



ELDERS' VOICE

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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

News Bulletin of The Senior Citizens' Forum, Kottayam

Editor: Dhanya Gopinath

The President's Message

P. I. John

India's first Mega-Science Projects Exhibition 'Vigyan Samagam' reached New Delhi after touring Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. The inauguration of the Delhi event had talks and presentations.

Megascience projects are international science projects involving huge budgets and manpower and involve a large number of institutions in India.

I was invited to talk about the ITER project. ITER stands for International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. The project is building the world's first thermonuclear fusion reactor in Cadarache in France. India will spend 15000 Crores and will deploy 200 scientists and engineers.

The fusion reactor will produce plasma at 100 Million degrees to enable nuclear fusion reactions to take place and to release energy. This is what happens in the sun and ITER is like a miniature sun.

The advantage of being a partner in ITER is that at 10% investment we shall get 100% technology. After ITER's successful operation, when we decide to build a demo reactor of our own, we shall have the requisite know-how.

ITER partners are the European Union, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States of America. European Union being the host party contributes about 45% while the rest of the parties contribute about 9% each. Most of these contributions are through 'in-

kind' procurement of ITER components. India formally joined the ITER Project in 2005 and the ITER Agreement between the partners was signed in 2006.

There are six other projects. Thirty Meter Telescope is one of the world's most advanced ground-based optical and infrared observatory. The TMT is being built by an international consortia of scientific organizations in Canada, China, India, Japan and the USA.

The Square Kilometre Array will be an array of radio telescopes, spread over hundreds of kilometres, in two different continents. The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) in Pune is leading India's participation in the SKA.

LIGO (laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory) is a world-leading observatory designed to detect gravitational waves from the most violent events in the Universe. LIGO and the associated collaboration, involving 37 researchers from 9 Indian institutions, is known for the first direct detection of Gravitational Waves.

The Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) is coming up at Darmstadt, Germany. About 3000 scientists from 50 countries will study the structure of matter and the evolution of the universe from the Big Bang to the present using this facility.

CERN in Geneva invited India to participate in construction/commissioning of Advanced Accelerators. CERN had detected the Higgs boson.



The Mega-science Exhibitions are put up at the National Science Museum at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi as a permanent exhibition and is attracting a substantial footfall.

The organisers, Departments of Atomic Energy, Science and Technology and the National Council of Science Museums have planned this Mega Science Exhibition of a global stature in a unique way and with a distinct objective. The Exhibition will not only showcase India's contribution to international collaborations on fundamental science and research but will also provide a common interactive platform for Mega Science Projects, industry, academia and institutions.

Membership Request

Shri P C Chacko Tharakan, resident of Stanford, Skyline Fords, Manganam has applied for membership of the Forum. He had served as Chief Controller, Coaching, Railway Board, New Delhi. He is married to Mrs Mariamma Tharakan.

This is for the information and approval of the members.

[For more information about the Forum, visit: https://www.seniorcitizensktm.net/](https://www.seniorcitizensktm.net/)

Editor's Musings

Dhanya Gopinath

At our last meeting, Dr John Kunnath had highlighted the need for making our roads safe and had invited us to give our valuable suggestions.

The recent gruesome accident on NH 544, near Avinashi reminded me once again of what Dr John had mentioned, 'You could have been one of these victims.'

How very true, the real impact of any tragedy can be felt only when one is able to put oneself in that situation. Just imagine waking up and realising that one is maimed or injured?

We can all learn to do defensive driving but there are occasions when we are forced to travel as passengers and are in situations where the other driver's mistake could result in an accident.

Time and again we hear reports that most accidents happen between twelve midnight and six am and that this is because drivers of vehicles tend to doze off at this time.

This brings us to the question

as to why there is no rule that specifies having two drivers in order to overcome driver fatigue. Why does the government give in to the greed of the Owners to whom nothing but money is important?

There is a rule specifying that heavy duty vehicles are to avoid using the Speed Lane, but there is enough evidence to prove that the driver of the Container Truck in question, was not taking the left lane or else the Container would not have slipped off the truck, breaking the lock and toppling over the KSRTC bus & killing more than nineteen passengers. Is there no way to enforce such rules on highways?

Very soon, we will all forget this accident and wake up in horror when we hear of another one.

I do sincerely hope that the authorities wake up to the problem and not treat its citizens as expendable commodities.

This issue of the News letter carries a Malayalam poem by Mr P



K Philipose. This is one of the poems from his book, 'Smrithi Malarukal'

Pushpa Annie Mathews has sent us a news paper cutting about the ingenious way in which plastic bottles are being recycled & reused.

On behalf of all members, we have placed on record our condolences to Mrs. Jo Chacko on her recent bereavement.

"Consciously or unconsciously, the reader is dissatisfied with being told only what is not; the reader wishes to be told what is... If your every sentence admits a doubt, your writing will lack authority."
—William Strunk, Jr., *The Elements of Style*

Meetings in January

The First Meeting of the Kottayam Senior Citizens' Forum for the month, was held on the 10th of January 2020.

The Chief Speaker of the day was Mrs. Lalcy Perumthottam. This lady, who is a school teacher by profession, had been awarded the 1st Green Ward's Award for her ward in Kochukongamdoor in the Ayarkunnam Panchayath of Kottayam district.

With the help of the visual media, Lalcy clearly explained how she went about achieving her goal of creating a green & clean ward.

Being a school teacher, she first went about motivating her students by composing and singing songs about the environ-

ment and how it was the responsibility of each and everyone to preserve it. The students, in turn influenced their parents.

Mrs. Lalcy had succeeded, not only in promoting organic farming; she had been instrumental in promoting the concept of Rain-Water harvesting.

From the pictures that she showed, it was clear that she had ventured into the cleaning of water ways crisscrossing her neighbourhood.

The members of the Forum were awestruck and wondered why municipal areas like ours could not produce such inspired leaders, who could motivate the general public to take care of the environment.

The Second Meeting of the Forum was held on the 24th of January 2020. The Chief Speaker was Sri. Rajendran, a senior advocate.

The speaker covered 3 topics:- a) The Citizens' Amendment Act (CAA), b) Creating a Corruption-free Society c) The role of Senior Citizens.

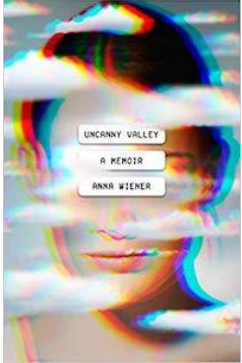
Mr. Rajendran quoted Articles 14, 16 & 21 of the Constitution and said that the present day citizens had nothing to fear.

He agreed that corruption was rampant in India. Sri. Rajendran said there was no need to fear government officers. Sri. Rajendran gave a piece of advice to the seniors and said that they could help create a corruption-free society.

Most Anticipated Books of 2020

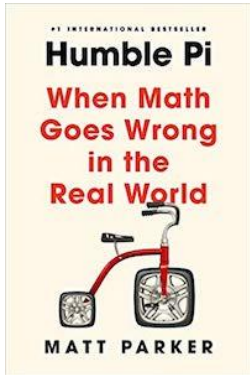
A compilation in parts from book review columns of Guardian on books of interest in 2020.

Uncanny Valley by Anna Wiener



Anna Wiener's must-read memoir delivers a powerful story about finding herself against the backdrop of Silicon Valley's shifting tech landscape. Part coming-of-age story, part portrait of an already-bygone era, Wiener's memoir is a rare first-person glimpse into high-flying, reckless startup culture at a time of unchecked ambition, unregulated surveillance, wild fortune, and accelerating political power.

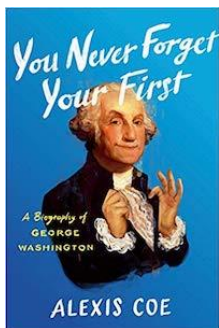
Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World by Matt Parker



Matt Parker's international bestseller highlights examples of mathematical errors that resulted in real-world consequences, offering an entertaining read for anyone curious about math's role in life beyond the classroom. Math is easy to ignore until a misplaced decimal point upends the stock market, a unit conversion error causes a plane to crash or someone divides by zero and stalls a battleship in the middle of the ocean. Exploring

and explaining a litany of glitches, near misses and mathematical mishaps involving the internet, big data, elections, street signs, lotteries, the Roman Empire and an Olympic team, Matt Parker uncovers the bizarre ways math trips us up—and what this reveals about its essential place in our world. Getting it wrong has never been more fun.

You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington by Alexis Coe



Alexis Coe profiles George Washington with fresh eyes, promising a fascinating read that strikes a relevant chord with 21st-century life. Young George Washington was raised by a struggling single mother, demanded military promotions, caused an international incident and never backed down. After an unlikely victory in the Revolutionary War cast him as the nation's hero, he was desperate to retire, but the founders pressured him into the presidency—twice. When he retired years later, he left the highest office heartbroken over the partisan nightmare his backstabbing cabinet had created.

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ജനാധിപത്യക്കെണി

P. K. Philipose

പണ്ടൊരുരാജ്യത്തിലേകരാജാവെന്നാൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നേകരാസ്ഥാനത്തിരിക്കുവാൻ രാജാക്കന്മാരെ തുരത്തിയോടിച്ചവർ രാജ്യഭാരം സ്വന്തം കൈയിലൊതുക്കായ്

പാവം ജനങ്ങൾക്കുമോഹംകൊടുത്തിട്ടു ഭാവി സംരക്ഷിച്ചതിസൂത്രശാലികൾ പാർട്ടികൾ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചതിൻതലപ്പത്തേറി ഊട്ടിവളർത്തി ജനങ്ങളിൽ മോഹങ്ങൾ.

തത്വങ്ങളിൽ മുളച്ചുണ്ടായ പാർട്ടികൾ വിത്തപ്രണയികളായതാണത്യാതം. അദ്ധ്വാനവർഗങ്ങൾ, ചോരനീരാക്കിയോർ- ക്കിദ്ധരയേകുന്നു കണ്ണുനീർതുളളികൾ.

വളരുന്ന പാർട്ടികൾ നേതാക്കളേറുമ്പോൾ പിളരുന്നതും ജനം കണ്ടുമടുത്തിപ്പോൾ എങ്ങനെയൊക്കാം ജനായത്തമെന്നത് ഭംഗിയായ് ചൊന്നത് ലിങ്കണോരേയൊരാൾ.

ഇന്നാധിപത്യം പണത്തിനുമാത്രമാ- ണുന്നതനാകുവാൻ മാർഗ്ഗമതേയുള്ളു ജനമാണു പിൻബലം പാർട്ടികൾക്കാകയാൽ ജനസേവയേറ്റം പ്രഘോഷിക്കും നേതാക്കൾ.

വോട്ടുതേടുമ്പോളൊരുമുഖം നേടിയൊൻ നാട്ടുകാരെ പിന്നെ കണ്ടമട്ടേയില്ല 'എംപി' വിഴുങ്ങുന്നു കോടാനുകോടികൾ 'എംഎൽഎ' ആയാലോ ലക്ഷോപലക്ഷങ്ങൾ

മന്ത്രിയായാലോ പറയേണ്ട കൂടുതൽ മാന്ത്രികവിദ്യപോലാലംബരംകൂട്ടാം ഒരുരാജൻസ്ഥാനത്തിന്നിരുപതുംമൂപ്പതും പരമോന്നതന്മാരെപുജിക്കണം ജനം.

നാട്ടിൻ പുരോഗതിക്കുതകേണ്ടപണമെല്ലാം കാറ്റിൽപറത്തുന്നുരാഷ്ട്രീയനേതാക്കൾ ഇന്നിൻ ജനായത്തരീതി നന്നോയെന്ന് നന്നായ്പഠിക്കാൻ ജനംതുനിഞ്ഞീടണം



Obituary

We regret the passing away of Dr Babu Chacko, who breathed his last on the 16th of February 2020.

He has been a member of the Kottayam Senior Citizens' Forum for a long time. Dr Babu Chacko was the founder of the Modern Diagnostic Centre at Kottayam.



This great practitioner of medicine has adorned many hats. He served as the Chief Medical Officer of the Oman & Oman Royal Oman Police.

He has served as Honorary Consultant Physician at the Mandiram Hospital, Manganam till 1993 & was the Director of Cheriapally Hospital, Kottayam.

He was also a dedicated and sincere Rotarian.

As a member of the Kottayam Senior Citizens' Forum, he has always cared for the welfare of our members & had generously offered concessions for diagnosis & treatment at his Centre.

His wife Mrs. Jo Chacko, is also a member of the Kottayam Senior Citizens' Forum .

Prof. Jacob George reports: Sri Mohanlal came to know about Meenachilar Meenantharayar project from various sources especially from the emotional speeches of finance minister Dr. Thomas Issac. He showed deep interest in the project and expressed his desire to associate himself with the project. That's why he released the second volume of the activities at CMS college on 2nd Feb. He also promised to make a documentary on the subject in the near future.

THE HINDU

used at Australian Open 2020

If you are tuned in to the Australian Open this season, there's little chance you would have missed star players like Roger Federer and Serena Williams. But have you paid attention to the ball boys, girls and the courtside statisticians, dressed in shades of green and blue?

They are wearing T-shirts made in Tirupur near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

But that's not what is special about it - these shirts are made from recycled PET bottles. At NC John & Sons in Tirupur, a total of 1,88,708 used PET bottles have been used to make 25,000 garments for the Australian Open.

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May your birthday and every day ahead be filled with the warmth of love, the joy of good health and blessings in abundance!

Mr. Ipe Jacob – Feb 2nd

Mrs. Molly Ipe – Feb 4th

Dr. K. J. Mathew – Feb 5th

Mrs. Marykutty Varghese – Feb 5th

Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan Nair – Feb 13th

Mr. P. C. John – Feb 19th

Mrs. Omana Abraham – Feb 20th

Mrs. Omana Alex – Feb 20th

Mr. K. S. Kesava Iyer – Feb 21st

Mrs. Lizzy Jacob – Feb 22nd

Mr. C. Bhaskaran Nayar – Feb 27th

Mr. John B. Kunnath – Feb 28th

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