find too much violence in their films which I don't like. In many foreign films one can notice a lot of violence, but the same is repeated here. Youngsters mustn't lose the Tamil culture and traditional values while creating motion pictures. Apart from that, I appreciate the directors who are very well updated and connected to the latest developments happening in the Cinema industry including Suseethiran, Raju Murugan (director of 'Joker'), Karthik Subburaj.' ♦





WARDROBE
GLOBUS



Jeweller

ARVIND KATRELA

A DAZZLING DIAMOND

QUALITY, CREATIVITY ARE ALWAYS USP FOR ANY JEWELLER, AND JSC JEWEL CREATION STANDS IN A UNIQUE POSITION AMONG THE JEWELLERS OF THE CITY. AND THE MAN BEHIND THE BRAND IS ARVIND KATRELA, THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR. AFTER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF MANUFACTURING AND SELLING GOLD CHAINS AND SILVER ORNAMENT, ARVIND RECENTLY FORAY INTO RETAIL SEGMENT AND LAUNCHED HIS FIRST DESIGNER JEWELLERY BOUTIQUE IN CHENNAI. THEIR UNCONVENTIONAL DESIGNS GAVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGN FOR FILM STARS AND PROMINENT TV PERSONALITIES AND THEIR CONCEPTIONS HAVE GRACED THE RED CARPET AT THE PRESTIGIOUS CANNES FILM FESTIVAL.

'We started our career in the jewellery industry as manufacturers of gold, diamond and silver chains. We were manufacturing and selling gold for almost 30 years before we decided to branch out and open a retail store for custom-made boutique jewellery. We are slowly expanding our horizons, JSC Jewels Creations in the first of its kind retail store launched only in Chennai. When we started off, we realised that there were no stores in Chennai that sold designer jewellery, which is why we decided to launch our first designer jewellery outlet'

Being a jeweller, Arvind was always keen on creating new things, for him, fashion is what attracts people gets their attention these days. 'I believe that fashion is one's own creativity and willingness to try out new things, experiment and create one's own style of dressing or presenting him/her. At the end of the day it does not matter what you wear, it's all about the attitude and the way in which you carry yourself', he says.

And he has never forgotten his first piece of jewellery he designed, 'First piece of jewellery that we designed was especially for the launch of this store. We designed an entire diamond ruby and pearls choker set. That was our very first creation and I must say it turned out quite exquisite. We have received many compliments for it so far. It was indeed a bright start for our store launch'.

And as far as inspirations are concerned,

Arvind believe that everyday life inspires us to create new and unique designs. 'We mix and match and put things together to get the designs that we envision. We release a new collection every 15 days. We want to provide our clients with as much variety as possible and we ensure that every time a client walks in, he or she finds something new and unique in our store. Also, we avoid repeating the same design again and constantly update our collection so as to be able to provide a vast variety for our customers'.


When queried about the duration for creating a new piece, he says, 'It takes at least two months for us to create and bring out any piece of jewellery. The designing of the jewellery alone takes a good 10 to 12 days as we are in a constant search for new and unique designs that our customers would have never seen before. At times we even alter the design once the piece of jewellery is ready for sale. We do not put up any piece of jewellery for sale until and unless we are completely satisfied with the design and the quality of work. Quality is one thing we will never compromise on'

And being a jewellery designer it gives Arvind immense joy when it comes about fulfilling people's need for good and exquisite jeweller by providing them with the best designs and the best quality jewellery. With pride he says, 'We have created some exclusive pieces that have even won awards at Cannes, and this not

only makes us proud and happy but also helps us strive harder to keep up the good work. It is like a constant motivation to better ourselves each time we come up with a new collection. We not only try to deliver the best designs but also try to provide unique and better designs every time. We have set a standard for ourselves and we do not want to fall short now.'

And for this Arvind has made JCS different from other wedding jewellery. He says, 'JCS is different from other jewellery store in many ways. First of all, we are not a commercial jewellery store we are a designer jewellery boutique. We use only genuine stones and gold don't compromise on quality. We make sure that designs are unique and exclusive. We make sure that no design is repeated again unless the client requests for a repeat. We do not even have a catalogue for this purpose alone. We believe in creating new and unique pieces every time instead of repeating the same design over and over again.

Describing about the latest trends in wedding jewellery, he notes that brides are now moving out of the gold jewellery phase and opting for more colourful and vibrant jewellery to match their wedding outfits. Brides no longer want only plain gold. They now want jewellery that will match their outfit and will make them look elegant and classy and not like mannequin in a jewellery store. And more than gold and yellow, nowadays, jewellery brides are now opting for black and red one.



“I BELIEVE THAT FASHION IS ONE'S OWN CREATIVITY AND WILLINGNESS TO TRY OUT NEW THINGS, EXPERIMENT AND CREATE ONE'S OWN STYLE OF DRESSING OR PRESENTING HIM/HER. AT THE END OF THE DAY IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU WEAR, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ATTITUDE AND THE WAY IN WHICH YOU CARRY YOURSELF.”



“ REWARDS COME WITH RISKS. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HANDLE BIGGER RISK OR CHALLENGES, YOU WILL GET BIGGER REWARDS. THIS IS THE WAY OF LIFE. OF COURSE, ONE MUST BE CALCULATIVE AND HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE ”

Construction

ARUN KUMAR

THE REAL GIANT

NO ONE WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BUILDER M ARUN KUMAR OF CASA GRANDE STARTED HIS BUSINESS TO TRY HIS LUCK IN FARMING. BUT MOST OLDEST PROFESSION IN THE WORLD, TAUGHT MORE LESSONS TO THE ENTREPRENEUR, AND HIS VENTURE IN REAL ESTATE BUSINESS PROVED TO BE VERY GOOD SUCCESS. HE ALSO HAS INTERIOR DESIGNING VENTURE CALLED 'DO MY HOME', A FACILITY MANAGEMENT VENTURE NAMED 'CASA GRANDE PROPCARE'. AND ALSO HAVE LAUNDRY CHAIN 'LAUNDRY BOY'. ARUN KUMAR A FIRST GENERATION ENTREPRENEUR SHARE HIS JOURNEY AND VISION, ON HOW HE BECAME ONE OF THE LEADING PROPERTY DEVELOPER TO **M P SARAVANAN**

'Things never start off with a biggest vision, what started as a hunger to run an enterprise led to this place. When we started the venture, we didn't have fixed numbers in our mind. But we wanted to make Casa Grande, a very successful enterprise in Chennai. As we kept growing we were able to achieve a status as leading developer in the city. Now we want to be pan India player. As I said, we didn't start with big dreams, as we got reasonable success we pushed our limits to achieve more' says Arun Kumar Managing Director of the Casa Grande.

Arun Kumar, a first generation entrepreneur was born and brought up in Chennai. His father T J Manivannan a banker and mother a house wife. He says 'I finished my schooling in Vidya Mandir and completed my B.E (Electronics) in Hindustan College and MBA (Symbiosis, Pune). I worked in Wipro for a couple of years. But my inner passion was always to become an entrepreneur.'

Arun Kumar plunged in the entrepreneurship by venturing in farming, floriculture (2001-03). Though the ventures got good business, in a matter of time, they didn't fetch good returns or growth. In his words he says, 'Initially we approached farming through commercial venture with different approach through high density planting, high quality fertiliser, irrigation system through which it can be made professional. But farming was more complex to handle and tame. With more failure and less success we decided to pull out from the venture in 2-3 years.' And finally decided to move to real estate business and for the last 12 years, there was no looking back.

But Arun Kumar said earlier, his real estate venture started in a small scale. For the first three years they completed 5-6 projects at a time, and next three years, they began to execute large projects. After six years, they had the ingredients and potential to make it very big. So they build a huge team and took very big land parcels for development. Over a period of time, they became one of the few companies in construction industry to take equity investments. Having achieved a target of '1,000 crore turnover, he is now planning to grow to level of '3,000 crore turnover in 2019.

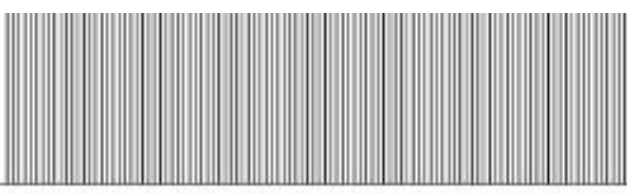
Explaining his inspiration for becoming an entrepreneur, Arun Kumar says, 'Even though my father is from service sector, my maternal grandfather, Doraisamy Mudaliar founder of Pyorea toothpowder was inspiration for me. Other big inspiration was my friend's father R K Ramanathan founder of American Remedies, a pharmaceutical company. Since both were inspiring 'rag from riches story'. Doraisamy Mudaliar sold toothpowder through door-to-door sales. During the period (1940-50s) such a sale method was very difficult. Later he sold through packets and established a big business ranking next to 'Gopal Palpodi' (Gopal Tooth Powder). The same way, my friend's father R K Ramanathan started his company with just '5,000 as capital and he grew the venture to bigger level and sold the company to the tune of '100 crores to Dr Reddy's Laboratories. Since I have seen him from childhood, I was greatly inspired by his single man effort to grow and achieve big. These two were my role models and

inspiration to become a successful inspiration in my life. And I have alot of respect for Wipro Ltd chairman Azim Premji, who is a great visionary. The way he gets the right people in doing the things rightly is amazing. A leader might not be best person to complete every job. But he must be best person to select the best one to finish the job'

But being a first generation entrepreneur with a lot of passion towards business, Arun Kumar had a rare trait of being fearless. 'I wasn't afraid, didn't have any wealth to protect and hadn't nothing to lose. If we don't have anything what were are going to lose?' he laughs.

As a word of advise he says, 'Rewards come with risks. If you are willing to handle bigger risk or challenges, you will get bigger rewards. This is the way of life. Of course, one must be calculative and have the right attitude. Secondly, we must have bigger ambitions for success. Thirdly, hardwork is the critical aspect for any success and must be inspiring leader for a good team. Finally you must be fearless. Anyone who lacks in these combinations will definitely lose in the entrepreneurship race.'

While handling the projects, Arun Kumar took a different objective to make it different. He says, 'every project is different in its own way, while in one project, we made on theme based Villas. Another project, we created gardens in first floor. Apart from logical pricing and elegant look of the projects, we finished the projects on time.' ♦



Foodologist

AASIFE

THE MASTER COOK

THE PINK AND GOLD COLOURED LETTERING BOARD, STUNNING PRINTED WALL DESIGNS, SPACIOUS ARRANGEMENT OF CHAIRS AND THE DIY ARRANGEMENT WITH SILVER SPOONS ADD CURIOSITY TO THE PEOPLE WHO GET IN HERE. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT COLOURS PINK AND GOLD, Y AASIFE (AASIFE BIRIYANI) HE SMILES AND SAYS IT'S HIS FAVOURITE COLOUR AND HE TOLD HIS ARCHITECT HARISH IN SPECIFIC TO PLAN IN SUCH A WAY AND HE HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB. BIRIYANI LOVER, HARD WORKER WITH SPARKLING WIT AND FITNESS BLUFF SHARES HIS LIFE JOURNEY AND LOVE FOR AASIFE BIRIYANI WITH **AMRITHA PREM** AT HIS CALM AND ARTISTIC OUTLET, THOUSAND LIGHTS (CHENNAI)

Born in a middle class family of Fathima Bee and Yejaj, a health Inspector, Y Aasife was the eldest son. Due to family's financial crisis, he started working as a newspaper distributor at the age of 11 in his bicycle which his mom bought for Rs 150.

While he was earning an income through selling old newspapers, an idea of selling old answer sheets of school students struck his mind. He immediately went to St. Theresa Girls Higher Secondary school (Pallavaram) to seek permission of the sisters to give him the sheets. The sisters took him to the store room where he saw 50 kgs of answer sheets piled in a room. He immediately went to his mother and asked for money to buy a tricycle. Without hesitation she gave her earring to sell and buy a tricycle and that day he earned Rs 3,000. Later he went to all schools and his business began to flow.

Later, his parents advised him to work in Dubai, so that he can earn more. But a tragedy struck, the agent left him on the roads of Mumbai. With no money, he asked a cobbler to give him work of stitching the shoes, (and pay him Rs 500) so he could return to Chennai. Thankfully cobbler accepted. Though he bought the train ticket, he was left with only Rs 5. And nothing to eat, he had to drink only water for the rest of the journey.

This incident made him feel ashamed and he took a lifetime decision to start a business. He joined Aasmin bhai, a famous chef who runs catering business (for wedding ceremonies). The first few weeks he learned the tricks on how to get good meat, rice, right ingredients for better taste. Finally he took the spatula for cooking his own biriyani recipe.

With his mother's insurance money and knowledge of biriyani recipes in his mind, Aasife opened his first 'thaluvandi shop' (Shopping cart) at T.Nagar beneath the large tree which is now houses famous jewellery shop. Due to problems from anti-social elements, his business suffered and one time his cart was broken. But he never lost hope and setup a shop at Butt Road (near Nandambakkam, Chennai) and then it was never a turning back for him.

For the past 16 years, he made Aasife Biriyani a food chain all over Chennai with 15 outlets and his very next outlet is to be established at Srilanka and Dubai in the next month. When questioned about his choice about biriyani, he replied, 'It's one of my favourite food and during the battles in Mughal period, biriyani was considered the energy food for warriors and soldiers as the rice gives stamina and meat strengthens bones and different spices provide various benefits. Also, he added that many Islamic dishes will be introduced in Aasife Biriyani next to the signature dish 'Grill Chicken'.

Apart from business, Aasife also sends biriyani regularly to the NGOs and CS Girls home at Vysarpadi and other areas in Chennai who can't afford the dish. When queried about how his parents feel about his success, with smiles he says 'without my mother, I am nothing what I am right now. She feels very happy about me and she is my best friend ever', he says joyfully. To conclude Aasife is your name but what does it mean, I ask and he says it means 'toofan' i.e 'puyal' (Urdu) and he has spread like wildfire to reach this level.

You're unique USP?

Do not fear and you can't reach greater heights if you're in a perfect comfortable zone.

What is your success formula to reach this level?

I celebrate each and every day with work with interest. The words, 'What' Next', keeps running in mind. I dream big and never settle. I won't compromise for anyone and don't care what others say. I indulge in any activity if I like it and these are the three formulas.

First customer:

When I started at Butt road, my first customer was Brindan, an Anglo Indian who is touch with me even now.

Strength:

I take opportunities without any fear

Dream:

To establish Aasife Biriyani all over the world as a global food chain restaurant.

5 years from now:

To become one among the top 10 Businessmen in the world

Fitness secret:

I go to gym everyday as health is wealth.

Favourite Place:

Chennai

Favourite restaurant:

Leela Palace

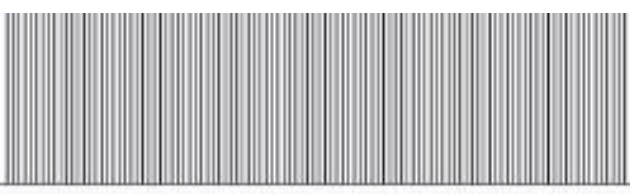
Favourite Hero:

Rajinikanth

Crazy about

Cars and electronic gadgets especially watch. ♦





“I LOVE BOTH, MY
MUSIC AND MY
COMPANY. IT WOULD
BE A TOUGH CALL IF I
HAD TO CHOOSE ONE
OVER THE OTHER
BUT, FORTUNATELY, I
DON'T HAVE TO”

Technologist

ARUN KUMAR

SMART SOLUTION PROVIDER

ARUN KUMAR, CEO AND FOUNDER OF XENTURE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED, STARTED HIS CAREER AS A MUSICIAN BUT WILLINGLY CHOOSE TO BECOME AN ENTREPRENEUR WITHOUT ANY DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE, JUST BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IN HIS IDEA. ARUN'S WORLD-VIEW IS A REMARKABLE COMBINATION OF UNBOUNDED CREATIVITY AND NO-NONSENSE PRAGMATISM. EXTROVERTED AND JOLLY BY NATURE, HE IS A MAN OF UNFLAGGING COMMITMENT. 'THE WORD 'IMPOSSIBLE' HOLDS NO RELEVANCE IN MY LIFE,' HE SAYS. ARUN'S BRAINCHILD, TRABAAJO: SMART RECRUITING, IS THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND MOBILE APPLICATION FOR JOB SEARCH AND RECRUITMENT, AIMED AT CREATING A NEW SEGMENT IN SMART RECRUITMENT AND HELPING JOB SEEKERS ACROSS THE WORLD. HE SHARES MORE ABOUT HIS IDEAS AND HIS PASSION IN THIS INTERVIEW WITH **SUNAINA AGARWAL**

When and why did you decide to become an entrepreneur?

I decided to become an entrepreneur after being associated with two different companies over four years. I wanted to be in a challenging environment that would allow me to convert my ideas into a disruptive business, a new market for myself.

What are the hurdles you face as an entrepreneur?

There are a number of hurdles you face as an entrepreneur, the primary among these being finding acceptance for your decision within your family, followed by the viability of the project, then finding a team that's as passionate as you are to implement the idea and, finally finding the right investors.

What made you think of a product like 'Trabaajo'?

The idea came from a very interesting personal incident that made me realize how having a smartphone gave me a chance to be interviewed for any company instead of having to wait the whole day and then being told that my resume does not fit the role. It occurred to me that the concept of providing real-time video interviews across the globe could ease the recruitment process to a great extent.

How do you think Trabaajo can be useful to the common masses?

Trabaajo is a product designed specifically to meet the requirements of the masses. It

helps you get employment across the world without any charge. More importantly, it gives you an understanding of what to expect in a job interview, the flexibility to schedule/reschedule your interview, and the freedom to appear for the interview from wherever you might be.

There are many start-ups in the market today, what is your point of view on the competitive market scenario?

The market is very volatile at present, and I strongly feel that any product that concentrates on end-user friendliness, addresses a particular issue on a global scale, and is based on a unique idea can hold its own as a competitive product.

How do you think start-ups can build a place for themselves in the market?

In order to sustain a start-up and secure a place for it in the market, it is essential that there be a strong commitment to the essence of the product and the willingness to see it through the ups and downs that one is likely to encounter along the way.

As an artist and entrepreneur, how do you manage your Music and Entrepreneurship?

I love both, my music and my company. It would be a tough call if I had to choose one over the other but, fortunately, I don't have to. Because music isn't constrained by space or the time of the day, I am able to work on

my music without limiting my availability for the company.

Today many women have started their own organizations. What do you think about them?

Hats off to them! It would be nice to have many more entrepreneurs come forward, men and women alike.

Your best and unique idea on how start-ups can sustain?

Believe in yourself and your idea, be flexible according to the market requirements, and ensure that your idea is unique and competitive.

Your favorite cuisine?

Curd rice and pickle, anytime.

What is adventure to you?

Anything that gets me going is an adventure to me.

For how long can you listen to music in a day?

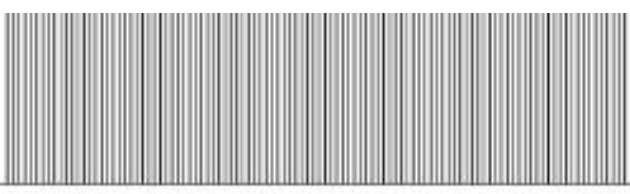
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Your favorite travel destination?

Mauritius

Your favorite hangout destination?

The corner 'chai' shop. ♦



Tamil Writer

BALAKUMARAN

MASTER STORYTELLER

OFTEN CALLED AS 'EZHUTHU SIDDHAR' BALAKUMARAN IS A FAMOUS TAMIL WRITER, AUTHOR OF OVER 200 NOVELS, 100 SHORT STORIES. HE HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO TAMIL PERIODICALS SUCH AS 'ANANDA VIKATAN' AND 'KUMUDAM'. HIS WRITINGS ARE NOTED FOR A DISTINCT PHILOSOPHICAL AND RELIGIOUS TONE. HE IS A DISCIPLE OF SRI YOGIRAM SURATH KUMAR. IN HIS MANY NOVELS HE SHOWS IMMENSE INTEREST IN EMOTION, ENLIGHTENMENT AND PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHTS. BALAKUMARAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO FILMS HAS LARGELY BEEN IN THE FIELD OF SCREENPLAY MAKING AND DIALOGUE WRITING. HIS SKILLS IN CRAFTING THE DIALOGUE FOR ANY CONCEIVABLE CHARACTER ARE NOTEWORTHY IN KOLLYWOOD IN FILMS LIKE KADHALAN, BAASHA, GENTLEMEN ETC.

Having written more than 300 literary pieces including 200 novels, short stories and essays, what do you think the your readers expect from you? Do you think your creative works have satisfied them?

The main reasons behind the problems in our life, is due to not others, but due to us. So I advice them reorganise or rethink to solve the issue. Moreover, I also provide solutions on how to solve it. The reason behind my motive is due to the lessons that I learned in my life. If I had been right everything would have been fine. It is the way we see and perceive things if I am aggressive, opponents would also be the same. There should always be calmness and patience in everything we do. In order to achieve this, one can follow mediation, 'mantra japa' and certain religious practices or other things. So these advices deal with individual's personality and addresses them towards a higher path, they like me very much. My creative works are like conducting a workshop. While reading the piece, it would be like participating in such an event, which sound very easy, but it is not. I am just a stimulus!

Every creative writer plans his work based on his inspiration or heart touching incident, and later gather information. How about your style do you write immediately after an inspiration?

It depends upon the type of the novel 'Udaiyar' novel took around 21 years to write.

Story and plot revolves around the Tanjore, I had slight inclination towards the city and having visited for more than 100 times, it initiated thought processes which manifest to write the novel after more than 15 years. But some novels, take only a month to write. Gathering information is not difficult, but I have to move towards it and situation that push me must be considered important!

Can you explain the certain hindu ritual which are mentioned in 'En Kanmani Thamarai', where a woman itself is worshipped as a religious and spiritual being? Such kind of rituals is possible in the current scenario? Why many people refuse accept the core aspect of Hinduism which is mentioned in you works?

Hindu rituals are possible in all scenarios. It all depends on our needs. It is kind of activity (Nyamam). When it comes to permission, nobody needs to accept my work. I write what I feel correct for me and nobody has the right to say it's wrong. I am writing this out of my own experience, not just born out of reading books. I am 71-year-old man having rich knowledge regarding traditions and rituals and I have faced many odd and strange situations in my life. If somebody shouts that our religion is wrong, then which religion is correct? Is my religion is wrong or every religion is wrong. Many people say that Hinduism is alone filled with mistakes. But they never point out mistakes other

religions. When you are saying that a religion is wrong, one must studied and research a lot.

Is the limit for freedom of expression, particularly in writing?

Everything has a limit, when you live in this world, you cannot live without limit or boundaries. When it comes to writing, one cannot write as we wish. They are many dirty places in our society, but one must realise what is our purpose! Writer's experience tells him, what and how to write. One must not write absurd or awkward things and provoke anger. Purpose is to make the reader understand, if you make him angry, how will he understand ?

What is the inspiration behind writing novel 'Irumbhu Kuthirai' and usage of 'Alaipayuthe Kanna' song as theme song for explain death in 'Thalaiyani Pookkal'?

I was working as purchase officer in a company, when a truck loaded with spares and tools went missing. Since, there was a possibility of factory production getting delayed I was forced to go in search of the vehicle. After searching desperately in several places, luckily I found the truck. During the course of finding the vehicle I had opportunity to meet many persons and understand the nuances and social-cultural unheard life of transportation. This provoked me to write a novel. In the novel, 'Thalaiyani Pookkal', the song 'Alaupayuthe Kanna' was not written to





denote death, but a wish to see the divine god or lord. But when I listen to the song I felt it is a like moving or dragging towards death or parting away from the body. It is a kind of interpretation from my point of view.

Can you list out some of your favourite novelists?

Cancer Ward, a semi-autobiographical novel by Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. I read many books written by Arthur Koestler, Aldous Huxley, Ayn Rand. I also loved reading Ayn Rand's We the Living, Atlas Shrugged, The Fountainhead. I have read many creative works from Malayalam and Telugu. I also met veteran Kannada writer Shivaram Karanth. He was joyful enough to receive me and was very happy to see my family. After reading novels and other creative works from four southern states, I didn't find much of a difference in the way of life or relationship issue including, how they treat women? how they understand them? Circumstances and situations are quite different.

Is any of your works translated in English?

No. So far nobody has approached me. I never made any attempt. Let people in our state,

read and understand. Apart from that, there is no facilitator or bridging such a setup in our country. If any Tamil writer wants to translate his works to English, he must be financially sound to pay for translator. And after getting translated the work must be taken to publisher, who must treat it with respect. I feel there is no demand among the people to read even Tamil creative works. And I feel, many English readers are not concerned in knowing about the creative works in Tamil language. If they get interest, something might happen!

It is widely said that Tamil language hasn't got its due recognition in India?

That is true. But so far nobody took the effort get the recognition. There is no use in just shouting about not getting the due recognition. It is in the hands of politicians, but they are playing dramas on the issue.

Your opinion on the growth of social media platforms and networks?

Facebook is mostly filled with gossips and many comments are idiotic. Many use the social media platform to attack others in terms of religion, caste. Apart from interesting literary pieces, I couldn't find any genuine or

positive criticism. A novel requires at least 600 pages, but some write 5-6 pages in a facebook post to claim it as a masterpiece, thereby positioning themselves as great thinker or idealist or philosopher. They are not ready to perform a hard work of writing 500 pages, which I consider it as sign of laziness. Veteran Tamil critic and writer Ka.Na.Subramaniam said those feel lazy to create fictional stories, write poems. I feel those who are lazy enough to write a novel, go to facebook to write something. I consider writing creative works only in facebook posts is the height of laziness.

How about your opinions of other art form like paintings, music, sculpture?

I like the paintings of Artist Adhimoalam. And also like Abhangs, Bhajans of musician and singer OS Arun. I also held deep discussions with sculptor Ganapati Sthapati aiming to know the essence and roots of sculpture. Performing arts like drama never impressed me. I have a general aversion towards the art form. I feel that the art form is not complete and I believe it collapses to the superiority and stature of a novel. Apart from this, architecture also had great influence on me. Brihadeeswarar Temple of Rajaraja Chola inspired me to write a novel!



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● IN THE FINAL, OUR TEAM MEMBERS PLAYED AN EXTRA-ORDINARY GAME DESPITE THE FACT THE SPAIN CAPTAIN JUAN AMAT SCORING HAT TRICK IN IT. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN OLYMPIC HISTORY WHERE A TEAM CAPTAIN SCORED A HAT TRICK AND THE TEAM LOST THE GOLD MEDAL ●

Hockey Champion

V. BHASKARAN

PRIDE OF INDIA

VASUDEVAN BASKARAN WAS THE CAPTAIN WHEN INDIAN TEAM WON THE GOLD IN HOCKEY AT THE 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPICS. NO DOUBT, BASKARAN CHERISHES THE MOMENT AND MADE INDIA PROUD, AS HE WAS AWARDED ARJUNA AWARD IN 1979 AND PADMASRI IN 1981. AFTER THE OLYMPIC GOLD VICTORY, BASKARAN HAD COACHED THE INDIAN NATIONAL TEAM SEVERAL TIMES, THE LAST TIME AT THE 2006 MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP IN MÖNCHENGLADBACH (GERMANY). CURRENTLY HE IS THE CHIEF COACH OF BHOPAL BADSHAHS IN WORLD SERIES HOCKEY LEAGUE HE SHARES UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS IN HIS LIFE TO **M P SARAVANAN**

'Frankly, we didn't hope that we will win the gold medal in Moscow Olympics (1980). Earlier we planned to reach semi finals and take the finalist as per the prevailing situation. We planned along the leading teams of the world. There was good competition to win the gold medal, as Spain and Poland were good at the game, Russia was also tough at hockey and was the host' he says. Listing out things behind the great success, Bhaskaran says, 'Firstly it is about the team, most of my team members apart from me never participated in the previous Olympics at Montreal (Canada) and most of them were youngsters in the age group of 21 to 24. Being a leader, hard work of the team members and strategy will alone guarantee success. And they performed very well and didn't over do the tasks assigned to them. Secondly, our government gave more importance to sports related activities and one among them was to sent the Indian hockey team 10 days earlier to the event, which gave us plenty of time to practice in a cold country like Russia. Thirdly, our coach Balakishan Singh was very supportive and advised us to take appropriate steps and assured to guide in case of any help' says Bhaskaran with joy and pride.

But success was tough for Bhaskaran and his team, it was not all easy victory at every opponent they met, India which drew 2-2 with both Poland and Spain in the league phase while won Tanzania 18-0, Cuba 13-0 and met host Russia in the semi-finals, but bet the country 4-2 to enter the final. India had to work hard for the gold as Spain put up a fighting performance. Goals by Surinder

Singh Sodhi (2), Mohd Shahid and M K Kaushik set up a 4-3 win for India.

It was a great moment for India to win the gold after a lapse of 16 years, and youngsters who were a part of the team were the best. And they continue to play another two Olympics.

Recalling competition between India and Spain, Bhaskaran says, 'Spain was a good opponent. Its captain Juan Amat, was an extra-ordinary player. His brothers are good players, where a part of the Spain Hockey team. They never concede a mistake and play a defensive game to not give any opportunity to score a goal. But we had the confidence to win them, since we had already fought with them in the league match 2-2. Luckily we had the opportunity to study the game of Spain and found that we are very poised to win the game. In the final, our team members played an extra-ordinary game despite the fact the Spain captain Juan Amat scoring hat trick in it. It was the first time in Olympic history where a team captain scored a hat trick and the team lost the gold medal'.

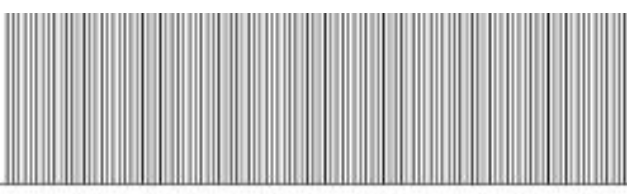
Having born in family which encourages sports, Bhaskaran's father Vasudevan was national level athlete and mother Padmavathy was a source of encouragement. Bhaskaran took up hockey, which was very famous sport along with Kabaddi in 1960's. When it comes to success, Bhaskaran credits the methodology that is employed in bringing up children. He advises that, lack of physical activities is the main reason hindering the development of

children. He explains, 'Role of parents in the child development is very important. And role of teachers and school is limited when it comes to development of skills and talent; they must not be blamed for that.'

Listing out the certain observations he had made over the years, Bhaskaran notes that, 'I have seen children and youngsters playing in shopping malls, cinema theatre complexes. Many a times, I found young children running along the lobbies and other places. And reason behind is that children are not given time to run, play in parks, play grounds. Moreover, children are addicted to some many other entertainment medias and devices which restrain their physical activities.'

Between 1928 and 1980, India won 8 Olympic gold medals in hockey. After 1980, India has not won a single hockey gold. At the 2012 London Olympics, India's hockey team finished last in a field of 12. But Baskaran feels there is no dearth of talent in the country and says that more than 20,000 youngsters play hockey at various levels in the country. This, according to him, is very high compared to any other nations.

But blames the federations for lack of interest, 'There is always internal politics in every federation, but long standing power struggle and ego clash between the many association and its office bearers is too hot for the sport. And the game has become its first victim. Lack of plan, organised camps, workshop, game schedule, and most importantly lack of promotion' he says. ♦



Medicine

Dr. T S CHANDRASEKAR

ETERNAL HEALER

SCHOOL TOPPER, ORATOR, SCHOOL PUPIL LEADER, NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR, BEST OUTGOING MEDICAL STUDENT WITH 14 GOLD MEDALS, ARE SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PADMA SHRI DR T S CHANDRASEKAR, WHO IS ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES IN THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, THE JOURNEY HE HAS TAKEN IS FILLED WITH STRUGGLES, BUT HIS RISK TAKING ABILITY AND NEVER DIE ATTITUDE HAS BROUGHT HIM GLORY, WHICH MAKES HIM AN IDEAL PERSON AND ROLE MODEL FOR ALL MEN IN VARIOUS FIELDS. HE IS A RECIPIENT OF SEVERAL AWARDS INCLUDING OLYMPUS J-MITRA ENDOSCOPY (2008), SISCO PENTAX ORATION AWARDS (2009), BEST DOCTOR AWARD (2012). PADMA SHRI (2016). BY **M P SARAVANAN**

Being born sixth of the seven children, Chandrasekar was different in many ways; he was first doctor in five generations in his family tree in Madurai. Educated in Tamil medium, he always a topper in all classes, but he notes that the orientation activities of the school through extra-curricular activities, social service had a deep influence on him, he says, 'It is not only education that matters, they made think about the global perspective of life. When the school started the intra-club, it gave me an opportunity interact and move with the elite groups. My school even adopted a village, where we sanitised and cleaned all places. Moral Instruction (MI) classes gave a lot of information about culture, heritage, and mythology. I these greatly influenced me in shaping my personality and my career.' In terms of extra-curricular, Chandrasekar was the good at oration, he has won several prizes in Tamil and English; he is very good at 'Tirukkural' and 'Kambaramayanam'. Apart from being a school topper and orator, through this kind of exposure during his life, he was not only able to understand not only sympathy, but also empathy.

In terms of growth and achievement, exposure also gave urge to reach top, he says 'It gave the courage to achieve more. You find this type of attitude in self-motivating people. Moreover, I was very careful not extinguish the fire in my belly attitude, due to the early success I achievement in my school days'.

Speaking about his decision to choose medicine, 'To be very frank, there were only two kinds of career which were widely known, Medicine and Engineering. I wanted

to be medical scientist. During my school days I read a lot of books about achievers. My great inspiration was Alexander Fleming, who discovered Penicillin and Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A Edison. My hero was Ronald Ross, who found the causative agent for spread of malaria. These reading experiences made me to think like a scientist. Since I was good at studies and due to my father TN Seshadri's encouragement, I took medicine and finished my MBBS course (Madurai Medical College) in 1978, 'he recalls.

But learning new things apart from medicine started in his life, 'When I choose to study in MD (Internal Medicine) in PGIMER (Chandigarh), on the advice of my seniors, I had to learn Hindi and I learned it with help of my friends. It was same like learning English during MBBS course which was new to me, as I studied in Tamil medium. Since I was quick learner, I was soon able to competitive enough to match my peers.'

After completing MD (Internal Medicine) he decided to move forward in Gastroenterology, which is quite unknown. Recalling an incident, which ignited him to move towards that field, 'When I was studying internal medicine, 80 year-old person was admitted for vomiting blood. In normal circumstances, open surgery will be performed to detect the cause, Dr J P Dilavari who had arrived from UK, used endoscopy to find the cause, it was bleeding in the intestine, he immediately administered an injection and it stopped immediately. It was quite surprising for me, and I believed that this is going to be the

future of this kind of method to treatment, thereby avoiding a major surgery. Moreover, department of gastroenterology headed by SK Mehta was very good, with some of the best surgeons in the country. Many of the toppers and my seniors, who came here to study from various states, also took gastroenterology. Since there were many top cardiologists, I don't want to be one among them. Moreover they were many innovations were following in that area, which made me pursue the path, which made me to join the course'.

After spending more than 5 years studying internal medicine and gastroenterology, he moved to Chennai to Assistant professor in Madras Medical College and it should be noted that he was youngest to complete MBBS, MD and DM at a stretch (before 29). Being a bachelor, he had to spend more time to teach students and motivate many students to take up gastroenterology and even move to PGIMER (Chandigarh). After period 2 years 3 months he was posted to Coimbatore Medical College & Hospital to start a new department for gastroenterology (1989) and continued to serve as chief Gastroenterology, which was very challenging for a young doctor to take up a position. But, Chandrasekar decided to move to private practice, he says, 'with the speed in which gastroenterology was growing, I couldn't cope up in government setup. In many a times, to get a helping hand or procuring a equipment was difficult. Since my wife knew that I am strong personality and I felt that I took a right decision'. His full-time decision led to the birth of MedIndia Institute of Medical specialities, which proved to more challenging, he says, 'Need to have





PHILOSOPHY FOR SUCCESS

- 'Fire in the belly' distinguishes an achiever
- Be ready to starve 'to achieve'
- R+ Concept – Routine + Concept of doing extra – ordinary deed along with routine work
- Don't allow your early success to extinguish the existing fire in you
- 'Seniors – Peers – Juniors' concept in the learning period
- 'All your efforts need not be successful. But to become successful, one has to make an effort
- Even if all doors are closed, you can make an entry by breaking the wall
- Be True to yourself and others
- Empathizing is more important than just sympathizing
- You work like a servant and Live like a King
- Progress and show equal concern for the progress of the people around you
- Awards and recognitions are indicators of one's travel in the right direction
- Unabating fire, passion for work, innovative ideas, travel in the right direction, benevolent acts reaching the underprivileged masses and God's grace are the essential ingredients for happiness and success
- 'So shall be thy traits, so shall be thy achievements'
- 'Far more to go and lot more to give back to the humanity.'

comprehensive skills apart from medicine and surgery. One needs to be master in many talents and you need to be jack of all trade particularly in India' he laughs. Being quick learner he was able to win the administrative and financial challenge very quickly. He was also interested in running conferences on gastroenterology on national and international.

On the importance of referrals, he says, 'My way of informing the public is through awareness and educating. Advertisement is also very important and useful for patients. I usually get many complicated cases'.

In 2001, he had sparked that why not start one more hospital in Chennai, 'I felt Coimbatore is small for me. Since I had imported medical devices, I had to test and make it useful for many more patients. But many friends warned that since there are already well-established players in the city, it will be very difficult for me. For over a period of three months, after a visiting more than 100 sites, I zeroed for this

place (Nungambakkam). Now I am successful in Chennai' he says.

Now after 15 years, Dr TS Chandrasekar is a leading gastroenterologist in India and chairman of MedIndia Hospital. Speaking about his personal life, 'My father TN Seshadri gave me full freedom to study, even though he was under financial burden. Till he died in 1994 he never asked any money from me. My mother Radha Rukmini was good at native and traditional knowledge. My wife Sharmila is an under-graduate who helps in hospital management and family. In 2001-04, when I was my travelling from six a days of week from Coimbatore to Chennai, which was quite hectic, she was very support. My son Vivek Sandeep who is a school topper and state topper, completed MBBS and he is currently pursuing PG (Internal Medicine) in New York (US). My daughter Rashmica is a computer engineering professional, who is planning to pursue full-time Bharathnatyam dancer'.



Storyteller

ERIC MILLER

LIFELONG SCHOLAR

WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD 'STORY', THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO YOUR MIND IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER NARRATING ALL INTERESTING AND LIVELY STORIES DURING YOUR CHILDHOOD BUT ERIC MILLER, PH.D (FOLKLORE) HAS CHANGED THIS THEME AND HAS RENAISSANCE THE CONCEPT OF STORYTELLING IN CHENNAI. A SCHOLAR, STORYTELLING TRAINER (COLLECTING ALL THE STORIES AND ITS METHODS, AND RECYCLING IT, TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE LIVING AT THIS CONTEMPORARY ERA) TO MORE THAN 350 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND GUEST LECTURER AT FAMOUS INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS IIT, DR.ERIC MILLER, DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLINGINSTITUTE.ORG, NEWYORK CITIZEN TRANSPLANTED TO 'NAMA' CHENNAI, TALKS ABOUT HIS BLOSSOMING JOURNEY WITH **AMRITHA PREM** AT HIS SPACIOUS, RESIDENTIAL AND WORKPLACE PILED WITH THREE ARRAYS OF BOOKS, NUNGAMBAKKAM

'I came to Chennai in 1988 while pursuing my Masters Degree, especially studying 'Silappathikaram' but I came back to Chennai in 2012 for a field work with the tribal people of Nagercoil about folklore stories (Study of 'grandma stories' and how they narrate but couldn't understand the dialect. So I changed my topic to 'Children songs and games' like 'Oru kudam thani oothi orey poo puthuchan' (One pot of water for one flower.) While observing and studying these songs I recognised four factors, Body acquisition i.e. movements, reputation of words with variation, physical reinforcement and Q & A method, which make the children pick up any language quickly without any difficulties. Also, my mentor Laura Sims, a storyteller and leader of storytelling revival, taught us the art of Storytelling. I really want to train others of what I do, so they can train them this art to somebody and it passes. So, I decided to come back to India in 2005 and establish my own StorytellingInstitute.org at Nungambakkam, he says.

What made you settle in India?

I love India and wanted to be here, also the literary aspect of Tamil culture interested me. The women who put 'rangoli' on the ground are a kind of spirituality which aligns them with the universe, but the people are unaware of it. India is the only place which follows folk, traditional and modern culture with rituals and spirituality which is found nowhere else.

Tell us about storytelling?

Storytelling is a form of public speaking involving various arts such as acting,

talking, dancing, painting, etc. The stories can be from our own life, imaginary or folklore, but each story contains a moral value and situation. The listeners empathise and identify with the characters one after the other with the help of direct speech (acting as a narrator and a listener) which acts as the kick starter to involve emotions in people, so he or she can think, how similar or different it's to their day-to-day happenings and learns how to deal with it.

Storytelling makes people emotionally strong and when emotions get involved, it aligns with the psyche automatically. Storytelling in other words can be expressed as personification. For example, consider chemical elements given life and they interact with you or when the story of inventors or scientists along their struggles is narrated and brought to live with your creative visualization, wouldn't you remember it forever?

What inspires and motivate your creativity?


Every person wants to become him/herself fulfilling or realising his/her absolute potential. This point inspires me in and out. We become more self-aware when we realise our true potential and give back something in return. Love for communication, love for people, love for society and the ability to reach out to people emotionally and intellectually in a crowd. My mentor always emphasis on the social situations such as body language, rhythms, at what day, time and year the story is interacted etc.

Having got over 10 years of storytelling experience to children's, teenagers and



adults, Whom you love training?

I feel really happy and content as many of my students have established their own storytelling organisations. I am also developing storytelling therapy as healing methods for people with Attention Deficit disorder, Autism and Dyslexia. I love training teenagers and adults. Long ago, people pursued what their ancestors did and now adults choose what they like and pursue it without realising what they actually want. They are independent, but doubtful and anxious on the other hand. They make their life complex and suffer which has to be overcome, I will say, else it may lead to a disaster causing stress. ♦



**6 EDUCATION IS NOT
TO BE SOLD AND
WHILE PREPARING FOR
COMPETITIVE EXAMS THE
SUCCESS IS UNCOMMON
AND FAILURE IS
COMMON, SO I NEVER
WANT TO BUILD HOPES
AND THE RISK FACTOR IS
TOO HIGH 9**

Educationalist

GANESH

SUBRAMANIAM

AN EPITOME ON THE PILLAR

AN ELOQUENT SPEAKER AND A VORACIOUS READER, A WRITER, AN INSPIRING MENTOR, AN EDUCATIONALIST, TAMIL LINGUIST, ANTIQUE LOVER CONFINED WITH SIMPLE PRINCIPLES ARE THE RIGHT WORDS TO DESCRIBE HIM. GANESH SUBRAMANIAM (DIRECTOR OF GANESH'S IAS ACADEMY) OPENS UP WITH **AMRITHA PREM** ABOUT HIS LIFE TURNING JOURNEY WHICH EDUCATES THE STUDENTS AND YOUTHS AT THIS CONTEMPORARY ERA

Born in Tirunelveli to Somasundaram, arts and craft school teacher and Parvathakumari, Tamil teacher, as the youngest son, Ganesh Subramaniam, was a naughty student during school days but excelled in 10th and 12th examination scoring the first mark in his school. His interest in Tamil was mainly due to his maternal grandfather Shanmugha Sundaram, Editor at 'Virakesari Pathrikai' who writes articles with his pen name Maradnus (Sundaram in reverse order). Being in an educated family and surrounded by school teachers, everyone thought he might end up becoming a teacher or lecturer but he had other dreams, he wanted to become a doctor in the army but fate had other plans for him.

'After completion of my schooling, I got a call from Mazogon Dock with a 5-year contract bond along the sponsorship for my education, but due to lack of awareness I missed the golden opportunity. Later I enrolled myself in B.Sc (Physics) at Manomaniam College of Arts & Science. During my first semester, my score was 42% and I realised I need to improve and cope up' he recalls.

With inspiration from his friend's father M Palani, an IFS officer he started preparing for civil service examination. But turning point in his life came when met N Sridharan, Diplomat in Taiwan (General affairs), 'He comes often to teach 'Governance' at Periyar

Thidal, where I was studying for my civil examination. He also guided and moulded students in pursuing civil service. But after two attempts, I got upset and went to meet Vaidehi his wife who was working at Ananda Vikatan, and told her that I am going to look out for a job and she convinced me to discuss with Sridharan who was in Delhi. Listening to her words, I waited for him, when he arrived, he promised my parents to take care of me and took me to Delhi. His words, his teachings on how to approach life and its value made me a better person and it completely changed my perspective about life.'

'All my students tell I am a good teacher and a mentor and all these credits will go to Dr Devi Ranjendran, a fine personality, because of whom I am a good teacher right now', he says proudly.

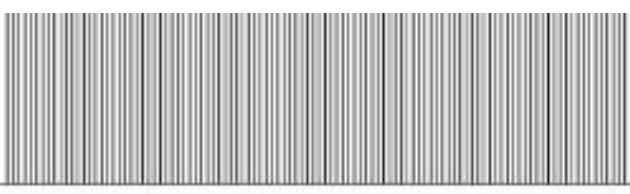
'Rajendran, a Tamil lecturer never takes students if they haven't cleared prelims and I went to his class against this and left his classes when I couldn't clear my prelims in my first two attempts. With the recommendation of Sridharan, I got myself enrolled and cleared my mains at 1999 and I couldn't clear my interview so I took a break. Sridharan often tells me to guide people in whichever field we pursue, so I thought of teaching and joined as a teaching staff at Periyar Thidal. And when I gave my final attempt at 2000.

I cleared the prelims and mains, but got dejected in the interview at 2001. But, I met my life long inspiration from my student turned better half, Miss Monika, whom I fell in love and got married in 2002. My failure made me to establish Ganesh's IAS Academy at Whitehouse, Annanagar (at present) at July-August, 2001 with two students and my wife by my side, he smiles.

Describing his struggle he says, explaining the concept itself was a big struggle for me. Many said it will become a failure and it may end up becoming like a tutorial centre but my hopes didn't. When I asked Shanthakumar, Director of Gurunanak Law School, Delhi, to take classes for my institution, he agreed, saying we must start doing instead of waiting it to happen and Stephen, Life science professor at Nandanam college of Arts and Science too agreed. After 2 years we started giving good results, I started another branch at Chrompet in 2011, he says happily.

And Ganesh believes not advertise his institute, 'Education is not to be sold and while preparing for competitive exams the success is uncommon and failure is common, so I never want to build hopes and the risk factor is too high'.

He also has great hopes for the future, he says 'I wanted to setup an hub at Tamilnadu for UPSC aspirants and now I will say I want to become an author and a mentor'. ♦



Fashion Photographer

KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

MASTER OF LIGHT AND SHADE

STANDING TALL AT 6FT 3 INCHES AND SPORTING WITH A DUSKY COMPLEXION, KARTHIK SRINIVASAN, ANYONE WOULD THINK HE IS A MODEL, BUT KARTHIK IS A LEADING FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER IN SOUTH INDIA. WORKING AS ASSISTANT CAMERAMAN, MODEL, CO-ORDINATOR, FASHION AND CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHER KARTHIK HAS SEEN EVERYTHING IN THE FIELD OF PHOTOGRAPHY. HE IS ALSO CURRENTLY RUNNING A PHOTOGRAPHY ACADEMY (K'S ACADEMY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS [KAPA]) AND WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY COMPANY - MOONSTRUCK. KARTHIK SRINIVASAN LOOKS BACK IN A FREEWHEELING CHAT WITH **M P SARAVANAN**

Top lens man Karthik Srinivasan's journey was tough one, this celebrated fashion photographer began his career as an assistant cameraman, modelled for a while and now owns a production company called Dream Cast, KAPA (photography academy). But early life of the young boy from Kambam (Theni District) was riddled with thorns.

'In my younger days, like many other boys I loved playing cricket and ball badminton. But my interest towards photography grew after seeing photos and pictures from magazines like Kumbam, Kalki, Ananda Vikatan 'he says. And luckily Karthik had opportunity to get a camera from his second brother-in-law Dr Vijay Ganesh, whom taught the basics of photography and to shoot the rural settings of Theni and Madurai.

Over a period of the Karthik interest towards photography grew more and more and he decided to pursue a career in cinematography, while studying B.Sc (chemistry) in SN College, Madurai. Since his elder brother-in-law Babu, was close friend of leading cinema legends like RV Udhayakumar, Aravind Raj, AR Ramesh. With the help of the legends, he tried his lucky to get a seat in D.F.Tech in Film institute (Taramani, Chennai). Unfortunately he ran out of luck and was back in Madurai to continue his graduation.

After completing his degree, Karthik's family


members were quite worried about his career. But the problem was solved when his elder brother-in-law Babu assured Karthik's father Srinivasan to move to Chennai to stay in his elder sister Vasanthi's house. And Karthik started working in his DTP office. Later he decided to move to pharmaceutical industry as medical representative to work in Ahmedabad (Gujarat). While working as representative he also decided to pursue a career in modelling. And it was rewarding indeed, as he walked ramps along with Milind Soman, Sonu Sood and John Abraham, he also participated in various modelling contests. Apart from money he got from assignments and shoots, it gave good knowledge about modelling world and fashion, as he travelled to countries like Thailand, Taiwan etc.

'Even though when I was a model, photography was very close to my heart, which I could never forget. During assignments I used to take more interest in the light, shadow, shades and study the positions of the light setting' he says. As the inner passion grew larger and larger, one day he decided to quit the pharmaceutical industry to pursue photography. Though decision was a risk, he got the support of his two sisters and brother-in-laws. Back in Chennai, with saving and loans he started photo studio named 'Hungry Tiger photography' with his savings and loan at Eldams Road (Chennai).

Without a strong network, Karthik faced a huge trouble in getting assignments in Chennai. But he was not fed up; he moved to Bangkok get assignments. Luckily he got works from Advertising agencies and he shifted to Bangalore, which proved more successful.

Having learned and tasted the success, Karthik once again moved to Chennai. And this time, his works and projects were accepted among the modelling and advertising industry. In order to gain a special place in fashion photography at Chennai, Karthik took a different approach towards photography. Explaining his perspective, 'In 2005-06, there is an odd trend prevailing in the industry. If a leading photographer follows a particular method or style, most of the photographers would follow it as a trend. So I planned to create my own style, I listed out the styles and methods of the leading photographers and did whatever that is opposite. Though it was initially not appreciated, people began to accept it as innovative one '

Having journeyed a long way from model to a leading photographer, Karthik was won several awards from various foundations and magazines. Though he is happy about the way he has arrived and captured the fashion photography industry to be a leading man within a short period of time, he has not forgotten the struggle he has undergone over the years.

A man with dark hair and a slight smile is looking towards the camera. He is wearing a white button-down shirt with blue accents on the shoulders. He is holding a black Sony camera with a large white and black lens. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**6 EVEN THOUGH
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WAS VERY CLOSE
TO MY HEART,
WHICH I COULD
NEVER FORGET 9**



Cartoonist KESHAV THE LINE KING

POLITICAL CARTOONING IS A VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS AND A FANTASTIC FORM, WHICH YOU FIND A REASON TO READ THE MESSAGE AND TO LAUGH AND LAUGH OUT. KESHAV BELONGS TO THAT BREED WHOSE CARTOONS EVOKE BOTH MESSAGE AND HUMOUR. A SOFT-SPOKEN GENTLEMAN, WHO MOVED FROM HYDERABAD TO CHENNAI, HAS JOURNEYED 28 YEARS FROM A NATIONAL NEWSPAPER 'THE HINDU' HAS A LOT TO SHARE AND IS PERFECT FOR AN IDEAL

'I born and brought-up in Hyderabad. Even though we didn't learn Tamil script, the language was our mother tongue. Being in the Andhra city I learnt Hindi, Telugu and Sanskrit – and over a period of time, I also learned Tamil. Ever since I was child, drawing was my passion, but my mother is used to say that even before learning the alphabet, I knew how to draw And it was my first language, if you question my mother tongue, I would say it is drawing' he laughs

Born in an orthodox family, his father Pitchumani was working in RBI, mother Sita, a housewife, where atmosphere was more spiritual rather than artistic one, drawing was always there with him throughout his life including school and college not a day was spend without drawing. After schooling, he did his graduation in correspondence which gave him ample time to learn from classical art masters, 'I go to British Council Library and American Embassy (Council) to learn and sketch from reference book and paintings of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Van Gogh which had good influence on me. Apart from that, Indian painter Ravi Varma was my inspiration. In 1970s during a family visit to Jayachamarajendra art gallery in Mysuru, I could see original paintings of the great Indian master. Size of the original paintings was very inspiring for me, which triggered my passion towards drawing, though I never told anybody about that' he recalls.

An experimental artist who learned drawing and painting through trial and error, Keshav's father was quite hesitant to allow his son pursue an art career, when his drawing master suggested to put him in JJ School of art (Mumbai) owing financial status of the family, the dream was not fulfilled. And this was also reason why he had to pursue graduation

through correspondence instead of college. When he send his sketches and other illustrations to AnandaVikatan. There the veteran cartoonist Sridhar, appreciated his lines and asked him to sketch the music concerts including musicians, celebrities and other members of the public, which started his career in drawing and cartoon. Apart from this, he used to sketch political leaders during live television broadcast, which was published in 'AnandaVikatan' in 1982-87. Through Vikatan he learnt from the great cartoonists like Mali, Raju, Gopulu, Silpi, Sridhar and Madhan. This was the beginning of his cartooning career.

But the turning point in Keshav's career came in 1987, when he joined 'The Hindu' as a full-time cartoonist to leave his job in a nationalised bank. Yet again, his family members were hesitant, since it was a government job. Keshav was strong in his decision. Again it was Sridhar (AnandaVikatan) who convinced my family that the job is secure one and there was nothing to worry. This started his life-long career in cartooning.

When it comes cartooning, Keshav was not interested in politics, the cartoonist job once again gave him a platform to learn and strengthen the art of cartoon. He says, 'You have to see and observe cartoons around the world. I went back to British Council to learn about the master cartoonists like David Low, Ronald Searle, Pat Oliphant and others from the cartooning world including our own Laxman, Abu Abraham, Vijayan, Puri etc.'

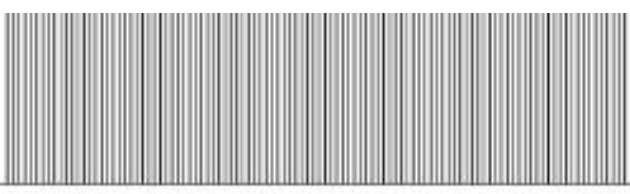
While he was running his life as a cartoonist in 'The Hindu', he was also pursuing painting to suits his inner creative aspiration, which gave him unbound freedom. 'In journalism, there is a circle beyond which you cannot grow and

move, editors set the conditions for illustration or cartoon. But here, I set the condition, which doesn't mean I draw whatever I want' he says. Moreover, it took a decade for me to adapt for me, since I had to adjust myself while shifting from one medium to other. In terms of attitude, I had to adjust in artistic aspect, since cartooning is a negative art, in which you have to criticise and satire. And art which I choose to paint is 'positive' he reasons.

Explaining reasons for adding colours in recent cartoons, Keshav says, 'I don't like colours in Cartoon, but the trends of the time necessitated it. In my opinion cartoon must be in black and white. What is a cartoon? It is a rough drawing, where an idea in our mind is spontaneously noted down in the form of lines.'

Acknowledging the changing technologies in visual storytelling and drawing, he says, 'We have to adapt to changes to learn new things. Even though I do colouring using digital techniques, my line drawings are through hand and in paper. But I find my drawing using pen/brush on paper, much faster.'

With change in media trends and speed of news reporting, Keshav chooses idea or topic for cartoon for a day based on the issue. He says, 'There is something called 'news for the day'. As cartoonist one mustn't move according to what we know, I understand that I am working for a national daily and I must look at a National or South Asian perspective. You can choose a regional topic only when it comes to national level of importance. Sometimes, there may be many news items, but one must choose according the issues. For example, surgical strikes against Pakistan, SC orders to stopping funds from BCCI. When it comes an issue we are not against any party or anybody. It is all based on the issues.' ♦



Musician

LEON JAMES

UPCOMING STAR

LEON JAMES IS A UPCOMING MUSIC COMPOSER WHO WANT TO MAKE BIG IN KOLLYWOOD. GROWING UP WITH MUSIC COMPOSER ANIRUDH, KISHORE, VIVEK IN A BAND NAMED 'ZINX' FOR SIX YEARS, LEON JAMES HAS ALL THE INGREDIENTS TO MAKE HIMSELF A BIG STAR IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY. HAVING COMPOSED MUSIC FOR MOVIES FOR THE FILMS, LIKE KANCHANA 2, KO 2 AND UPCOMING FILMS KAVALAI VENDAM, LEON SPEAKS ABOUT HIS JOURNEY

'Keyboard became my fascination and I started playing it at the age of 4, and slowly it became my passion and by 10 I knew this is what I want.' he says. And his earlier days with Band 'Zinx' played a very crucial role in his life. 'Anirudh, Kishore, Vivek and I grew up together for 6 years with this band. We formed it to perform at school cultural, and once there was a talent hunt called 'Ooh la lala'. We won the competition and Anirudh and I bagged awards for best keyboardist. ' Later he was part of other bands like 'basin bridge' which played jazz rock and pop, 'Pyjamaconspiracy' which he played electro rock and dub step, 'Eflat' which played psychedelic music. He says, 'It was a unique idea when Aalap Raju thought of a band called 'Project Yuj', where we wanted to represent carnatic in a new format. Our main aim was to bring out the beauty of carnatic music because not many listen to it now days'.

And he always feels and believes in himself and passionate about what he does, 'Vaaya en veera' was composed at home, and I thought its time people know I'm a composer, so I did a video and posted on YouTube after 3 months. Raghava Lawrence saw the video and wanted to feature it in his film.' And whenever he is on stage, he feels relaxed and loves performing. He says, ' Composing music at my studio is a lonely process, but when I'm on stage we interact with the musicians. The crowd keeps cheering, the energy, it is a different kind of high for me. The crowd always motivates me. I go into a trance.' Being a music composer, he feels that auto tune is a ban for professionally trained singers who want to enter the music industry. He says 'I didn't use auto tune for any of my tracks. It is important to keep the music alive. Manipulating with software will make us

lose the soul of the music. With the growth of technology anyone can become a musician now. For those who are passionate software like these are good. But, con wise it restricts entry of new talents.'

When it comes to inspiration for songs, he plays piano for longer period of time and with feel of the musical mood, tunes for comes up in his mind. 'I keep playing tunes, and suddenly, something strikes you and that's where you get it. I also listen to a lot of world music so that inspires me as well. There are a lot of different factors '. A part from pianos, he also plays keyboard, guitar. He is more of a tech freak also likes drum machines and synthesizers as well.

And the sudden celebrity status didn't change his way of life. He says, 'It was a slow process. I don't feel like a celebrity. I've got my house right below my studio, so I've always got time for my family. It's the usual for me. I like all the love I get in my social networks but it is also scary because I have to live up to the bar I have set myself in their hearts.' But was quite scared while working with biggie of the industry, he says, 'Being a new comer, I was scared, and I wanted more of 'Will' I get what I want, because I have something in mind and they might have something. But, they were all the sweetest people. We had good vibes, so it wasn't intimidating after that. '

And he jumped in joy when his album on top of the music charter list. 'I feel good, very happy, and very thankful. It is my first debut album and the support I got from 'Sony music' was motivating. I've done two songs in 'Kanchana 2' but this is my first full length album. So the support makes me feel jubilant'.

Leon spells a word of advice and advice for youngsters, 'Keep going at your passion. Keep following your dreams. Just chase them and work hard. It's important to work hard and build your foundation. Between the age18-25 which are the crucial years, which will define you as a personality? Any job you do be happy at what you do. '

RAPID FIRE

All time favorite song:
Vaishnava Janato (It's a very tough question)

Celebrity crush:
Megan Fox

Favorite color :
Black

Favorite genre of music :
Jazz

Most played song :
Strong by London Grammar (Tricky question)

Other hidden talents:
Football

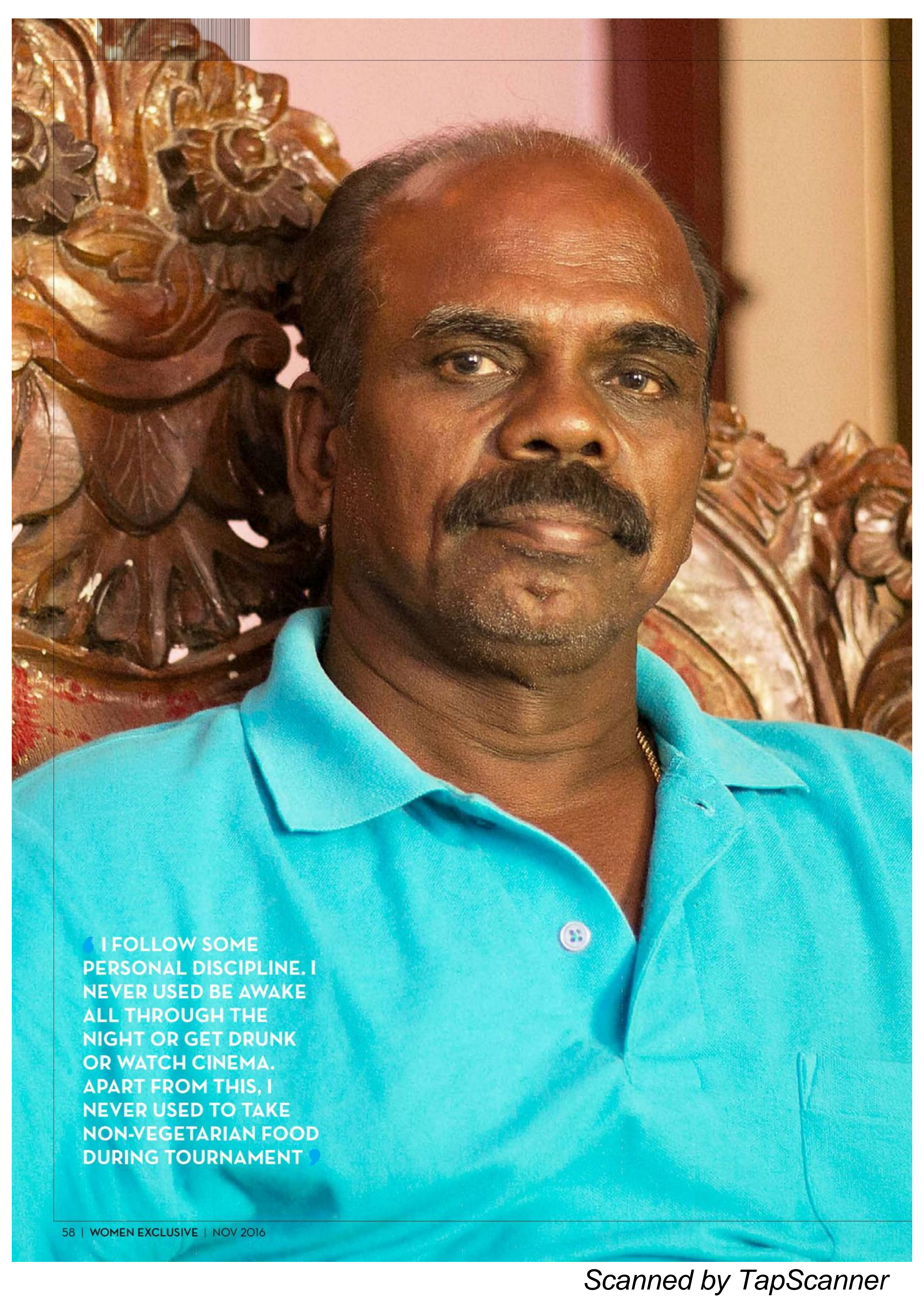
Favorite movie :
Lion king

Favorite actor and actress:
Leonardo di Caprio and Meryl Streep

Favorite food:
Biryani

One word for the following :
Amma - life
Anirudh - Buddy
Relationships- scary
Fans - awesome
AR Rahman: inspiration. ♦





● I FOLLOW SOME PERSONAL DISCIPLINE. I NEVER USED BE AWAKE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT OR GET DRUNK OR WATCH CINEMA. APART FROM THIS, I NEVER USED TO TAKE NON-VEGETARIAN FOOD DURING TOURNAMENT ●

Carrom Champion

MARIA IRUDAYAM

THE FORGOTTEN MASTER

ANTHONY MARIA IRUDAYAM, IS A TWO WORLD CHAMPION, NINE-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION IN CARROM, BUT HE IS ALWAYS CALM AND COMPOSED MAN. HAVING WON ARJUNA AWARD MAKES HIM EVEN MORE SPECIAL, SINCE HE IS THE ONLY AWARDEE FOR HIS SPORT - CARROM, HE NEVER OR HAD ANY EGO IN LIFETIME. BUT HE FEELS THAT CARROM HASN'T GOT HIS DUE RESPECT AND RECOGNITION, EXPECTS BOTH STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE FOR SPORTSMEN. IN A FREEWHEELING CHAT TO **M P SARAVANAN** HE EXPLAINS HIS CARROM JOURNEY

'Many people say that Carrom has fallen behind other sports despite producing World Champions. But that is not true. Game has never lost its spirit and we could see many youngsters continue play in many places not only in Chennai, but also throughout Southern India. Many carrom players have got seat in Engineering through sports quota' he says with pride.

Explaining how he has got recognised in an event, Maria describes, 'There is good awareness regarding the game and its players. For example, few weeks ago when I was attending a wedding, few people asked me to stand near them to get me photograph along with them. I was taken aback as such a thing never happened in my entire life. But I realised that people are aware of carrom and a champion. Such things make me very happy.'

But he feels the one thing that the game is missing; name, fame, money. As these things greatly influence anyone, many parents prefer their child send their son or daughter to either cricket or tennis. He says, 'Carrom is already popular. There are many places in north Chennai one can find carrom centre and street corner playing the game. But the game is not given its due importance in Newspapers and Television media. Every time, there is district level or state level tournament we ask media personnel to cover the event. But most of the time, apart from few reporters many avoid. Some of them, see it as game miniature one! They broadcast even Cricket tournaments played between two government department, and not Carrom national tournament. Not only Carrom, many games are not given its due importance. If any carrom game is regularly telecasted or reported in the media, there are more possibilities that game could grab the attention of sponsors. Then it will eventually

change course of the game in the public. Apart from very few, most of them are not interested'.

When queried about the cost to organise a carrom tournament. He explains it is very economical when compared to other games, Listing out cost factors he says, 'For organizing a district level tournament, it cost around ₹1.5 to 2 lakhs. Since there is no boarding or lodging expense involved and main cost revolves around buying wooden boards, coins and lighting facilities. State level tournament would cost around ₹6-7 lakhs and National-level tournament is expensive one. Since players from all the states arrive at one location. We have to arrange boarding and lodging facilities, apart from expenditure related in organising, entire budget would shoot out upto ₹25-30 lakhs. This money is entirely funded by the state or district federation and associations. So when it comes to awarding the prize to district and state level champion, prize money given in few thousands. If sponsorship is available, champions could be given few lakhs ! It would be nice to see champions getting bigger money'

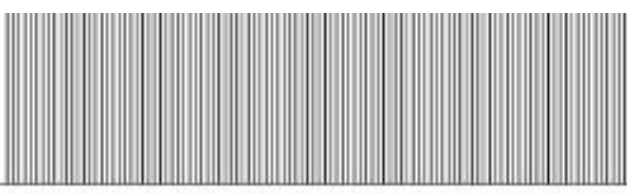
Having retired from AirIndia from June 2014, Mariya spends more time in Carrom. He says, 'Even throughout my career, I used spend half of my day at office work. Every afternoon I return home to practice carrom. Since this has been my routine throughout the life, so this retirement hasn't changed my life much. Currently I am holding the designation of secretary of Chennai District Carrom players association.'

Being an office bearer holding an important designation Mariya has big plans to rejuvenate the game to a new level. During those periods, when the Tamilnadu teams goes to national tournament it will eventually bag the

championship in all categories. But over the years, it has changed. He says, 'Though we hold championship in junior and sub junior, we thoroughly lost in senior category to Northern and western states of India. So I am planning to break northern Indian barrier by effectively training the junior and sub-junior players'

Describing practice routine and Maria says that discipline is a key to success. He list out that, apart from hard work, any good carrom players must follow discipline in their practice. Carrom is both mental and physical game. If the hand shivers, the game will lost. Adequate rest and physical fitness is always important. 'I sleep at 10 pm and rise up at 4.30 am in morning. From 4.30 to 6.30 I used to practice a lot of techniques and I also advice young players to rise up early and practice them. Since, early morning there will be an eternal calmness and our mind works very clearly. I also follow some personal discipline. I never used be awake all through the night or get drunk or watch cinema. Apart from this, I never used to take non-vegetarian food during tournament. As I have said, if there is stomach upset one can't even touch the piece' (he laughs).

Being a World champion twice and National Champion 7 times, Maria never forgets his toughest opponent 'Subash Kable'. Recalling the event, ' In 1982, When I reached my first National Championship final, I was shocked to find 5-time National Champion Subash Kable on the other side. I was just 26 and he was around 44. Subash was an extraordinary player, who pockets any piece at any time. He was matchless player and meeting such master champion at a final made my hands shiver. But due to God's grace I won game. Though I beat the champion, I will never forget him and his game! ♦



Entrepreneur

ISAK NAZAR

EAT HEALTHY, THINK BETTER

ISAK NAZAR IS AN INSPIRING PERSONALITY FOR ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHAT SETS HIM APART FROM OTHER BUSINESS MEN IS HIS ABILITY TO WORKHARD AND ART OF BELIEVING. BORN TO MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY IN TIRUNELVELI, HE PLAYED SEVERAL ROLES LIKE PHARMA REPRESENTATIVE, MARKETING MANAGER, MARKETING HEAD, GENERAL MANAGER AND FINALLY ROSE UP TO BECOME AN INDUSTRIALIST. ISAK NAZAR OPENS UP HIS LIFE, TO **M P SARAVANAN**

Being a first generation entrepreneur I.S.A.K Nazar was always hopeful that his business would reach great heights. Founder of Southern Health Foods, makers of Manna brand of health food products, I.S.A.K Nazar says, 'I was very sure that food and processed food industry will have a bright future, but it will take some time to yield result. We believed that people will turn back to traditional foods. And it happened, after a period of time, as the society was changing its lifestyle and food habits. Because there was a time, where people, used to eat the raw food and shifted to cleaning and cooking their meals.' Expressing confident about the latest trends, he says, 'And this is the time we are waiting for and now we are aggressively making the best out of the current scenario'

Starting his career as a medical representative in a pharmaceutical industry for a monthly salary in 1984, Nazar led a typical middle-class life in his early years. But interestingly, he always had the passion to start business and believed that he could succeed in it since he was successful in career. 'I started my career in Coimbatore, and moved towards Kerala. Later he shifted back to Tamilnadu in 1990, since my father passed away. So, I could solve the family issues' he says. But, he later moved to an engineering company as Marketing Manager, 'Though my designation was Marketing, I was handling manufacturing, production and other areas. That is the place I actually learnt the core business. Over a period of time, I rose to become as a General Manager'. Experience he got from the company, completely change the Nazar and it personally convinced him to be an entrepreneur.

And now Nazar dreamed of starting a pharmaceutical company, because of his

experience in the industry, which involved participating in medical conference, exhibitions and knowing the nuances of the trade. And fortunately he had the opportunity to work with big Masters from the pharma industry, where he learned different types of marketing techniques. It must be noted that though he was working in lower part of the management, he could move along with big names in the pharmaceutical industry who encouraged him to start a company. Moreover, Nazar's friends and relatives were always encouraging since he is known for passion, determination and hard work. But the situation and circumstances were different, and Nazar decision to plunge in food industry was successful.

It all started when his friend's wife a food technocrat, convinced him to move to food industry. In his own words, 'Being food researcher, she encouraged me to built a company based on Brand. The idea was nice and I went to CSIR- Central Food Technological Research Institute), Mysuru to learn about the industry. Scientists and researchers advised that new grains like Ragi, Oats will command a good respect. After wide discussions and consultations, I decided to start a manufacturing business'.


There were initial fears, since Nazar was earning good salary and leading happy life with a good paying job. But he took the risk to start the Manna Foods with the support of his wife and family. Manna Health mix which was first product from the stable was successful. But Nazar had to suffer financial difficulties including mobilizing funds so he put his own savings. 'In the current scenario, ideas are respected and getting financial support is easy. But in those days it was very difficult'

But every business has its share of ups and downs, Nazar also faced those ones, 'In the first three years, our products were successful and we decided to expand our business. As a part of the growth strategy, we ventured into masala divisions in terms of volume sales in 2003 and launched the products in all four states. Due to presence of big players, the situation turned bad and within two years, we realised that we had taken a wrong step. Then we took the life-time decision to withdraw the whole division. It took at least 4 years to recoup and come back' he recalls.


Explaining about his family, 'Both my parents were teachers; I have 5 siblings including three sisters and two brothers. My last brother Syed Sajjan who was working in Dubai, came back to help me in my business and he is co-promoter of the company.'

When queried about the more start-ups in technology than in manufacturing, Nazar says that technology era is getting over, and manufacturing is permanent. And technology that is useful to manufacturing will withstand for a longer period of time and those for service will last for a shorter term. One must remember, manufacturing is a core business of the country.'

Spelling a word of advice for young entrepreneurs, Nazar says, 'First and foremost, they mustn't afraid. They must plunge into business after doing proper homework. Secondly, they should have confident and matured enough to face anything, because the industry might look transparent, it is not easy to succeed. Thirdly, everyday they will be facing problems and must be willing to take it as a part of the life. ♦

A middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing glasses and a white button-down shirt, is seated at a desk. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. A gold pen is tucked into his shirt pocket. The background consists of vertical blinds in shades of blue and red. The overall lighting is bright and professional.

‘ DUE TO PRESENCE OF BIG PLAYERS, THE SITUATION TURNED BAD AND WITHIN TWO YEARS, WE REALISED THAT WE HAD TAKEN A WRONG STEP. THEN WE TOOK THE LIFE-TIME DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE WHOLE DIVISION ’

A portrait of a man with dark hair and a prominent mustache, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a dark, textured wall.

“ IN ORDER TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE OF THE VISION, I BUILT ENTIRE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, WHICH ENABLE HIM TO CONNECT WITH YOUTH INCLUDE SPEECH AND LECTURES, ANSWERING THE EMAILS ”

Social activist
V. PONRAJ
CARRYING A LEGACY

HIS RESUME READS LIKE THE IDYLIC DREAM, ADA SCIENTIST, SCIENTIFIC OFFICER, WRITER AND CONVENER OF ABDULKALAM VISION INDIA MOVEMENT. V PONRAJ IS A MAN WITH A VISION, HAVING WORKED ALONG CLOSELY WITH LATE PRESIDENT DR APJ KALAM FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. HE HAS TRAVELLED ALONG WITH PRESIDENT AROUND 20 COUNTRIES, ATTENDING MORE 2,500 LECTURES AND HE HAS BEEN SENT AS A REPRESENTATIVE TO 25 COUNTRIES ON BEHALF OF THE LATE PRESIDENT APJ ABDUL KALAM. HAVING COLLABORATED WITH HIM IN PREPARING SEVERAL SPEECHES, LECTURES AND BOOKS, HE IS ALSO CURRENTLY MENTORING A POLITICAL PARTY BEARING DR APJ ABDUL KALAM. BY **M P SARAVANAN**

'I was born and brought-up in Thonugal village at Virudhunagar district in 1966. My father Vellaichamy was a police officer and mother Subbulakshmi a housewife. I got my secondary education from S Subbair Nadar School (Virudhunagar) and completed by graduation in VHNSN College (B.Sc-Mathematics) and Masters degree from Bharathidasan University (M.Sc Applied Mathematics). After working in a company at Coimbatore, I joined Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore) as Junior scientific assistant, later I moved to Madurai Kamaraj University as Junior information scientist. In 1995 I successfully completed my entrance exam to join Aeronautical Development Agency (DRDO) which works on the designing and development Light Combat Aircraft, and at that time I met Dr APJ Abdul Kalam' says Ponraj listing out his brief journey.

Explaining his inspiration to become a scientist, Ponraj says, 'Ever since my childhood days, I am a follower of Tamil stalwart MGR (MG Ramachandran), I was inspired by songs and themes from his movies. When I was studying 10th Standard and I saw a newspaper report which vividly described about the India's successful launch of SLV-3 rocket which enable to put Rohini satellite into the orbit. It praised the chief of project Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and his determination to achieve, since he was man behind the indigenous technology. At that moment he became my new role model in

1980. And I decided to become a scientist like him.'

But that dream got realised after 15 years, when he joined as Scientist in Aeronautical Development Agency (DRDO), and former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was the Director General of the organisation. He says, 'I met him in an event dealing with the design of the aircraft and explained my 15 year-old dream to meet him. Thereafter every week he used to visit our department in order to review the aircraft. Over period of time, a good relationship began to bloom between us. In 1998 when India conducted Pokhran nuclear tests, he came to our facility to address about the technological and economic sanctions by Western powers following tests. During the speech he explain the need to build an indigenous technology since a team of Indian scientists and engineer working in Lockheed Martin Company (UK) were sent back to India due to sanctions. Most importantly he kindled the energy within us to achieve more and make India a strong nation '

Late Dr APJ Kalam looked at broader perspective of life, when he meets young scientists he used to motivate them with courage and imbibe a sense of goal. 'He would ask 'What are you doing?' I would reply the work that is allotted 'I am working for design and developing the light combat aircraft'. But he would say No. That is the work, the vision is making fighter aircraft to

defend our nation', he would always insist that we are working for bigger mission or not a small structure,' he says.

Explaining vision of late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, he lists out that, 'after the nuclear test were successful, he was elevated to Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, he had visualised to make India a powerful nation, and prepared a master plan and identified core structures like Agriculture-Food processing, Education, Information-Communication technology, Infrastructural development (Health, Agriculture, Rural), Self reliance on critical fields. After submitting his 'Vision 2020' document and he called me to explain his vision and spread the thoughts among the children and youth. In order to spread his message of the vision, I built entire communication systems, which enable him to connect with youth include speech and lectures, answering the emails.'

When Dr APJ Abdul Kalam became President, he asked me join him, which was quite a surprise for Ponraj. He says 'Since I had good relationship with over a period of time he asked to join as Director for technology interface at President's Secretariat through deputation (2003). Then it became a regular affair to interact with him daily. And I also started to work with him in preparing speech and drafting important documents etc.' And he was also given the task to implement e-governance in Rashtrapati Bhavan.'



6 PONRAJ RESIGNED HIS GOVERNMENT JOB TO FORM A MOVEMENT TO CARRY FORWARD THE VISION AND MISSION OF KALAM, TITLED 'ABDULKALAM VISION INDIA MOVEMENT' 9

From 2003 to 2016, Ponraj was working very closely with late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, and he describes the painful day of his life, he says, 'I am the last Ph.D (Affordable Healthcare) student of late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. He came to attend my synopsis meet on 16th July 2015. He was holding discussion on a book titled 'Puyalai Thandinal Thendral' (When you cross the storm, there is breeze). When I was about to join him on next his speech at Bengaluru (3rd August). He passed away while delivering lecture in IIM. Whenever we used to travel in flights, he never sleeps and prepares notes for speech or lecture; sometimes passengers would ask him for an autographs or a photo, making him awake all the time. But during his last journey, while we were all awake, he had slept forever. We couldn't believe our eyes. There are no words to describe the moments.'

Ever since Dr APJ Abdul Kalam passed away, on July 27, several thousand from various walks of life were making requests through telephone and e-mails to carry for the vision of the great man. In a response to the request Ponraj resigned his government job to form a movement to carry forward the vision and mission of Kalam, titled 'Abdulkalam Vision India Movement'. Elaborating the purpose Ponraj says, 'throughout his lifetime, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was thinking about developing India, and also making each State grow to a stature of a developed country. He had advocated, addressed, propagated and given us a plan of action. For 5 years I have worked under him as Scientist and for next few years under him, working under his influence. When he dies, I must not leave the vision. In order to educate, socially aware the public and youth, I have formed the organisation, so that his vision is achieved' ♦



Social Activist

MURALIDHARAN

PERFECT IDEALIST

ESTABLISHED IN 1988, SEVALAYA IS A CHARITABLE TRUST THAT DEFINES THEIR SLOGAN, LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL AND MURALIDHARAN HAS LEFT NO LEAF UNTURNED TO STAND BY IT. AN ARDENT FOLLOWER OF PATRIOTIC POET SUBRAMANIYA BHARATHIYAR, SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND MAHATMA GANDHI, HE STARTED SEVALAYA DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM THEIR PRINCIPLES, AND NOW IS THE HOLDER OF THE TAMIL NADU STATE GOVERNMENT AWARD FOR HIS SERVICE TOWARDS WOMEN'S WELFARE. **GAYATHRI KRISHNARAJ** NOTES DOWN HIS WONDERFUL JOURNEY

A graduate of Engineering from Indian Institute of Science, it was during the IT boom in the sector and the need for computers picked up. He joined PSI data systems in Bengaluru and later got transferred to Chennai. While he joined TCS in 1987, he started Sevalaya in 1988.

'I made up my mind long back that I will spend 25 years of my life earning for myself. After that, I will not do it. So I should be in a position where I don't need any help. That was the plan, and I thought I was right, so in 2009, I quit my job'.

In his school days, young Muralidaran spent his childhood reading books on Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, and Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathiyar. From each personality, he picked up one idea, and the vision of Sevalaya was thus inspired from these three amazing leaders motivated him deeply, planting the seed of giving in him at the tender age of eleven, which has grown into a big tree called 'Sevalaya' now.

Initially, the NGO had its share of recognitions issues with minimal support from the government. But, yet, Muralidharan worked his way through with the sole motive of bringing up Sevalaya.

On being asked, how he managed to work in the IT industry and also take care of the huge responsibility of managing an NGO, he says, 'If you want to call something stressful, it can be anything. Sevalaya was my plan since school days; TCS and the IT industry are things that came in between. Whatever work I did at TCS, I related it with Sevalaya. It then became very interesting for me. If I had



to travel, I started thinking on how to attract people towards Sevalaya. I have made friends across the world, thanks to TCS who still contribute to Sevalaya.

The global exposure I got from work played a major role in helping me working towards the growth of Sevalaya. I always had Sevalaya pamphlets with me to distribute when I meet someone new. Many foreigners were interested and they visit the campus when they come to India. They financially contribute as well. Also, TCS is a very well-known organisation that provides a lot of training in skill development, Quality development, Quality delivery, how to handle customers and all these skills, I incorporated those in Sevalaya'.

'I never think of it as a 7 day work schedule a week. Instead, it is a 7 day holiday schedule. I do what I want to do, and if you love what you do, every day is a holiday'

He took his family in Sevalaya, where his wife is the honorary correspondent. The family travels to the campus every weekend, and thus family time, was with Sevalaya as

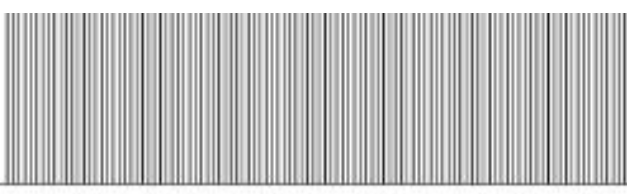
well. Time flew, and his children grew up who had their own needs to attend to.

Starting with just five children, in a small rented house with ₹50 as a monthly rental, no electricity in a very small village, Sevalaya now houses in its school campus that educates children from Little Kinder garden to the twelfth grade educating 2037 students in 40 villages, all from orphaned or economically deprived families, for free. It also houses 75 elderly people in its old age. Apart from this, Sevalaya also does organic farming and teaches organic farming to the peasants and farmers

'We want our children in school to know that just because a cow stops producing milk, doesn't mean you cut and eat it. It is injustice being done to them. This also applies to old age homes. When the parents are young enough to earn money, children take it from them and use it. But, once they grow old, they throw them out of the house. This is done for so many other things and is humanely wrong'.

It is his sheer dedication and hard work towards societal service that has now rendered him a lot of recognition among people, giving him many accolades and awards such as the Best Social Worker for women's welfare, presented by the government of Tamilnadu in 2016, Spirit of Humanity for education in 2015, in a National forum, Best old age home in Tamilnadu to name a few from a list of over 60 awards.

With trademarks already set, and aiming for more, with the sole purpose of societal benefit and welfare, Muralidharan has clearly set himself class apart from the others. ♦



Art Director

SABU CYRIL

THE MAGICAL CREATOR

THE MAN WHO NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION, LIFE JUST BROUGHT HIM TO WHERE HE IS NOW AND THERE IS NO TURNING BACK. THE CREATOR OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRODUCTION DESIGNS OF MOVIES LIKE 'BAAHUBALI' AND 'OM SHANTHI OM'. WINNER OF FOUR NATIONAL AWARDS, SEBASTIAN WINSTON CYRIL AKA SABU CYRIL IS DOWN TO EARTH, HUMBLE AND THE SIMPLEST PERSON YOU WOULD MEET WITH SUCH ACCOLADES AND FAME. **GAYATHRI KRISHNARAJ** PENS DOWN HIS STORY FOR AN INTERVIEW

'I would want them to know I am an art director from a creative industry. I talk about their profession, I study about everything. I like to know about everything. I go into details and ask about it. The one good thing is I find it easy to get along with people like water takes the shape of the container. I would like to be a simple person.'

Simplicity of this man cannot be explained better. He grew up in Vazhnarai, where his father was into the tea estate business. 'The houses we lived belonged to British men, so I was exposed to such architecture which gave me an advantage.' He then moved to Coimbatore for his schooling from the 8th grade and later on to Chennai, to join school of, visual communication. As a student he was very good in physics, chemistry, math and all the school subject always came up to be the topper. But, art was always a part of him. 'I was not well when I was in 6th grade. I got chicken pox for about one month that was the time I started painting and drawing. I learned drawing when my uncle who was good at sketching came to visit us. But when he move out, leaving the sketches without colour and I used the opportunity to complete the work. It was a kind of a feeling. I started drawing and painting. The craft was there in me,'he recalls.

Sabu feels that he has been gifted genetically from both his parental sides. His maternal grandfather was a photographer for the navy and then settled down with a studio and became a drawing master. While his mother's side is filled with artists such as painters and sketch artists, his father's side relatives were prominent in singing and dancing. 'I got only 1/10 of my dad's talent' he chuckles.

In the tenth standard, when he used to go to home from his school, Sabu used to see this

sign board painter paint on walls, called Anu arts. He went and asked him if he could see him painting.

"One day he told me, you can also come sit and draw, I'll tell you what to do and everything. He trained me. One day, he saw one of the sign boards and was surprised to know that I was person behind it. He encouraged me to join school of arts. But my dad was completely it me joining fine arts. I paid my fees for the first year.'

He was always first rank holder in college and received the best outgoing student award as well. It was a five years course. Art took him over. 'He told me, artists will die of poverty. I told him I'll be a commercial artist. Now, I think I did a wise decision of taking up visual communication.'

Sabu's idea was not to join the film industry. He was working as a freelancer and then set up his own agency for graphic designing. 'A friend wanted me to help finish a film. An art director became a director and he asked for help and someone suggested my name. He called me for a week and I ended up doing it for the whole film,' he says.

Talking about his experience and work in his first film, he recalls his project where he had to make an oxygen plant and for the perfectionist that he is, it was done with great detail. Everyone loved it and asked him if his parents were doctors because the oxygen plant came out so well. The director asked him to do his next movie as well. He made a miniature which Bharathan put in 'Devar magan'. Bharathan enquired his nephew about the creator behind the miniature, and Sabu was called. 'He told to create a shark and after seeing the model he asked me to complete


the entire art setup of the film. Though I refused, he gave me the confidence to be an art director. I loved his aesthetics and films. First time when I got my confidence was when he was narrating the story and asked the associate director to take me along to select the costumes. That gave me a lot of confidence to complete the movie.' Sabu explains as he becomes nostalgic.

By the time he finished this film, he got five film offers. 'I could choose which film I wanted to do. So, what can I ask for more?'

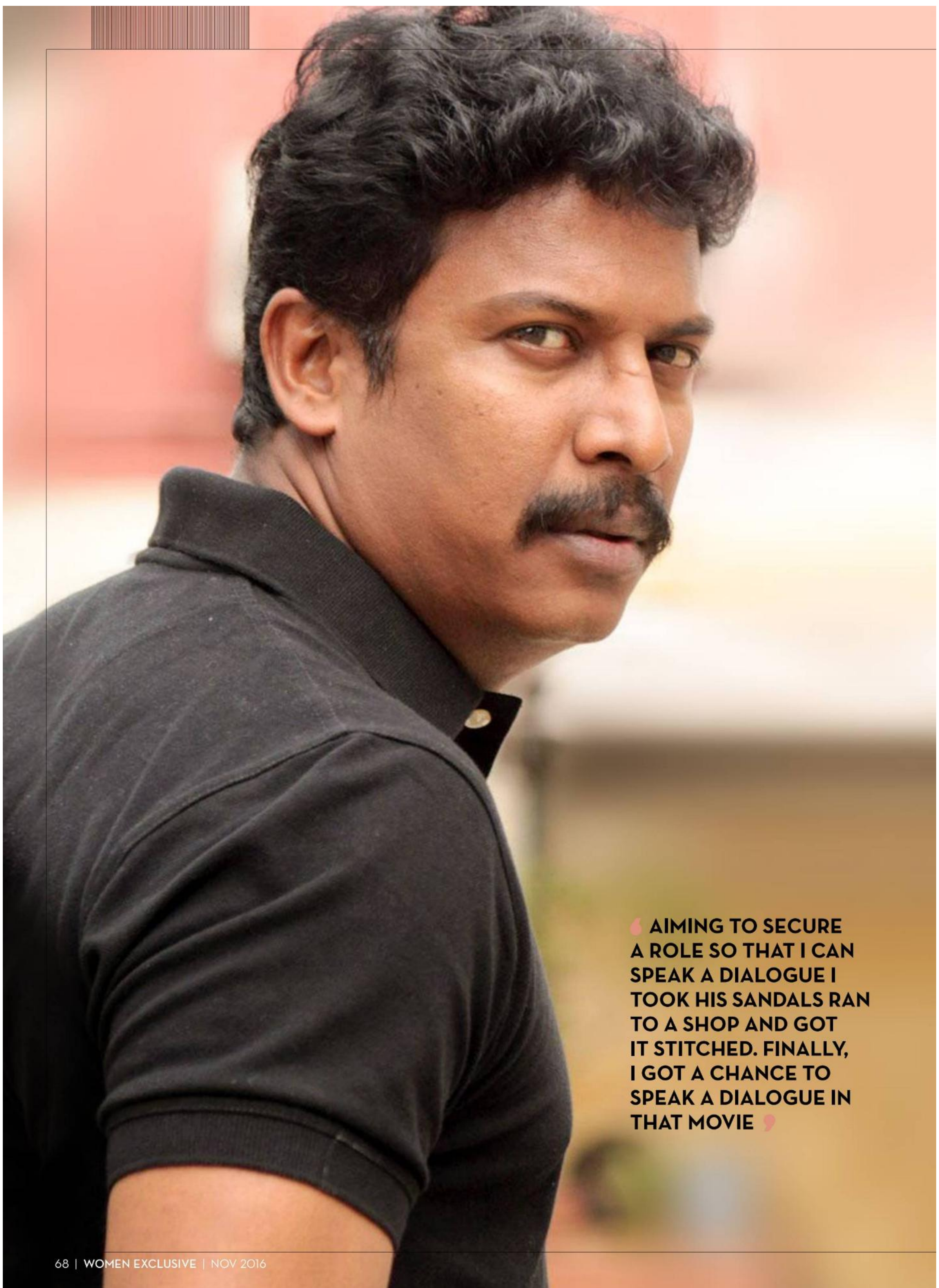
When queried about his favourite one, he says, 'When I am working on something, it becomes my favourite and I do my best for that. Some films have given me name, some have not, but, I have enjoyed doing all the films. It's like asking which daughter I like more. Some I like for certain things, some for another. You really can't give an overall favourite.'

On asking about his journey, he says, 'I never thought anything. I never planned anything. I took up things that came my way. I never consciously looked out for anything. An all-rounder, good in studies, cultural, arts and sports, but he feels he is bad with music. 'I can't sing for nuts and I can't play any instrument. But, my daughter is good with studies, dance and can sing as well. She paints and plays instruments as well. She got the genes from both the sides I guess.'

After Baahubali 2, he has planned up two films with Prabhas and Sundar's Sanghamitra which is going to be a period film set to go on for two years. 'My hobby is my profession which is the best thing that could happen to me. When I have no work, I love to sleep. I read books if not. I don't watch films much either. I think god has been very kind to me.' ♦



“ I NEVER THOUGHT ANYTHING. I NEVER PLANNED ANYTHING. I TOOK UP THINGS THAT CAME MY WAY. I NEVER CONSCIOUSLY LOOKED OUT FOR ANYTHING ”



AIMING TO SECURE A ROLE SO THAT I CAN SPEAK A DIALOGUE I TOOK HIS SANDALS RAN TO A SHOP AND GOT IT STITCHED. FINALLY, I GOT A CHANCE TO SPEAK A DIALOGUE IN THAT MOVIE

Filmmaker

P. SAMUTHIRAKANI

THOROUGH PROFESSIONAL

HARDWORKING, MULTI-TALENTED AND AN AVID READER P. SAMUTHIRAKANI, AS HIS NAME SAYS HAS GIVEN SEVERAL FRUITFUL MOVIES IN HIS CREDIT. BORN TO VINAYAGAR AND KAMALAMMAL, IN AN AGRICULTURAL FAMILY AT A VILLAGE IN RAJAPALAYAM, SAMUTHIRAKANI SHARES HIS LOVE FOR CINEMA WITH **AMRITHA PREM** ELOQUENTLY

How did you get interest in Cinema?

I considered watching films as a mistake during my school days. But, after watching 'Mudhal Mariydhai' (one of my friends took me during night studies at school and it's my first film) at Kaliyeshwarari theatre, everything changed. Cinema became my life, and I started watching films everyday either by bunking school or going for night shows. This routine came to an end when I got caught. And my father refused to pay pocket money, so every night after everyone falls asleep. One day, when the movie, 'Naan Sigapu Manithan' (Starring Ranjinikanth) got released; I was super excited and got the permission from the stall owner to sell 'muruku' during the two intervals. The movie ran for weeks together and all the 64 shows I watched happily. My bad luck one of my relative noticed me and I was carried back home. When my 10th standard exams got over, I desperately wanted to visit Chennai, as my favourite Directors K Bhagyaraj and T Rajendar lived at T.Nagar. In 1987, I took ₹130 from my dad pocket, carrying a diary containing the address of my favourite directors.

How was your first journey Chennai ?

I got into the bus and the conductor asked me where am I going? I told Madras. He said 'thambi, Madras la enga?' (Which place in Madras (Chennai) and the passengers started mentioning names like Guindy, Saidapet etc. LIC sound familiar and I got down opposite to LIC. I asked the people about T Nagar?. I began to feel hungry I saw a grandma selling 'idly', along the roadside. She gave me idly without asking money, recognising my situation. At night, I slept near the arch of G N Chetty Road. After an hour, a policeman with latti woke me up and took me to the Police Station opposite to Spencer Plaza on his bicycle. Next day, he told me to go back

home but, I asked the T Nagar. I reached T Nagar but couldn't meet any film directors, at last befriend the watchman and stayed with him. I always say good people do exist in the world. Policeman and the grandma were the first two good people I met in Chennai. I believed in it, so I saw them. With only ₹10 in my hand, so I planned to return home. When I reached Villipuram, and hunger began to hit me and I met the owner of SLN hotel, asking me to give job describing my situation. After working for a week and got ₹35 to return to my village. On reaching my home, my pet dog Bhairava fell dead on my lap as it didn't eat for days, as I was missing. My mom, who never raised her hand, beat me. My dad convinced my mother. Though I was happy about that, the happiness didn't last, when I joined plus one, my dad passed away due to cardiac arrest. During the plus one holidays, I told my mom about my dream though she was hesitant, she sold her chain and gave ₹1800 for expenses and ₹200 she tied in her saree bit and said to use the money for returning back home.

Did you continue you studies?

I came Chennai with new energy, rented a room in Pushapa Mansion, West Mambalam for ₹175 per month. I didn't ask for any chances, but studied about cinema. Later, during holidays I started visiting Chennai until I completed my B.Sc (Mathematics). Then I decided Chennai - Cinema is my ultimate goal, but my mom was feeling in secured about my future. So I enrolled myself in civil service exams and luckily law entrance exams were announced, I cleared it and pursued B.L (1994-97), to make my mom happy.

How did you become an assistant director?

I wanted to become a comedian, but the society never treats humans in equal. I used

to entertain the Assistant and Associate directors in the lunch session as they should avoid sleeping. I played one among the college student in the movie 'Puthiya Manithargal' and in the film 'Padikkarava Vayasula', I badly wanted to talk at least one dialogue. I asked my director and that time my associate director's sandal wore out. Aiming to secure a role so that I speak a dialogue I took his sandals ran to a shop and got it stitched. Finally, I got a chance to speak a dialogue in that movie. Later, When I met Sundar K Vijayan, who was doing tele-films, on seeing my photo album he got impressed by my handwriting and asked, 'Will you come to work as an assistant copywriter', I stood still, went to my room, tore all my album pictures thinking, 'I again should not even dream of becoming an actor'. The next day I started my career as assistant director.

So how you got the chance to become a hero and friendship Sasikumar ?

God doesn't come on the earth and help everyone personally, but he sends someone. God sent me M. Sasikumar. After 16 years, he told me to act in 'Subramaniapuram' in 2008, saying 'Nadika Thana Vantha, Va Nadi' (You came for acting, and now become an actor). Friendship is about not words, but it about action and expression, he is one such true friend. He was working an assistant to Ameer Sultan. Ameer appreciated me for my first film 'Unnai Charanadaindhen', when his debut movie 'Mounam Pesiyadhe' was released. Through him my friendship with Sasikumar blossomed after my movie 'Neranja Manasu' failed at box office; I joined as an associate director to Ameer to rectify my mistakes whereas Sasi started writing scripts for 'Subramanipuram'.



Tell us about your mentor and guru K Balachandar?

The good qualities that I possess now are because of him, the movies that I take now, the ideas behind it are all because of his words and teachings, I will say. My first TV serial Anni was with him and later followed my other serials like 'Selvi', 'Arasi', and 'Alaipayuthey'.

What is the most memorable moment?

The moment I met K Balachandar for the first time, and while watching movie 'Nadodigal', he held my hands tightly after every applause. He said he likes to shout in the theatre. His words: 'You're my last son, I was completely worrying about you, as you're losing, but this movie will take you great heights', remains deep close to my heart.

Where do you get inspiration for

characters?

I want my films to create social awareness among the audience and spread social message. I put my blood and soul into the films as I love my people and so my characters are real. The people who I came across and had a personal relationship with me. But, who couldn't fight against the society where given a rebirth in my movie.

Do you like the name 'Dhayalan' in specific and about Visaranai ?

Yes, I personally love it, so I asked my director M. Anbazhagan and he accepted too in the movie 'Sattai'. It's all because of Vettramaran's hard work, I will say and I am really happy for it and this movie will get more awards apart from Oscar nomination.

Rapid Fire

A person to show gratitude: My Appa.

Strengths and weakness: Hope ('Nambikkai')

Best and worst lessons learnt in Cinema: Friendship

Words for Men's day: Protect women

Favourite place: Madurai

Favourite food: Old rice with curd

Favourite colour: Blue


I love: Shoes and Books

TWILITE CREATIONS
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Mrs Home Maker

NOT MISSING THE MISS



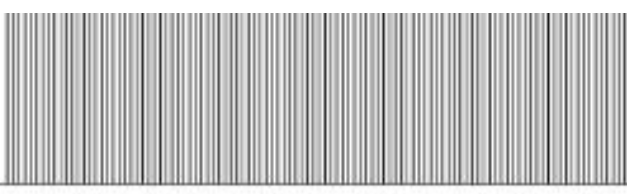
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Strategist

SANJEEV KORADA

MULTIPLE VERTICALS

HAILING FROM A MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY OF HUMBLE TAILORS, THIS MASTERMIND ROSE TO SUCCESS BY SCALING THE STEPS OF INNUMERABLE LIFE LESSONS AND FAILURES SANJEEV KORADA CLIMBED UP TO BECOME CEO AT GLOSEL AND VARIOUS OTHER COMPANIES. HIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY, STARTED FROM A FAILED ATTEMPT AT PURSUING MEDICINE, BUT IN THE END BECOMING TOP EXECUTIVE TO RUN ONE OF THE LARGEST PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IN THE WORLD **GOKUL SRIMAN** FINDS OUT MORE ABOUT THE TALENTED MILLIONAIRE'S CAREER AND LIFE

Sanjeev was born into a modest household. Though the financial health of the family was a concern for his parents, his convent education was largely unaffected. At the age of 13, financial duress forced him to work with his mother, a professional seamstress, in the tailoring business. After schooling, Mr. Korada was faced with the ultimate dilemma – to choose medicine or engineering. With a biology background in school, he proceeded with the former with high hopes. Despite getting admission into a medical college, he had to turn it down for a less expensive alternative. He then took to an open university and received a bachelor's degree, while juggling a full time job on hand.

After months of struggle, he got recruited as an office boy in an engineering firm while still pursuing his education. 'Education always took precedence and was a parallel activity to work in my formative years. Following graduation, I entered the corporate world and worked for numerous MNCs - Hitachi, Pfizer, Willett and Danaher. The MNC journey was 16 years long but very rewarding both in terms of remuneration and education; it helped me transform and became a global player in the business arena.'

Starting from the lowest rungs of the corporate pyramid, Sanjeev is now hugely successful with strategic investments in over two dozen companies across Asia. He is also on the strategy board of 150+ companies as a strategic business advisor. His business runs across several industry verticals like Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics, Food,

Information Technology, Engineering and Consulting and operate in about 65 countries. When asked about his varied business interests, he simply says, 'Like most aspects of our life are ruled by fundamental rules and laws such as the laws of gravity, business has rules and laws as well; if one develops the understanding for the latter, then the any field is immaterial. Apply the rules and it will surely yield results.'

'In my earlier years, getting the right exposure was the biggest struggle; being amongst successful people was demanding and I had to rush on transforming my etiquette and attitude. My horizon of thoughts had to expand within a short time. A new habit that is to perform work in a time-efficient way was becoming a life style.' he said, answering a question about the business milieu and the kind of obstacles in his early days. Presently, working with people who want easy paths to financial glory is a key problem.

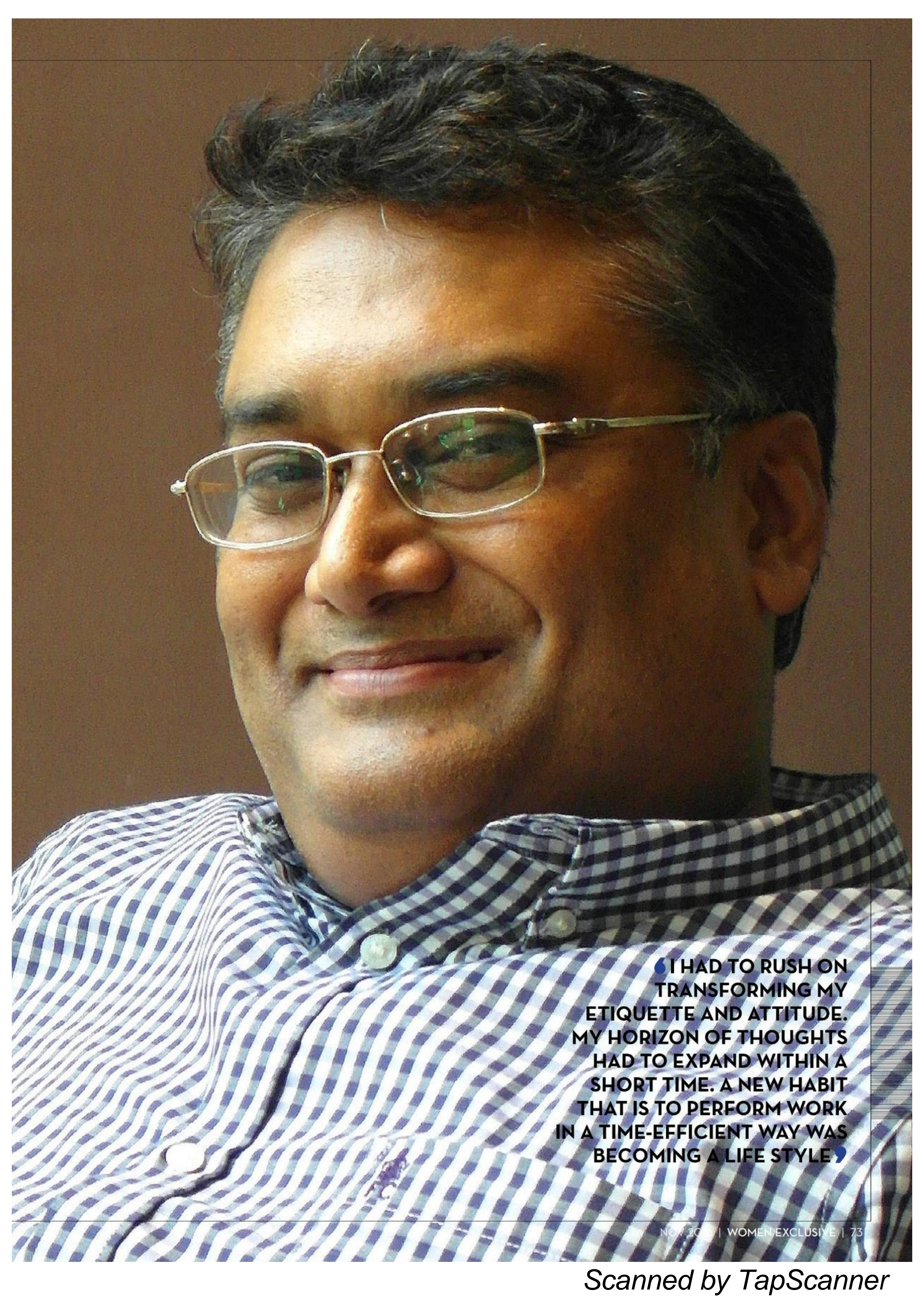
Although it might seem like his pharmaceutical ventures are based on his missing out on becoming a doctor, it was sheer coincidence. 'My wife was working in a pharmaceutical company at the time and accidentally, an opportunity surfaced through her connections; we simply did not miss the chance to grab it, albeit with little knowledge about the industry. Our journey taught us the game'

Married to his long-time girlfriend, the pharma mogul is a happily married man and father of two. Speaking about his family, he said that his wife, Radha Sanjeev, has had an

indispensable role in his life, both professional and personal, and that he is yet to learn a great deal of things from her. Being the people-person that he is, Sanjeev also attributes his success to his countless relatives and friends. While the people who have lent a helping hand are one too many, his mentor, Sam T Dajani and his best friend & business partner, Udhan Kumar Chordia, played crucial roles in constructing his life the way it is now.

Speaking about his work schedule, the 48-year-old businessman admits that he still logs in daily at work, as a strategic consultant to several companies, I do still work long hours beyond my own companies not just for material gains but for the passion I have for it. I enjoy helping companies grow successfully.' His motto in life is to share the knowledge he has gained over the years by grooming companies / enterprises and making them a big success. While he is all for encouraging young talent, he urges today's young entrepreneurs to understand that easy money is a privilege of a few; rest of them have to work smart and be creative to succeed.

The business tycoon is an avid reader of scientific articles and is largely interested in TED talks, movies and music. He firmly believes that every technological advancement has its life span and that the newer technologies replace the old from time to time; this cycle is the law and will remain forever. It's the speed of replacement that is accelerating with time. In the near future, he hopes to further his businesses and help nurture young, talented entrepreneurs. ♦



● I HAD TO RUSH ON TRANSFORMING MY ETIQUETTE AND ATTITUDE. MY HORIZON OF THOUGHTS HAD TO EXPAND WITHIN A SHORT TIME. A NEW HABIT THAT IS TO PERFORM WORK IN A TIME-EFFICIENT WAY WAS BECOMING A LIFE STYLE ●

The spirit of Karthigai Deepam

Karthigai Deepam is one of the most popular festival in Tamilnadu. Celebrated on Tamil month of Kaarthigai on full moon day it coincides with Krithikai star in the month of November or December. For many south Indians, this festival is considered as the extension of the Deepavali festival. On this month devotees light earthen lamps in front of their houses and on the evening of Karthigai, 'Agal Vilakku' are lit and kept in front of the house, some of them also keep near the windows, balconies, verandahs etc. Many also burst crackers and celebrate the festival. Apart from this several recipe are also prepared

Pori Urundai

Ingredients

- Puffed rice – 5 to 6 Cups
- Cardamom – 1 or 2
- Jaggery – ½ Cup
- Ghee and water as per requirement

Method

- First, powder the jiggery and add water in a steel bowl until it develops and heat it.
- Filter the jaggery in a cloth or metal strainer to remove impurities.
- Add cardamom to it, now heat the liquid until it reaches at adequate temperature.
- Make small ball out it, must not be too hard too, you should be able to press it.
- Now add puffed rice slowly and mix it.
- Puffed rice and jiggery mixture should not stick in your hands. If it is too sticky, then you add more puffed rice to it and mix again.
- Now apply ghee in both your hands and roll tightly into balls as per your wish.
- Entire recipe takes around 30 minutes, while preparation time is 15 minutes.





Adai

Ingredients

- Raw rice - 1/2 Cup
- Par Boiled rice (Puzhungal Arisi)- 1/2 cup
- Tur dal - 1/2 cup
- Bengal gram/channa dal - 1/4 cup
- Urad dal - 1 tbsp
- Green chilli -2
- Red chilli -3
- Ginger -1 small bit
- Asafoetida/hing -1/4 tsp
- Salt as required
- Oil for making adai (sesame seed oil preferable)

Ingredients for the batter

- Onion -2-3 finely chopped
- Coconut -2 tbsp grated
- Curry leaves - little
- Grated carrot -1/2 carrot (optional)
- Drumstick leaves -handful (optional)

Preparation method

- Soak rice and dal together for 4- 5 hours.
- Grind it coarsely along with red chilli, green chilli, ginger, hing and salt. The batter should not be thick nor it must be watery.
- Add finely chopped onions, few tender curry

leaves, grated coconut and drumstick leaves to the batter. Adai batter is now ready.

Cooking Method

- Take a non stick tawa and pour the batter and spread it in circular motion. Add a tsp of oil around the 'Adai'. Make 3-4 holes with the back of the ladle and drizzle little oil on the holes also. Let it get cooked. Once cooked, flip it over to the other side and drizzle another tsp of oil around the 'Adai'. Let it get cooked. After both sides are cooked well, remove from tawa and serve it hot with chutney.

Appam

Ingredients

- Raw rice - 3/4 cup
- Grated coconut - 1/2 cup
- Cardamom powder - 1/4 tsp
- Grated jaggery - 1 cup
- Wheat flour - 1/4 cup + 1 1/2 tbsp
- Oil for frying

Method

- Soak the raw rice for at least 1-1/2 hours. Drain the water completely and grind the rice first in a mixie.

- Add little water, grated coconut, cardamom powder and grind it to a smooth paste.
- You can rinse the mixie with 2 tbsp of water and add to the batter.
- Add grated jaggery to it and mix well till it dissolves.

Cooking method

- Add wheat flour and mix well. The appam batter should be of dosa batter consistency, so adjust accordingly.
- Batter need not ferment the mixture, and

you should make appams immediately after grinding it.

- Heat oil in a small tawa, keep it in medium flame
- Take a small amount of batter in a table spoon or small ladle and drop it gently into the oil.
- When it puffs, turn over and cook the other side also till golden brown. Drain the oil using a slotted ladle and take it out from the kadai.
- Deep fry one appam at a time.



Kadalai Urundai

Ingredients

- Peanuts - 1 cup
- Jaggery -3/4 cup
- Cardamom powder and Dry ginger powder – as per requirement
- Ghee or rice flour (little)

Preparation method

- Roast peanuts nicely and remove the red skin completely,
- After roasting, break peanuts into two using your palms

Method

- Take jaggery in 100 ml of water on tawa and

heat it

- When it boils, filter the jaggery to remove impurities.
- If required add cardamom powder or sukku powder
- Take hot jaggery and pour it on the peanuts
- Mix it well with the back of the ladle. When it is warm, make even sized balls out of the mixture.
- In case, if the mixture harden, when you are making balls, you can also reheat it again for a few seconds and continue to make balls when the mixture is warm.
- Total time for preparation is 15 minutes, cooking time takes around 20 minutes



Power of BINAURAL BEATS

DEEP RELAXATION AND FOCUSED CONCENTRATION CANNOT BE EASILY ACHIEVED, BUT BINAURAL BEAT TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY SCORES OF DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS AROUND THE WORLD WAS ABLE TO USE A PRECISE HARMONICALLY LAYERED BLEND OF FREQUENCIES TO THE BRAIN VIA AUDIO TECHNOLOGY, WHERE ONE CAN EFFORTLESSLY ACHIEVE POWERFUL STATES OF FOCUSED CONCENTRATION, DEEP RELAXATION AND MORE, ALL WHILE STIMULATING PARTS OF BRAIN TO WORK TOGETHER IN SYNCHRONIZATION



ORIGIN

Binaural beats were originally discovered in 1839 by physicist Heinrich Wilhelm Dove. He discovered when signals of two different frequencies are presented separately, one to each ears, your brain detects the phase variation between the frequencies and tries to reconcile that difference. In doing so, as the two frequencies mesh in and out of phase, your brain creates its own third signal — called a binaural beat — which is equal to the difference between those two frequencies.

HOW DOES IT WORK ?

Binaural beats are auditory brain-stem responses which originate in the superior olivary nucleus of each brain hemisphere. They result from two different auditory impulses or sounds, heard from opposite ears. This binaural beat is consciously heard as the human hearing range is from 20-20,000 Hz. Rather it is perceived as an auditory beat and theoretically is being used coach certain brain rhythms from what is called the frequency-following response (the tendency for the brain

to resonate at the frequency of an external stimulus).

HOW IT WORKS ON THE BRAIN

Human brain has the ability to detect the signals of two different frequencies (sounds) are presented, one to each ears. The brain processes this anomalous information differently when these phase differences are heard with stereo headphones or speakers. A perceptual integration of the two signals



ONE OF THE EASIEST WAY TO GET RELAXED IS THROUGH BINAURAL BEATS, BECAUSE ONE CAN ATTAIN RELAXATION AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

in perceived in the brain, producing the sensation of a third “beat”. The difference between the signals waxes and wanes (this is the 'wavy' sound heard in the hypnotic sessions) as the two stereo sounds mesh in and out of phase. The binaural beat is perceived as a fluctuating rhythm at the frequency of the difference between the two auditory inputs.

HOW BINAURAL BEATS CREATES A HYPNOTIC RESPONSE

Binaural beats can easily be heard at the low frequencies (< 30 Hz) that are characteristic of the EEG spectrum (Oster, 1973). This perceptual phenomenon of binaural beating and the objective measurement of the frequency-following response (Hink, Kodera, Yamada, Kaga, & Suzuki, 1980) suggest conditions which generate brain waves activity and altered states of consciousness (hypnotic trance).

BENEFITS OF USING BINAURAL BEATS

GOOD SLEEP

One of the best benefits of using binaural beats is deep or better sleep. By listening to binaural beats on a daily basis the mind is entrained to learn to relax on demand. There are also specific recordings, such as our Perfect Sleep recording, designed to aid deep, restful sleep and prevent an overactive mind at bedtime.

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Researchers have found that over the last few years an increasing number of people have begun using binaural beats recordings to open their 'third eye' and gain access to spiritual consciousness, higher learning and heightened awareness of self. In addition to varying forms of meditation, Astral Projection and Lucid Dreaming are two commonly sought after higher consciousness states achieved through the use of binaural beats. Binaural beats are easy to use, natural and 100 percent very safe.

Now you too can enhance your quality of life with this amazing technology.

FAST RELAXATION

One of the easiest way to get relaxed is through binaural beats, because one can attain relaxation at the touch of a button, which is great if you're under a heavy schedule with minimal time to yourself. By listening to a theta recording you can go from highly-strung to ultra chilled in just a few minutes.

HELP FOR MEDITATION

Our brains are so used to running in high activity frequency zones that centering the mind for meditation is near on impossible. Binaural beats aid meditators in achieving low brainwave frequency while at the same time maintaining a high level of consciousness. No matter the type of meditation you are practicing, binaural beats will help you access the realm of higher awareness faster, and help you stay there for longer.

HIGH CONCENTRATION

Even when we do get time for ourselves it's tough to remain undistracted, even if no one else is around. The mind is easily scattered, and is usually everywhere but in the moment we want it to be. Binaural beats enable you to truly access the present, to really be in the now and let go of attachment to the past and thoughts of the future. While binaural beats technology is widely known for relaxing the brain, the recordings can also be used to increase focus and concentration. Binaural beats are capable of eliminating stress and pressure from the mind, thus making us more focused and attentive.

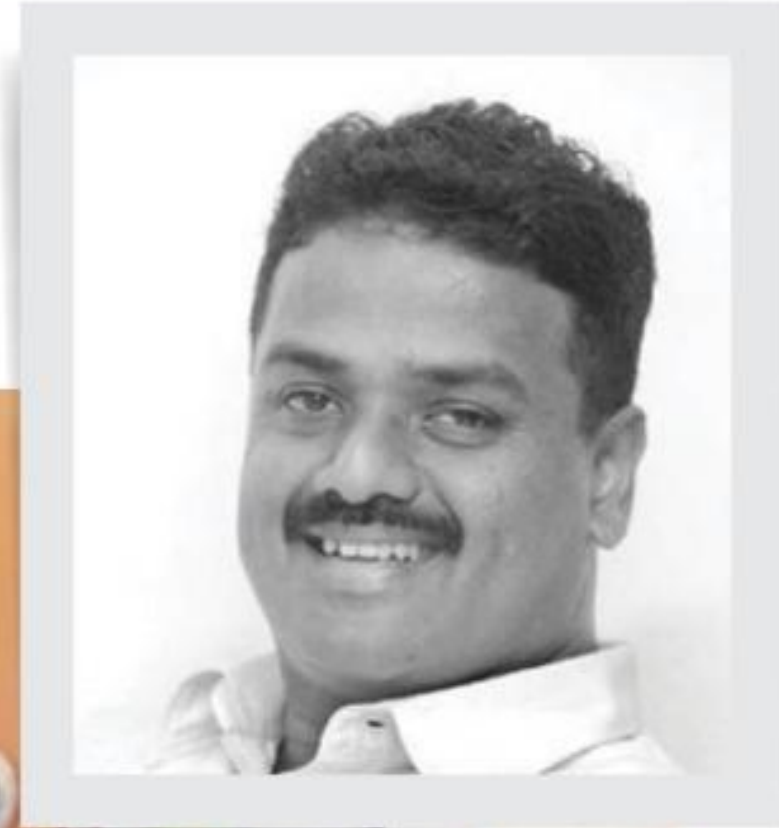
BODY HEALING

Obviously binaural beats can't directly heal illness, but science has long since proven the intrinsic link between mental health and physical health. By relieving the mind of stress and anxiety the body will naturally become healthier and stronger.

LOWER STRESS

Perhaps the most highly documented benefit of binaural beat technology is stress relief. Binaural beats transport the user to a place of tranquillity, to another world where there is peace from the tension and challenge of everyday life. Over time this calm disposition will manifest itself in the user's everyday life experience. Like stress, binaural beats provide sanctuary for those suffering anxiety and related symptoms such as panic attacks and irrational thought processes. Listening to binaural beats can help alleviate anxiety around specific life situations. ♦

REMEDIES *FOR* PROBLEMS



ANDAL CHOCKALINGAM
Vaastu Consultant



It is strongly believed that Vaastu which is Science of structure is a promise to heaven and prosperity. Every problem has a solution, according to vaastu there are no artificial remedies that can be occupied by self or natural remedies. As I mentioned earlier there are no external remedies that can be offered for a problematic accommodation.

The best way is to alter it according to Vaastu or to move away to a better place. However, the below listed points act as self-remedies

- If a widow, separated wife/husband, aged spinsters/bachelors, physically challenged, couple without issues, orphans live (in house) or work (in case of business); the

Vaastu non-compliance gets nullified by itself to a greater extent.

- By ideal destiny, if a person has to be moving higher in prosperity, the accommodation either adapts to any of the above self-remedy or circumstances will move the person away from the place to another better one.
- Having Cow, petting a dog, feeding crows proves to be greatest remedy!
- Choosing to buy/register properties in name of your wife/woman at home & running business with woman in your family front-leading will ensure prosperity.
- Daily prayers offered to Sun (Surya Namaskar), regular prayers to your God as directed by your ancestors (Kula Devatha) will ensure safety for you at all

times. Indulge and spend for renovation, maintenance of holy places, temples, Cow inhabitation (Ghoshala)

- Help for education, offer clothing, aid for marriages to the needy/poor.
- Ensure the spread of good deed in your house and business places. Money earned should not be against the rule of Dharma.
- Ensure elders/parents are not left to suffer at any cost which will have an impact on judging the effects of your accommodation.
- To have a cleansed mind and environment, the windows in the North-East, windows facing the North and East should be left opened 24X7.
- Ensure not to earn, live out of the money earned via wrong deeds including from unfair money brokerage. ♦

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DECORATING with WASHI TAPE

DECORATING OR ADD VALUE TO HOME ALWAYS TAKES TIME AND MONEY. BUT SOME TIME, NOT ALL DECORATING PROJECTS ARE TOUGH PARTICULARLY USING WASHI TAPE. BECAUSE, THEY ARE SIMPLE AND EASY TO USE AND CAN MAKE MANY THINGS POSSIBLE. YOU CAN FIND SO MANY KINDS OF WASHI TAPES, COLORED WITH DIFFERENT STYLES WITH DIFFERENT PATTERNS. IF YOU WANT TO ADD LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO YOUR HOME YOU CAN USE THIS TAPE FOR SO MANY PROJECTS. THERE ARE PLENTY OF CREATIVE IDEAS ON THE WEB HOW TO MAKE INTERESTING DECORATION FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD WITH WASHI TAPE

WHY WASHI TAPE ?

Washi tapes are soft decorative masking tape-like tapes that originated from Japan. They're semi-transparent and can be reused since it's removable and can be repositioned. They

come in different designs and colors that's why you can use them in tons of projects and other elements. Easy to handle, this style of paper was first made in Japan from bamboo, rice or wheat. It is produced in a traditional manner,

similar to that of ordinary paper, but fewer chemicals are used. Thanks to its flexibility and affordable price, Washi paper has become very trendy in design, art, cuisine, clothing and furniture



ON THE WALLS

Decorating walls with washi tape is the perfect idea for those who like creativity and constant change. Washi tape doesn't stick permanently to the wall, neither affects its structure, so it is easy to remove and replace. Posters and photos adorned with such easy-to-make frames will look just phenomenal. All you need to make your wall exceptional is a little imagination and colourful washi tape. Apart from photos, one can also use them for your favorite posters and newspaper clippings! This is probably the most trivial use of the washi tape. But, all in all, it is so very different from hanging pics and photos with a transparent or double-sided tape. And it has its unique advantage – it doesn't leave a slightest trace of glue on the wall. This is all in terms of wall decorating. But this is not the end: below you will find a few inspiring ways of decorating other objects of everyday use. The truth is that washi tape will enhance everything!

GIFTS AND STATIONERY

Alot of things can be done using washi tape, one can wrap a gift in simple wrapping paper — white or brown kraft , paper works great — then go to town using washi tape in the same way you would use ribbon. Don't be afraid to mix and match different tapes, widths and designs. Let washi tape help keep you organized — put it to work in on your calendar or day planner in the same way you'd use a highlighter. Many washi tapes are quite transparent, so you can use a little tag of tape to draw attention to important dates. Try putting down a piece of washi, then using a permanent pen to write on top of it. Your calendar is going to look gorgeous.

ON STAIRS

Give your stairs a makeover with some thick washi tape. Go modern with a black and white color combo, or channel your inner-child and go for all of the colors in the rainbow. The possibilities are endless — and totally removable! ♦

WASHI TAPE DOESN'T STICK PERMANENTLY TO THE WALL, NEITHER AFFECTS ITS STRUCTURE, SO IT IS EASY TO REMOVE AND REPLACE. POSTERS AND PHOTOS ADORNED WITH SUCH EASY-TO-MAKE FRAMES WILL LOOK JUST PHENOMENAL

HOW TO CHOOSE A TAPE

There are many types, some are double-sided, removable form of adhesive that's designed to hold lightweight objects, such as balloons, banners and, of course, posters on certain surfaces. These surfaces include wood, tile, glass, vinyl wallpaper and primed and painted walls. Another option is painter's tape. You would normally apply painter's tape to trim, along flooring or at one end of a wall to protect such things from paint when you are giving a room fresh coat or two. Since it's designed for wall application, you can safely use it on stable wall finishes to temporarily fix lightweight party decor in place

TEST IT

Before you proceed to stick tape from floor to ceiling or in multiple areas to hold your decorations in place, perform a test run. Apply a small amount of tape to the wall in a place that may be more compromised, say, on a wall that's bombarded daily with direct sun. Press the tape firmly to the wall, and then proceed to remove it. If the wall's surface doesn't show signs of damage and the tape appears clean, you're likely good to go. When applying your choice of tape to hold decorations in place, don't use any more than necessary -- the less you use, the less wall material will pull off, should it peel -- and don't press it in place any firmer than necessary.



REMOVAL METHOD

Let's say your party is planned for the afternoon of the following day. You'd probably like to get the decorations up the morning of or even the night before everyone arrives. But don't. The longer some tapes sit in place, the more stuck they become from the home's changing temperature, sun flowing in through windows and the adhesion process itself. When possible, leave the decorations -- at least the ones that you'll be hanging with tape -- until the last hour or two. Then, as soon as everyone has left, slowly, gingerly peel the tape from the walls. If any residue remains, gently wipe it from the walls with warm, soapy water and a soft cloth. If paint pulls up in spots, touch up the walls with the same color and sheen-level of paint. As for improperly applied paint, old wallpaper or any brittle, wall surface, tacks or a gentle, rubbery, wall gum designed not to stain may be a better option than tape of any sort.

Advertise Yourself at WORK

WHEN IT COMES TO CAREER, IF YOU DO NOT SHOW CASE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS, THERE ARE GREAT POSSIBILITIES THAT YOUR COLLEAGUES AND EMPLOYERS WILL SIMPLY OVERLOOK OR EVEN OVERRUN YOU. HERE ARE WAYS THAT YOU CAN BLOW YOUR OWN TRUMPET WITHOUT COMING ACROSS AS AN EGOTIST. BY **SHWETA SUBBIAH BALAKRISHNAN**

In life, we as women have always been taught to be modest about our achievements. At any time that we show any signs of talking about our accomplishments, we are accused of 'showing off'.

This has led most women to keep quiet and hide their talents under a bush. If you are one of those shy wallflowers who doesn't like to be noticed? or If you a person who prefers to work 'behind the scenes'? Are you self effacing and find it difficult to speak about your skills and abilities at work? Are you uncomfortable with praise and therefore deflect it? We women especially face these issues since we believe it is unattractive and unfeminine to promote ourselves.

Unfortunately not blowing on your own trumpet, could be actively harming your career opportunities. The truth is that work simply does not speak for you but you need to speak up for yourself. If you do not do so, then there might instance where you be overlooked during opportunities at work or worse others could take credit for your work, leading to a lot of heartbreak and resentment on your side beside remaining stagnant in your career.

To avoid such problems learn to self promote in a dignified manner. This means projecting confidence. It is simple as that only if you are confident in yourself will others have confidence in you. But do not over-compensate and show an over confident face to your colleagues. This will just make you annoying. Discern the difference between confidence and over confidence and behave accordingly. Dress the part. This may sound like very shallow advice but we do tend to judge people by the way they dress and similarly people tend to judge us the way we do. So the way we dress does build our confidence. Make sure that the way you dress reflects your confidence and professionalism.

Learn to accept praise in a graceful manner. Do not take credit for other peoples work in the process but definitely do not belittle your role in a particular

task. Share the praise but do not deflect it. If someone praises you for work you have done, do not say 'Thanks but I couldn't have done it without my team,' and never say 'Oh, I did not do anything.' This is nothing but fake modesty. Instead you could say, 'Thank you I worked very hard on this, my knowledge of XYZ came in really handy. My team was really supportive and each person contributed in



their own way which was really helpful'.

Always make sure that everyone is aware of what you are doing. When you accomplish something or have a solution for some issue faced by the team, do not share it with just one person or just your manager. Share with the entire team at the same time (maybe in a meeting). This way the entire team will be aware of your contributions.

Push your boundaries. Volunteer for doing tasks that are related to your work and which you know will enhance your skill set and equally importantly- your visibility.

This can make it easier for your employers to see your contributions within the team's work based on your individual abilities. Don't be shy. Make new friends in your workplace and tell them about what you are good at or tell them about your contributions to a particular task (Unless this is top secret-needless to say). You never know when your workplace buddies could be helpful. Highlight your successes when you talk to your colleagues. All this may initially seem scary a bit and you may find it easier to crawl back into your cozy cocoon where nobody will notice you but remember that you not only deserve recognition but also need it to climb the ladder to success.



All for the Sparrow

SPARROWS ARE SMALL, PLUMP, BROWN-GREY BIRDS WITH SHORT TAILS FOUND IN MANY URBAN AND RURAL PARTS OF INDIA. THIS CUT LITTLE BIRD IS NOT ONLY A PART OF THE INDIAN ANIMAL KINGDOM, BUT ALSO GOT REPRESENTED IN LITERATURE, MUSIC AND ART. WE MUST NOTE THAT THE HARVEST AND THANKSGIVING TAMIL FESTIVAL OF 'PONGAL', FOR INSTANCE, IS ALL ABOUT SHARING NATURE'S BOUNTY IN THE FORM OF A RICH HARVEST OF CROPS AND MILK WITH OTHER LIFE FORMS SUCH AS THE COW AS ALSO THE CROWS AND SPARROWS. BY **N KALYANI**



On Sparrows and Man over the next four-plus decades.

Sparrow lovers would love to have his books. But Dr Summers-Smith points out, 'Getting hold of my books can be a problem as they are currently not in print. However, most are available as PODs (print on demand). If you cannot obtain them through an Indian bookshop, you could try to get in touch with Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, UK or the Thersby Group, UK.'

For the love of this little bird, the British ornithologist, has travelled to Asia, the Americas, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands and, of course, across Europe 'in quest for sparrows'. Recounting Dr Summers-Smith, in the editorial to the September 2016 issue of *British Birds*, about sparrows, 'I have now watched them in more than 70 countries, from sea level in Tierra del Fuego to over 2,000 metres in the Himalayas; from a dentist's chair in Newbury to 340 metres below ground in Frickley Colliery in Yorkshire, where a pair successfully reared three young. They still surprise and fascinate me.'

And he goes on to narrate interesting instances related to sparrows. 'In 1950, a group of sparrows hitched a lift on a ship from Bremerhaven, Germany, and disembarked on reaching Melbourne, in Australia. A young bird, boarded Pan Am Flight 811 from Los Angeles to Sydney on 4th July (US Independence Day) in 1981, but was unlucky in that it was promptly dispatched by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Authorities. Another was killed at Lord's, the home of cricket, by a fast delivery from Jahangir Khan in a match between the MCC and Cambridge University on 3rd July 1939. It can be seen, mounted on the match ball, in the Memorial Gallery'.

India too was a regular destination on his travels. Dr Summers-Smith says, 'I used to visit India fairly frequently, not only for sparrows, but also professionally, as a mechanical

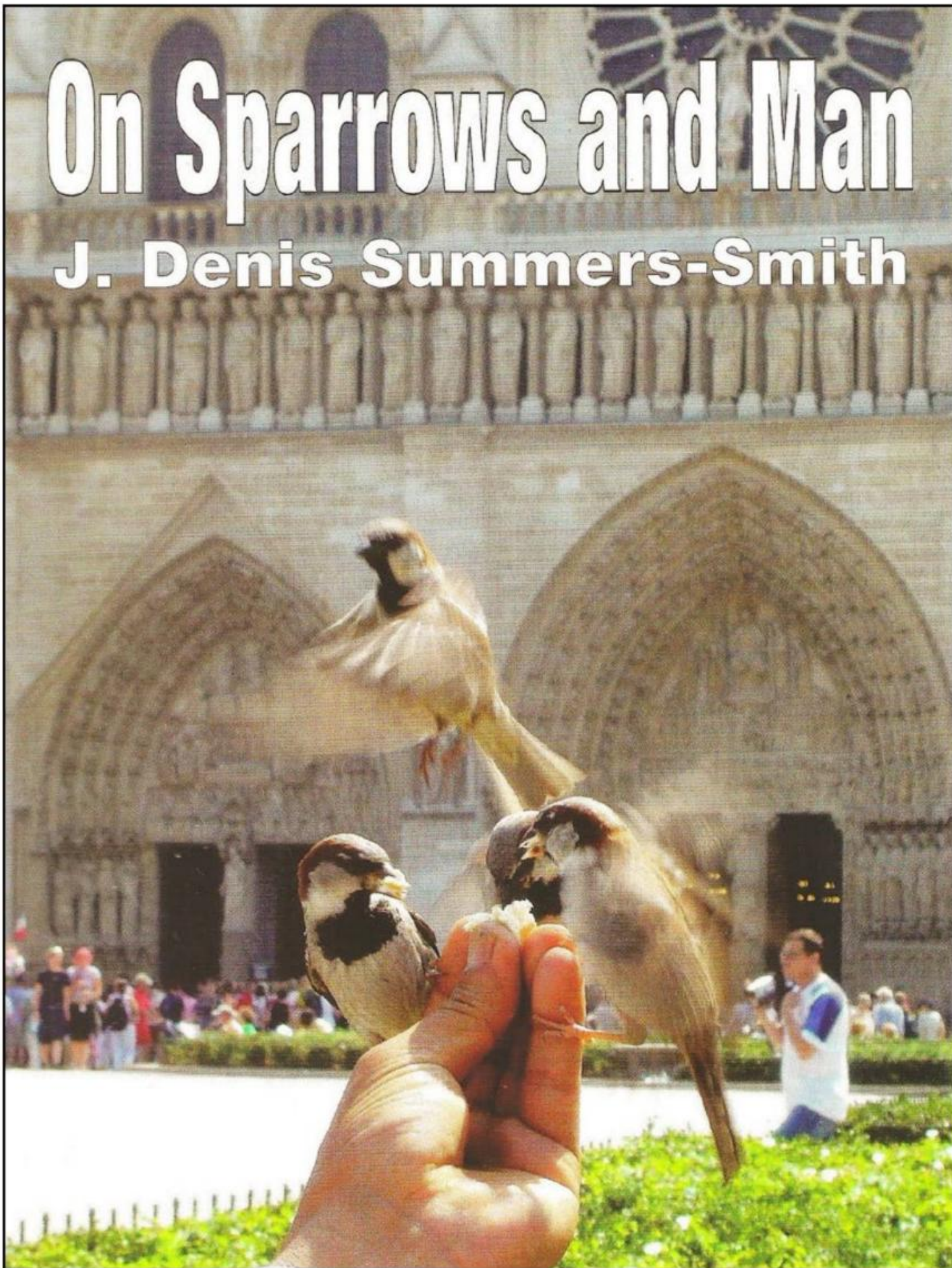
Sparrow has been the subject of research of the British ornithologist, Dr J Denis Summers-Smith, who has been studying the various species of sparrows for the past 60 years. And though the sparrow specialist has to his credit five books on the bird species, he has been more than just an academic researcher. The Guisborough resident's love for the cute little bird has translated into a large eclectic collection of sparrow memorabilia. Interestingly, Dr Summers-Smith is a mechanical engineer, not

a biologist, but it was his interest in and love of sparrows that got him so immersed into studying the many species of sparrows.

Starting out with his study of the house sparrow in 1947 in England, Dr Summers-Smith went on to document his findings on the various habits and habitats of the bird. His first book *The House Sparrow* was published in 1963, after which he came out with *The Sparrows: A Study of the Genus Passer*, *In Search of Sparrows*, *The Tree Sparrow* and

On Sparrows and Man

J. Denis Summers-Smith



ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATIONS FROM MOBILE TOWER MASTS, DESTRUCTION OF OPEN GRASSLANDS, EXCESSIVE USE OF INSECTICIDES AND PESTICIDES AND GROWING OF EXOTIC CROPS AND GARDEN PLANTS HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE LACK OF NESTING PLACES AND FOOD FOR SPARROWS

engineer.' And he was in touch with the well-known Indian environmental organization, the BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society), and made field trips in the country.

Dr Summers-Smith also has a collection of various works of literature and art on the sparrow. 'I have a collection of over fifty poems, both ones solely about sparrows and ones in which sparrows receive some mention. These are written in English, with a few in other European languages (mainly

German). I even received a poem about myself from an Ojibwa sqaw (a native American). I also have an American book Haiku on the Sparrow. I collect anything I can about sparrows including myths, fairy stories and folklore, with a number from the Indian Subcontinent translated into English (The Crow and the Sparrow, The Selfish Sparrow and the Houseless Crows, The Death and Burial of Poor Hen-Sparrow). My collection of books on sparrows now stands at 79 in 12 different languages, besides over five thousand

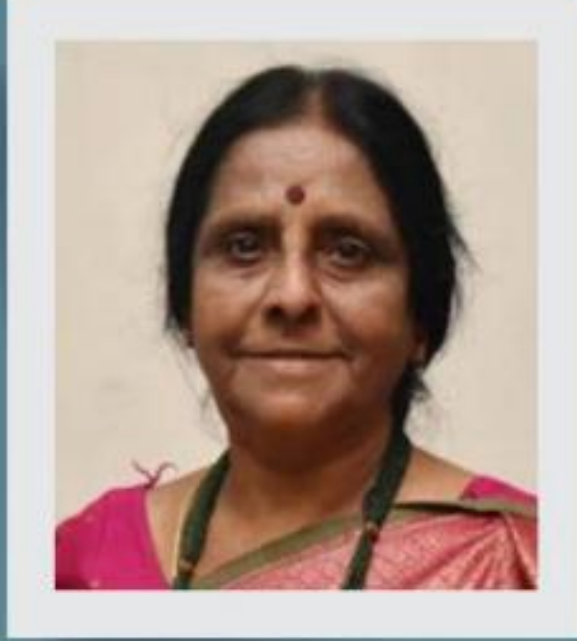
published papers on sparrows,' he says.

Besides literary and academic works on the sparrow, he also has an art and philatelic collection with sparrow as the theme. 'I also have a collection of copies of paintings by a variety of artists, including both Chinese and Japanese. My collection of postage stamps with images of sparrow stands at 38. The walls and flat surfaces in my house are covered with things relating to sparrows,' he reveals.

When queried about the fall in the number of sparrows. He says that many factors such as electromagnetic radiations from mobile tower masts, destruction of open grasslands, excessive use of insecticides and pesticides and growing of exotic crops and garden plants have all contributed to the lack of nesting places and food for sparrows. Dr Summers-Smith points out in the editorial to British Birds, pollution in urban areas caused by automobiles that is perhaps affecting sparrows greatly. He writes, 'it is, in my view, a potentially hugely important research area, not only for the sparrows – much as I love them – but for a range of other urban wildlife as well as for the children of our own species.'

As an ornithologist who has studied the sparrow's behaviour over some six decades, he says of his continuing engagement with the bird, 'Of course, I shall continue watching my favorite bird, the house sparrows, but merely for my own interest, no longer embarking on new specific studies.'

ARULMIGU SUBRAMANIYA SWAMY TEMPLE at THIRUCHENDUR



“திருச்செந்தூரின் கடலோரத்தில் செந்தில்நாதன் அரசாங்கம் தேடித்தேடி வருவோர்க்கெல்லாம் தினமும் கூடும் தெய்வம்சம்”

This evergreen song from the movie 'Deivam' voices the glory of Lord Subramanya in the ever amazing temple at Tiruchendur, on the shores of the Bay of Bengal near the southern part of our country. This is the second of the six temples dedicated to Lord Murugan in the category of 'Aarupadai Veedu' and interestingly the only temple on the seashore, while the rest being on top of hills - RAJEE MANI



One of the richest, most popular kshetras, this temple for Lord Subramanya is located in the district of Thoothukudi on the beach of the Bay of Bengal. It can be reached by road from almost all important towns. Situated about 40 kms from Thoothukudi, and 60 kms south-east from the major railway

junction Tirunelveli, the nearest airport is either Thoothukudi or Trivandrum.

THE TEMPLE

It is claimed that the temple was built 2000 years ago, and it is considered the classic example of Dravidian architectural excellence. Slowly expanded through the ages to the

present massive proportion, it is said to have been constructed by saints and siddha purushas. The 133 feet tall Rajagopuram is built on the shore side, just within 200 meters of the roaring ocean. Because of its geographical positioning, there is no entry from the east. The sannidhi street on the western side is one of the longest in south India.



year. As 'Soorapadman' had got a boon that every time he is beheaded, he should be given another head, the drama's main agenda would be that each time Murugan chops his head with one of His weapons Sora's effigy is replaced with another one....till he turns himself to a tree and the climax is staged!

Well ! This is the way traditions and religious beliefs are passed on through generations. On this occasion, thousands and thousands of devotees observe the necessary fasting and rituals and come here carrying 'kavadis' on their shoulders to be deposited at the feet of the idol at the 'garbha gruha'. The 7th day is the auspicious wedding celebrations of Lord Subramanya with Valli and Deivanai. The last five days, Lord Murugan is said to be performing Poojas to Lord Siva. The awe inspiring slogan shouted in unison by the bhaktas – 'Vetri vel Muruganukku Arogara' gets submerged in the dark waters of ocean, the azure canopy of the sky and the brown sands of the earth.

IDOL

Lord Subramanya is also known by other names like Senthil Andavan and Jayanthinathan. The presiding deity Subramanya at the sanctum sanctorum is the perfect personification of thejas, valour, triumph and karunya . He stands victoriously with the 'Vetrivel' (spear) in His Hand, after having destroyed the ego of the evil in 'Soorapadman'. The magnetic presiding diety is tall and made of black granite. Mostly he adorns the traditional Veshti and the silver kavacham on important occasions. The rudraksha mala, the Vibhuthi and Kumkuma on the forehead accentuate the radiance of His swaroopa.

It was given to Jagadguru Adi Sankara to eulogize the keerthi of the magnificent idol of Lord Subramanya at Tiruchendur in his Subramanya Bhujangam.

"Na Janami Shabdham, Na Janami Ca-Artham; Na Janami Padyam, Na Janami Gadyam Cid-Eka Ssadda Ayaa Hrdi Data-Te Me Mukhaan-Nihsarante Girash-Ca-API Citram"

[(Salutations to Sri Subramanya) I know neither Words, nor their Meaning, And I know neither Poetry, nor Prose, but within the Core of my Heart, I see the Conscious effulgence of your six faces, which is making these various words pour forth through my mouth.]

Such has been the power of the Murthy and Kshetra at Tiruchendur from time immemorial. ♦

On the eastern side, there is an exclusive area cordoned off for the holy dip of the devotees. There is also salt free water well [Nazhi Kinaru] for the pilgrims to take a fresh bath after the dip in the ocean. As one stands on this shore with the glorious temple behind and the breathtaking sunrise in front, our mind almost touches the tip of divinity.

THE LEGEND

The sthalapuranam of Thiruchendur as mentioned in the Skanda purana is a popular story. One of the mighty asuras by name 'Soora Padman' along with his brothers started terrorising three worlds after he received extraordinary boons from Lord Siva. The Devas took asylum at the lotus feet of Lord Siva. But Soora could only be vanquished by the combined powers of Shiva and Shakti. Hence by the will of Providence, six sparks from the third eye of Shiva merged with the thejas of holy river Ganga to become six babies. These babies were brought up on the banks of the Ganga by six beautiful women representing the star Krithika. Eventually the six babies were moulded into one by Mata Parvati and given the name Kartikeya. So it was that Lord Subramanya was ordered now by Lord Siva to wage a war against Soora to destroy him. Skanda goes to Tiruchendur along with his chieftain Veerabagu. The battle lasts for six days and after destroying 'Soora Padman' clan in five days, Skanda wages a

terrible war on the sixth day on the shores of this sea. Finally the demon is vanquished when Subramanya's spear splits him into two halves as he stood amidst the waves in the form of a mango tree. But in the end when the wicked asura repents his sins, Lord Murugan pardons him and transforms one half into his 'vahana' peacock and takes the other half ' rooster' - as the emblem of His flag.

FESTIVALS

'Nithya poojas' are performed in strict adherence to agama rules by a big team of well trained hereditary priests. Huge crowds of pilgrims throng the Kshetra even on ordinary days. Countless devotees gather at Tiruchendur for a darshan of Lord Murugan on special festive days like 'Vaikasi visakam', 'Aadi Karthigai', 'Karthigai Deepam', 'Panguni Uthiram'. So exclusive to kaumaram [cult of skanda worship]. But the Maha Kanda Sashti celebrated for 12 days in the month of Aippasi [October-November] is the Festival of Festivals. A must see event in Tiruchendur. The utsavam starts on the day of Prathama, the day after Diwali and the 'Soorasamharam' is literally acted out on the shores of the temple on the 6th day (i.e Sashti). Besides being a highly spiritual happening, it is also a great event as an entertainment for the children. In addition to the joy of total festivity, pilgrims young and old, enjoy the drama of 'Soorasamharam' as it is acted out year after

PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS



THERE ARE SEVERAL TYPES WHEN IT COMES TO PROBLEMS AND OTHER ISSUES, WHILE SOME CAN BE SOLVED WITH CLEAR LOGICAL THINKING, OTHER REQUIRE COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE. **DR MINI RAO** ANSWERS THE QUERIES ON THE ISSUES ON MENTAL HEALTH AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

your shell, socialize and see what a difference it will make in your life.

Q I'm 40 year-old housewife, and my husband is manager in a multinational company. For the past several weeks he is suffering from severe depression issues. This is a second marriage for him and he doesn't seem to have left her past behind though 14 years have passed since our marriage and we have two kids. He talks about her ex-wife and is in touch with her and his children from his first marriage. While they coming to spend time at our house is okay but when she insists that they accompany us on our vacations out of town it becomes a bit too much. How do I tell her to enjoy the present and not crowd the relationship? Advising her to come to a counsellor has not helped?

- **Vilakshi Mohan, Bangalore**

I understand your situation. I find the idea of going to vacations together not quite right. Your husband needs to move on. I agree he has two children with his ex-wife but he needs to do justice to his present family as well. Being in touch with his ex wife and his children from his first marriage is great, vacationing together with his ex and present family may be disastrous. You need to have an honest talk with your husband about your feelings and put it forth in a tactful manner explaining that you are not comfortable to vacation together. Tell him they are most welcome to visit but that vacations require privacy and that bringing his ex and present family has to be done within boundaries. Ask him to tell his ex wife gently and directly. I prefer him to convey it to her rather than you.

Q I am 24 years old girl from modern family and I have fallen for my colleague who is 28 years old. A generation gap is not the only issue here but the fact that he is married is a huge matter. He wants to divorce his wife as he was forced into marriage and wants to get out of it. But I am not sure if he is genuine about me or just passing his time. Is there a way to cross check - please Advise

- **Anandhi, Bangalore**

My question is what are his plans for you. He wants to divorce his wife as he was forced into the marriage not because he wants to marry you. Also he may not want to get into a serious relationship as soon as he gets divorced as he will require time to recover from his marriage. Give him and your relationship time. Give him time to think and meanwhile do not put any pressure or ask him about your future together. Take it slow for now, he may think more rationally once he is clear in his mind after his divorce.

Q Hi I'm 18 yrs old college girl studying chartered accountancy from a conservative family, I have a crush on a boy who is engineering graduate in my apartment but don't know how to approach him. I really like him, but I am quite shy towards boys, even though I have two elder brothers in my home, I hesitant to speak to him. He talks to me in a very pleasing manner, but he has a girlfriend. I don't know how to tell that I really like him are there any chances that he reject me because I really felt bad that he's in a relationship with other girl, but I really care about him and I am quite worried whether he might accept me

as her girlfriend or at least as a friend
- **Sankari, Chennai**

My advice to you would be is to be his friend. He has a girlfriend and there is every chance he may reject you as he is committed already. There is no harm in being friends with him and speaking to him. Start by asking him about himself and what he does, his hobbies and slowly open up if he asks about you. But all this within boundaries as he already has a girlfriend. You don't want to break a relationship and bring bad karma onto yourself. You are a highly educated woman and there will be many men who would be interested in you. Be a little open, come out of



Q I and my boyfriend are aged 24 and 25, we are dating for 6 years now, since we worked in a company sometimes ago. He is tall and strong guy with macho like body built. Though he is from poor family background he understands me, and my mood and feelings. Problem is that sometimes he gets tensed and his anger is very violent. One day, I lost his notebook, for which he slapped me in full public view. After he begged for his behaviour. Few weeks ago, in an argument he threw and broke my mobile phone on the road. Many a times, I feel that my life will be out-of-control. But my problem is that another guy is coming after me, he is very soft guy who is a friend of my college mate. One day, he proposed which I rejected. He is quite nice and good looking. After few weeks, he came to home along with friends and secretly told me that he is seriously marrying me. Apart from this, my father and mother also like him very much. Please advise me because I'm confused on what to do, whether to go strong but uncontrollable guy or soft and good boy.

- Sangeetha, Chennai

Between the two I would honestly think the second guy who is gentle, nice and good looking whom your parents like would be a wonderful choice. In the long run violent and aggressive men only get worse and will treat you very badly and you will end up being very unhappy with him, whereas a person whom

your parents like will be very good for you and your family. Making your parents happy also is one of the duties of children and you will be making them very happy if you marry someone they like. I also think you being in control of your life is far better than to think it is out of control with the first guy.

Q Hi I am a hardworking girl, and I love with my job and cannot seem to have an active love life. My parents are okay with my work pressures but want me to settle down too since I am now in my late twenties. I cannot seem to be able to go out and socialize due to my work profile which keeps me on my toes day and night. One day, my parents gave me a profile of a boy who was good looking and quite rich. And I also like him. I wonder if my beau would be okay with me working so hard even after marriage. How do I change my workaholic nature and if I find a worthwhile partner, how do I make him understand?

- Vinita, Mangalore

First of all you need to prioritize your goals. Do you want a full time career which is going to leave you no time for family or do you want a family and are happy to be a house wife or have a balance between the two which you need to make compromises and adjustments for. You seem to like the boy and he is financially independent too. I would suggest you go out for dinner and ask him subtly how

he feels about his wife working. Once you get an idea about his opinion on that you can get an idea of what you can expect in this marriage. Also mention that you would like to have a career and whether he would be okay with that. Based on his views you can take a decision. Working part time is also an option, working from home is also a good one too.

Q I am a 27 year-old girl working in a software company and having a handsome pay. Since I am in my late twenties my parents are looking out for a match and I not been able to connect with anybody I have met so far in this entire matrimonial scene. In all this I happened to meet someone at work, he's younger than me and showers me with attention and also comes across as caring. Knowing the scenario at home he says he wants to marry me. That's nice to hear but don't know if it's too early to decide if marriage can be considered

- Lavanya, Coimbatore

Age should not be a factor if you think you've found the right man. It's hard to find someone whom you think is good for you and whom you are compatible with. Also you say he is caring and affectionate. I think you need to spend a little more time with him, not get married in a hurry. That way you can decide after getting to know him whether you still want to go ahead. ♦

In the name of ALIMONY

MANY OF US MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE WORD 'ALIMONY', WHICH LITERALLY MEANS AS FOLLOWS 'FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR A HUSBAND OR WIFE AFTER SEPARATION OR DIVORCE'. IN THE RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN COMING ACROSS SEVERAL INSTANCES OF EXTRACTING MONEY AND WEALTH FROM HIGHER -MIDDLE CLASS AND WELL TO DO MEN IN THE NAME OF IT. BY **LAXMY R NARAYAN**



Even though there are many illegal means of earning such bad money, under certain unavoidable circumstances, a few bad elements of society are intentionally engaged in dangerous practice. The modus operandi of this type of extraction is by legally marrying a flourishing businessman, doctor or professional living abroad and earning a good salary. The cited girls get legally married with such persons, and live with them with an intention to cheat and defraud by cunningly making them a pauper at the end. This is done in a planned manner and the very institution of marriage as per our social system is getting destroyed. The girl's family is hand in glove in many cases. These girls go back from foreign countries, and start living a luxurious life with the alimony earned out of separation.

It may look like an exaggeration of things, but having seen many boys' parents pathetically left without any help from any family

members or society. The life of the young boy is totally destroyed. This trend has totally terrified the future bridegrooms and many of them prefer to remain single for the rest of their lives, which is not a good sign of course.

Who is responsible for this? Yes some women do it for the sake of wealth and luxury, at the cost of their daughter's life. Irrespective of the status in society, this disease is slowly eating away the institution of marriage. Many celebrities including actors and industrialists are silently undergoing this torture by few women folk and it is dangerously shameful for the society and community as a whole.

Even though this trend appears to be a family problem, it has assumed the gigantic proportion of a social problem, as there is no institutional or organisational control over these developments. Many values of family life and social ethos have been left under the carpet and even parents have gone wrong.

The system of education has failed to include moral aspect among boys and girls.

The judicial approach in this problem has been one sided, supporting the cause of girls and women, with a sense of prejudice against men. So the entire approach towards such an issue should be subject to review and revision. Many judgements in India have leaning in support of westernised culture which derailed social system. In his famous book titled, 'Marriage and Morals', Bertrand Russell has highlighted that Indian system of married life is the best in the world. Unfortunately, we have not yet realised and created the impact or awareness on our children about our system. In the name of equality and women's lib, the men are getting exploited and deserted. It is the duty of the mothers to properly advice their daughters that marriage is a sacred institution and not a commercial enterprise to earn money like this by illegal methods. ♦



of circling the entire building, before finally finding a spot as little as 100 sq foot space for prisoner, that too after two kilometre long drive. It's a huge waste of time and petrol, and driver sweat two litres of liquid.

Since the facility is filled with many kinds of shop, one might imagine, picking and choose the right stuff is possible. Beware there may be a lot of stores at the mall, but not all of them are necessarily good ones. Malls are lookalike version of magazines of erotic literature, there may be hundred of them but everything has the same climax. Moving into hundreds of stores and it is never worth to come out buying beer cap remover, transistor radio, cover for steam iron, spectacle holder. These languishes in our cupboard never get used in a lifetime. Forgotten items will be considered as vintage one by grandson or neighbour who would proud to show it to everyone. And a local newspaper journalist might come calling to report as archaeological stuffs. But some of the malls have good shops, buying a good shirt or pant for ₹ 300 will definitely worth its price, but annoying thing is the cart, which is iron basket weights atleast 6-7 kilos. Some are so good, that pushing the cart is like sliding on ice floor. While others are odd ones, when we move towards left, it goes right. While pushing to the right, it skids left. When you find a perfect one, it doesn't have a handle. Another thing is about the good shop in a mall, long line for billing. For buying a ½ kilo of apples for ₹80, fat customer would get a knee pain for sure or senior citizen might faint waiting to bill for his 100 ml coconut oil, and we might wonder if the old man could procure a litre of the liquid at much lower price if he goes to Kerala.

If you are strong and confident, even more worst things happen, After spending nearly 30 minutes you find that the line, is heading towards restroom. Sometimes, after spending 2 hours in the line, when you reaches the counter one notices to find his/her wallet or handbag is left at home. After buying a pair of shoes for ₹ 200 as the cheapest, one might notice another pair for ₹150 through glass showcase. And some of the best shops have all kinds of goods including fruits and vegetable division that is good for a family man.

Sometimes, smells from grocery division disturbs and distracts our senses, a good pair socks might give a smell of half rotten cabbage or leather belts gives stench of half cooked meat. With cloth in the nose, when a complaint is made to the division manager, to the surprise, man's nose looks like big rodent. The words from his mouth, 'Hello Can I help you ?' would sound, ' Hello Can I bite you ?'. ♦

SHOPPING MALL & OTHER STORIES

By **M P Saravanan**

Shopping malls are considered a wonderful place to shop, but not for many as they term it as another kind of air-conditioned hell, with glittering lights. When they put their right leg, in the facility, the first thing that welcomes is not the cool air from centralised air-conditioned system but teenagers and youngsters hanging out aimless at footwear shops, food courts, dress showroom. They never leave any single space, empty not even at elevators or restrooms. One can even find them in parking lot, having a chat for 30-40 minutes. But nobody questions them as they are mall's number one customers, most shops and restaurants are customised to suit their needs.

So one is forced manoeuvre through teens found like group of sheep in the garden.

Stepping into any big shops, with tons of the dresses, one will notice few employees left to run the whole facility. While some give respect, others don't, as they are paid very low. Actually helpful mall employee with a lot smile and attentive mind is angel one can never see. When you see someone, it is will be like getting a blessing from the heaven. And the advertisement of the shop claims 'we are waiting for you'. All malls are known to have a lot of parking spaces, but in reality it is one of few things more exasperating than the desperate search for parking at a mall. Hours upon hours



IT'S ALL ABOUT FORGOTTEN WORDS

The debutant journalist-turned-filmmaker's short film 'Solla Marantha Vaarthaigal' is all about making each and every circumstances favourable to everyone. For that all of us should find the forgotten words while talking. In our day-to-day life we, all anticipate many circumstances, situations, occasions, events. Sometimes it would all go adverse due to various reasons but selection of appropriate words while talking will give you the desired results. In this short film, the director Sankar takes sample words viz 'Sorry, Please and Thanks' because these words are widely used by all. It is to be noted that the cinematographer for this short film Kasturi Moorthy had been associated with late BaluMahendra for decades together. 'SollaMaranthaVaarthaigal' short film was screened to Tamilnadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association, president S. Tamilselvan for his most valuable views and opinions.



VIJAY SETHUPATHI TO ROMANCE TRISHA

Actor Vijay Sethupathi is all set to share screen space with Trisha in a new movie. The movie will be directed by the cinematographer Prem Kumar who had handled the camera for Sethupathi's Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kanom'. In his directorial debut, Prem Kumar wanted the actress Trisha on board. It is said Trisha has given her nod to play the female lead in the movie. Trisha is currently busy with the shoot of 'SathurangaVettai 2' and she is also eagerly waiting for her Diwali release, 'Kodi'. Vijay Sethupathi is impressed with the director's script and the shoot will kick start next year.



VIVEK OBEROI IS THE VILLAIN FOR AJITH

Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi will be seen playing the baddie in Thala Ajith's yet-untitled action thriller. It is confirmed that Vivek Oberoi signed the dotted lines few days back and he will be soon joining the sets of Thala 57. Directed by Siva, the movie will have Kajal Aggarwal as the romantic interest of Ajith. Interestingly, the movie also has Akshara Haasan in an important role. Reputed production house Sathya Jyothi Films is bankrolling the film and they are targeting grand summer 2017 release.



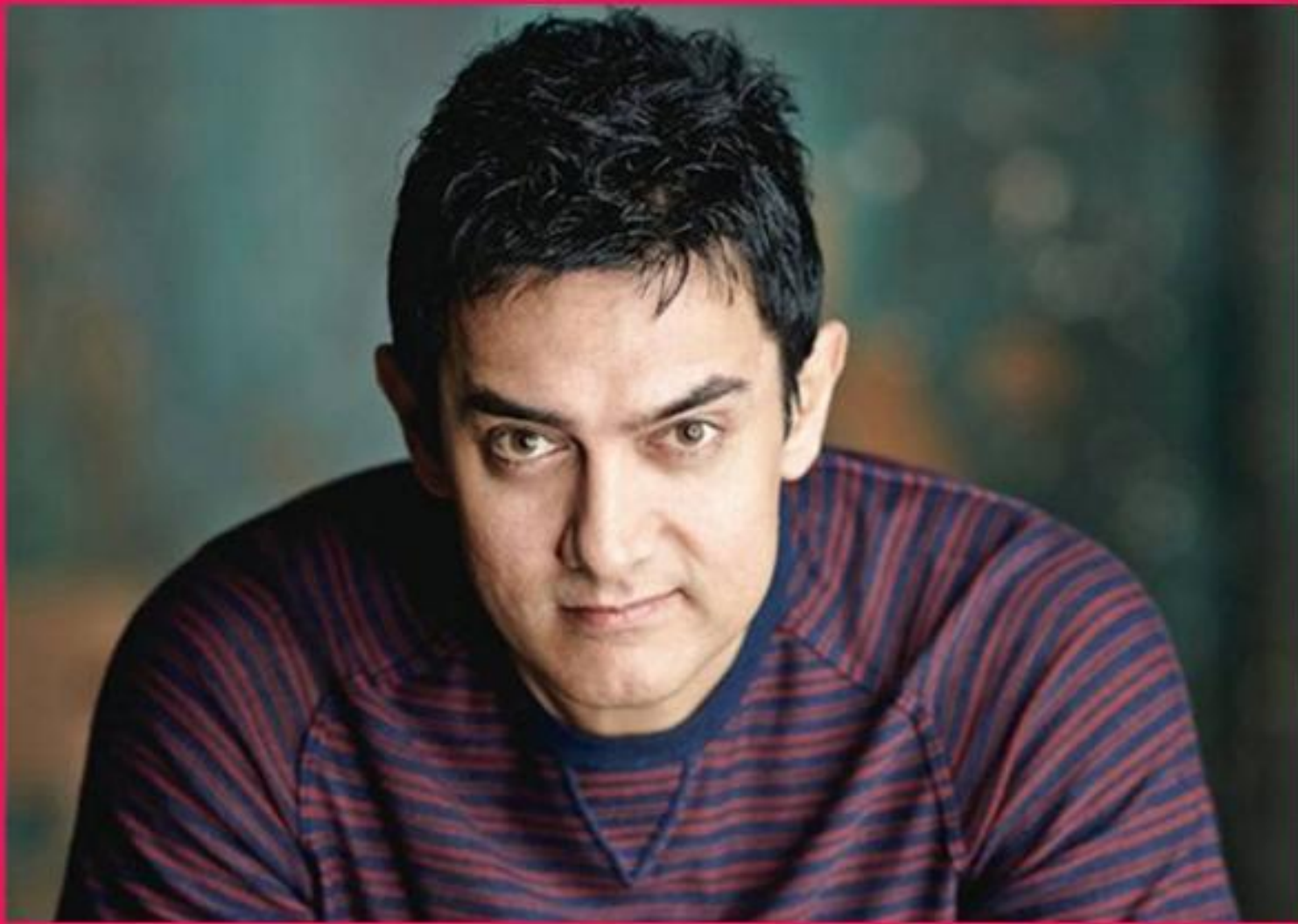
FIRST LOOK OF BAAHUBALI -2 IN MUMBAI

The makers of Baahubali 2 was launched the first look of the film at Mumbai International Film Festival on October 22. It is said that along with the first look poster of Baahubali 2, VR teaser preview, 360 degree making video and graphic novel of the film was also launched at Mumbai International Film Festival. Directed by S S Rajamouli, Baahubali 2 will be hitting the screens on April 17, 2017. Previously an announcement on the first look of the Superstar Rajinikanth's '2.0' stating that the filmmakers will launch in Mumbai was out.



JYOTHIKA IN MAGALIR MATTUM

Jyothika plays a documentary filmmaker in 'Magalir Mattum' directed by Brama. The first look poster of the film was unveiled recently by Jyothika's husband Suriya. It may be recalled that Kamal Haasan had produced a comedy film with the same title in 1994 with Revathi, Urvashi and Rohini. Suriya's 2D Entertainment and Chris Pictures have bought the title rights from Raaj Kamal Films. The details about other actors are awaited. Ghibran is scoring the music for Magalir Mattum and Manikandan is cranking the camera.



'AB DANGAL HOGA' MEMES IS THE REAL HIT

People have been lauding the trailer of upcoming inspirational Bollywood film Dangal ever since it was released. The film is based on the real-life story about the wrestling champions, Phagot sisters who made India proud on many occasions. Actor Aamir Khan as Mahaveer Singh Phogat impressed the audience with his grit in the 3.25-minute trailer, but the actual stars who managed to seal a place in the hearts of the audience were the actors playing the roles of his daughters. Interestingly, something else piqued the audiences' curiosity on social media platforms. The scene where the young debutant Zaira Wasim's character proclaims 'Ab dangalhoga' (Now it's time for a real fight) has intrigued Twitterati to use the dialogue in various situation and we must say it is bang on. From when you forget your girlfriend's birthday to when your boss says come to office on weekend, the only reply anyone on Twitter has is - 'Ab dangalhoga'.

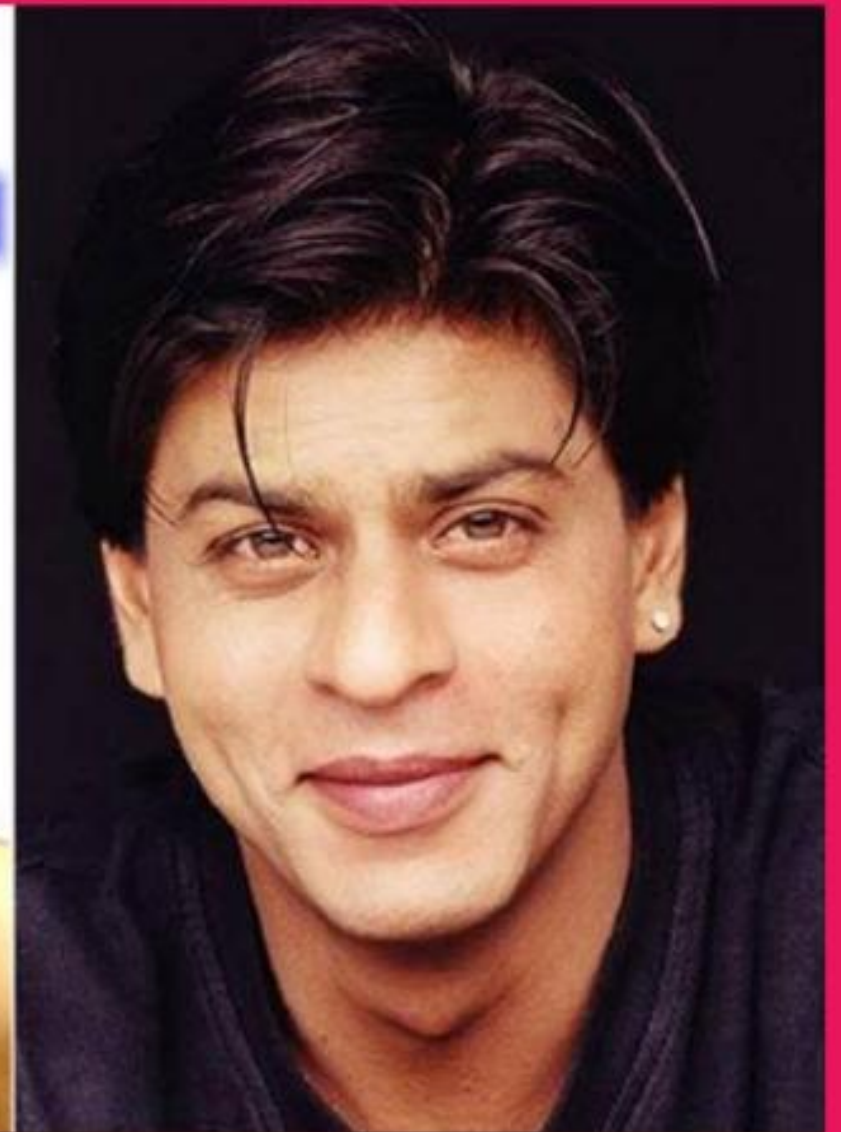
SALMAN'S 'TUBELIGHT' IN MANALI

Salman Khan wrapped up the Manali shooting schedule of his upcoming film Tubelight, directed by Kabir Khan. He has been filming in the beautiful locations of Himachal Pradesh for past two months. 'It's a wrap for @beingsalmankhan Manali schedule #Tubelight #Eid2017 We have 3 more days to go,' Kabir tweeted along with a black and white picture of Salman sitting on wooden stairs. The actor previously shot for the film in the picturesque locations of Ladakh. The movie marks third collaboration of the actor-director duo, who have previously worked on blockbuster 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' and 'EkTha Tiger'. Tubelight also stars Chinese actor Zhu Zhu. The movie will hit the theaters on Eid next year.



DREAM GIRL CELEBRATES 68TH BIRTHDAY

Dream girl Hema Malini celebrated her 68th birthday on October 16 with friends and family. The party turned out to be a Sholay reunion of sorts, as it was attended by Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan, and Ramesh Sippy. The actress shared some pictures on Twitter and tweeted, 'Had a small get together at home yday with family & friends. My good friends Amitji & Shatru came with Jaya & Poonam and spent some time with us.' Esha Deol and her husband Bharat Takhtani were also present.



SHAH RUKH KHAN STEALS THE SHOW

Before the second teaser from Dear Zindagi was revealed, the filmmakers kept the buzz going with a still of the leads, Alia Bhatt and Shah Rukh Khan in which Shah Rukh Khan just steals the show from Alia Bhatt. Alia had the stylish look while King Khan looks absolutely effortless with a cotton blue shirt, paired with beige pants and his shades seems to be on trend. The filmmakers are teasing their fans by revealing glimpses from the film. While the first teaser was a conversation between Alia and SRK with she asking all the questions and he giving all the answers.



MAKING INDIA PROUD

'Bhumika & Jyoti' were the cynosure of everyone eyes as they launched the London India Fashion Week, with their newest collection 'MRITTIKA' –Mother Earth' at the Excel Exhibition Centre in London recently. The London India Fashion Week welcomes international, local and next gen fashion Designers with its mission to introduce stylish and fusion fashion designs to the very high profile British Asians. The high profile British Asians present were enamoured by the designer's clean float and feminine white, cream and gold outfits embellished net capes, drapes of jewels and traditional stylised turbans.

The designers aesthetics palette reflected the sandy earth tones, sparkled creamy sea of sand, off white, desert gold, antique cream, Tan, white lace and beige. Their designs reflected contemplative representations of innovative grandeur, relaxed flow silhouettes, and light weight fabrics carrying feminine sensibilities. The raw sienna and desert sand colorations were reminiscent of vintage essentials.



AWARDS FOR ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS

Performing artists and musicians from various parts of the country were honoured by Sangeetha Nataka Academy Awards (2015) during event at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 4th Oct 2016. Around 40 artistes were given Sangeet Natak Akademy 2015 Award. His Excellency the President of India Mr Pranab Mukherjee gave away the awards in the presence of a select gathering which included artistes, scholars, bureaucrats and the elite of New Delhi. Musicians including Prof C V Chandrasekhar who received the Fellowship, Rajkumar Bharathy, Rudrapatnam Brothers, Smt Suguna Varadachari, Mambalam Siva and Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman were honoured.

Photo caption: Carnatic Violinist Lalgudi GJR Krishnan receiving the award from President Pranab Mukherjee.

SINGER USHA UTHUP OPENS JEWELLERY OUTLET

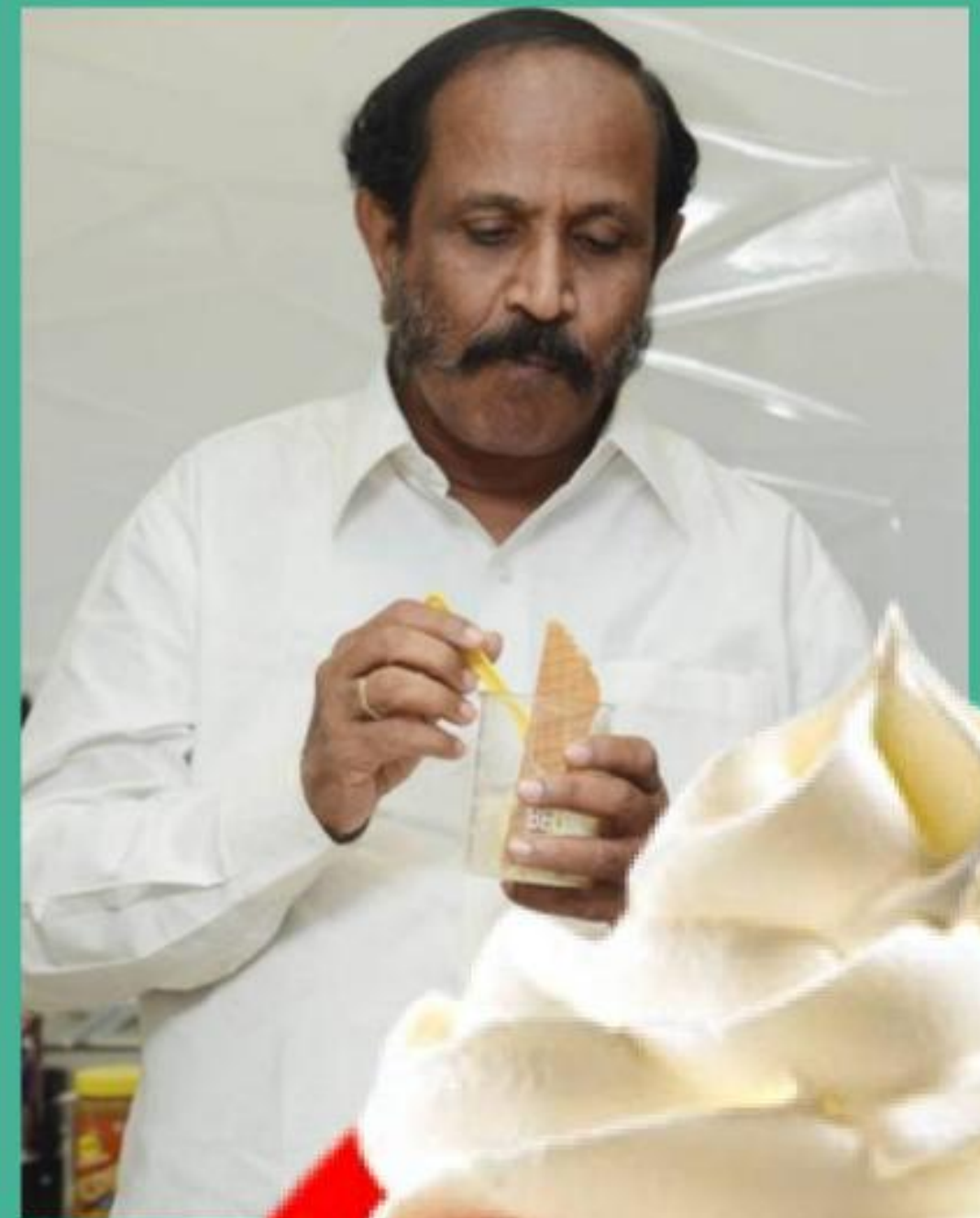
Singer Usha Uthup has inaugurated new jewellery outlet titled 'Kamadhenu – Prime' at Mogappair, Chennai recently.

According to a release, Kamadhenu Jewellery which established its first showroom at Avadi (1970), earned the reputation and has more than thousands of customers subscribing their monthly gold savings plan. They were the first to introduce various schemes and products like BIS hallmark gold jewellery, dhosham free diamond jewellery and gold karat meter (before 2005). Their management team consists of M Vishnu Sharma and Vinod(Executive Director), Vivek and Shivlal as other directors having more than 90yrs of experience in this field and have also created a skilled team of professionals who pick finest gold, diamonds and silver collections from across the India and abroad.



A NEW LANDMARK

Turyaa Chennai a luxury hotel has opened its business in Old Mahabalipuram Road, Chennai. According to a release, the hotel offers some of the finest dining experience housing some of the best restaurants like Svar' lobby Restaurant, The Chinese Restaurant 'Dao', 'Samasa' Garden Restaurant and 'Twist Bar', 'Mista Deli'(Coffee shop). Apart from this, regulars like 24-hour concierge services, 24 hour Reception, 24 hour In-room dining, 24 hour Coffee shop and Currency exchange services are all available at the disposal. The hotels boasts of 2 stylish halls. The Utsava I offers 2427 square feet of event space, Utsava II is a relatively smaller room but has the facility of being combined together to create a large event space.



EAT, PRAY AND LOVE

Soul Garden a new Vegetarian restaurant had a grand opening at Ananda Road, Alwarpet (Chennai).

According to a release, the all-day dining facility serves some most exquisite foods from around the world including fresh Italian dough pizzas and pastas, American burgers, sinful sizzlers, and some mouth watering Indian cuisine thrown in. They have a dessert lab named 196 degree below - Dessert Lab, serving freshly made ice creams from liquid nitrogen, sorbets, Greek yogurt, waffle, mock tails and thick shakes, Nitro popcorn and much more.



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Looking forward

Predictions for the month of
NOVEMBER 2016



AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18)

House of Career is dominant and hence the spotlight will be on business and profession. Home and self development issues can be in the backseat for a while. A successful job will have a positive effect on the family and there will be all-round happiness. In spite of the chaotic conditions at the work place, there is considerable career development during the month. You will be able to face all the challenges in your job or business with confidence and courage. Social contacts will assist the Water Bearers in career growth in this month. You will make new friends who will be instrumental for success in your profession.

PISCES (FEB 19-MAR 20)

Overseas investments or dealings with foreigners will be profitable. Monetary progress for your spouse or lover is wonderful and you can expect help from that source. You can put your money in logistics, energy and educational fields. You should be careful about your spending habits as you feel like splurging unnecessarily. You need to start saving right now. Career, spirituality and finance will be the main areas of action this month for Pisces born individuals in November. There will be many opportunities for enhancing your intellectual capabilities.



ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19)

You will be deeply involved in self-awareness, as well as improving their personality by getting rid of the disagreeable habits. Social connections and skills will be an important factor in wealth generation this month. Business partnerships and social engagements will be required to earn money. Monetary progress for the Arians is also achieved by helping others become prosperous after the third week. Success of other people will lead to your financial growth indirectly. Investments in government securities will be profitable. Monetary position of your spouse or love partner will be excellent and the family will assist you financially in your ventures.

TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20)

Earnings will be wonderful during this period. You can expect money from unexpected sources during the first week. Your spouse or love mate will help you in your monetary projects. By helping others to accomplish their fiscal targets, you will automatically boost generation of wealth. Investment in government securities will yield good returns for the Taureans in this November. Tax refunds and royalties can be another source of income. All big investments and purchases should be done after the mid month. There may be impediments to cash flow and you should use this period to review your financial strategies. Towards the end of the month, you will have enough money to clear old loans. You will be able to raise enough cash to finance your ventures



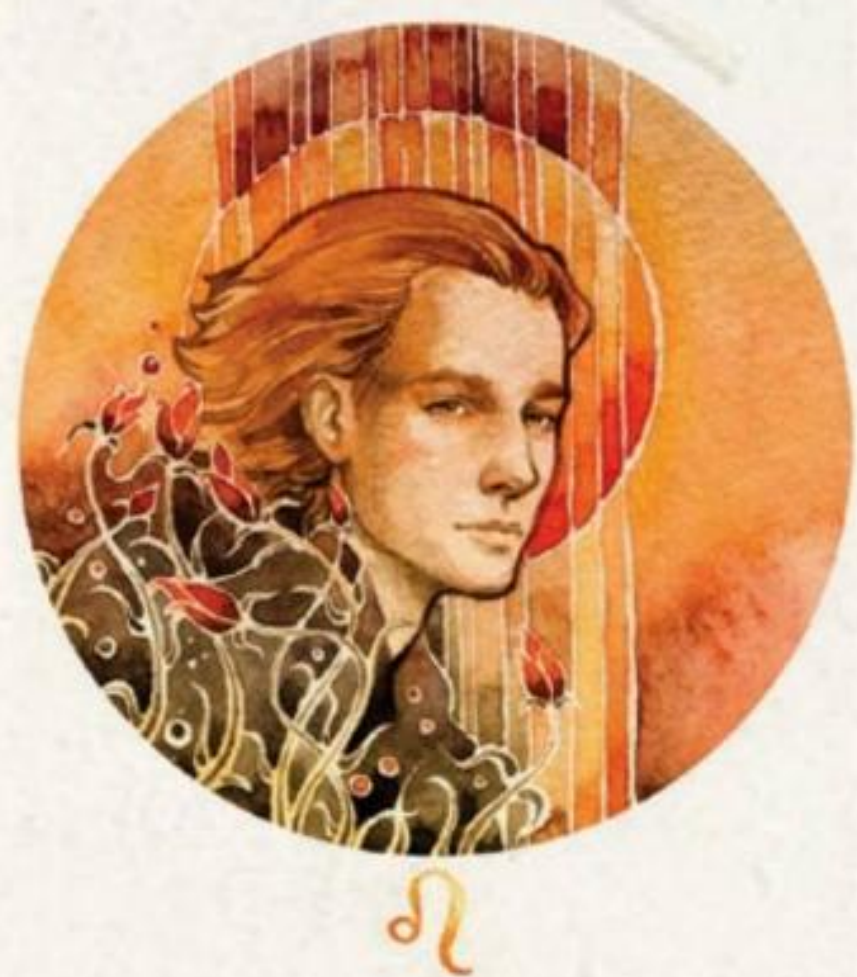


GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 20)

Earnings come through speculations by taking calculated risks. Your financial perception will be excellent. Money can be made in November 2016 by being innovative and focusing on the creative aspects. Children will contribute to the generation of wealth with their bright thoughts. This period will be wonderful for wealth and prosperity. Gemini in lover will get many romantic opportunities and will be able to charm their lovers easily. You will be forceful in dating people you love. Love can be found while pursuing your career or health. You can also search for love in social functions and religious places. Married couples will lead a blissful life and will be blessed with the news of a baby if they are planning to have one. Gemini sexuality will undergo a wonderful change and will be passionately exciting.

CANCER (JUN 21-JULY 22)

You can attain your objectives in life through compromise and understanding. This is not the best time to be either assertive or independent. You have to adjust to society and network to succeed. Your financial perception is superb and you can earn money through innovative ventures in November 6. This is an excellent month for artists and creative people. Children will help you in your financial stability. Risky investments will yield good profits. In November, career will be the main source of cash. Financial prospects will come up while you are engaged in sports or social activities. The prospects of love are better this month. Conflicts with spouse or lover are indicated but they will not disturb the your life seriously.



LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

Monetary situation is normal this month. During the first week, money will come from real estate dealings or from family sources. Career will be the main source of income after that. Big purchases and investments should be taken up after the 18th when planet Mercury will be helpful. Prospects of the person in love are more enhanced in November with the love planet (Uranus) forging ahead. There will be progress in existing love partnerships. Socially you are more endowed and you are interested in dating and looking for love. Relationships will be ideal for the Lions in November or will be for fun and enjoyment. This is also an excellent time to plan for a pregnancy. Around the mid of November, love is to be found overseas with foreigners or in the academic environment. You will have romantic possibilities which will further your career.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP 22)

This month is ideal for formulating future goals and for leaving the execution to a later date. Family environment can be made more delightful by resolving conflicts. There will be more fun and entertainment among family members. Monetary situation is well supported by planets this month. Earnings will be superb and you have your family support for your financial ventures. Real estate and companies dealing with real estate will give good returns on investment. Sales and marketing activities will be another source of income. Money from unexpected sources is likely during the second week of the month. You may have to make major changes to your financial plans during the month end due to the influence of eclipses.



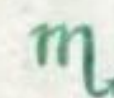


LIBRA (SEP 23-OCT 22)

In this month, the Librans have to decide the way and act suitably. There is no need to depend on others and you can assert yourself. You will get the support of the whole world once you make your intentions clear. The monetary situation for the people of the Scales sign is excellent with more than forty per cent of the planets (in your house of Money this month). The Libran financial intelligence will be good in November 2016. You should plan to convert your ideas into reality this month. Money comes from sales and marketing activities. Social connections will assist you in their monetary projects. Money can be made through academic interests. Investment in government securities, precious metals and transport will be profitable for the Librans in November 2016. Finances can be boosted by overseas ventures or expanding your business activities through new plans and partnership.

SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 21)

Financial situation will be wonderful and you will spend money for social causes. Your spouse or partner will assist you in your financial efforts and will be liberal with you in gifting expensive items for friends and relatives. You have the support of your friends and social connections in making money. Money will be spent on fashionable clothes and ornaments which will make the Scorpio born more alluring. In terms of love life, you are able to attract the opposite sex with your charisma, and love is after you in November 2016. Your passion is at its annual peak and your vitality will improve. Beginning of 2016 November is a good time to go to dates and plan to have a baby if you are married. Marriage compatibility with your spouse may be strained towards the end of the month.

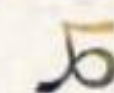


SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22-DEC 21)

Knowledge of self will occupy your attention. Intuitive abilities that are within you will be extraordinary and you will be able to visualize your future distinctly. Humanitarian causes will be another source of activity for the Sagittarians in addition to attending religious seminars. Financial position will be excellent for the guys born in November. Moreover, Planet Saturn will slow down the pace of your progress. Large investments and purchases require more scrutiny. You should take this opportunity to review your financial strategies and goals in November 2016 and try to add value to your savings. Major deals will need time to take off. The money situation changes radically towards the end of November 2016 and earnings will soar for the Sagittarius personality. Financial intelligence will be good and risky investments will turn out to be profitable. It will be prudent to cut down your expenses in proportion to your income.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19)

Most of the planets are situated in the Eastern half of the birthchart for this person November. This will make you more confident and independent. You can dictate the course of your life and you can accomplish your objectives with more aggression. Social flexibility and adaptability is not needed. The Capricorn birthday people will be deeply involved with spiritual organizations and their activities. There will be great enjoyment in participating in religious gatherings or reading spiritual books. You will make efforts to expand your awareness of self and try to understand the deeper meaning of life. This will lead you to doing humanitarian activities. Your financial instinct will become more powerful and will result in greater earnings.



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INFERNO

GENRE: Mystery- Thriller

DIRECTION: Ron Howard

CAST: Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Irrfan Khan, Sidse Babbett Knudsen, Ben Foster, Omar Sy.

The movie is the sequel to *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels & Demons*, and stars Tom Hanks, reprising his role as Robert Langdon. Story starts with Harvard University professor Robert Langdon lying in a hospital in Italy, with no memory of what has transpired over the last few days. Dr Sienna Brooks, one of the doctors attending to him, tells that he is suffering from amnesia as a result of a bullet wound to his head. But a sudden bid on his life is made by a female assassin and Sienna helps Langdon to escape, and they flee to her apartment.

Among Langdon's personal belongings, they find a device, with a modified version of Sandro Botticelli's *Map of Hell*. But they soon realize this is the first clue in a trail left by Bertrand Zobrist, a billionaire geneticist who is planning to reduce the world's growing

population, who committed suicide after being chased by armed agents. They also figure out that Zobrist, who is obsessed with Dante, has created a virus he has dubbed 'Inferno', with the potential of decimating the world's population. Once again they escape from their apartment, when a group of assassins attack their home. Langdon's knowledge of Dante's work, history, and hidden passages in Florence allows the two to follow clues such as letters and phrases which lead to various locations in Florence and Venice, while evading the assassin and the authorities. Along the way, Langdon discovers that he stole and hid the Dante Death Mask, a crucial clue, an event he also has no memory of.

In the meantime, it is revealed that the assassin is working for a mysterious company which headed by Harry Sims, acting on behalf of Zobrist, who has provided Sims with a video message about the virus, to be broadcast after the virus has been released. The armed authorities turn out to be the World Health Organization (WHO), headed by Elizabeth Sinskey, trying to prevent the release of the virus. Shocked by the video, Sims joins hand

with Sinskey. However, Langdon and Sienna are contacted by Bouchard, a man purporting to be working for the WHO, warning them that Sinskey has a double agenda and is after the Inferno virus for her own profit. The three cooperate for a while, until Langdon realizes that Bouchard's story is a lie and that it is Bouchard who seeks to profit from Inferno. Again, Sienna and Langdon flee. Langdon figures out that the virus is in the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. With that knowledge, Sienna abandons Langdon, after revealing that she was Zobrist's lover and that she will ensure the release of the virus. Zobrist and Sienna used to play treasure hunt games; this trail was the backup plan in case something happened to Zobrist. Langdon is recaptured by Bouchard, but is rescued by Sims and re-teams with Sinskey. It is revealed that Sinskey is Langdon's former romantic interest, and that she asked Langdon for help in interpreting the imagery from the device when he was kidnapped by Sims' men and drugged a medicine to induce a memory loss; the events in the hospital were all staged. With such mega twists, climax reveals whether Langdon finally succeeds in saving the world or not. ♦



ஆண் - பெண் நட்பு தவறானதா ?

வெளிநாடுகளில் ஏன் பிற மாநிலங்களில் இருக்கும் சூழ்நிலை வேறு. தமிழகத்தில் இருக்கும் சூழ்நிலை வேறு. ஓர் ஆணும் பெண்ணும் பேசினாலேயே அதற்குப் புது

அர்த்தம் கற்பிக்கிறவர்கள் இங்கு அதிகம்.

தமிழ் பண்பாடு ஆணையும், பெண்ணையும் ரொம்பவே விலகி இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று மறைமுகமாக வற்புறுத்துகிறது.

நடுத்தர வயதை கடந்துவிட்ட ஓர் அம்மாள் பக்கத்தில் இளைஞன் ஒருவன் உட்கார முடியாது. பஸ்ஸில் கலாட்டாவாகி விடும்.

சிற்றூர்களில் - கிராமங்களில்



இந்த கொடுமைகள் மிக அதிகம் ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்தாலும், சிரித்தாலும் போதும் கயிறு திரித்துக் கதை கட்டிவிடுவார்கள்.

ஆக ஒரு ஆணும், பெண்ணும் எந்தவிதமான மனவிகற்பமும் இல்லாமல் பழகினால் கூட சுற்றுப்புறச் சூழ்நிலைக்கு மதிப்புத் தந்து விழிப்பாக இருக்க வேண்டும்.

எந்த சூழ்நிலையில் பழக நேர்கிறதோ அந்தச் சூழ்நிலையோடு நட்பை வைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். கல்லூரியில் கூடப்படிக்கும் பையனா – பேச்சுவார்த்தைகளைக் கல்லூரியோடு வைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். அலுவலகத்தில் அடுத்த சீட் பெண்ணா? அலுவலகத்தோடு நட்பை முடித்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். வழியில் தெருவில் பார்க்க நேர்ந்தால் மிக லேசான புன்னகை போதும் அந்த எச்சரிக்கைப் புன்னகைக்குப் பின்னர் விளக்கம் கொடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாம்.

கல்லூரி – அலுவலகம் என்றால் கூட எல்லைமீறி

பேசி சிரித்துப் பழகக் கூடாது. சுற்றியிருப்பவர்கள் சும்மாயிருக்க மாட்டார்கள். தெரிந்தவர்களை விடுங்கள் : மூன்றாம் மனிதர் பார்த்தால் கூட மனத்தால் இருவரையும் முடிச்சுப் போட்டுப் பார்ப்பார். இதற்கு இடம் கொடுப்பானேன்.

உடலால், உள்ளத்தால் கண்ணியமான இடைவெளி காப்பாற்றப்பட வேண்டும். நட்பு என்ற புனித சொல்லுடன், 'கள்ள' என்ற விஷச்சொல் இணைய இடந்தரக்கூடாது.

முடிந்தவரை சிஸ்டர் என்றும் பிரதர் என்றும் பிறர் காதுபட ஒருவரை ஒருவர் அழைக்கலாம். நல்லது: உண்மைகளைக் கூடச் சிலசமயம் தம்பட்டம் போடச் சொல்லி உலகம் எதிர்பார்க்கிறது என்ன செய்வது?

தோழரின் அல்லது தோழியின் குடும்பத்துடன் பழக நேர்ந்தால் அவர்களது குடும்ப உறுப்பினர்களுக்கே அதிக முக்கியத்துவம் தரவேண்டும். அதாவது உடன் பயின்ற தோழிக்குத் திருமணம் ஆகிவிட்டது என்று வைத்துக் கொண்டால் அவர் கணவருடன் தான் அதிகமாக பழக

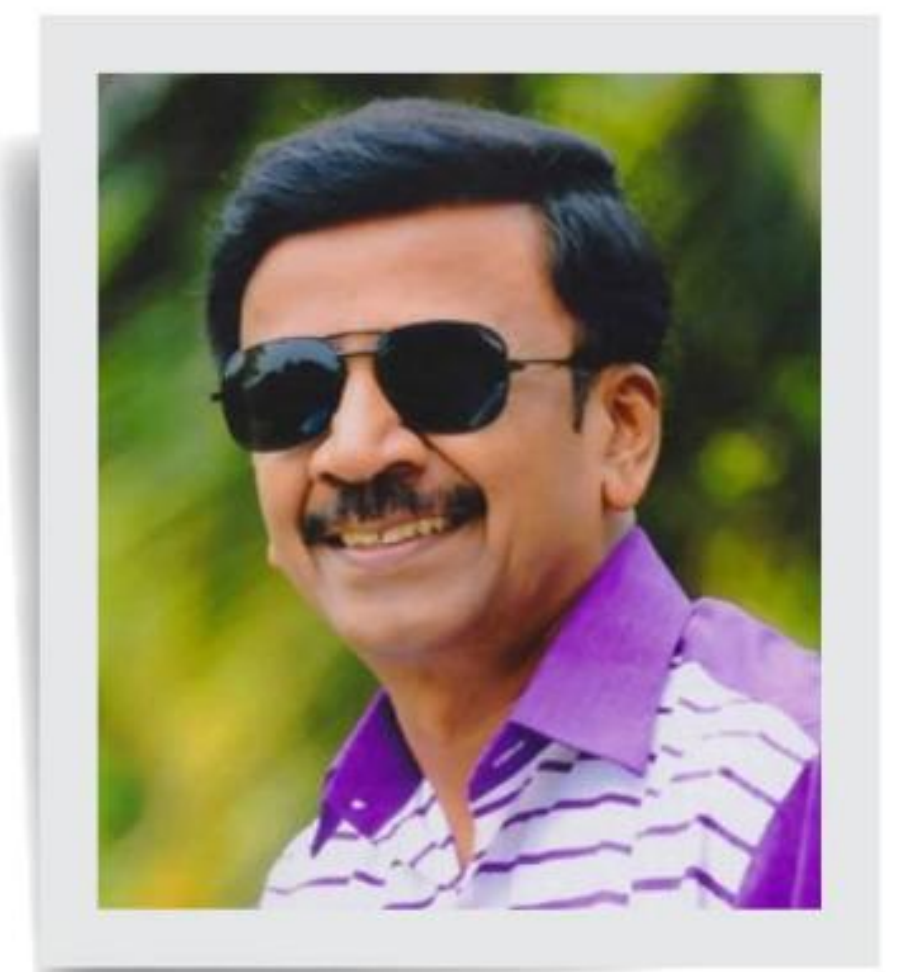
வேண்டும். தன் தோழியுடனான நட்பு நிலைத்திருக்க வேண்டுமானால் இதுவே வழி. தலைகீழாக நடந்து கொண்டால் தோழியின் கணவனே தூய நட்புக்கும் எதிரியாகி விடுவான்.

பிறர் முன்னிலையிலும், தனிமையிலும் சரி, பேசும் போது வார்த்தைகளைத் தராசில் இட்டுப் பிறகே பேச வேண்டும். தவறான கற்பனைகளுக்கு இடந்தரக்கூடாது.

எங்களுடைய நட்பு தூய நட்பு யார் என்ன பேசினாலும் எங்களுக்குக் கவலை இல்லை: எங்கள் மனசாட்சிக்கு உண்மைத் தெரியும்:

யாரைக் கண்டும் நாங்கள் அஞ்ச வேண்டியதில்லை என்று வறட்டுத்தனமாக பேசிக் கொண்டிராமல் சூழ்நிலைக்கு அதிக முக்கியத்துவம் தந்து பழக வேண்டும்.

இல்லாவிட்டால் - அப்பெண்ணைப் பிறர் அநாவசியமாக விமர்சனம் செய்யும் மோசமான சூழ்நிலை உருவாகும்.



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