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## TECHNOLODGE A Door to Dreams Sruthy Satheesan

Kakoor a small village about 8 kms from piravom got into the news for being the first rural smart space project of Kerala called "Technolodge" since 2013. It is the first rural IT park of Kerala. The Technolodge concept is being over seen by the Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure, a state government- promoted company and PEEBO- Rural IT Infrastructure developers. Their mission is to encourage rural employment generation and rural entrepreneur development that is, to encourage ITs and BPO companies to operate from low cost rural centers and thereby to create employment in rural areas by providing 'Plug and Pay' facilities for young entrepreneurs who have the potential to invent, discover or rebuilt technology, thereby building a strong basement to our developing India even from a village. The 'Plug and Pay' model offers registration of companies with a computer under the technolodge.

On an area of 6,000 sq.ft, the Technolodge is functioning successfully with the support of the four partners - Beemol Sankar (CEO, Technolodge), Baiju N T (managing partner), Manjusha Baiju & Renjith P S (partners). Beenamol Sankar, CEO when asked about what one needs to start a business said " Three simple things. Know your product better than anyone, know your customer and have a burning desire to succeed "

Technolodge is the one and only ' incubation center ' which gets direct support from the government of Kerala. Now there are 32 registered companies at 12 platforms. Out of the total 20 cabins, 16 are engaged. They provide space under rent system including all the facilities like tables, chairs, 24 X 7 electricity and unlimited internet access.



For single seat rupees 2,100 and for a cabin rupees 12,000 is taken as rent from the entrepreneurs and companies. They also provide 24 X 7 customer services. In order to attract the new beginners they conduct workshop's in college's and every April " Technozium ", a job fair is conducted mainly for Youth. As a joint venture, ISFRC and Technolodge inaugurated "Secura Cyber Security Lab" on 27th October 2017. Secura Cyber Security Lab is started with an aim to provide information about cybersecurity to the young people. As an extension to the activities of Technolodge, they plan to start an Urban IT park named " Techno City " at Kakkanad. The state government will provide the support for it's Infrastructure. Techno City is expected to function from the middle of 2018. The support from state government as well as the local support gives much strength to the management for the well functioning of Technolodge. GooseBerry Media, OGES Infotech, Samyukti, Nextuz, etc. are some of the leading companies registered at Technolodge. Technolodge is yet another golden feather in the history of Kakoor which is otherwise famous for its scenic beauty and cultural heritage and practices.

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# An untouched alluring Beauty

Sreelakshmi

Muvattupuzha : The Facebook so popular these days has brought many unexplored spots, ideal for tourism to the lime light. Some tourist spots which were less opted by the domestic tourists have now become hot destinations with youngsters organising trips frequently. One such place, which has gone viral thanks to the social media is the Areekal waterfalls- located 35 km from Cochin at Pambakuda Panchayat in Piravom-Muvattupuzha route. The silver shimmering water cascading down from around 100 feet with forest and Rubber plantations in the background is a sight to behold.



The waterfall which attracts domestic tourists saw an increase in the number of visitors in 2014. The former Civil Supplies Minister Anoop Jacob launched the Areekal tourism development project. The ideal time to visit the spot is from July to September when the monsoon showers increase the volume of the waterfall.

" Due to the extended monsoon this year, the waterfall remains strong even after September. Now, during most of the weekends, the spot gets a good number of visitors, especially youngsters. Most of the people prefer to come here since Areekal is suitable for a one day trip", said Sadhanandhan, the watchman. An entry fee of rupees 10 was recently introduced. Barriers are constructed around the waterfall and the entry time is restricted, with visitors being allowed only from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Drinking alcohol and smoking are totally banned. They are also maintaining a good waste disposal system here. Visitors are asked to maintain hygiene and cleanliness by following the guidelines issued by the waste management authority.

Meanwhile, lack of public transportation facility proves to be one of the main issues faced by the visitors. Only 3 buses fly through this area. The visitors will not find any eateries or refreshment shops nearby. Their only resort is a small Bakery and a toddy shop located near the waterfalls. Lack of adequate shelters and waiting rooms is another problem. There is a toilet and a changing room nearby. More signage is needed to help visitors reach the place.

The Pampakuda Panchayat has initiated some projects for the development of Areekal waterfall. The plan includes construction of a small park near the falls, stone steps, food outlets, restroom and enhanced lighting. However, availability of land for the expansion plans is a big problem. The nearby places are owned by private parties. "We do not have adequate funds to acquire lands. So we plan to make use of the available land to construct the park," said Sushamma Madhavan, Pampakuda Panchayath president. We hope to get more support from the government and the DTPC, she said.

## Pollution hits severe level near bus station

Jithin R J

The KSRTC bus station and premises where hundreds frequent everyday, reels under official apathy to feckless waste management and drainage facilities of the place. The occupancy of the Koothathukulam market intensify the adversities. Unlicensed animal husbandry and public urination build and unhygienic environment. Proper management of the sanitation facility and waste disposal methods could trim the crisis. Since people from all over the state hitting the station authority should promise fair skinned action", said Akhil K. P, a commuter.





## Where The Mind is Without Fear

The right to speak one's mind freely is the fundamental human right. Free speech has always been important throughout history because it has been used to fight for change. A free society depends on the free exchange of ideas. Free speech is not only about one's ability to speak, but the ability to listen to others and allow others to be heard.

Educational institutions must be a platform for the exchange and discussion of all ideas—even of the best ideas as well as those deemed unpalatable by some. Students should rise to the level of a responsible citizen and spectator of men and manners.

'The Clarion' is a call to awaken the social sensibilities of the students and make their voices heard aloud. Let this initiative kindle the spirit of free thoughts and manifest itself in daring and righteous deeds.

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## A DAY TO CELEBRATE OUR INDIAN ARMY

To stand beside a soldier and walk through his endurance  
Arunima Das



Every year Indian Army celebrates January 15 as Army day to commemorate the day when General K M Cariappa took over the command of Armed Forces from General F R R Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief and became the first commander in chief of Indian Armed Force after Independence. Army Day marks a day to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect our country and people living in it.

Indian Army which is popularly known as Mini-India, has officers and Jawans hailing from all provinces, all ethnic cultures, speaking different languages but they live together, eat together and fight together to defend the sovereignty of the nation, thus setting an example of Unity in Diversity.

The Indian Army is organised into six field commands (Southern, Eastern, Western, Central, Northern and South Western Command) and the Army Training Command under each of these are two to three corps.

Over the years, the scope of Army's role in disaster management has enlarged gradually. It is invariably the first responder in disaster situations. The versatile capabilities of the Army to respond to any form of disaster situation can be best exemplified by the assistance provided during the recent earthquakes in India. Indian Army is an eminently efficient battle-trained war machine. Fear is a reaction, Courage is a decision. We stand beside our soldier and walk through their endurance.



# A Curb on Creative Expression

Prasanth P S

The controversies surrounding the film re-opened the question of film censorship in India and the country's stand on the freedom of expression. The controversial films of recent times are Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's 'S. Dhurga', Ravi Jadhav's Marathi film 'Nude' and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Padmavati'. 'Nude' and 'S. Dhurga' have been rejected by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from the list of the 26-feature films selected by the 13-members jury for the Indian Panorama at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa, 2017.

Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's 'S. Dhurga's title had earlier been changed from the original 'Sexy Dhurga' to avoid offending the Hindu religious sentiments. 'S. Dhurga' and 'Nude' are among the best of contemporary Indian cinema. Never attempting to titillate, they present a powerful and empathetic portrait of women in today's India - says the jury member Apura Asrani.

The list regarding the approved films received by the jury members from the I & B ministry on November 9th had no mention of 'S. Dhurga' and 'Nude' instead two stand bys were suggested by the jury: an Odia film 'Khyanikaa' and an Assamese film 'Xhoixobate Bhemalite'. They did not reveal any reason behind the removal of the films. The head of the panorama section's selection committee 'Sujoy Ghosh' and two others resigned, while several other jury members signed a letter of protest. The I&B Ministry spokesperson and the Festival Director of IFFI did not respond to message enquiring about the reason for the unexpected rejection of the films. Sanal Kumar Sasidharan moved to the Kerala High court, who ordered the festival to screen the films. The version to be screened as a censored one certified by the

central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in which the title was changed to 'S. Dhurga'. India's I&B ministry appealed against the court decision, but it was rejected. The Panorama selectors, with three new members viewed the film again on the penultimate day of festival and voted in favour of screening the film. On November 28, last day of IFFI, the CBFC issued a letter to the film's producer stating the title shown by the filmmakers are in violation of the Cinematograph Act and the film will be re-censored and until that it cannot be exhibited.



The IFFI concluded without screening the film. Sanal Kumar Sasidharan stated in his Facebook post that all the drama happening in IFFI seems to be a total mockery of democracy. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Padmavati' is based on the epic poem 'Padmavat' (1540) by the Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jaisi. Narrating the story of Padmavati, a legendary Rajput Queen. The film's release was scheduled for December 1, 2017 but delayed due to numerous controversies. It is not approved by the CBFC yet.

Karni Sena claims that the film depicts factual inaccuracies, portraying Padmavati in a bad light. The activists destroyed the sets of the film in Jaipur. They are raising the issues without even bothering to watch the film in full.

A sting operation by a news channel shows that the activists had planted the controversies to extort money from the filmmakers. Akhilesh Khandelwal, a (BJP) member, made a Facebook post offering reward for anyone who attacks the director with a shoe.

Senior BJP members like Raj K Purohit raised voice against the film while the central government keeps silence on the issue. Bharath Kshetriya Samaj made death threats against Bhansali and Padukone putting a five crore bounty on their heads and Haryana BJP's media chief Suraj Pal Amu put a ten crore bounty.

The British Board of Film Certification (BBFC) passed the film with a (12a) rating and zero cuts. Karni Sena leader appeared in the Republic TV and threatened to burn down British theatres that screened the films. The BBFC responded to the Rajasthan Association's query and stated that "freedom of choice must be respected" and that filmmakers are "free to explore narratives based on historical events" and to "interpret them as they wish."

Freedom of expression is fundamental in a democracy. But in these cases stated above I&B Ministry, CBFC and some caste organizations are fighting against the right of artists. The agitators do not give any value for the creativity and the right to interpret history in an artistic manner.

Now it has become a trend to make controversies about the titles and dialogues in the film without any solid proof. 'S. Dhurga' and 'Nude' are rejected without giving any reason by the I&B Ministry. In the case of 'Padmavati', Ministry keeps silence while the supporting organizations



# NO MORE THE 'OTHER': WE HAVE OUR SPACE

Cinu C John

Through the voices of the Transgenders

Some kind of phobia was always in the mind-set of the so-called 'normal'/heterosexual regarding the trans genders. They were often mistaken as sex workers, people who would cheat or who would disturb the so-called morality of the society. Our basic concepts about trans genders and conservative thinking always demanded to keep one arm distance from them. Shouldn't we change our perspective? Well that is what their success stories reveal.

Recently some transgenders have started their own business and are looking forward for a new life. Kudumbasree units too are formed for them. Some of them had to leave the jobs provided in Kochi Metro due to the unavailability of budget-friendly accommodation. Hotels and other accommodation centres are said to charge thrice the actual amount.

Tripti is one among the final fifteen of 'Queen of Dhwayah 2017', the first beauty pageant for transgender women in Kerala. She is now doing jewellery and ornamental items business for a better livelihood. She also wishes to start a shop of her own. She has taken the responsibility of a newly joined member in their community as a mother.

Amrita, Tripti and many other transgenders complain that they are not getting any support from the authorities in their business ventures.



Tripti Shetti

There are also quite a few well-educated people belonging to this community. This points to the need for a timely change in our education system which is normally averse to any kind of open discussion on sexual education.

Only proper awareness can bring about a change in the perspective. It is high time we stopped the limelight performance and supported them. The attitude of the authorities too should change.

The sufferings of the community will continue until we decide to change. While other states keep a divine concept about transgenders, our state is denying them the basic rights. They also deserve the support of the society in real life, as everyone else receives. So a change is timely and welcome as they are no longer 'the Other' but people with flesh and blood who have proved themselves to be triumphant.

## KIFBI grants 20.35 crores to T M Jacob Memorial Govt. College

T M Jacob Memorial Govt. College receives a huge grant of Rs 20.35 crores from Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIFBI) for its infrastructure development. The college started in 1981 as an initiative by the Rural Education Society. It has been instrumental in offering quality education to students far and near. Though started from meagre infrastructure it is worth mentioning that the grants received over years has offered considerable facilities in



the college. The promised grant is the result of the collective efforts of the college authorities over the years. The Principal of the College, Dr. N. Shaji, expressed his sincere happiness in being one among the 12 colleges selected by the KIFBI out of the 56 government colleges in Kerala. He said that this would bring in massive improvement in the infrastructure of the college and will help in giving the students modern educational experiences.



# KALAVAYAL MAHOTSAVAM ATTRACTS TOURISTS TO KAKOOR

Kakkoor kalavayal is a post-harvest festival (after Makarakoythu) celebrated every year in the month of Kumbham (February- March) based on Malayalam calendar. This festival is mainly celebrated by the farmers of Kakkoor and nearby villages.

During earlier times, this festival was used as a place for exchange and trade of agricultural goods and cattles between farmers and traders when the barter system prevailed. The term Kalavayal means cattle market. The qualities of oxen were determined by their performance in Kalayottam (cattle race). It was structurally organized from 1890, the ruling period of Sree Moolam Thirunna Rama Varma V of Travancore dynasty.

At present, the 'Kalavayal Mahotsavam' is major tourist attraction in central Kerala. The celebrations begin with 'Kalathullikkal'. Along with this many adventurous events such as Maramadi (started in 1990's and got prominence), Mud Races (started in 2010) and cultural programs like agricultural fest, exhibition are conducted by the cultural society (Samskarikavedhi) of Kakkoor. Many farmers from southern Kerala, Palakkad, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka come and explore the opportunity.

The historic event is related with the myth of two temples in the locality. The temples are Edapra Bhagavathy Temple Thirumarady and Ambasserykavu Temple Kakkoor, in which the deities are believed as sisters. This festival is the occasion in which they meet each other after a year. The festival is usually celebrated in the Aswathi, Bharani, Karthika and Rohini stars of Kumbham.



The Kalayottam was last held in 2014. Due to the ordinance of the Supreme Court, Kalayottam was banned for the last three years. Still it is not just a celebration for the natives, it is an inevitable part of their culture and life.

## 4 DAY KARSHIKA MELA ENDS IN SUCCESS

Greeshma Govind  
Staizy Pappachan

A massive Karshika Mela conducted from 14-17 th December 2017 by the Koothathukulam Agricultural Marketing and Processing Society proved to be a grate success. The Mela was inaugurated by Adv. V. S Sunilkumar, the Agriculture Minister of Kerala. Various events such as seminars, agriculture quiz competition, exhibition of traditional equipments, seeds and crops were also held. No. of foodcourts and stalls on different products added to its success. The main aim of the festival was to create a platform for the farmers to gain their profit without any mediator said Mr. Joykutty. C John, the president of Agricultural Marketing and Processing Society.



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