

**KCS announces the annual theme for 2021  
“2021 - The year of the youth”****From the desk of KCS President**

Dear friends,

The covid season is behind us? The answer is, ‘Yes and No’. Some of us have taken the first shot of the vaccine, presumably the much sought-after panacea. The second dose is to be taken after a few days which might provide with a pass for some of the home bound seniors to return to the race of homo sapiens. However, we at KCS have no other option but move forward, albeit cautiously.

Your GC met in person for the third time on 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss plans for the next year. We have taken decisive action to close the accounts expeditiously for the year 2020-2021 before the end of April. Although the threatening clouds of covid still hang on us, the tentative programmes for 2021 are as follows.

AGM/EGM – Saturday, May 29

Onam – Saturday, August 14

Silver Jubilee Function – Saturday, December 18

We do have a plan for a musical night with a famous Kerala group to commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> year. An event of such magnitude is possible if only all members are fully involved and actively engaged. We will make a call on the feasibility of a musical night during the AGM. We hope that our members will whole-heartedly welcome and cooperate with such a programme that could instill an air of enthusiasm amongst us and augment funds for a vibrant financially healthy KCS.



Our VP, Oommen Abraham had forwarded a questionnaire to the children of some of our KCS members. The response of the youngsters given elsewhere in this issue, is an eye opener and gives us food for thought.

We understand that the News is not reaching all members of the KCS family and therefore, we plan to post a black and white version to your homes from April 2021.

Happy Easter to you and every KCS Family members

**E.C. Thomas**

**President**

**KCS shall evolve into a premier organisation**

- By instilling a sense of pride in being associated with it and thereby motivating the young and the old of the Kerala Catholic families to join the society wholeheartedly.
- By creating an image in the city of Chennai and elsewhere by initiating special projects for the community, working in tandem with similar organisations, if necessary.
- By utilising the inherent talents and strengths of all its members to initiate activities that will install a sense of belonging and promote fellowship.
- By creating an atmosphere for constant, innovative, and timely improvements in the organisation and its structure.

**From the desk of KCS Secretary**

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the GC held on 13.02.2021 was circulated and approved after discussion.

**Review of Accounts:** Accounts for the February 2021 was circulated and approved after review.

**Assignment of responsibilities with the Auditor:** It is decided to assign the following responsibilities with the Auditor - (1) Bookkeeping, (2) Auditing and (3) Statutory Compliances and handling of queries from statutory authorities.

**Web Site:** Quote - (1). Rs.26,500/-, (2) Rs.25,000/- and (3) Rs.75,000/- (Advertisement amount received Rs.45,000/-) Mr. Ranjith and Mr.Oommen could decide and proceed with the suitable party to get it functional at the earliest.

**KCS Directory:** Template to collect details shall be provided to all the members to receive it by the end of April 2021. Removal of member's name from Directory, if subscription is not paid for the last 2 years - the President will talk to those members directly and explore the possibility of their continuity in KCS.

**KCS News:** Circulate black & white photostat copy of KCS News to all members from April 2021 onwards.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM):** It is decided to convene the AGM on Saturday the 29th day of May, 2021 and send AGM Notices, to all the members on or before 08th May, 2021, as per the statutory norms.

**Onam Celebration:** This year's Onam Celebration will be on Saturday, the 14th day of August 2021 and is proposed to be at Sowbhagya Mahal, near Koyamedu, Chennai.

**KCS Silver Jubilee Celebration:** KCS Silver Jubilee will be celebrated on Saturday the 18th day of December 2021 with the Bishop's evening Mass at Santhome Cathedral followed by other programmes and Dinner at a near by Hotel preferably Hotel My Fortune (Former Hotel Chola Sheraton), Cathedral Road, Chennai

**M S Abraham**  
Secretary



**KCS Youngsters feedback** - a questionnaire was sent through email and WhatsApp to members to share it with your young children to get their opinion / feedback to improve engagement in KCS. Despite requests and follow up, only 5 responses received. Hence without doing much analysis, data conversion to percentages and inferences, we are sharing the verbatim as it is provided by them for your own inferences.

### Top things that comes to our KCS youngsters mind about KCS:

- Family gathering
- Amazing Ambience
- Old generation
- Kerala food
- Cultural programs
- A grand reunion
- A lot of knowledge about different things
- Fellowship
- Uncles drinking
- Aunties talking
- Kids bored,
- Unnecessary stress during main events such as Christmas, Onam etc
- Picnic
- Housie Housie
- Fun
- Like minded individuals
- Social gatherings
- Dance & Music

### Top things that most liked by KCS youngsters

- Variety Food
- To being able to see the Kerala culture in Chennai
- The well planned arrangements
- Christmas / Onam celebrations
- Provides opportunities to showcase different talents
- Friendly people
- Picnics, Retreat
- Scholarship / helping poor students
- It used to be meeting friends, but most of us aren't at Chennai anymore
- A network of social contacts for Malayalees in Chennai
- Way for families to get together to celebrate festivals like Christmas and Onam
- Opportunity for camaraderie and friendship
- Occasional social work and events bring people together

### Top things that least liked by KCS youngsters:

- Not having much entertaining programs for the kids
- Long unwanted speeches
- Difficult to socialise with the elders / adults
- Not much of youth involved.
- Uncles using it as an excuse to drink alcohol
- Less opportunity for younger generations as they seem to have different interests than older generations so may not align with their interests.
- Not that much change to get to know
- No focus on mental / intellectual activities.
- Kids are ignored and focus is on Uncles drinking
- Not everybody participating

### KCS should CONTINUE doing

- Conducting get togethers
- Bringing in new members
- To give scholarship to kids with financial difficulties / poor
- Organising Picnic and Outing
- Organising Cultural events
- Retreat during Lent
- Events to help people meet and interact with each other.
- Good hotels & Food
- Bible based programmes

## KCS should START doing

- Raise more funds
- Involve the youth more
- Allow people to express opinion or voice out
- Organise youth competitions to showcase talents so that more people come forward
- More fun games and activities
- Outreach programmes
- Skill development programmes
- Conduct more opportunities for social work and have groups work towards a cause
- Conduct more interactive events, activities etc to bring people together
- Get more young people involved in brainstorming and organising events
- To start serving more mojitos than Uncles alcohol.
- Good DJs to keep the vibe alive
- Everybody participating atleast in one event

## KCS should STOP doing

- Giving importance to alcohol at social events
- Stop serving alcohol

## Suggestions to improve engagement in KCS

- Listen to everyone's opinion and complaints and find solutions
- Create activities where everyone can involve and share ideas and grow a strong bond.
- Use the pool of knowledge from KCS members to conduct talks on a topic of interest.
- Find out from members themselves what they want to get you of KCS, why have they joined, what would they be looking to get out of it

## Young Talents keen to contribute

- Anne - Dance, Cultural activities with kids
- Anita - Drawing, Writing, KCS Editorial
- Tom - Dance

## Specific Achievements / Accolades which KCS members not aware of:

**I have represented India thrice in International Dance competitions - Singapore, Malaysia & Bangkok. Also choreographed at International level and got placements**

*- Tom Abraham Oommen*



**If you were the President of KCS, what changes you will bring in:**

- Bring in more of youth and help them socialize with each other and become good friends, so that they would love to attend each program without feeling bored cause its always fun only when you know everyone around.
- Help kids who find socializing difficult to come out of their little box and grow more, along with everyone else.
- I will bring out the talent of each kid and make them feel more comfortable about being present in every event. Conduct fun games where the kids challenge the elders and enjoy the moment.

**- Anne Rebecca Oommen**



- Outreach programmes, increase the scholarship, cash awards for talent competitions.
- Conduct a variety of events throughout the year - from Cooking workshops, creative writing contest, drawing competition for kids.
- Exercise challenges for young people to raise money for charity, mini marathon, biking trail, etc.
- Encourage school / college students to take on positions of leadership to organise events as volunteers, use their existing skills to help senior KCS members.
- Create volunteering opportunities at NGOs, orphanages, reading to the blind, etc and participate in events at the NGO

**- Anita Augustine**

**We thank all the participants for your free and frank feedback and suggestions.**

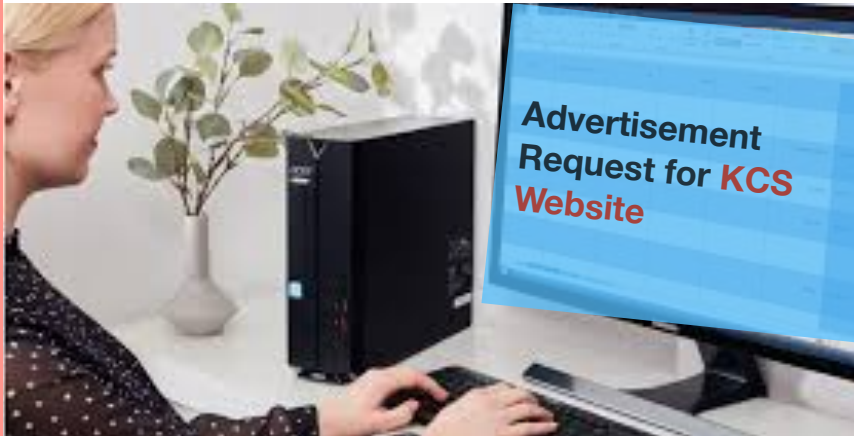
Covid 19 pandemic - Vaccinations are available now. Many say that people have learnt to live with Covid 19. Many of us might have got vaccinated by now. We have few ambassadors who are advocating vaccination and happily posted their photos for KCS members (courtesy Hello KCS). Hope there will not be any copyright infringement from Hello KCS.



Left:  
Mr. Verghese George

Right:  
Mrs. Dolly Pollo and  
Dr. T J Pollo





## **KCS Website - the scope has increased from mere website to KCS members portal.**

### **KCS Website & member portal:**

As mentioned in the last issue of KCS News, we are in the process of finalising the vendor for website & KCS portal for members.

It will have general website for public, and login for members and Admin to access the following:

1. Membership details, KCS Digital Directory
2. Zone wise page for notices, helpline meeting photos
3. Galleries - year wise, event wise, archives
4. KCS Annual event calendar,
5. Fees status and auto reminders
6. Communication Circulars with email & SMS notification
7. Payment gateways, social media links.

Now the scope has increased from mere Website to KCS member portal and accordingly the cost also gone up. It is estimated around Rs. 1 lakh plus GST based on the 3 quotes received so far. We are in the process of discussion and negotiation with the vendors. As informed earlier, we would like to give priority to our own members in case any one has the capability to develop it as a sponsor or at a cost.

Our endeavour is make it as a dynamic and most interactive portal for our members, where they can get to know what is happening in KCS and at various helpline zones. It helps in spreading our wing and attract the like minded Kerala Catholics settled in Chennai. Lot of youngsters will join KCS once they see that KCS is vibrant with activities.

Looking forward your support in rolling out KCS portal at the earliest. For further details, please feel free to contact Ranjit Dominic, Augustine Joseph or me.

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### April - Wedding anniversaries

3 - Lulu George & Anirita George

6 - VA George & Valsa George

9 - VM Thomas & Elizabeth Thomas

9 - Joshy Joseph & Lekha Antony

17 - Felix Madiath & Anna Madiath

17 - PA Joykutty & Annama Joy

18 - Babu John & Elizabeth John

19 - Jose Sebastian & Leela Jose

20 - Jose Mathew & Asha Jose

20 - PJ Joy Aphraim & Swapna Joy

21 - I.I Sunny & Gracy Sunny

24 - Soy Joseph & Solly Soy

26 - Jose Punnoose & Sunitha Jose

### April Born KCS members

3 - Leela Jose

3 - Raji Pappu

4 - Sam Paul

5 - Joseph Jose

10 - Joseph Philip

11 - Celinamma John

11 - I. I. Sunny

12 - Susan Thomas

12 - Nancy Oommen

12 - Tom Abraham Oommen

13 - George Joseph

13 - Rekha Kurian

13 - Tessa Deepak

15 - T.A Varghese

15 - Annamma Joy

15 - Anu George

17 - Dr. Ronnie Jacob

17 - Oommen Abraham

20 - Lilly Gerard

23 - Geena Geo

23 - Joseph Ittiachen

25 - Mini Jose

25 - Ponnaama Lukose

25 - Geetha Varghese

27 - Meena Thomas

30 - V.P. Udhippu

# Reaping organic gold during tough times

ANU KURUVILLA @idukki

AT A time when organic farmers are complaining about poor yields and the unprofitability of the endeavour, P C Antony of Alakode has a different story to tell. Not only has this organic farmer been able to reap a good harvest, but he has also found it profitable. His success story is going to be recognised by the government with a state award for the best organic farmer coming his way.

Antony is an inspiration for all those who want to pursue organic farming. "I begin my day distributing newspapers. Once that's over, I go directly to my farm and nurture the crop varieties growing on the whole six acres," he said. Antony has been growing vegetables and

other crops for more than five decades. "The trick lies in not sticking to a single crop. I grow two crops in the space for one. For example, if I am cultivating ginger, I would plant a Chinese potato along the boundary. That way, I'll be harvesting two crops," he said.

Another quality of his produce is that it is grown using only organic fertiliser and pesticides. "Organic doesn't mean applying cow dung alone. One can make fertiliser out of every single kitchen waste. One of the best fertilisers is kanjivellam (rice broth) with peanut oil cake and microorganisms. They boost plant growth by manifold and give quality yield," he said. Antony takes a break from farming only during lunchtime.

He grows cowpea, bitter gourd, okra, winged beans, nithya vazhuthana, broad beans and cucumber. "I also grow medicinal plants like chenbeer root aloe vera. I have been supplying medicinal herbs to Nagarjuna, a company that manufactures ayurvedic products, for a long time," he said. He also keeps bees, has Malabari goats and grows fishes like tilapia and gaura.

"I have black pepper vines, 150 areca nut palm, 60 coconut palm and 300 rubber trees," Antony added. For him, cultivation is more a passion and than a means to earn a livelihood.



Antony Chacko

P C Antony at his farm

Mr. PC Antony brother of our member Mr. PC Johnny was recently awarded by the Kerala State Government for his successful organic farming.



Mr. Sunny Immaty and Mr. Gracy Sunny making Chennai cool with their passionate Terrace Garden. Few photos presented below



## Gracy & Sunny Immaty's Terrace garden in Chennai