



Univ Voice



Monday | 4 APRIL 2022

Media Lab Journal of the Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Kerala

Vol 44 Issue 02

CRUSHING PUNCH OF HYPERMARKETS

Col. Anil Y

KMS Traders owned by Mr. Mohd Shafiq, was one of the leading wholesale and retail vegetable and fruit shop at World Market who got hit on the face with the emergence of supermarkets. The business used to flourish until few years back.

The business was heavily affected by the onslaught of the pandemic and Mr. Shafiq was hoping to see some upturn with the opening up of markets but that hope has also gone with Lulu Hypermarket coming up in the neighbourhood. Bimal Borah, a guest worker from Guwahati, Assam working in KMS Traders says that there was a time when twenty workers used to work along



A street vendor from Connemara Market

with him to assist Mr Mohd. Shafiq in his business. But now only two of them are left. Mr Mohd Shafiq is running the business incurring heavy loss and doesn't know how long the business will last.

Fruits and vegetables are highly perishable in nature, making their sale

and distribution a challenging task. Local markets play a vital role in sourcing, selling and distributing these goods. Some of the well-known vegetable market in Thiruvananthapuram includes World Vegetable Market in Kochuveli, Connemara and Chalai Market. As Kerala is a consumer

state, these markets are important to its economy. However, most of the vegetable markets are considered unsafe because of poor hygiene and sanitation practices.

With the mushrooming of famous malls and super markets, traditional retail and wholesale shops are facing tough com-

petition. The condition of other unorganised sellers is rather precarious. Jamaluddin, another vegetable and fruit shop owner reiterate that State government should take a more active role in protecting the interests of the traditional vegetable and fruit vendors. The business has some chance of withstanding the competition from big business conglomerates if the state government helps traders in implementing the availability, distribution and hygiene of fresh products. This will increase potential economic growth by upgrading the unorganised fruit and vegetable sector and reducing the wastage of fresh fruits and vegetables. This will also allow local vendors to

be recognized and increase their sales.

To improve the existing market conditions for fresh fruit and vegetables and to ensure, consumers get fresh produce, State government must strictly implement FS-SAI's guidelines with regards to food safety and hygiene. Training, certification and capacity building of the vendors will also be an integral part of this initiative. Credibility may be provided by recognising such market/area as "Clean Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market" through Certificate of Excellence. It is in the long-term interest of the society at large to support traditional shops and vendors and prevent them falling under the heavy weights of big businesses.

Making wonder with a futile pollutant

Athira M J

Karyavattom: Rising air pollution due to vehicle density on our roads has been a disturbing concern for us. Ms. M S Swapna, a researcher at the Dept. of Opto Electronics, University of Kerala, found a solution to this through her research work. She has developed invisible material and paint from futile soot emitted from diesel vehicles. The materials developed showed light emitting properties suitable for making blue and white LEDs.

The International



Ms. M S Swapna

Journal Fluorescence and journal of materials research Express published her work done under the guidance of Prof. S Shankaraman, Head, Dept. of Nanotechnology, UoK.

The research scholar at the department of optoelectronics took up the chal-

lenge for the effective utilization of futile diesel soot emitted from vehicles. The carbon nanoparticles have been an interesting subject for the scientific community because of its excellent properties. Experts say her findings would be a great blessing for farmers.

The agricultural applications were published in the journal of Bio Nano science and the European physical journal Plus. The constructive use of soot in 'Remote Sensing' was published in the journal of Royal Society of chemistry photochemical and photobi-

ological science.

The ink developed from Soot has greater stability and the paintings do not fade away. Currently, she is engaged in making invisible ink for security applications, the first stage of which was completed and sent to several journals for publication. Many say her research work has the potential of opening up new avenues for income generation for the transport corporation.

A large amount of soot from KSRTC buses and other heavy as well as light motor vehicles pump out could be utilized.



Byju's: Kannur to Qatar

Ananthakrishnan V

Byju Raveendran, an entrepreneur from Kannur has conquered the limits to become the owner of the first Indian firm to officially sponsor the FIFA World Cup, Qatar 2022. His educational start-up Byju's, started in 2011, had already won the sponsorship of Indian Cricket Team as well as Kerala Blasters in ISL. Earlier

Facebook's investment of 1 Billion Dollars in Byju's had a huge impact in its growth. Within this short span of time Byju has expanded his network and more than 5 million children from various economic background gets access to his learning platform. With his new move he might be expanding it to a global level with participation of more international students.

Stinking reality of treasure hunted Toilets!

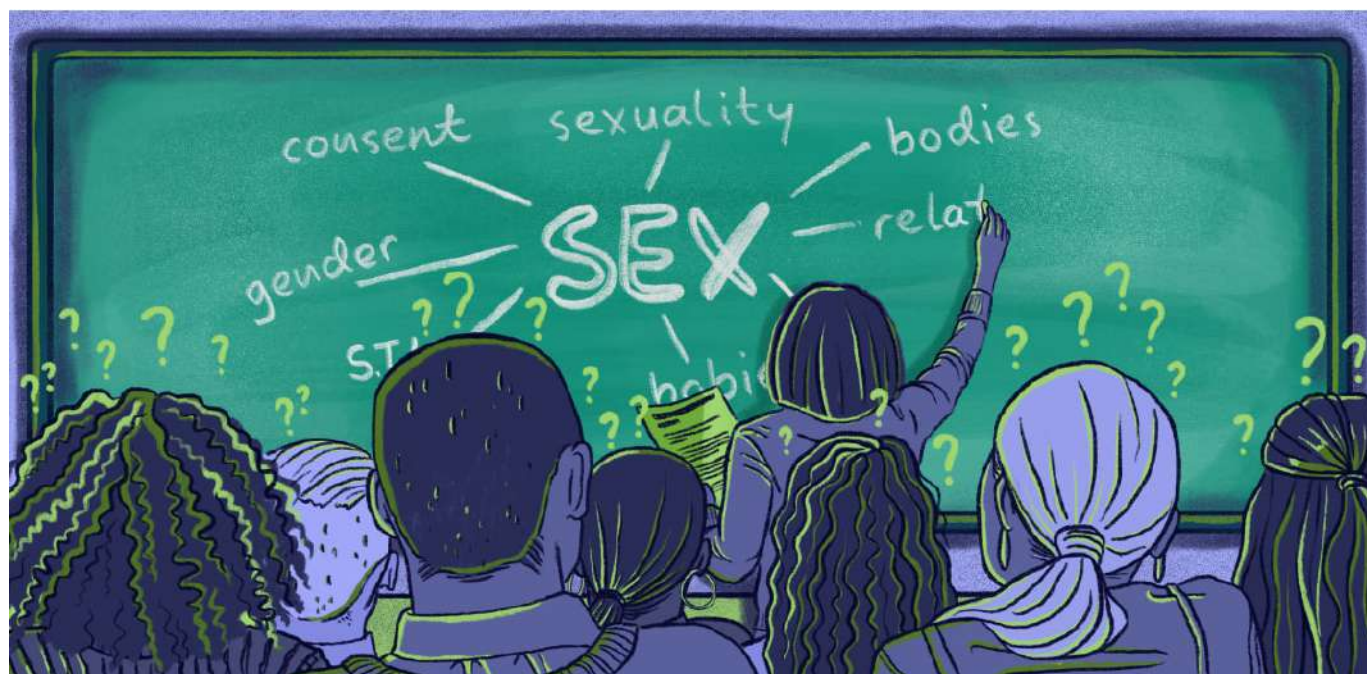
The city is witnessing big strides on the development front. But the stinking reality is that Thiruvananthapuram lacks adequate number of well-maintained public toilets.

Locating a public comfort station can be a herculean task in the city. Chances are that you will run around the streets in search of one, sometimes even going past it without noticing. If lack of sufficient numbers is the first problem as far as public toilets are concerned, tracing the existing ones can be even more tiresome. At several places, even the local people and shopkeepers are unaware of the exact location of the toilets. The reason is that many of these are hidden from 'public' view. Most of the public toilets are dingy rooms with no display boards. But the unbearable stench tells you it is somewhere close by.

The struggle does not end with locating the toilet. In fact, it has just begun, since finding one where the doors can be fastened is tough. The concept of fastening the door seems to be absent here, with most toilet doors having no latch. In some places, they have a 'rope and nail arrangement' to shut the door from inside. Some have only the rope, and you are expected to hold the door tightly shut through the duration of your stay which seems to be very problematic specially when women having their menstrual cycle or are with kids.

The worst affected are the tourists, auto and taxi drivers, migrant workers, marketing agents and city dwellers who travel regularly. Many major areas of the city like Sasthamangalam, Vattiyoorkavu and Pattom are missing from the public toilet map. Public toilets are few in number even on M.G. Road.

If the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation's toilet map is tough to negotiate through, spending a little cash to buy a cup of tea and depending on toilets in hotels may be the way out. The users also complained that in some toilets like the one at General Hospital, the staff levied more charges than the prescribed user fee. The health wing has been directed to strictly monitor the user fee collected at public toilets.



Sex education in schools, still a taboo!

Ismail M

Sex is an omnipresent term which have different meaning in different perspectives. It can be gender or an interpersonal activity that involves both the physical and emotional interaction between two people or it can also be considered as a desirability.

Sexuality is something everyone has to navigate in their lives. It is fundamental to our existence as a species. Sex education can be fairly contemplated as a field of study which helps in increasing one's knowledge of sexual wellness fosters a positive and respectful attitude toward sexuality and sexual interactions.

When we take the case of young ones, at a very young age, children begin to explore their bodies by touching, poking and rubbing their body parts, including their genitals. As children grow older, they will need guidance in learning about these body parts and their functions. A proper sex education must be done effectively to them for understanding what and why their body parts is made for.

The most common misconception is that sex education will increase the risk of sexual activities amongst teenagers and our uncomfortableness to share the required knowledge with these students. First of all, teenagers are eagerly waiting to understand the changes that happen in their body and for that they turn to the internet where sometimes they

things in schools. They have to change this attitude, as it is a crucial education like primary education which can teach the children about the social evil activities at a young age.

We hear lots of POCSO cases today and children are becoming victims of sexual exploitations. It can be due to the lack of awareness or fear. By teaching good touch and bad touch children can be easily educated and prepared to fight against these

atrocious activities and also, we can bring out the culprits and punish them effectively.

There are real life examples to prove it. In Trivandrum, a 54-year-old man was jailed and sentenced to five-year imprisonment under POCSO Act after 9-year-old boy testifies about bad touch. During the trial, the boy reportedly told the court that he was able to differentiate between good touch and bad touch because he had

learnt it in school. This is how the education helps an individual in his or her life, and education simply doesn't mean academics, facts and figures from the text it can be beyond that.

Tissy Mariam Thomas (Psychologist) says "parents must use appropriate language for teaching children proper names for all body parts, including names such as genitals, penis, vagina, breasts, buttocks, and private parts. Making up names for body parts may give the idea that there is something bad about the proper name. By that child will understand why a special name is kept for a particular body part.

Also, it teaches your child which parts are private". Sex education should be compulsory in every school. Comprehensive sex education is important for young people to prepare themselves for any bodily changes and maintain their healthy and hygienic wellbeing. Sex education doesn't promote to have sex, which should be realized by the parents. The learning should be done in the grass root level which builds a foundation to the young minds to become responsible citizens.

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MINNAL STRIKES; A HERO ARISE!

Ananthakrishnan V

Being released on Netflix on a night before the Christmas in 2021, Minnal Murali has become the very first superhero movie in Malayalam and is accepted widely.

It is debatable what can qualify as a superhero movie, but Minnal Murali certainly has the typical hallmarks you can expect from the genre. The solid script of the movie was written by Anil Anirudhan and Justin Mathew and is directed by Basil Joseph. The movie was produced on a really small budget which is apparently negligible when compared to the Hollywood superhero movies. So, obviously it is not at all fair to

compare the computer graphics and action sequences to that of a Hollywood superhero movie, even though it has given more than enough for what audience expected from Bollywood.

Shibu. Both of them got stricken by a lightning at the same time and the result is the rise of two superpowers which has now become the supernova of Mollywood. It is an original superhero/ supervillain movie which is very much Indian at its roots. The script was so

Varghese (Pothan), and Femina George (Bruce Lee Biji). Those two roles played by Tovino Thomas and Guru Somasundaram were complete in all sense.

The movie was set to be released in the theatres in the late 2020, but was postponed multiple times due to the pandemic. The mak-

was released worldwide through Netflix and was available in six languages; Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. Later it was dubbed on to 8 languages including Spanish and Portuguese and subtitled in 38 languages other than English. This shows the global

worldwide in the first two days which is second in place non-English movie after the French movie 'Vicky and her Mystery'. It also became one of the 10 most watched movies in 11 countries.

Netflix brought cricketer Yuvraj Singh and legendary Indian Wrestler the Great Khali for the promotion. Yuvraj Singh was brought in to test the speed of the superhero and Khali to test how strong he was. A build-up was given in the promotion video about the super villain who was about to be a surprise in the movie. In Kerala, a KSRTC double floor bus which was made over to Minnal Murali promotion was trending at the time of the release.



The story was all set in a small village. As the story happens in the 90's the village is introduced as an underdeveloped one. The story revolves around two of the natives of Kurukanmoola, Jaison and

strong that the building of characters was in a systematic manner and each character was plotted with every available detail possible. Especially that of the roles played by Harisree Asokan (Dasan), Shelly Kishore (Usha), Aju

ers of the movie announced that the film will be released directly through Netflix which was in fact a shock to the Malayalam movie lovers as everyone was expecting a theatrical experience of the first superhero movie in the industry. The film

acceptance of a small movie from a very small industry. What we see then has now become a part of the history. The OTT rights were sold to Netflix at the highest price for a Malayalam movie. Earlier, it was Drishyam 2. The movie was viewed for 59.9 lacs hours

COMEDY REALITY SHOWS: LAUGHABLE OR DEPLORABLE ?

Ranjit Mathew

They say, that "Laughter is the best medicine". Now, researches are showing that laughter and humour can have a positive effect on health and longevity.

But if you make a serious effort to go to the background of many medicines, you may at your wisdom find out the chemical composition of these which may have serious side effects. These medicaments are supposed to heal you but few may have serious side effects which might hamper your health in the future. Aberrations, quite natural must be there!! But the thing which is alarming, is, the advent of Charlatans who sell nostrums which are wrapped under the glossy coatings of exquisite cure.

Few mimicry artists wear the make-up of a woman be it of any stature right from an air-



Stills from a popular comedy show.

hostess to a street beggar. The women characters portrayed by them are found to be commented upon with worst, vulgar and cheap double meaning comedy dialogues aiming the modesty of women. Few characters stand out with their appearance crafted by due make-up which ensures

that the hair is messy, face all pasted with black shade resonating glaring and egregious reflection of racism. The false premises of fairness of complexion is quite evidently highlighted through such verbal remarks. All these displays of vulgarity are generated to ignite laughter in

the audience. They are thrust upon with the cliché that black is to be laughed at – set aside-neglected -to be poked at!! Such deliberate attempts are instances which propagate that the relics of apartheid and racism which were obliterated decades ago are still present as seeds in

the minds of a minority among the majority.

The disturbing fact while we discuss this new trend in media space is its ever-rising popularity and wide acceptance. Fan clubs for the actors and anchors appearing in these comedy shows are mushrooming day by day causing a congestive

traffic in the social media spaces. The channels are enjoying the lacuna of the absence of a censoring body like CBFC in television media. Most of the guidelines under Standards and Practices (S&P) include editing out extreme nudity and gore, beeping out cuss words etc.

However, there is a central body that addresses viewer's complaints regarding "inappropriate content" known as BCCC. It gives viewers a chance to complain if they find any content offensive. Viewers with social consciousness may take it with BCCC prompting them to take stock of things.

Else, these Charlatans will have their last laugh by promoting and selling their nostrums with serious side-effects which can make a long cut in the well-knit social fabric of our civilization.

Colors of Kathakali



Devika P

Kathakali transformed its divine nature into an absolute theatre status by 18th century. The unique depiction of the Bhavas (Emotional states), physical moments, the interfilming dance-elements and colorful costumes are nothing but treat to the eyes.

There are 3 main groups according to their inner qualities- Satva, rajasa and ramasa. The satva characters include the virtuous, pious, noble and good. Rajasa are heroic and amorous but aggressive characters. Tamasa characters are rude, rough and ignorant.

These groups are further divided into 6 groups. Vesham (appearance) depicts an important role in Kathakali, whereas no other classical dance forms portray a character through such a complex manner, and that is the beauty of Kathakali. Vesham portrays archetypal character and takes several hours to get into the attire.

Pacha, the noble and pious heroes; kathi arrogant heroes; thadi crude and aggressive characters; kari the demonesses; minukku, virtuous female characters rishis and ordinary folk; teppu special roles that include divine animals, birds, weapons and one of a kind characters.

Pacha characters:

Pacha are virtuous and noble satvik characters. Pacha is divided into 3 sub-groups:

Mutti, kireetam and pazhauppu

First, the Tandappatupu (ankle ornaments), then the kacchamani (calf bells) are put on. Next the layered underskirt is wound on the body

of the actor. The same underskirt is worn by all pacha, kathi and thadi characters and a few minukku characters as well.

The conical headgear is called mutti. Thus those characters wearing this kind of headgear are also called mutti veccha vesham. The mutti is decorated with silver, and on top a row of peacock feathers does the final touch. The long black artificial hair made of dyed hemp, called chamaram is attached to the headgear.

Before leaving the green room, the actor applies mica powder to the lips, eye line and eyebrows to add sheen to these areas of the face. Finally, long, artificial silver nails, nakham, are worn on the fingers of the left hand by all male characters. The artist receives permission from the chutti artist, orchestras and blessings from the guru and elders.

Kathi Characters

Kathi (knife) characters are also royal, heroic, romantic and very aggressive. They are rajasa characters. The kathi is further divided into two groups: Kurum kathi ('short knife') and netum kathi ('long knife').

In addition to the three uthareeyam, a fourth is worn. This is attached to the upper arm ornament, the parutikamani. Now days, this additional uthareeyam has been incorporated into the aharya of pacha characters as well. Kathi characters wear artificial fangs, called damshtam, which pop in and out of their mouths whenever required to inspire fear. Ravana, Duryodhana, Narakasura and Keechaka are examples of kurum kathi characters.

Thadi characters

There are three types

of thadis; chuvanna thaadi (red beard) vella thadi (white beard) and karutta thadi (black beard)

Chuvanna thadi are crude and thoughtless characters, essentially tamasa. Their make-up gives a wild violent and at the same time, a mean, stupid look to the face. The full face is painted red, with black patches around the eyes and eyebrows. Vella thadi

Vella thadi has a special make-up. The face is painted red with black patches on the forehead, around the eyes, on the cheeks and on the lips. There are white chutti patches arranged in a whorl pattern. Flower-shaped decorations are dotted on the forehead and chin. The nose is painted green with a white border. This make-up has a monkey like appearance,

Karutta thadi is painted charcoal black with red patches on the cheeks and forehead that are outlined by the chutti. Affixed to the tip of the nose is a white paper flower. The widened, red lips are outlined by a yellow or green border, depending on the characters portrayed. The trimmed, artificial black beard is attached to the lower part of the face and extends to the ears. The beard widens the size of the face, bringing it into proportion with the rest of the costumes.

Kari Characters

Kari ('black') is the next category of Kathakali characters. All the demonesses are of this group. The face is painted black, with red patches on the cheeks, on the tip of the nose, chin and in the center of the eyebrows. The eyebrows and corners of the eye are painted yellow, and on the forehead there are red and yellow lines. These patches and lines are divided with a

decoration of chutti rice paste dots.

Minukku characters

Minukku ('polished') characters are more realistic in nature. They are not supernatural heroes and Gods of the other categories nor are they grotesque and dangerous. All female characters, except the demonesses, as well as rishis, saints, Brahmins and common folk, such as messengers, charioteers, wrestlers, servants, carpenters, washermen and fishermen, belong to this category. The entire male characters wear costumes that typify their calling or function. Noble women, on the other hand, all wear identical costumes.

Teppu characters

Teppu ('painted') is a special category of characters. Such characters are painted in different colors with an assortment of specific markings. Among this group are birds, snakes, animals and one-of-a-kind characters. For example, Jatayu, the heroic bird of Ramayana, is costumed in a peacock color and wears an artificial beak and wings. Jatayu's ornaments are the same as for pacha characters. Garuda, Lord Vishnu's eagle mount has a similar costume but which is light pink in color. Hamsam, the swan in nala charitam, wears a golden-yellow costume.

Kathakali is 300 year old classical art form of Kerala, it is a blend of dance, music and acting, with its unique attire and make-up it takes years of dedication, discipline and hard work for an artist to attain its sublimity. Kathakali is day by day is being forgotten by our own people, it is our responsibility to value and respect this classic art forms and do not let it die.





Munroe Island: The hidden treasure

Malavika M Devi

Munroe island is a 13.4 sq km island nestled at the confluence of the Ashtamudi Lake and Kallada River.

This island is a cluster of eight small islets making the captivating maze of canals with lush greenery. Munroe Island is named after a British resident Col. John Munroe who also served as the Deewan of the kingdom of Travancore. He was responsible for many land reforms in Kerala. He received a request for land by a senior priest to set up a seminary and place to settle the Christians, which he fulfilled. Hence, they named the place in his honor.

There were four of us and we started the journey at 2 and reached the island by 3.30 in the afternoon. We got out of the car to walk and explore the beauty of the island. A narrow road, with small houses on the right and the backwaters with a few fishermen fishing. The calmness and the beauty of that moment still give me chills.

Generally, around such backwaters in Alleppey one finds people, a lot of people due to the developed tourism. But this place was distinct from any I had ever visited, none around except a few people cycling to work or elders in small houses playing with babies or reading the newspaper drinking tea.

There is not a lot you can do in Munroe Island, apart from being a part of nature and enjoy the rawness of rural Kerala. Most of the local people seemed content and happy with whatever they have and always had a smile on their faces. It felt that I could walk along the backwaters and sit under the shade of the trees forever. I was spellbound by the mesmeric beauty of Munroe.

Canoeing through the mysterious canals revealing the life and beauty of the island was a fascinating experience. Most of the locals own a canoe and love to take tourists on a 2-3 hour cruise. We met Arun chettan in between our stroll and he took us for the canoe ride. Those were the best couple of hours we had spent in Munroe. While cruising through you will

notice water bodies covered with blue nets which are fish farms and prawn farms and are covered by nets to protect them from birds feeding on them. We took a lot of photos, videos and did all kinds of crazy things to make the trip memorable.

The canoe makes its way from the residential area into the large mangroves and finally entering the vast Ashtamudi lake. The view of the Sun going down behind the coconut trees accompanied by the chirping of birds was totally a mind blowing experience.

I was not fortunate enough to visit this marvellous place in my own hometown till then. I was happy that I got the opportunity to visit this blessed land with my friends.

We went back to Munroe hardly after one year. Everything was the same...the cool breeze, calmness, innocent, smiling faces all around. Someone murmured in my mind,

'This is truly God's own country!'.

Tigresses of the woods

Ananthakrishnan V

Most of us would be scared to death once we hear this aloud or come across a snake except in a photo or video. What if your job is to rescue snakes out of human inhabited areas? And will you be wondered if you come to know that women are also doing this job as easy as men do? YES, inset photograph is of a Beat Forest Officer Roshni G S, who not only rescues snakes but also takes classes on snake rescuing to the new batch of officers.

Roshni is a member of the rapid response team

of the forest department which mainly focuses on saving wild animals and make their way back to forests.

A beat is the smallest unit of a forest division and officers in charge of the beats are the beat forest officers. Until 2010 there haven't been any female beat officers in the state. And the beat officers were all filled in with men. But from 2010 women were also recruited for this challenging as well as interesting job. This post was first of all called as a forest guard. Even if the name has changed to an officer the task is

still the same. In fact, these people must be the rarest officers without an office.

From 2010, the government started a special recruitment for the women near the forest areas. It was only for women belonging to a special caste was given the opportunity to work as a forest guard during the initial stages. But many women willingly came forward and took it as a challenge to do their duty at its best. Then in 2016, a major breakthrough was made when women had the equal opportunity to compete with the men and qualify

as a beat forest officer. And in 2018 the first batch of 59 female beat forest officers among a total of 139 were selected and completed their training to join various forest divisions all over the state. Alike the other forces, this force also has a training period which consist of 6 months of forest training at Walayar and Arippe, and 3 months of Police training. These women candidates also complete these training process and are ready to leave their family and children behind and proceed into the forests. They really deserve to be called as the tigresses.



BFO Roshni G S demonstrates snake rescuing.

Photo: Gokul J S

Pockets of Equality

Niha. U

During the mid-December last year, a school in Balussery, Kozhikode found its way into the news. Government Higher Secondary School for Girls had taken a revolutionary step in bringing the concept of gender-neutral uniform to the students. The school admits mixed students after 10th grade even though the name may suggest otherwise.

A similar move was made by the Valayanchirangara Government Lower Primary School in Ernakulam. The initial experimentation in 2018 only came to its fruition in 2021. This school was known to have brought handbooks that had images of a father preparing snacks instead of the stereotypical picture of the



A view from Govt.HSS,Balussery

mother making snacks for children and images of children with disabilities to give the message of inclusivity.

Many came in with appreciation for the moves made by these schools. This would cultivate equality among the children and allow them to engage in more movement and activity. The role of uniforms in our schools was to

challenge and glue the socio-economic gaps between students.

The intervention of the system in abortion laws to clothing attires are widely seen across the world. As a collective, we need to focus more on social minorities and other gender issues. Going inclusive demands this kind of care given to such communities from the side of

our government. Toilets for all genders is such a thing that we still lack in public places even in this day and age.

While speaking to DoolNews, a Malayalam online news portal, Aathi — a queer student from Kerala said, “The problem is that we try to understand and place the queer and sexual gender minorities issues in a progressive narrative. In my opinion, this is not an issue of progressiveness, rather it’s about humans”. The controversy following the NCERT Teacher Training Manual on the Inclusion of Transgender Children in School Education and the removal of the said manual from its website speaks volumes about the ignorance we give such issues.

TATTOOING IS NOT FASHION

Niha U



His real name is Gautham. It was the first of June when he started his journey in the hip-hop art scene and his friends gave him the name “Junone” — which later became “Junvon”. Little did he know back then that, he would become a tattoo artist today after 5 years. His studio doesn’t have a name. His publicity wholly depends on his work, his contacts and his social media handle.

“Most people think this (tattooing) is a fashion statement but this isn’t fashion, this is art. Just like playing musical instruments. This is divine and a god-level thing for me”, says Junvon. Custom calligraphy tattooing and calligraffiti are his specializations. He uses the “magnum drag”, which is a rare needle technique to create his tattoo strokes. On one day he does tattooing at the studio and on other days he goes to do graffiti art for his clients.

Starting as an apprentice during the time of Covid, he was quick to learn the basics of the craft. “I was a person who didn’t even know how to draw a straight line on the paper with a pencil”, recalls Junvon who launched his studio last year.

A stroke is drawn by a chisel or flat tip pen while holding it at 45 degrees. “In my style, the strokes are arranged to give meaning. It is usually something that represents my life or things I see every day”

Getting tattoos are more common today than ever before. As a result, a whole industry is emerging. “The artists here work with styles like traditional, neotraditional, realistic and biomechanical and so on. The real question is, how many of them really know their craft. I’m not trying to place them in a negative light but the point I want to make is that the artists here have great potential yet they settle for less. We need money to live but for us to up-level our craft we need to work on it”.

Hygiene is the most important part while getting a tattoo done. “You have to check it (hygiene) and make sure. Do your own research before going for a tattoo. In a city with traditional artistic roots, this 21-year-old with his surrealist visionary dreams continues to make art quietly.

FLOWERS OF REMEMBRANCE

Athira MJ

It has been one year since Anil Panachooran deceased, the beloved poet who gifted the most indispensable verses of the present times to Kerala long ago, on January 3rd, 2022. His fading memories are the invaluable signature to all sections of society. He was a native of Kayamkulam and lived through various cultural activities. A genius, who penned meaningful lines with his unique personality among the famous Malayalam poets from his youth.

His last lyrics were penned for the movie *Within Seconds* (2021). He completed the last lines of his song just a few hours before his death while undergoing treatment for Covid-19 during pandemic in India.

He died on 3rd January 2021, following a cardiac arrest. He wrote more than 200 songs in the Malayalam film industry. Anil Panachoo-



Anil Panachooran

ran received many awards like Asianet Film award for the best lyricist in 2008 for Arabikadha, Kadhaparayumbol.

He was born in Govindhamuttam, Varanpally near Kayamkulam. Udhayabhanu and Draupathy are the parents of Anil Panachooran. He spent his childhood in Mumbai. He completed his education in TKM College, Law Academy in Thiruvananthapuram and Kakatiya university Varankal. He completed post-graduation in Public Administration. He has also

worked as a lawyer and film lyricist. Valayil vee-na kililal, Anaadhan, Pranakalalam, Orumazhapythenkil, Kannerkalam, Akshayathriyude Athmageetham are the poetries of Anil Panachooran.

He has composed the lyrics in the Malayalam movies named Arabikadha, Kadhaparayumbol, Madambi, cycle, Nasrani, crazy Gopalan, loud speaker, passenger and Bhagavan.

“Thirike njan.....”, which is the heart touch-

ing song in the movie Arabikadha that written by Anil Panachooran and the lines bringing out the pain of expatriates living away from their family members, become a huge hit with the non-resident Keralites.

Even before he marked his arrival in films, he had attended popularity among the poetry aficionados in the state with poems such as ‘Anaadhan’ written in the 1990s. The poem about a mentally challenged woman who gives birth to a baby on the street, later become a song in the film Makalkku, which tackled a similar subject.

‘Vyathyasthanam oru barber...’ from the movie *Kadha parayumbol*, a humorous song that topped the hit charts for a long time. Over the next decade, he continued to write lyrics consistently for Malayalam films, touching on a variety of subjects through his songs.



Anecdotes of a veteran Art Director

Devika P

K Krishnankutty, native at Kottayam, is one of the most talented and artistic person of all time. He has worked for many Malayalam movies and his works are as magical as it seemed to be back then, he was in lime light during the 80s-90s era, which was known to be the Golden era of movies in Indian history. Univ voice reprrter Devika P speaks to K Krishnankutty.

Can you share your journey as an art director?

I started drawing at a younger age, used to draw on walls of the house, during my college days, I started working at Vasana Art Studio Kottayam. I joined fine arts college Trivandrum At that time I got an opportunity to work with the famous directors Bharathan and S Konnanattu by the recommendation of the Soman who happens to be the chief editor of Chithragama Studio. I realized that instead of studying for 4-5 years it would be better to directly work in the film industry. I took the train to Madras. Now, we all know Bharthan, but this is that time where he was a beginner which led me to an easy talk. As I just came to the city, I had to find a job to be stable for at least some finance and thus practically decided to move on and find a working person in the industry that could guide me.

I went to S Konnanattu, presented my works to which he was very impressed and allowed me to work with him. He was already committed to 11 films at that time, and for me it was a studying moment. The next day itself I went to his house, and he took me to Sathya studio. Allauddinum Albhutha Vilakkum was being shot at that moment at Sathya studios; It was my first experience to witness a shooting of a movie.

What are your memories with crew members?

The director and the art director are the ones who ultimately decides the background, it is they who demands what all is needed, from where to start, how to start. And the rest of the crew helps according to the demand of the directors, it is not a simple task to create a set, it needs a thorough

research to even start the work, if it's a historical story how they would turn the set into a historic era. So after the director says what he needs for the movie, it is the responsibility of the art director to create the set. Example, I love music, I enjoy music, but I can't frame a tune after reading a poem. That job is done beautifully by the music director; he can frame a poem to a song, likewise, it is the job of a director to understand what the right set is for a movie.

What is your view on star dominance?

Start dominance is everywhere, especially in Malayalam industry. We all think that it will fade away with time, because of new talents, but no, that is not what is happening now. The new talents also come with a group of people, and they decide what should be the script, who should act. Due to the OTT platforms, it is so much better, as OTT allows the new young talent to come up.

What is your opinion on movies of 80s and 90s showed over reality?

As I mentioned above, the need for exaggerating was liked by the people back then, unlike today, we prefer realism. But that doesn't mean the movies



K Krishnankutty with Mohanlal(file picture)

back in 80s-90s were bad, or the script were bad, they were highly appreciated movies and have collected lots in terms of money.

The reality is, back then our culture was like that, people liked that depiction, but as the time passed it changed, example the mind of an 80-year-old won't be the same as a 20-year-old, their perspective and believes are different, so as per the taste and the time the presentation changed.

Now we see a lot big budget movies; how did you handle the budget back then?

I have worked in so many big budget movies, many... if I start to name, the list won't finish. The budget back then was

not like these days, the releases were less, example Marakkar was world wide release so the budget was also very high, but at the same time the movies shot back then had some limitations, only 17 theaters used to release movies and that to had divisions, like A class, B class and C class.

First the movies were released in A class theater, movies of Mohanlal and Mammooty, and then the films (we used to have films rolls back then) were collected and then carried to various theaters taking flights and cars. It was a hustle. After the A class releases then it is released to B or C class theaters, and the people used to wait so much for watching the movie, in villages only

B and C class theaters were available.

Back then the movies of Sathyan Anthikad was just of 2-3 Lakhs. At the same time, nowadays the budget is not less than one crore (talking about big budget movies) and they know they will get double the amount as the release is not just in theaters but in OTT platforms as well.

Do you think that the standpoint on "Malayalam cinema has changed a lot"?

Firstly, cinema has to change; if the texture of cinema won't change there won't be any innovations. Example, like we discussed earlier, if suppose the 80s and 90s depiction of cinema is still being presented now. Would there be any person who would like it? No, so there should be change accordingly or else no one will be interested anymore.

What do you think about "thamburanism" in film industry?

It is all in the hands of the director, how he wants the movie to be, it is his perspective what the movie shall portray, if we see, A.K Lohithadas (Screenwriter) was one of those whose movies were all based on 'tharavad, naalu kett,

16 kettu, Thamburan, Grahathipathyam' and I have worked with him in lots of movies, and the movies were as brilliant as his story, and these movies were so successful that it used to remain In theaters for weeks, now when we look at the profit and the love from people for these movies, certainly other directors would want to make movies like these, not just for the money but also to remain in the industry, and I think that is the reason for a long time in Malayalam movies the 'thamburanism' was constant.

The movies which are released now has a changed, because of the new directors and new dreams, they do not follow what others have done instead try to portray their talent, movies like Kammatti paadam, Kumbalangi Nights, Angamaly Diaries are one of those, if these movies were released at that era were 'thamburanism' ruled, I'm sure no one would even want to watch the movie, these movies do not bring out the lead but the whole cast is portrayed as the lead, each character is as important as the other, there is no such heroism and hats off to those directors who directed such movies, it is a very gutsy move.

Do you wish to work with new directors?

Yes of course I do; I would love to work with new talents especially once who knows cinema, not the once who are just directing movies for fun. I am an experienced art director and have worked with most of the famous directors from the Malayalam movie industry. so my concepts of work would be different from that of others, say that is because of the work experience and knowledge; I would want whomever I work with be respectful and disciplined in his/her work.

Would you like to say anything for those who want to pursue art direction as profession?

I would like to suggest, any work you do, try to learn the basics first.. Art direction is not a simple task; one should have an artistic mind for it. So do not jump into a work without knowing the background and respect the work do not do it for the sake of doing.



The incarnation of triumph: Olympian P.R. Sreejesh

Ismail M

There was a time when India dominated hockey fields and were absolute powerhouses. They ruled for four decades starting late 1920 till the 1980.

While many names will be remembered for their contribution to reaching this stage no one has worked harder than the former Indian captain and Goalkeeper P R Sreejesh. For the Indian goalie this was a wait of 21 years as a hockey professional.

Sreejesh's journey of hard work and sacrifice began in early 2000 when he as a gawky youngster in his trademark netted vest and lungi, watched the senior Indian players go through their paces. As a junior India camper his

dreams were big. But he couldn't express them as language was a barrier for the Malayalam-speaking teenager. But over time Sreejesh broke free to emerge as the most dependable goalkeeper in recent years. Sreejesh is not just a talented goalkeeper. In time he graduated to being the chief motivator of the team shouting instructions and taking time for a quick pep talk to his

teammates on the field. In the build-up to the Olympics, Sreejesh's message to his teammates was, "Playing in the Olympics is important, but that is not your goal. Your goal is to win a medal and it is important for us to focus on it". Their teamwork and determination made the tremendous victory historic. "He has been a keeper of Indian hockey team's fortunes on innumerable occasions and his mere presence under the bar is a confidence booster, feels skipper" said Manpreet Singh.

The game at Tokyo is definitely considered as a rebirth, which also declared India's ecstatic goalkeeping in a wide range. PR Sreejesh after emerging as one of the stars of the men's hockey team's historic Olympic bronze medal here confident that the feat will help produce a new generation of capable players.

The team rewrote history as it claimed an Olympic medal after 41 years, defeating Germany 5-4 to win the bronze in a nick of time. It was in 1980,

the last medal was won.

Today, after winning this achievement it gives a booster energy to the youngsters at a wide range. The Indian hockey team was expanded to win a medal and one of the prime reasons for that is the flamboyant Kerala custodian's presence. Sreejesh keeps motivating the team.

He is the solid metal of confidence who provides the same to the team. In fact, his presence as the goalkeeper was the ultimate hope of winning and full-fledged confidence, commented Manpreet during his interaction at Tokyo bound squad. While COVID-19 did rob them off quality game time in the last one year save a tour of Argentina, Manpreet feels that the core squad being the same for years is an advantage going into their biggest event. In the last three-four years, they had the same team. As the strikers was so experienced. They have been doing well that's why they have been picked. In fact, the striker line also plays an important role in score goals. For Manpreet, it is his third Olympics and for many others it's the second tie at the quadrennial extravaganza that has enabled the team to gel so well. Manpreet said "It is my third Olympics. A great honour when you are representing your country at the Olympics. Also, I am really excited, as a captain."

We have an experienced side with the likes of

Harmanpreet Singh, Birendra Lakra, Rupinder pal, etc. We are all excited for the Olympics". The Covid-19 enforced break didn't dampen their spirits even though the Olympics was postponed last year.

As their performances in the last few years have been good. At the beginning of 2020 they were playing well, they beat good teams. Unfortunately, COVID-19 happened there was a lockdown and they were in Bengaluru. Their training was continued in Bengaluru and unfortunately the Olympics got cancelled. But it didn't weaken them and they utilized this time at their maximum level of hard work and outlined how to work on the game and keep improving.

There was no one who come close to making the Indian side after Sreejesh's debut in 2006. Sreejesh has stood like a wall in front of the goalpost for India for many years now.

He won the 'Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament' award at the 2013 Asia Cup. He was also a part of the Gold Medal-winning Indian hockey team at the Asian Games back in 2014. Moreover, he guided the Indian team to Silver Medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games as well. Sreejesh was named the "Goalkeeper of the Tournament" at the 2014 and 2018 Champions Trophy as well. Moreover, under his captaincy, team India won a silver medal at the Hockey Champions Trophy back in 2016 and 2021 Bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics. World Games Athlete of the Year 2021: Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper, PR Sreejesh was named World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 on January 31, 2022. He became the first Indian male athlete and second Indian sportsperson overall to

LAURELS

Men's field hockey
Representing India
Olympic Games
Bronze medal – third place
2020 Tokyo Team
Asian Games
Gold medal – first place
2014 Incheon Team
Bronze medal – third place
2018 Jakarta Team
Asia Cup
Silver medal – second place
2013 Ipoh
Champions Trophy
Silver medal – second place
2016 London
Silver medal – second place
2018 Breda
Asian Champions Trophy
Gold medal – first place
2011 Ordos City
Gold medal – first place
2016 Kuantan
Gold medal – first place
2018 Muscat

win the honour. The dearth of players from Kerala, Jayakumar said "it is due to the unpopularity of the game and lack of proper coaches in the State. It makes a lot of difference if there are good coaches at the grassroots level who can catch the players young and train them to go to the next level". The infrastructure for hockey needs to improve too according to him. Thanks to the National Games, Kerala got its first Astro-turf hockey field in 2009. We need more such places to conduct camps and establish training centres said Jayakumar. Sreejesh concurs with his childhood coach. It will take time. Hockey is not a big sport in Kerala. We need to introduce players to new techniques he said. Second thing we have to create more job opportunities through hockey. So, a player will have some sort of a financial security if he can't make it big in the game. That will bring in a lot of people into the game.