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1988

ANNUAL OF SAINIK SCHOOL KAZHAKOOTAM



ज्ञान अनुशासन सहयोग

Editor

Prem C. Nair

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**S. Prem Kumar
Preetham Bhasker**

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FROM THE EDITORS DESK

The silvery halo of the past year has gradually receded into oblivion, and as we go to the press with this, the 26th issue of the school magazine, we find ourselves in the throes of the all important annual examinations. Consequently our sylvan campus and the unfinished tower are all a hive of buzzing bees, humming out on the printed matter, even well past the proverbial moth hour of eve.

Belatedly or so it may seem to some, we are paying homage to our founding father, the late Sri. V. K. Krishna Menon in this issue. That this is done now and not in the silver year is not accidental or incidental, but deliberate as we were biding time for the silver tainted dust to settle down. Now that it has, we see him in sharper focus, unhampered by our preoccupations.

We have erected a bust of his at the school portico and in the following pages a young boy takes a peep into this great mans illustrious career. Not much need be added to that; suffice to say here that India needs the likes of such intellectual giants at this hour, as she is a fen of stagnant waters.

PCN.

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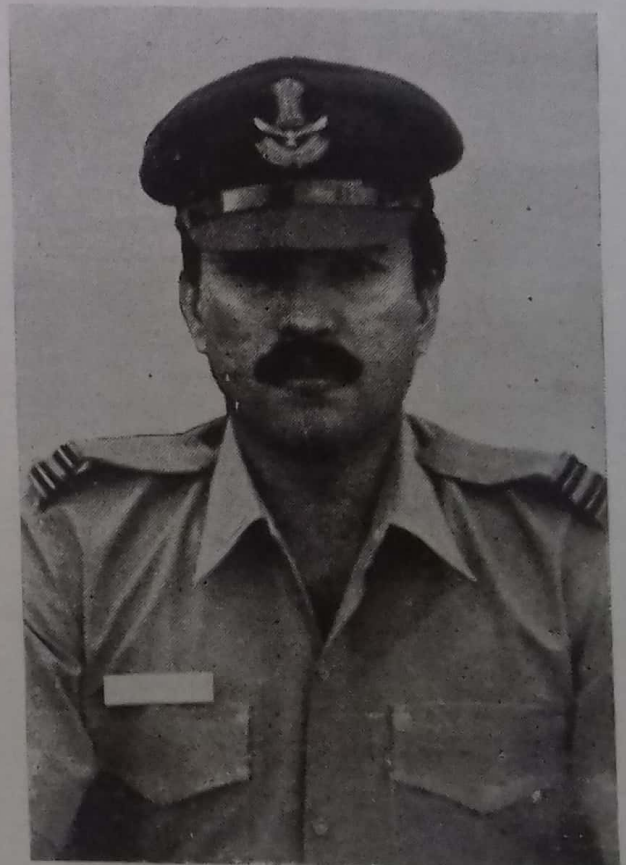
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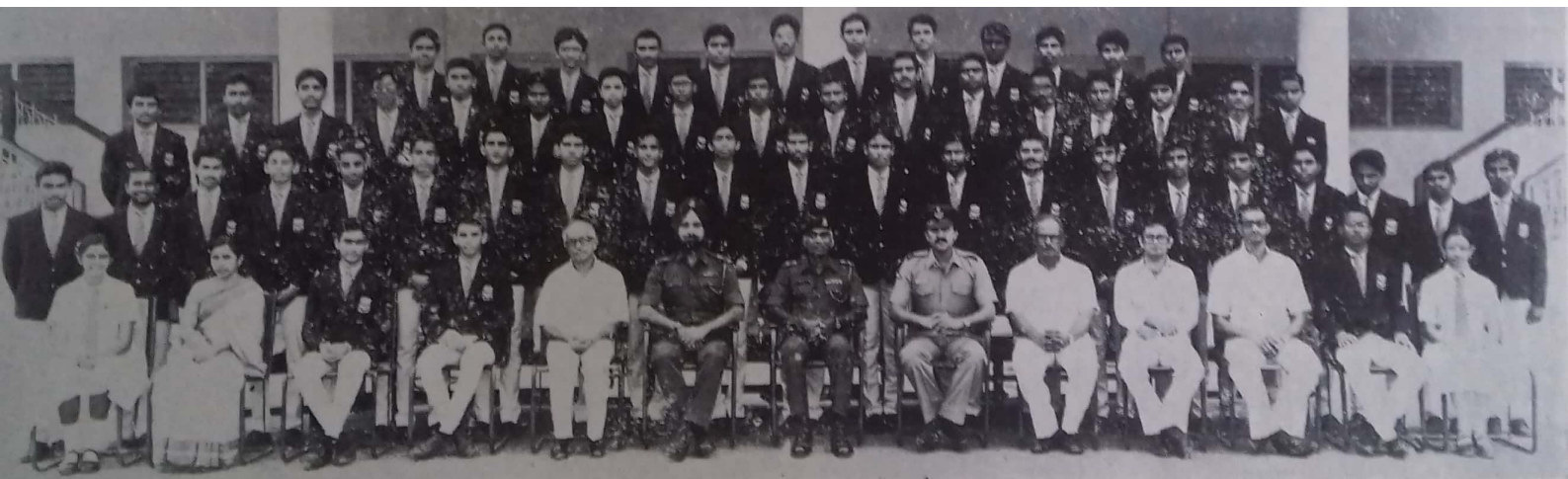
Kurian Antony

VICE CAPTAINS

Kochumon C. Thomas

K. M Santhosh





THE OUTGOING SAINIKS (STD XII)



THE FRESHERS (STD VI)



THE PRASAD JUNIORS (JUNIOR COCK HOUSE)

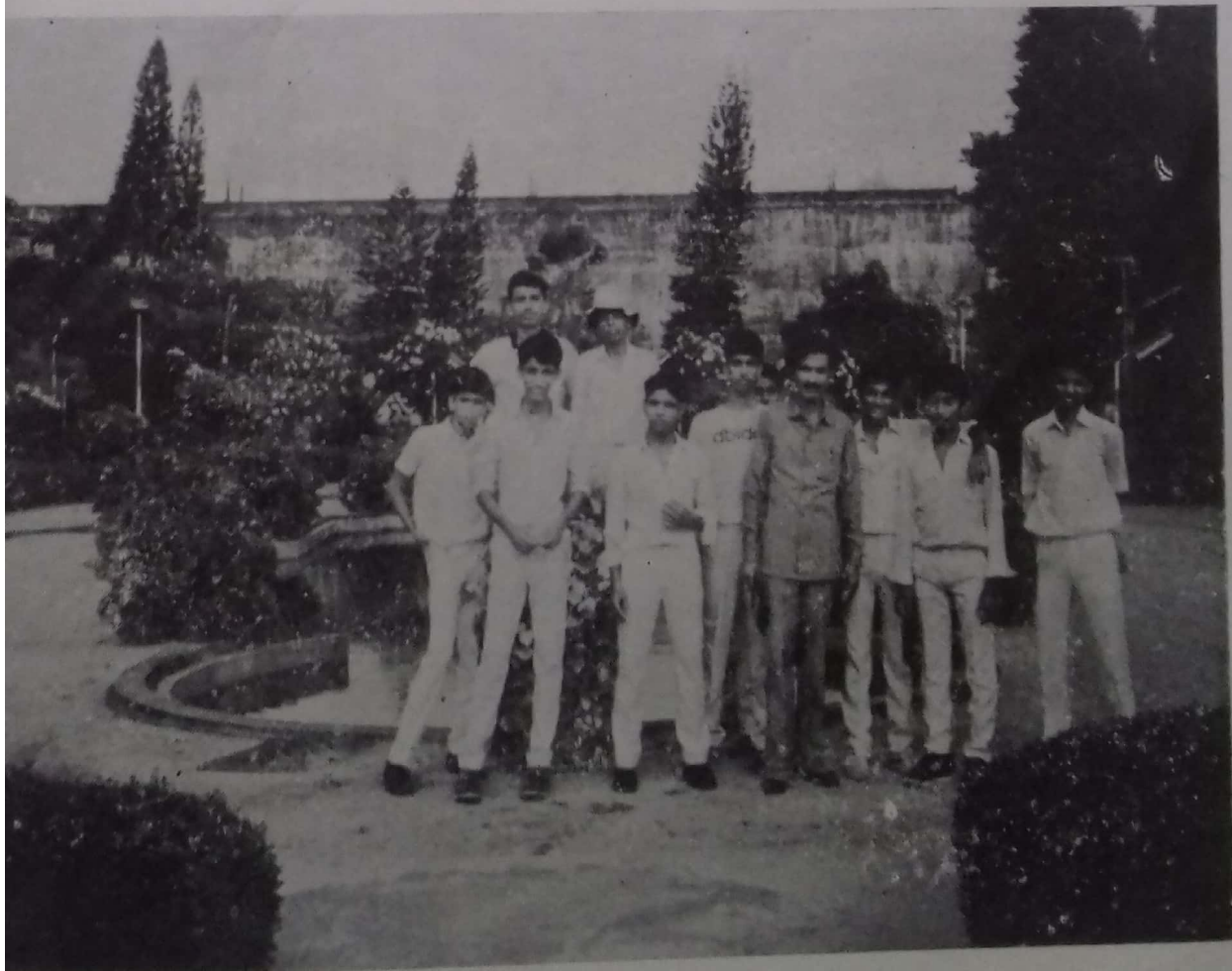


THE NEHRU SENIORS - SENIOR COCK HOUSE

TOPPERS IN ACADEMICS (1986—87)



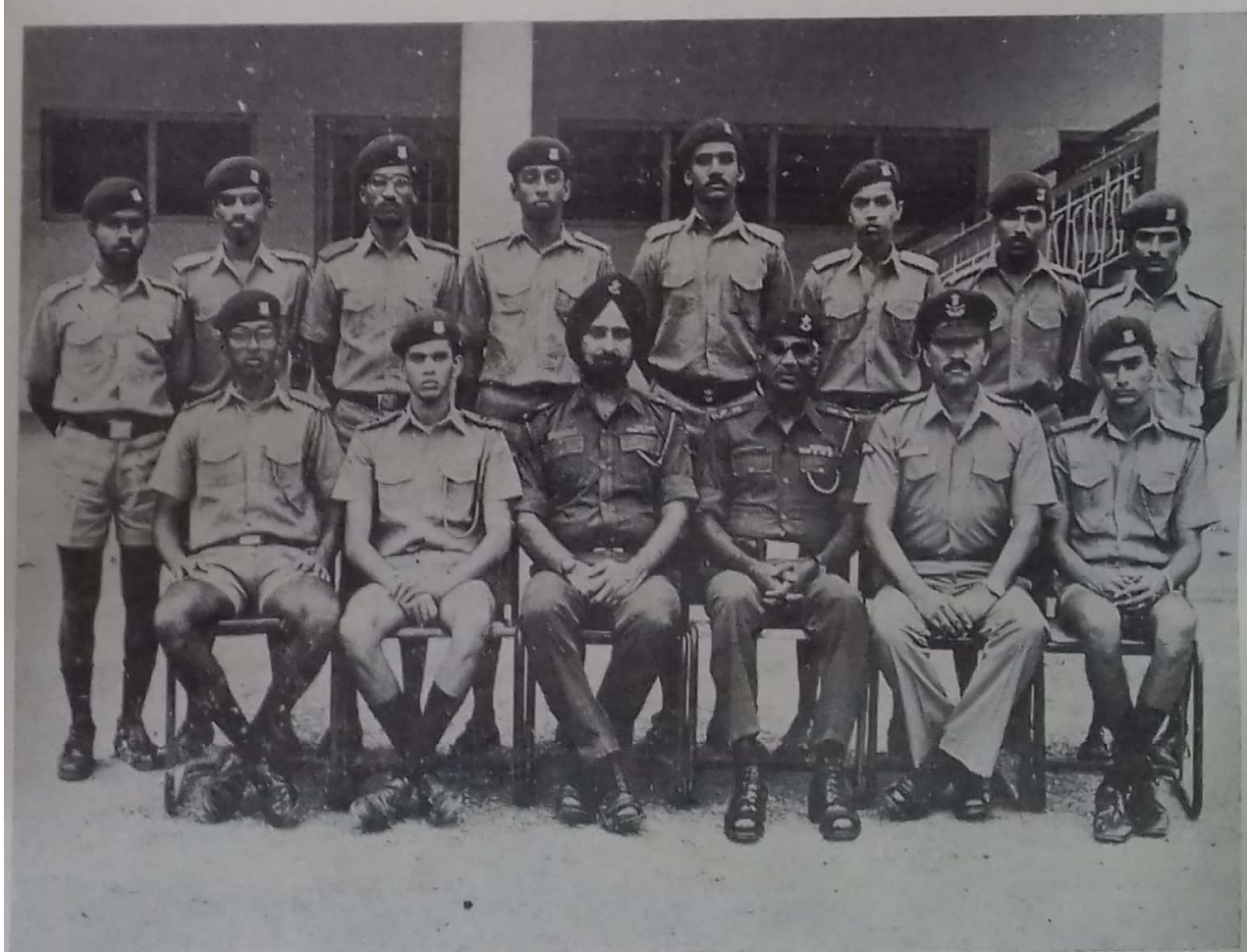
Standing L to R K. O. Avinesh (VII) Augustine Thomas (XI) Linson Dominic (X)
K. S. Prageeth (VIII) Vishnu Varadaraj (IX) and C. Kishore (VI)



Boys of Class X at the Malampuzha Dam with their Geography Master



THE SCHOOL NCC OFFICERS



THE SCHOOL CADET APPOINTMENT HOLDERS
(THE TORCH BEARERS !)



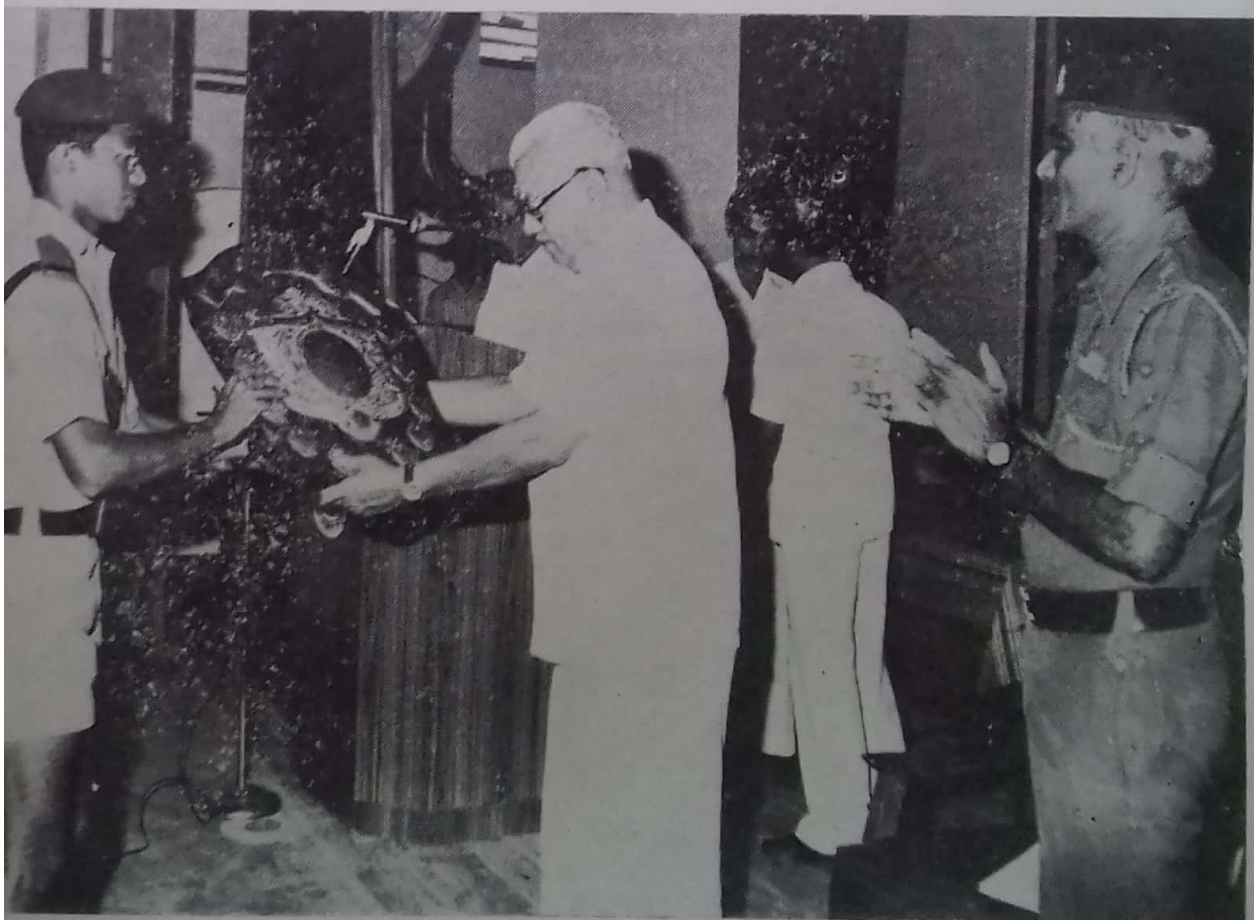
BRIG. CHITRANJAN SAWANT, INSPECTOR, SAINIK SCHOOLS
ADDRESSING THE STUDENTS AND STAFF



Mr. K. M. NAIR, THE SENIOR MOST MASTER BEING HONOURED
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE BY BRIG. SAWANT



K. C. THOMAS RECEIVES THE "BEST IN ACADEMICS"
TROPHY FOR THE PRASAD HOUSE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER



K. M. SANTHOSH, RECEIVES THE 'DEBATING TROPHY' FOR
THE ASHOKA HOUSE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER

Mrs. Uma Sen, wife of Air Marshall G. Sen AVSM VM A.O.C-in-C,
Southern Air Command giving away the trophies



Mr. N. G. Thomas receives the Cock House trophy for the Nehru Seniors



Mr. K. K. Viswanathan receives the Cock House trophy for the Prasad Juniors



THE SCHOOL CRICKET XI — THEY WERE ALL BUT BOWLED !





The School Hockey team — killed many a rat and scored a few goals with their sticks



The Basketball team — the runners up who "basketed" much

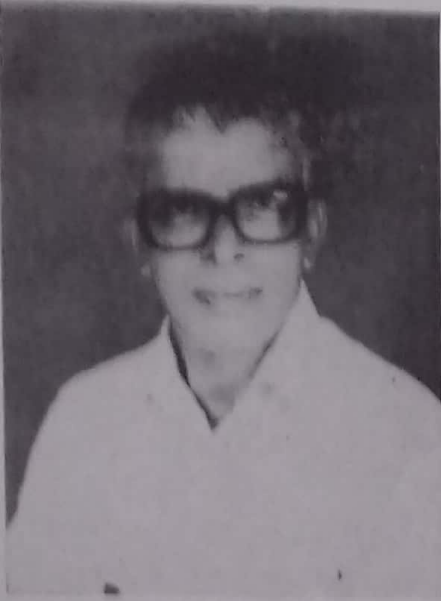


The School Volley ball team, Winners of the Inter Sainik Schools (S.Z)
Volleyball Championship

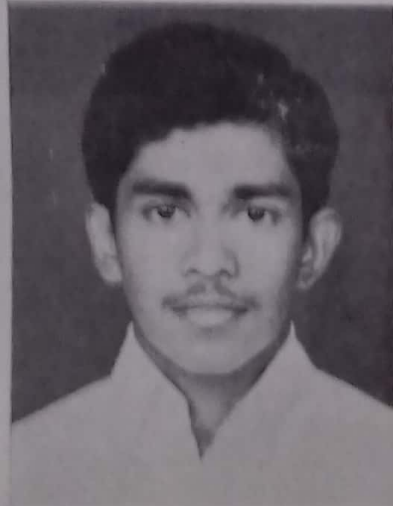


The School Athletic Team — they also ran !

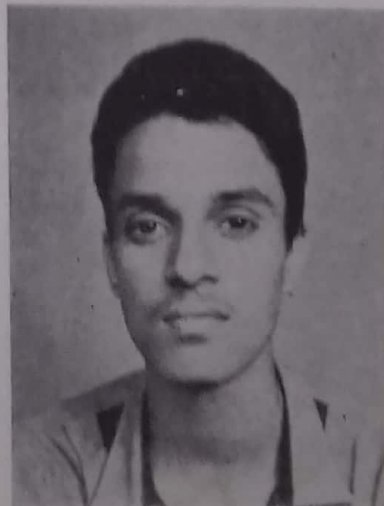
BOQUETS AND.....GARLANDS !



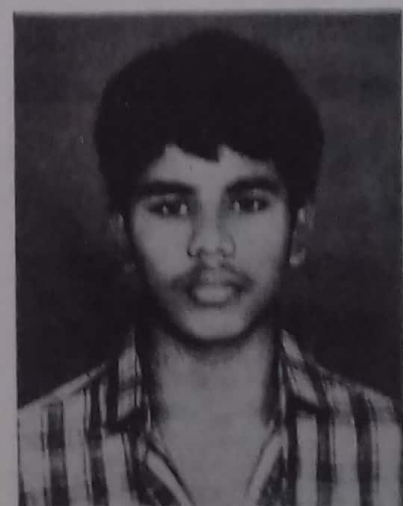
Mr. R. Gopinatha Pillai P. T. I, almost from the inception of the School in 1962, goes into a well earned retirement. We wish him godspeed in his retired life.



Vijy Paul Thomas
First From
School - AISSC (Std XII)
Examination 1987



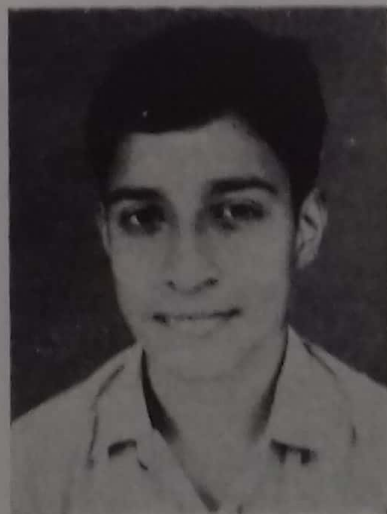
Preetham Bhasker
Selected to the N. I. D.
Ahmedabad



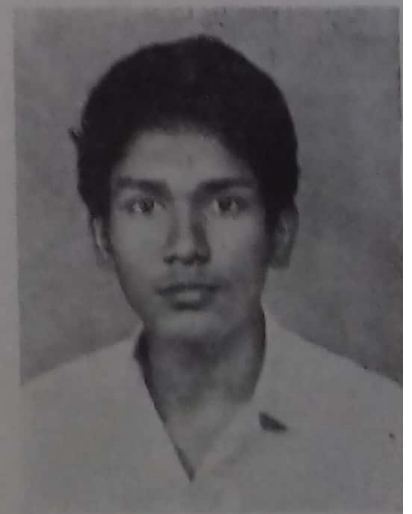
Linson Dominic
First From
School — AISS (Std X)
Examination 1987



Jacob Samuel
Best all round
Cadet — 1987



Jeffrin J. Von Reich
Winner, N. T. S
Scholarship 1987



P. Pradeep Kumar
the best all round
Sportsman — 1987

Roses in Spring ! (1)

ENTRANTS TO THE 78th COURSE OF THE N. D. A.



S. N. Prasad



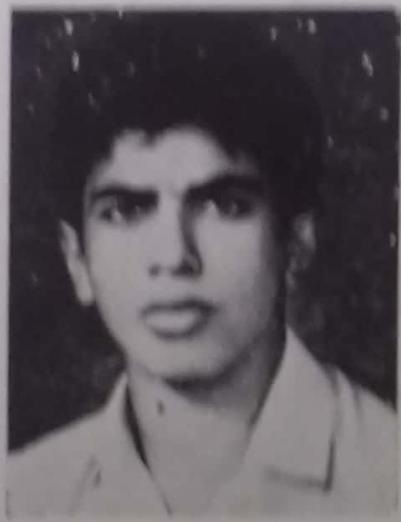
T. J. Ajith Kumar



Anup Alagarajan



Renjy George



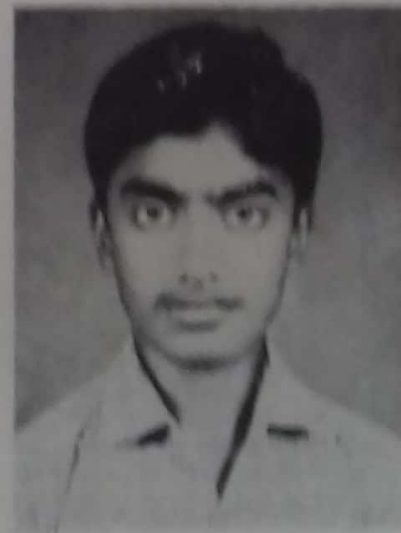
Joby Joseph



B. Abdul Mansoor



G. Prashanth Panicker

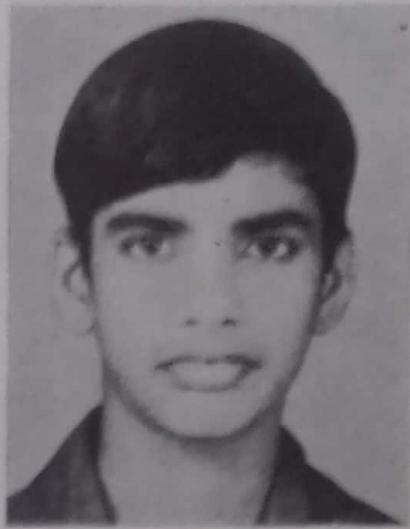


Jose Varghese



P. G. Suresh Kumar

ENTRANTS TO THE 79th COURSE OF THE N. D. A.



Nevil Benedict



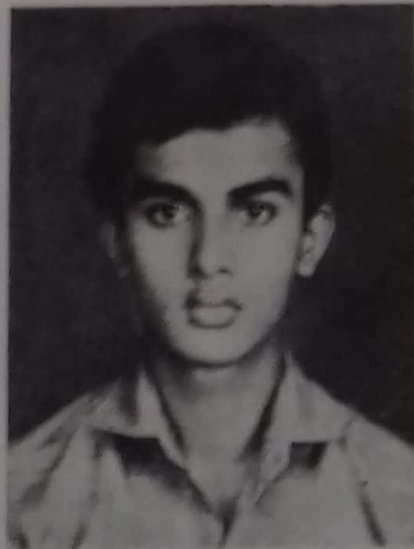
J. Flowerson



P. Binuraj



Jerish Paul Jacob



Prince J. Pilo (OB)

ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88

BY THE PRINCIPAL, LT COL KA RAO

Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri. E. K. Nayanar, worthy parents, ladies and gentlemen and dear students.

1. I am extremely happy to welcome you all this morning on the special occasion of the 26th School Annual Academic Day Celebrations. I am indeed immensely grateful to our Honourable Chief Minister who has very graciously agreed with his elating presence to be our Chief Guest today despite his busy schedule. It clearly speaks volumes for his concern for the young talent and of his firm belief that the youth of today represents the country's future.

2. Sri. E. K. NAYANAR joined the communist movement at the age of 20 and became a popular political worker and leader. He participated in the historic KAYYUR struggle of the peasantry and was associated with the morazha episode, a big revolt against British rule in Malabar. He had to work underground for 9 long years because of these struggles.

3. Sri. NAYANAR was elected as a member of the Lok Sabha in 1967 from Palghat. He was later elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1974 from Trikkur and in 1980 from Malampuzha. Sri. Nayanar was Chief Minister from 25 Jan 1980 to 20 Oct 1981. He was elected

to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1982. He was the Secretary of the State Committee of the CPM during 1972-1980. He is a renowned journalist and to date has published 12 books on various subjects. Till recently he was the editor of the Deshabhimani daily.

4. The entire sainik school community on this happy occasion extends a very warm and respectful welcome to you sir.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, this school is one of the 18 sainik schools in the country and was established in 1962 with a view to removing the regional imbalances and enabling boys from socially and economically weaker sections of the society to join the armed forces. This school has been all along, helping the poor men to realise their dream of providing good and qualitative public school education to their children. Therefore, let me with utmost humility, identify this school as a poor man's public school totally residential in nature. It is a matter of pride to state here that the Government of Kerala gives full scholarships to 468 Kerala students out of the total school strength of 575, whose parental income is below Rs. 1500/-per month. We are indeed thankful to you sir, and to the Government of Kerala for the unstinted

cooperation we have been receiving with regards to the school's financial requirements.

6. Our first batch of students joined the NDA in 1965 and todate more than 500 boys got their commissions in the armed forces. Most of them have got decorations and gallantary awards for the meritorius services rendered to the Nation. Normally in most of the schools, education is imparted in the class rooms, which to say the least, is one-sided development. For us, education emanates out of various places; class rooms, play grounds, dormitories and out of a corporate life led by the students in the school community and thereby providing an all round development to the child's personality. Kerala State, like the rest of the country, has been passing through trying times lately. The water and electricity position has been giving us problems in the campus. Our students however, have learned to take these pitfalls in their stride, with courage and conviction. We, for our part, are quite conscious of the value oriented education and the attempt of the new educational policy to drift away from the stream of an out-dated colonial educational pattern. As it is outlined in the new educational policy, we will leave no stone unturned for achieving excellence of each individual; individual and collective self reliance and above all the national awareness and cohesion are our immediate goals.

Entrance examination and student strength

7. In February 1987, 1070 candidates took the Entrance examination for admission to this school. Out of them 97 students passed the written tests, interview

and the medical tests. Finally 86 boys were given admission to this school in Class VI. With this intake, the school strength rose to 575.415 of these students are scholarship holders from their respective states and from the Ministry of Defence. 53 of these students belong to SC and 11 to ST.

Academics & associated academic achievements

8. While 100% literacy among its population is a national objective, we at this school go much beyond this commonplace yardstick. For us, the launching of a youngster into the national firmament is just a primary goal, while the important one is the orbital path by which he fits into a career suggested by our particular training. For us, always our boys are of prime concern as we never subscribe to the notion, out of sight, out of mind. In short, what we expect them to be, once they leave their school is always a matter for our anxiety. In this way, we institutionalise the concept of education for national investment, national unity and to meet the 21st century's aspirations. The performance in public examination of this school clearly shows an excellent record; while 34 students out of 34 appeared in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination, April 1987 (XII class) have passed, 21 got first division, 12 second division and one in a compartmental. Overall, we have 10 distinctions in English, 5 in Mathematics, 7 in Physics, 10 in Chemistry and 3 in Biology. Vijy Paul Thomas stood first, Biju K Gopinath and Pradeepkumar second and Joseph Joseph third position, with 437 marks, 403 and 386 marks respectively. Next, I put before you, the results of the Secondary School Examination, April 1987 (X class) 77 out

of 77 appeared have passed with 59 first classes and 18 second classes. There are maximum distinctions in Mathematics and General Science with 30 and above in each. While Linson M Dominic got the first position in the school with 425 marks out of 500, TD Sabu got the Merit Certificate awarded by the CBSE for being in the Top 1% students of the Board's successful candidates. We do believe in healthy association and competition with local and outside schools. Two of our boys namely Biju Baby and Preetham Bhasker bagged first and second prizes in the Haridas Memorial Inter School spot Painting Competitions held at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom on 24 Nov 87. S. Prakash of X Class won second prize in Painting (Senior division) in the Kerala Regional level of the All India Camel Colour Contest 1987 held in Sept 1987. Roy Francis and Rajesh Kumar of our school participated in the Delta Society Debating Competition at Cochin on 3 Nov 87. Both of them acquitted themselves very well and won an overall third position. It gives immense happiness to announce that Jefferin J Von Reich has won the prestigious National Talent Scholarship.

9. It is true, that teachers do not remain successful teachers if they do not continue to be students all throughout their lives. Day by Day, education and science and technology are undergoing rapid changes and a teacher has to update his own knowledge before he takes up the onerous responsibility of imparting it to the young students. The year 1987-88 is a significant year wherein the Sainik School Society, New Delhi had arranged the in-service training for our teachers;

- (i) Two masters Sri.G. Soman Pillai and Sri. P. Premachandran Nair attended the English Course at Sainik School Ghorakhal from 10 th to 30th May 87..
- (ii) Sri. S. Krishnankutty Nair, Master attended a workshop for Teaching Hindi in English Medium Public Schools at Sainik School, Jamnagar from 4 to 11th May 87.
- (iii) Sri. M. B. Vitekar, Master attended the Samuha Gaan camp at Sainik School Bhubaneswar, from 8 to 17 June 87.
- (iv) Sri. S. Vaidyanatha Sharma, Master in Mathematics attended the Workshop in Maths at Sainik School Kunjupura from 19 to 28 Nov 87.

NDA Results

10. (a) 78th NDA Course commenced in July 1987

- (i) Number appeared : 104
- (ii) Number qualified for SSB : 37
- (iii) Number qualified for NDA : 13
- (iv) Number admitted to NDA : 10
- (v) Number medically unfit : 3

(b) 79th Course

- (i) Number appeared : 84
- (ii) Number qualified for SSB : 22
- (iii) Number qualified for NDA : 6
- (iv) Number admitted to NDA : 4
- (v) Number medically unfit : 2

National Cadet Corps Activities

11. 63 cadets from this school accompanied by S/O Cherian K Kovoor S/O S.B.Sasikumar & PI Staff Sub Bhika Chasker and Hav Ramakrishnan attended the combined Annual Training Camp which was held at Chidambaram from 2 May to 30 May 1987.

12. One cadet, Revindran.S attended the Junior Division Advance Rock Climbing Camp held at Neyyar Dam in May 1987. It is a regular feature for our school contingent to take part in the Independence Day and Republic Day parades held at Trivandrum and always get the distinction of being the best squad.

Hobbies & Club Activities

13. We pay utmost attention to channelise the leisure time energies of the vast student force here. Our students compulsorily take part in the afternoons in hobbies & club activities such as Gardening, Photography, Wall Magazine, Wood craft, Painting and Scientific Pursuits. Our boys are given ample opportunities to swim in the Trivandrum Swimming Club under the guidance of qualified coaches. Through SUPW programmes and House cleaning competitions the entire campus is kept worthy of living comfortably.

Co-curricular Activities

14. The following co-curricular activities were held, the results of which would be accounted towards winning the Cock House Champion Trophy in the Inter-House Competitions of the school;

- (i) Debate in English, Hindi & Malayalam

- (ii) Declamation Contest in English
- (iii) Extempore speech in Malayalam & English
- (iv) Essay writing competitions in English, Hindi and Malayalam
- (v) Recitation Competitions,
- (vi) Calligraphy competitions in English, Hindi & Malayalam,

Games & Sports

15. We subscribe to the idea that hard routine work and sound bodily development are essential for the growth of the mental faculties and for the overall personality of the child. Through sports, and games we believe the child develops team spirit, cooperation, adventure and certain skills of body and mind. Participating in Sports and Games is compulsory for all of our boys and the school has adequate facilities for this purpose. Special provisions are made for playing individualised games like Lawn Tennis.

16. Our school competed in the South Zone Inter-Sainik School Competitions held at different venues in S. India and the results of some of these encounters are worthy of note here.

- (i) The school won the first place in the Foot Ball and Volley Ball tournaments held at this School.
- (ii) At the Inter Sainik School Basket ball tournament held at Amaravathinagar, the school finished runnersup for the trophy.
- (iii) In the All India Sainik School Football tournament held at Kapurthala(Punjab)the school

acquitted themselves well to win an over all third position.

- (iv) The school finished third in the South Zone Sainik Schools Hockey Championship held at Bijapur (Karnataka).
- (v) The athletic team won many a medal in the Inter Sainik School Meet held at Korukonda (Andhra Pradesh) though the overall team championship eluded the school.

Conclusion

17. The curtain therefore comes down on yet another eventful year for us. I would be failing in my duty at this juncture if I do not express my gratitude to the Chairman and all members of the Local

Board of Administration and the State Government Officials for their constant support and cooperation.

18. I extend my warm congratulations to all the prize winning students. I am thankful to the Head Master and his versatile academic team for their valuable contribution towards enhancing the existing educational standards of this school. I also express my thanks to the Registrar and his entire Administrative Staff for consistently putting their best at all times.

19. I would like to specially convey my whole-hearted appreciation to all of our general employees for joining their hands to make my task simpler in managing the affairs of this school.

May I now, request you, sir, to give away the prizes to our students.

DORMITORY NOTES

This year saw the return of the Shivaji Seniors back to where they originally belonged—as the four—four—two tier system of housing as of yore, was, reintroduced. Old Shivajians would be happy to note the rehabilitation of their old House.

In spite of the return of the Shivajians, it was the saffron colours of the Nehru seniors that carried the day this year. Though they had lost their House Captain Prashanth Panicker to the NDA, they notched up as many as 4 trophies—a tally that brought them the overall championships and the Cock House trophy. The patient planning of their Housemaster Mr. N. G Thomas had at last paid rich dividends, in spite of the loss of their four useful boys to the NDA.

The Shivajians celebrated their return to the senior fold in the games with a victory in the championships, and an overall sharing of the games trophy for the year. Jose and George Varghese promised much, but they did not quite click collectively, though individually they were the toast of the volley ball team that won the Inter Sainik School, (South Zone) Championships. The Prasad Seniors bagged two important trophies, viz, the Athletic Championship and the Best House in Academics—but this level of performance was not maintained in the other areas.

Kochumon and Dinesh Kumar did well in the intramural cricket matches. But these were flashes in the pan and all told an uphill task awaits them if they are to make their green banner fly high again. The Ashokians, on the other hand, had a totally disappointing year, in spite of their orators, Roy Francis and KM Santhosh holding sway in the debating platforms. They shared the NDA Trophy with the Nehru House, it being the only feather on their caps this year.

The Prasad Juniors ruled the roost in the Junior Cock House Championships. The green-vested youngsters rightly identified themselves with the hopes and aspirations of their ever toiling House master, Mr. Viswanathan. As many as four coveted Trophies found their niches in the House. P. Manoj Kumar, Unnikrishnan and Sunil Kumar, to name a few, were the architects in the games field and K. O Avinash made his mark once again in the academically associated intramural activities.

The Ashoka Juniors finished a comfortable second in the overall championships. The cross country championship trophy found its way into the House largely due to the efforts of Ashok Kumar and P.U. Saji; while Rony P Nair did his best in the co-curricular activities.

The other two junior Houses did not have everything going their way and rounded up the year with promises for the future; These promises, it appears would blossom with Prageeth, T.S Reshmi and Radheesh of the Shivaji Juniors, who were outstanding in the various co-curricular activities.

Of the two sub junior Houses, it is the Vallathol that promises much for the future, though Mr. G.S Pillai, who has taken over the Housemastership of the Veluthampi House might be biding time to show us his "housemasterly worth" after a lapse of 8 years.

TROPHIES (1987-88)

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 1769 Vijy Paul Thomas | : | Defence Minister's Trophy for the Best Rank in AISSCE, March 1987. |
| 1709 K.P Pradeep Kumar | : | Special Rolling Trophy for Proficiency in Physics donated by Sri K.M Nair |
| 1850 P. Binu Raj | } | : Flt Cdt. Gopakumar Memorial Trophy for the first rank in Class XI, (shared by the two). |
| 1857 Augustine Thomas | | |
| 1957 Linson M Dominic | : | Assam Regiment Trophy instituted by Major N.P.K Kumar for the Best Rank in A.I.S.S.E, March 1987 |
| 1985 Vishnu Varadaraj | : | Prince Augustine Memorial Trophy for the first rank in Class IX |
| 1864 Jacob Samuel | : | The Best All-Round Cadet Trophy for 1986-87 |
| 1752 P. Pradeep Kumar | : | The Best All Round Sportsman of the year. |

TROPHIES WON BY HOUSES (1987-88)

Wg Cdr Jaganath Trophy for the Best Senior House in Academics	Prasad House
Trophy for the Best Junior House in Academics	Patel House
Trophy for the Best Sub Junior House in Academics	Tagore House
Inter House Debate Trophy for Seniors	Ashoka House
Inter House Debate Trophy for Juniors	Ashoka and Shivaji (Jrs)
Trophy for the Best Senior House Co-curricular activities	Nehru House
Trophy for the Best Junior House in Co-curricular activities	Ashoka House
Inter House Cleanliness Trophy for Seniors	Nehru House
Inter House Cleanliness Trophy for Juniors	Prasad House
Inter House Cleanliness Trophy for Sub Juniors	Vallathol House
Trophy for sending the maximum number of cadets to the NDA	Shared by Ashoka and Nehru Senior Houses
Cross Country Championships Seniors	Nehru
Juniors	Ashoka
Annual Athletic Championships Seniors	Prasad House
Juniors	Prasad House
Sub Juniors	Vallathol House
Inter House P.T. Competition Seniors	Shivaji
Juniors	Prasad
Cock House Seniors	Nehru House
Juniors	Prasad House
Sub Juniors	Vallathol House

SCHOOL COLOURS FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

1876	SANISH KUMAR	ATHLETICS AND HOCKEY
1752	P. PRADEEP KUMAR	FOOT BALL
1812	C. K. SANTHOSH	FOOT BALL
1810	G. PRADEEP	BASKETBALL
1887	M.M. JOSE	VOLLEYBALL
1819	GEORGE VARGHESE	VOLLEYBALL
1947	MANOJ S.	ATHLETICS
1893	KOCHUMON C THOMAS	CRICKET
1834	DINESH KUMAR	CRICKET

ET SEQUENTIA

V. K. Krishna Menon	MH Rajesh
A Sweet Bitter Victory	Jeffrin Von Reich
Three Baffling and Unsolved Mysteries	Rony P Nair
Kahlil Gibran	P. Mohamed Kunhi
A Day At The ATC , Kodaikanal	Paulose R Valayil
The Stray Dogs	Prem C Nair
A Nursery Rhyme	Prem C Nair
Fare well, Alma Mater	Kurien Antony
The Stars	Arjun N Mathai
My Wish	T. K. Praveen
Navodaya Schools do not pose a threat to Sainik Schools	Roy Francis
Environmental Pollution	K M Nair
Miscellaneous Gabs	Editors.

V. K. KRISHNA MENON

Rajesh M. H.

Age 16 years

The latest development in the field of Indian defence productions is the successful testing of the surface to surface missile 'Prithvi' on 25th January 1988. Now, if you were to trace the history of the indigenous production of armaments in this country you would come to none other than the versatile genius of Vengalil Krishna Krishna Menon. Apart from his contributions to the defence services, he was also instrumental in the drafting of India's Foreign Policy to such an extent, that the Indian Tricolour today flutters high not only among the non aligned countries of the world but also in the United Nations citadel itself.

This man is acknowledged as a phenomenon who inspired many, infuriated a few and dwarfed all in a headlong intellectual class. It was the likes of him who have gone to make the Indian a proud man today.

Menon was born on 3rd May 1896 in an aristocratic Nair family of Malabar. His father was Komath Krishna Kurup and mother, Vengalil Lakshmikutty. His mother was as independent in her outlook as was his father dynamic. Most of his personal characteristics that distinguishes him are obvious gifts from his parents. Menon's education began at Tellicherry but due to his mother's ill health, they had to move

to Calicut where he completed his schooling and his intermediate course.

Following his father's footsteps, in 1915 he joined the Madras Presidency College. This was a turning point in his life. He took his B.A in History and Economics and then plunged himself into a society that consisted of eminent persons-like Annie Besant, Prof. M.A Candeth, Dr. Arundale and Dr. Radhakrishnan. In fact, it was in Madras that Menon was initiated into the world of diplomacy, oratory, and selfless hard work. Of the two persons who most influenced him were Mrs. Annie Besant and Harold Laski. Mrs Annie Besant and Prof. Candeth soon realised his potentialities and got him involved in the social activities of the times. This in a way hampered his studies at the Madras Law College.

In 1924, Menon left for London to do a diploma in teaching. Once in London, he found that teaching couldn't contain him. India's freedom took the first priority. He saw a prolonged struggle before him and soon became the livewire of the India League - a society formed in England by Mrs. Annie Besant. He saw the League as an advanced post of the Indian freedom struggle and soon became the secretary and its official spokesman.

From here he started a propaganda campaign to persuade the British to leave India. He joined the British Labour party and became a councillor of the St. Pancras Borough. He got the Indian plea raised in the British Parliament. Simultaneously with all these activities, he prepared himself by thoroughly studying Economics, Political Science, History, Law, Philosophy and Psychology. From the School of Economics and the University College of London, he acquired several degrees. He became a 'chronic' student that by the age of 38, he became VKK Menon, BA, BSC, MA, MSC, Bar at Law, and a Dcp, in Tg.

The London School of Economics was then enjoying a unique reputation under the great economist Harold Laski. Menon was attracted by the magnetic personality of this professor. Laski became Menon's friend, guide and philosopher. The professor's socialistic ideas found a fertile soil in Menon's mind.

In 1935 Menon came into contact with the greatest single factor that would affect his career—Pandit Nehru. After the death of Kamala, Nehru found great consolation in the friendship with Menon. Nehru was then the brightest star in the Indian political scenario. Nehru soon saw the broadness of Menon's vision and his obsession with work for India's freedom. They kept close contact through letters and soon Krishna Menon was a shadow of Nehru in most of the conferences and meetings,

On 15th August '47, the India League celebrated the independence in a simple and solemn manner, thus putting an end to two gruelling decades of struggle and hard work. Logically enough, Menon was

appointed as India's first High Commissioner to Britain.

To many in the inner circles of the Congress party in India, this appointment was a shade out of the way. They could not stomach the fact that someone who was outside the country for over two decades should be given such a pivotal foreign assignment. Little did they know the role that Menon played for India in England. In short, this appointment laid the foundation for an anti-Menon Lobby, to be formed in India.

As a High Commissioner, he made India's freedom felt round the world. The Indo-British relations entered a new phase, after the sourness it had experienced during the freedom struggle. It was Menon who formulated the commonwealth theory of Nations.

The hullabaloo raised by the anti Menon Lobby clouded Menon under controversy. The 'Jeep scandal' added fuel to the fire (later he was proved innocent). Amidst all these controversies he had to resign in 1952. Thus the curtain fell sadly on his 23 long years in London. He began as a theosophist and ended as a politician. He began with good health but ended with a walking stick. He was mentally and physically bruised. Many thought that was the end of him. But he rose like a phoenix, not to sit idle, but to represent India in the United Nations.

At first he was second to Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, but when Mrs Pandit left as the President of the General Assembly, the leadership fell on Menon's shoulders. It is a habit of the mediocrity to complicate a simple issue. It is a way of genius to simplify a complex one. Menon's solution to the Korean, and the Suez dead-locks is

A SWEET-BITTER VICTORY

Jeffrin Von Reich

Age 15 years

The game of chess was introduced to me by my father when I was a little boy. Ever since, he has remained my toughest competitor in the game.

As days went by I came to gain more expertise in chess. My conquest included all the members of my family except of course, my father. He always saw through the veiled plans as easily as he saw through a glass piece. He virtually tore me to shreds whenever I played against him.

One evening during a christmas vacation, we started a game-me and my brother. Soon father joined my brother. There started the battle royal which I will for ever cherish in my life.

Around ten O'clock everybody was asleep except me and father. In the quiet of the night we were pitched in a lone battle against each other, a battle for supremacy.

The charged atmosphere could be sensed as each tried to make the master-move that would result in his victory and the defeat of the opponent.

Since both me and my brother had started on the Sicilian defence, both had the same kind of organisation. The clock chimed two in the night, but nobody noticed the flow of time and further still, nobody was on the winning track.

Then suddenly my father made the move which turned the course of the battle. He gave up his minister as a sacrifice to my pawn hoping to checkmate my king in the next move with his horse. Fortunately he did not see a horse of mine sitting quietly and waiting for this chance. I got his minister. That moment was my final triumph. From then onwards it was easy work. I could not believe that I had won. Neither could I believe that he was defeated.

He just kept staring at me for some time with a non-descript expression on his face. At last he smiled in a sad way. Without a word both of us went to bed. Silence is a very heavy thing. What kept me awake all through the night was not the sweetness of my victory but the bitterness of his defeat-it would have been better if I had lost!

THREE BAFFLING AND UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

Rony P. Nair

Age 14 years

Man has made great strides in all fields during these last two centuries. The art of detection is one of the most significant. But in spite of revolutionary discoveries like fingerprinting and other electronic devices to aid it, many a crime still remains unsolved. Here are three most intriguing mysteries which to this day continue to baffle modern investigators.

1. JACK THE RIPPER, THE KILLER WHO BECAME A LEGEND.

Five times an unobtrusive little man stepped out into the midst of London's Whitechapel. Five times he gossiped to women on the streets. Each time a woman was found dead, slashed in that unique style which was the trade mark of the man called Jack the Ripper. The East of London was a black spot on the face of England. Hundreds of mean houses and bleak taverns were huddled together in narrow streets that stank of refuse. Here men, women and children scratched a miserable, criminal and often dishonourable living on the streets. Bottles of gin were the only available means of escape into oblivion. Drunkards roamed the overpopulated streets and streetfights were not uncommon. It was into this cauldron that the Ripper stepped into in the autumn of 1888. Fear and Panic came with him.

Mary Ann Nicholls was at 42, down on her luck. She was getting too old to

attract men. So when the little man approached her on the tiny street of Buck's Row she was not alarmed. Even when she was drawn into the shadows, alarm bells were'n't ringing. By the time she realized anything was wrong it was too late. The Ripper stepped behind her and put his hand over her mouth. He then slashed her throat. Her mutilated body was found on the morning of August 31. 'Ripperomania' had begun. He waited 7 days to strike again. The victim was, as all of them were to be, a prostitute. 47 year old Annie Champan was dying of a laughing disease when the Ripper cut her down on 29 Hanbur Street. Her rings and a few coins were neatly arranged at her feet. So were her kidneys and lungs.

London was now aflame with rumours. Big riots broke out as hysterical mobs chased suspects. But the Ripper had left no clues about his whereabouts.

September 30th and the Ripper slashed again; this time twice. He slashed Liz Longstride on 40, Berring Street and a few yards away at Metre Square he butchered Kate Eddows. The tract of blood led a few yards away where at a doorstep someone had scribbled, "THE JEWS ARE NOT MEN TO BE BLAMED FOR NOTHING." Did this indicate the Ripper was a Jew? Nobody knows, for this clue was not properly followed up.

Jack the Ripper last killed a young 25 year old called Mary Kelly in her tiny room off Millers Court. He then never went back to his bloody business and to this day baffles detectives all over the world. There are a few facts on the Ripper.

1. The Ripper left very few tracks. After each murder he simply vanished into the crowds of Whitechapel.

2. Theories put forward suggest the Ripper to be both rich and poor. If such, why was he not spotted among the East End's abject poverty. If poor, how did he gain the medical knowledge to carry out his fiendish surgery?

3. How could the Ripper have managed to work unnoticed when surgeons estimate that his terrible operations would have taken up to an hour to perform?

The questions are to this day unanswered.

2. The MURDERING AUTHOR

The famous writer draws a scarf or a stocking tightly around the throat of a famous and beautiful girl, tighter and tighter—it is all in his imagination of course, or has it happened? Is it possible that an author, his name known to millions did commit a brutal and sadistic crime and not only got away with it but had the audacity to write about it afterwards.

This is the eerie and dramatic conclusion of modern investigators after a detailed research into the murder of a pretty brunette whose body was found floating in the Hudson river off New Jersey in the middle of the year 1841

She was Mary Cecilia Rogers who had been assaulted and strangled. As a teena-

ger she had worked at a tobacconist shop and was regularly courted by celebrities of all kinds.

She had previously disappeared for 2 weeks and appeared saying that she had been to visit some relatives. Now, her murder was the sensation of a long hot summer. John Anderson, her employer and three other suspects were rounded up but were later acquitted as nothing of substance was found. So the police eventually closed the file.

Then, 18 months after Mary's death the case took a strange turn. It was literally immortalized in a famous short story, 'The Mystery of Marie Roget'.

The facts of the case seems to have been closely followed by the writer, Edgar Allan Poe except that he changed the location from New York to Paris

But he was also careful to give his work a totally guarded, frustrating and inconclusive ending. In the story Poe's sardonic creation Dupin refers to a lonely assassin and seems on the point of naming him when the story ends rather feebly. Was it because he knew the killer too well?

Looking back, it was astonishing that Poe was not among the suspects. He was known to visit the shop regularly. Poe was also seen at the cigar shop a few hours before Mary had disappeared for the first time talking to her. Later, investigators conclusively proved that Poe regularly courted Miss Rogers.

But perhaps the greatest clue for modern investigators was the fact that Mary had been spotted walking near a wood with a man completely dressed in

black (Poe habitually dressed in black as a reminder of his West Point military academy days from where he was court-martialled and dismissed for drunken behaviour) three days before her body was fished out of the Hudson.

Poe a drink and drug addict died in 1849 at the age of 40 whispering 'Lord help my poor soul' without once being questioned about a brutal murder about which he had written with tremendous passion and a thorough knowledge of facts (three-fourth of the story deals with the factual description of the murder and its circumstances) Another part of the story which stands out is that Poe mentions that the story and the murder are merely coincidences at least 4 times Wasn't he overdoing it?

3. WHO BURNT THE REICHSTAG?

Marius Van Der Lubbe, a 24 year old Dutchman was executed on January 10 1934. His crime: the starting of a fire that gutted the Reichstag, the imposing building that housed the German Parliament.

But was Van Lubbe, a Nazi hater and a communist really guilty or was he a scapegoat for the Fuhrer and his Nazi henchmen. The blaze was a turning point in German History for it was a landmark in Hitlers dramatic rise to power.

Although Van Lubbe said he performed the act as a protest, the political effect of the fire was tremendous. It elevated Hitler, who had been chancellor for only 27 days, to Fuhrer of the Third Reich.

When told by Hermann Goering of Van Lubbe, Hitler is reported to have said: it is a sign from heaven. This is the beginning of the communist ising. Every communist official must be hanged. All their deputies must be hanged this very night. There must be no mercy shown."

It was very important for the Nazis at that time to turn the electorate against the communists, for, the Leftists were blocking their way to total power. In the General Elections of 1933 the Nazis could not gain the two thirds majority for overall rule. They had only forty-four percent of the votes. Overnight, 5000 Communists were rounded up. Four of their leaders were charged with complicity in the act of arson and thus in the absence of the communist deputies who were barred from attending, Hitler got the parliament to pass an act enabling him to have overall rule.

Another twist in the case came when four of Van Lubbe's supposed accomplices were acquitted in spite of the Berlin Brigade Report that suggested that the fire couldnt have been the work of a single culprit. Were they working for the Nazis, Yes! it seems, so, for General Halder, Chief of the German Staff recalled at Nuremberg trials that Goering had boasted in 1942. "the only person who knows about the Reichstag is me, because I set it on fire"

The general opinion though is that Van Lubbe had started the fire on his own and Goering's men at worst exploited it by hampering the fire services.



"If all the good people were clever,
And all the clever people good
The world would be more than ever,
We thought it possibly could"

Lord Beaverbrook

Education is the training of the mind to think and to judge,
to discriminate between what is of true value and the excitement
of a passing fad; to tolerate sincere differences, opinions and
customs,

Indira Gandhi

THE STRAY DOGS

(Apologies to the author of 'The Balloon Man')

They always come at nightly hours
And keeps together— a canine crowd
And around the school, they forage about,
And never seems to think of us.

They are brown and black, and big and small
And when it is a moonless night
Tho boys and warders get between
They frolic around the dormitories.

Some are mongrels, some but pups,
And they bark together, like a clap
And when there is the siren call
They howl and howl like anything.

Some day perhaps, they 'll all go
When the subedar's out with his gun
And we 'll stand and watch from the mess-
That dogged-ness, of the breed.

(PCN)

A NURSERY RHYME

Remember always to forget
Dreams that made you sad,
But never forget to remember
Dreams that made you glad.

Remember always to forget
Mates that proved untrue,
But never forget to remember
Friends that stick by you

Remember always to forget
Troubles that've passed away,
But never forget to remember
Blessings that come your way.

(PCN)

FAREWELL, ALMA MATER:

Seven long years have floated bye
Since first you taught me to sigh.
And now has come the time to sing
That glorious song, Auld Lang Syne

Climbing this unfinished tower
Was far beyond my power-
But you led me on, tumbling though,
Urging me onto a beginning.

And now that am perched atop
With little doubts of a drop
I watch the windy horizon
To begin the benighted quest.

KURIEN ANTONY
Age 17 yrs.

THE STARS

Behold the stars
In the milky way
Innocent they seem
Like babes in their sleep.

They do shine brightest
When the skies are darkest
And when the moon's on fast
They act as her ghost.

So bring out your light
Character — wise,
And when it is dark
You can turn out bright.

ARJUN NINAN MATHAI
Age 11 yrs.

MY WISH

Oh! I wish I was a bird
With feathers all bright
And a beak very straight
To peck at with ease.

Oh! I wish I was a bird
Who could soar upto the clouds
And knock at the skies
For the sound of His very word.

T. K. PRAVEEN
Age 13 yrs,

Navodaya Schools do not pose a threat to Sainik Schools

(The following is the text of the speech delivered by ROY FRANCIS Age 17 yrs, on the occasion of the Inter House Debate on the above topic)

Today's resolution suggests that Navodaya Schools pose a threat to Sainik Schools. My friends on the other side are trying their best to sell this absurd idea to this august assembly. I consider it my sacred duty to thwart their dubious designs. According to them, Navodaya Schools which are just a year old and whose base is not yet rooted and still shaking, pose a threat to Sainik Schools which have already completed twenty five years of yeomen service to the nation.

It's my firm conviction that Navodaya Schools can never be a competitor to Sainik Schools. I shall advance some arguments which have prompted me to reach this conclusion. The Sainik Schools have been founded with a clear cut goal. The methods of training have been well laid out and has stood the test of time. A quarter century of fruitful existence has added strength and robustness to its structure. But the aim of Navodaya Schools are, as usual general and not very clear. At best Navodaya Schools could imitate Sainik Schools, and remember imitation is the best form of flattery. Yet my friends on the other side do not seem to be impressed. They are busy raising false alarms which

make me wonder whether they are prophets of doom.

According to the plan, there will be one Navodaya School for each district. So they will always have a district orientation. Already our country is suffering from the ills of regionalism and communalism. Parochialism is at its peak. Indians are a minority every where in this country. There are more Malayalis and Marathis and Sikhs. The need of the hour is national integration which is conspicuous by its absence. What do my friends say about this? They conveniently close their eyes to solid facts and grim realities.

The Navodaya Vidyalayas have already started catering to populist tastes. These schools have the mother tongue as the medium of instruction in the first three years, and then change over to English or Hindi after Class Eight. This itself shows how undecided they are about the vital subject of the medium of instruction. I am afraid my friends are talking about the XYZ of education without going into the ABC of it.

The very constitution of Navodaya Schools, make it vulnerable to political and populist interference. This will sound the death knell of the scheme. Remember the future of these schools are not yet secure. The staff are appointed only

on deputation. Suppose there is a change in the Government tomorrow, their future will be in danger. When they themselves are yet not fully entrenched, how can they be a threat to Sainik Schools which have already celebrated their silver jubilee. Yet my friends on the other side are not in the least discouraged, and shout out from house tops that Navodaya Vidyalayas are a threat to our school. I am afraid they are living in fools paradise.

One healthy point we note in our country is a clamour for quality education. This desire is so intense that demand for good schools will never reach saturation point in the near future. The mere rise in population is capable of mounting this pressure. No doubt, Navodaya Schools will absorb some of the bright students because enlightened nature craves for upward mobility. In other words, there is a yearning for good from indifferent; for the better from good, and for the best from the better. The existence of eighteen Sainik Schools have not posed any threat to the RIMC. The proliferation of engineering or medical colleges have not

offered any threat to institutions which existed earlier. This itself is sufficient to prove that Navodaya Schools will not pose a similar threat. On the other hand Sainik School will continue to inspire Navodaya Schools. At any rate they are twenty five years behind us in time. What we have earned in twenty five years cannot be mere wishful thinking. In short Navodaya schools cannot supplant Sainik Schools, it can only supplement them.

Remember, ladies and gentle men what India badly needs and sadly lacks is good leadership. Sainik Schools produce true leaders in every walk of life.

I appeal to every one of you not to be misled by the glamour and novelty of the freshness of Navodaya schools. Time alone can consolidate them, granting that they'll be allowed to grow without political interference. I appeal to every right thinking member of this assembly to defeat today's resolution.

Jai Sainik School:

Thank you

DEMOCRACY

- (1) Democracy always makes for materialism, because the only kind of equality that you can guarantee to a whole people is, broadly speaking, physical.

K. F. GEROULD.

- (2) The democratic conscience recoils before anything that savours of privilege; and lest it should concede an immediate privilege to any pursuit or person, it reduces all things as far as possible to the common denominator of quantity

G. SANTAYANA

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I, Prem C. Nair, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Sd) —
Signature of Publisher

MISCELLANEOUS GABS

1. Heart to Heart Chat About the Heart

The adult human heart is red brown in colour, 15 cms long and 10 cms wide at it's widest point. It weighs 340 gms.

Every 24 hours it pumps blood through 96,000 kms of blood vessels. This is enough pumping to fill an 18,000 litre tank.

Barring a womans uterine muscles, the heart muscles are the strongest in the body.

The heart rests between beats and when you sleep. It takes 4/10 of a second for the ventricle to contract and push blood out into the body. Then the heart has a rest of half a second. Also when you sleep, the heart beat slows from a normal 72 a minute down to 55 a minute. Facts that affect the working of the heart are over weight, blood pressure, smoking and tension. Of others, blood pressure needs explanation. For a normal adult it is 140/90. 140 measures the pressure the heart works while contracting and the 90 is the pressure while the heart is resting between beats. Of the two, the lower is the more important. The higher that figure rises, the less rest the heart

gets, and without adequate rest a heart simply works itself to death.

Exercise and diet are other factors closely connected with the longevity of the heart. The heart expects one to be moderate and conservative as far as these habits are concerned.

2. About Language and Literature

- ☐ The most overworked word in English is the word 'set', which has 58 noun uses, 126 verbal uses and 10 as a participial adjective.
- ☐ The English Language contains about 490,000 words plus another 300,000 technical terms, the most in any language.
- ☐ The most translated poem is believed to be 'If' by Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865—1936), first published in 1910 It was put into 27 languages.
- ☐ The first English Dictionary appeared in 1552. It was called the Abcedarium and contained 26,000 words. It was compiled by a man called Richard Huloet.

3. And About Economics Two Satirical Laws

- ☐ Parkinson's Law: That work expands to fill the time available to do it. Or,

that the amount of work done varies inversely to the number of people employed.

- **Peter Principle:** That in any organisation every employee rises to his level of incompetence. All valuable work is therefore done by people who have not reached that level.

4. Do you know ?

- a) Chemically Glauber's salt is sodium sulphate. What is Epsom's salt?
- b) What is the instrument for measuring the pressure of gases?
- c) In the animal kingdom what are chitons?
- d) What do we call the branch of physical science dealing with the behaviour of matter under the action of forces?

e) **Roll Numbers**

My son returned from the school after admission, with one of his classmates. I told them to add their roll numbers. My son gave the answer as 10 and after sometime his friend said '2475'. I was surprised and asked them what they did. The former said he had subtracted, while the latter said he multiplied. What were their roll numbers?

f) **Daughter's Age**

I asked Mrs. Nirmala "What is your daughter's age?" She replied, "The digits in her age are the reverse of the digits in my age, but after five years she will be half of my age." Can you

find out her daughter's age (in whole numbers)?

g) **Square**

Find out two different digits (other than zero) such that the difference between the sum of their squares and their product is a square.

Two deft definitions

- Statistics is the art of lying by means of figures. (W. Stekkel)
- Statistics are the triumph of the quantitative and the quantitative method is the victory of sterility and death

Hillaire Belloc

5. Think it over!

School is an institution built on the axiom that learning is the result of teaching. Institutional wisdom continues to accept this axiom though pupils do most of their learnings without, and despite their teachers. Everyone learns how to live, outside the Schools. We learn to speak, to think, to love, to feel, to curse and work without interference from a teacher. Pupils have never credited teachers for most of their learning. Bright and dull alike have always relied on rote, reading and wit to pass their exams, motivated by the stick or the carrot of a desired career. Schools create jobs for the school teachers, no matter what pupils learn from them"

Curtsey "Deschooling Society"
by I. Illich

ഓമനത്തിങ്കൾ കിടാവോ

ഇരയിമ്മൻ തമ്പി

[ഒരു കാലത്ത് കേരളത്തിൽ പ്രചുരപ്രചാരം ലഭിച്ചിരുന്നതും ഇന്ന് വിസ്മയകോടിയിൽ അകപ്പെട്ടതുമായ ഒരു താരാട്ടുപാട്ട് ഇളം തലമുറയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഞങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു—എഡിറ്റർ]

ഓമനത്തിങ്കൾ കിടാവോ—നല്ല
കോമളത്താമരപ്പൂവോ ?

പൂവിൽ നിറഞ്ഞ മധുവോ-പരി
പൂർണ്ണേന്ദു തന്റെ നിലാവോ ?

പുത്തൻ പവിഴക്കൊടിയോ-ചെറു
തത്തകൾ കൊഞ്ചും മൊഴിയോ !

ചാഞ്ചാടിയാടും മയിലോ-മുറ്റു
പഞ്ചമം പാടും കുയിലോ ?

തുള്ളുമിളമാൻ കിടാവോ-ശോഭ
കൊള്ളുന്നൊരോമൽക്കൊടിയോ ?

ഇശ്വരൻ തന്ന നിധിയോ-പര-
മേശ്വരിയേനും കിളിയോ ?

പാരിജാതത്തിൽ തളിരോ-എന്റെ
ഭാഗ്യദ്രുമത്തിൻ ഫലമോ ?

വാൽസല്യരത്നത്തെ വയ്പാൻ-അമ്മ
വെച്ചാരു കാഞ്ചനച്ചെപ്പോ ?

ഭൃഷ്ടിക്കു വെച്ചാരമുതോ-കൂറി-
രുട്ടത്തു വച്ച വിളക്കോ ?

കീർത്തി ലതയ്ക്കുള്ളവിത്തോ-എന്നും
കേടുവരാതുള്ള മുത്തോ ?

ആർത്തി തിമിരം കളവാൻ - ഉള്ള
 മാർത്താണ്ഡഭദ്ര പ്രഭയോ ?
 സൂക്തിയിൽ കണ്ട പൊരുളോ-അതി
 സൂക്ഷ്മമാം വീണാവയമോ ?
 വമ്പിച്ച സന്ദോഷവല്ലീ-തന്റെ
 കൊമ്പതിൽ, പൂത്ത പൂവല്ലീ ?
 പിചുകത്തിൽ മലർച്ചെണ്ടോ-നാവി
 നിച്ഛ നൽകുന്ന കൽക്കണ്ടോ ?
 കസ്തൂരി തന്റെ മണമോ-നല്ല
 സത്തുകൾക്കുള്ള ഗുണമോ ?
 പൂമണമേറെയും കാറ്റോ-ഏറെ
 പൊന്നിൽ കലർന്നൊരു മാറ്റോ ?
 കാച്ചിക്കുറുക്കിയ പാലോ-നല്ല
 ഗന്ധമെഴും പനിനീരോ ?
 നന്മ വിളയും നിലമോ-ഇതു
 ധർമ്മങ്ങൾ വാഴും ഗൃഹമോ ?
 ദാഹം കളയും ജലമോ-മാർഗ്ഗ
 വേദം കളയും തണലോ ?
 വാടാത്ത മല്ലികപ്പൂവോ-ഞാനും
 തേടിവെച്ചുള്ള ധനമോ ?
 കണ്ണിനു നല്ല കണിയോ-മമ
 കൈവന്ന ചിന്താമണിയോ ?
 ലാവണ്യ പുണ്യ നദിയോ-ഉണ്ണി-
 കാർവർണ്ണൻ തന്റെ കണിയോ ?
 ലക്ഷ്മീഭഗവതി തന്റെ-തിരു
 നെറ്റിയിലിട്ട കുറിയോ ?
 എന്നുണ്ണിക്കുഴപ്പ് ഞൻ ജനിച്ചോ-പാരി
 ലിങ്ങനെ വേഷം ധരിച്ചോ ?
 പത്മനാഭൻ തൻ കൃപയോ-ഇനി
 ഭാഗ്യം വരുന്ന വഴിയോ !

ഒരു മകന്റെ ദുഃഖം

അജിത് കുമാർ എസ്.

റോൾ നമ്പർ 2172

ക്ലാസ് IX C

ഗോവിന്ദൻ കുട്ടിയുടെ ചായക്കടലിൽനിന്നും റെക്കോലിൽ ഒരു സർക്കസ്സ് അഭ്യാസിയെപ്പോലെ തന്റെ പിതാവിന്റെ കൂടെ അടുത്തുള്ള സ്കൂളിലേക്ക് അവൻ ചാടിചാടി പോയി. തന്റെ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട ഒരു കാലി നെപ്പറ്റി ഓർത്ത് അവൻ ദുഃഖിച്ചു. അവനെ സ്കൂളിന്റെ വരാന്തയിൽ ഇരുത്തിയശേഷം ആ ദുഃഖനായ പിതാവ് ഒരു മുന്നറിയിപ്പ് എന്നതുപോലെ പറഞ്ഞു: "എക്കാലം നീ കുട്ടികളുടെ അടുത്തൊന്നും പോകരുത്, ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത് അനുസരിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ നിന്റെ റെക്കോലുണ്ടല്ലോ, അതും ഞാൻ തല്ലിയൊടിക്കും. ഞാൻ പൈസയെല്ലാം പിരിച്ച് ഇപ്പോൾ വരാം." ഇത്രയും പറഞ്ഞ് അയാൾ സ്റ്റാഫ് റൂമിലേക്ക് കയറിപ്പോയി. അപ്പോൾ ഒരു തീവണ്ടിയുടെ ശബ്ദം അവൻ കേട്ടു. അവൻ സ്കൂൾ ഘടികാരത്തിലേക്കു നോക്കി. സമയം 11.45 തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് നിന്ന് ബോംബെയിലേക്കു പോകുന്ന ജയന്തി ജനതാ എക്സ്പ്രസ്സ് കോട്ടയം സ്റ്റേഷനിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടുവെന്ന് അവനു മനസ്സിലായി. അപ്പോൾ തന്റെ പൂർവ്വകാലസ്ഥാനം അവന്റെ മനസ്സിൽ ഓടിയെത്തി.

മൂന്ന് വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ്, അച്ഛന്റെ ആവശ്യപ്രകാരം പാതം നിർമ്മിതി തീവണ്ടിയിൽ ദിനപ്പത്രം വിറ്റു കൊണ്ട് നിൽക്കുകയായിരുന്നു അവൻ. എന്നും വൈകുന്നേരം അച്ഛനെ കണ്ട് കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയ്ക്കുവാനായി അവൻ വീട്ടിൽ തിരിച്ചെത്തും. തന്റെ ജീവിതത്തെ തകർത്തു തരിപ്പണമാക്കിയ മഹാസംഭവം അവൻ ഓർമ്മിച്ചു. മാർച്ച് മാസം മൂന്നാം തീയതിയായിരുന്നു അന്ന്. പതിവുപോലെ, തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു നിന്ന് തിരിച്ച ജയന്തി ജനതയിൽ അവൻ പത്രം വിറ്റു കൊണ്ട് നിൽക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. ഒരു നീണ്ടയാത്രക്ക് ശേഷം ആ തീവണ്ടി ഒരു മുളലോടെ കോട്ടയത്തു നിർത്തി. അതിൽനിന്നും വെപ്രാളത്തിൽ ഇറങ്ങുന്നവഴി സംഭ്രമം മൂലം കാൽ ചവിട്ടുപടിയുടെ വിടവിൽക്കൂടി ചക്രത്തിന്റെ ഇടയിൽ കുരുങ്ങിപ്പോയി. അവൻ തന്റെ രണ്ടു കയ്യും ഉപയോഗിച്ച് കാൽ വേർപ്പെടുത്താൻ ശ്രമിച്ചു. അവന്റെ നാവിൽനിന്നും ആർദ്രമായ ഒരു നിലവിളി ഉയർന്നു. ആ നിലവിളി ഭിത്തികളിൽ തട്ടി മാറൊലി കൊണ്ടുകയലാതെ ആ ചെറുജീവിതം രക്ഷിക്കാൻ ആരും തയ്യാറായില്ല. അപ്പോഴേക്കും തീവണ്ടി പുറപ്പെട്ടു തുടങ്ങി.

അവൻ തന്റെ സർവ്വശക്തിയുമെടുത്ത് കാൽ വേർപ്പെടുത്താൻ ശ്രമിച്ചു. തീവഴിയുടെ വേഗതകൂടി. അത് ഒരു രക്താഷ്ടമസന്ദേശം ചീറിപ്പാഞ്ഞു. അതോടൊപ്പം അവന്റെ ഇടതുകാലും. അബോധാവസ്ഥയിലേക്ക് അവൻ വഴുതി വീണു. പിന്നെ അവൻ ഒന്നും ഓർമ്മയില്ല. ബോധം തെളിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ മെഡിക്കൽ കോളേജിലാണ് കിടക്കുന്നതെന്ന് അവൻ മനസ്സിലായി. തന്റെ ഇടതുകാൽ എന്നെന്നേക്കുമായി നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടെന്ന യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം മനസ്സിലാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അവന്റെ ഹൃദയം വിമ്മിഷ്ടമായി. ക്രമേണ അവൻ സുഖം പ്രാപിച്ചുവെന്നു കൃത്രിമക്കാൽവച്ചു കൊടുക്കാമെന്ന് യോഗ്യരായ ഡോക്ടർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടും സ്വന്തം

പിതാവ് അതിനെ എതിർത്തു. ഇതിന്റെ പിന്നിലെ രഹസ്യം മെഡിക്കൽ കോളേജിൽനിന്നും പുറത്തുവന്നപ്പോഴാണ് അവൻ അറിഞ്ഞത്. തന്നെ ഓരോ സ്കൂളുകളിലും കൊണ്ടുപോയി പൈസാ പിരിച്ച് കള്ളുകുടി കുടിക്കുവാനുള്ള വകയുണ്ടാക്കുവാനായിരുന്നു അയാൾ അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തത്.

“ഉം, പോകാം,” എന്ന ശബ്ദം അവനെ ചിന്താലോകത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഉണർത്തി. അവൻ അച്ഛന്റെ മുഖത്തേക്കു നോക്കി. ആ പിതാവിന്റെ മുഖത്ത് പൈശാചികമായ ഒരു പുഞ്ചിരിയുടെ മുദ്ര തെളിഞ്ഞു കാണാമായിരുന്നു. കാരണം അന്നത്തേയ്ക്കുള്ള വക അയാൾക്ക് കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു.



അവനവനാത്മ സുഖത്തിനാചരിക്കുന്നവ
അപരന്നു സുഖത്തിനായ് വരേണം.

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The Pious Creed

"The safety, honour and welfare
of your country come first
always and every time.

The honour, welfare and comfort
of the men you command come next.

Your own ease, comfort and
safety come last, always and every time"

GEN. PHILIP CHETWODE