

KCS annual theme for 2021 “The year of the youth”

From the desk of KCS President

Dear friends,

You would have seen in the KCS News of August 11, 2021 details about AGM discussions and decisions. The highlights were the switching on of our renewed KCS website and formal approval of ten resolutions for the revival of KCS activities. The resolutions have been widely circulated. As there are major changes affecting our by-laws, it is necessary to have the approval of at least 51% of regular members. Our office staff will approach each one of you for a signature. I request your cooperation.

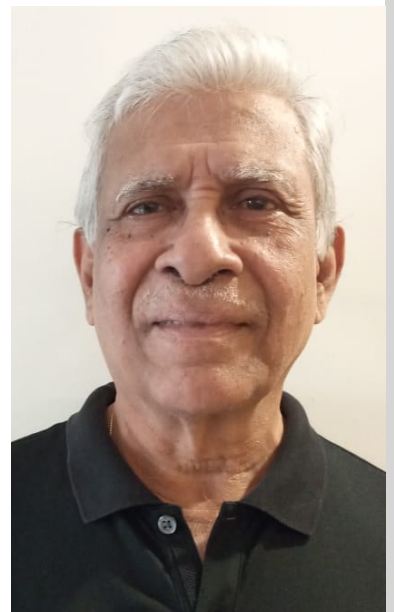
I understand that some members have reservations about the increase of yearly subscription to Rs. 10,000.00 from April 2022. Their reservations are understandable. AGM debated animatedly the pros and cons of the increase. Members were firm that KCS must celebrate three customary annual functions annually, Onam, Christmas, and Picnic/KCS family meet. A senior member suggested to me that the induction of the President and Vice President must be celebrated once in two years. I agree with that idea.

I owe a word of explanation why we must increase subscriptions. Let me be clear that we cannot have three functions at the current rate of subscription. The current subscription was fixed in May 2015. The hotel and dinner charges have gone up by at least by 33% over these years. Our society is not financially strong enough to conduct three dinner meetings annually in decent hotels. Such dinner meetings were financed from the scarce surpluses of the society. The Empowered Committee had wisely recommended that KCS must have just one annual family meet and that Onam and Christmas could be celebrated by the zones. The suggestion was not approved.

I have informed you about a permanent project for KCS in its 25th year. In the GC, we considered many projects including collaborating with a church school. We are now discussing a dialysis facility in collaboration with the Rotary club on a 50:50 basis. The discussions are in the preliminary stage. I will keep you informed on the progress.

There are three vacancies in the GC considering the newly amended structure of 10 member GC. As we plan to usher in more youth in KCS leadership roles, I hope that more youth will volunteer to be in the GC.

EC Thomas



Sept 8th is celebrated as Mother Mary's Birthday. Happy Feast!

From the desk of KCS Secretary

As minutes of the AGM on July 31 have been sent to you by email and post, I do not repeat them here. As you are aware, we must get signatures of at least 51% of the members for the resolutions before we commence to implement them. I will report on the progress of their implementation after the next GC in September.

In the GC meeting on August 14, the President thanked members who attended the meeting in person and virtually. Many members reported that the AGM was conducted professionally. There was active participation by those who attended in person and virtually. It is a matter of satisfaction that discussions were vigorous, but friendly. The IT demand of three years was considered in detail. President talked to Mr. Manuel Thomas, our auditor, requested expeditious resolution. Subsequently, Alfred met the auditor who had assured decisive action. Auditor informed us that he would take up the matter with IT authorities and let us know when to meet the commissioner in charge of our account.

GC discussed ideas for a permanent project. Alfred suggested a dialysis unit on a commercial basis. Idea was followed up. We are now discussing a dialysis unit in collaboration with Rotary club for free dialysis sessions for the poor.

GC also discussed enrolling at least 25 youngsters in the KCS year of Youth.

MS Abraham



Dean's List

This is awarded to the top 3 performers of the Class of 2021.

Nikhil Kanakamedala, Mandar Godbole & Samir George

Congratulations Samir

Samir Pius George (Son of George Pius Tharayil KCF No 123) finished his graduation in Economics (Hons) from St Stephens College in Delhi and then joined the Indian School of Public Policy for the Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy, Design and Management. He finished the programme in July 2021.

A **dean's list** is an academic award, or distinction, used to recognize the level of highest scholarship demonstrated by students in a college or university. This system is most often used in North America, though institutions in Europe, Asia and Australia may also employ similar measures. It is often synonymous with **honor roll** and **honor list**, but should not be confused with honours degrees.

Getting on the Dean's list is a great personal achievement. Being on the Dean's list means that you are among the top 1-5% of the faculty in terms of academic results.

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.

Mr. Babu Jacob needs no introduction. He is a founder member who conceptualised the Helpline of KCS. He is a prolific writer.

SIX AND I (THE STORY OF MY RECENT FALL)

I am sorry to disappoint those of you with a dirty mind, who might have thought that I made a spelling mistake. Sorry folks, it is the numeral 6 and not the 3 letter word with an 'E' in the middle!

SIX has been haunting me for the last SIX years or so. I am in Sixes and sevens as to why it is happening. Today is 15th March. One and five is SIX. Today on Twitter "With a SIX, India makes a perfect SIX by SIX" (India beats Zimbabwe by SIX wickets on their Sixth WC match). And IT Took me close to Sixty minutes to pen this piece!

Well, I am no Dhoni to scintillate and exhilarate the crowds with Sixes and successive successes in match after test match. Nor am I one of those Khans who flaunt their SIX abs! .I am a SIX footer (when I put on a 2 inch high pair of shoes!). And I am a 42 model vintage (4 and 2 is SIX}, having been born in 1942(You see I am a born patriot: I quit my mother's womb to join Gandhiji's Quit India movement, launched in that year!).

SIX years back, I was diagnosed with SIX blocks in my heart (yes, only SIX!) and that was when I had just turned Sixty SIX! The cardiologist decided against Bye pass surgery (I said Bye to Bye pass!) and also Angioplasty. Exercise, diet and medicines will do, he said and asked me to reduce 12 kg(6x2=12).I bargained with him to get a remission of the sentence from 12 to SIX kg which he agreed on condition that stage 1 will be SIX kg and stage 2 another SIX kg in a total time span of SIX months. He said he will not give me the green signal to go to USA, unless I bring down my weight by 12 kg in SIX months. And I did it! And my wife and I went to US of A!

In a game of Tambola, the callers call out "Republic: 2 and 6, 26". Republic day 2015 had a surprise in store for me. My Alma mater, St Berchman's College, Changanachery (Kerala) invited me to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the 1965 batch organized by the Alumni Association on 26th January. I made up my mind to attend and we decided to stay in a Resort nearby.

"I am Jacob, calling from Chennai. Is it Greenland Resort Changanachery?"

"Yes sir! How can I help you?"

"I need a room for two of us on 26th January"

"Sorry sir .We are fully booked"

"Hello! You have to somehow help me, please"

"Sir there is only one room and that is a handicapped room"

"A handicapped room? Oh you mean a room for the handicapped? Ok I will take it, although I am not a handicapped"

I had no premonition about what was in store for me when we checked in on 26th at around 5 p.m. At SIX pm I was at the college. Among the Alumni present were a Cardinal, an Arch Bishop, two bishops besides the college principal, also priest and a few other priests. After the meeting, cultural programs and dinner, my cousin, who was a retired professor of St .Berchman's College, offered to drop me at the Resort, which was near his house.

He took me thro' a short cut which was fully dark. And then it happened:"Watch out Babu, there are steps" my cousin cautioned me. His warning came a bit too late. I had already made by best (worst?) foot forward and what ensued was a nightmarish experience. With a gift wrapped memento on one hand, like an acrobat I manoeuvred a few steps, but lost balance and fell flat on the ground (mercifully not on the steps or on any hard surface). Bleeding bruised and with my shirt torn, I was taken to a hospital by my cousin for first aid and X-ray etc.Since I was not thick skinned, I lost several sq inches of skin and some blood.

I landed up at the resort tottering, and with my left hand in sling. My wife ACHAMMA (Achcha amma= good mother) was shocked to see my condition. That, friends, is the story of my harrowing experience on 26th January. The next day we checked out of the HANDICAPPED room and I left as a HANDICAPPED after checking in as a normal person the previous day. Recently an MRI test revealed that a ligament is torn. A 3 hour long key hole surgery only will help to restore it. However, with SIX blocks, surgery is ruled out. I have to live with the pain for the rest of my life. I pray God to allot me a room in heaven under the handicapped quota!

I hasten to add that I was not under the influence of Bacchus, the Greek God of spirits. Babu, that is me, is in good terms with Bacchus with whom I keep company occasionally. But Babu will not even think of committing a sacrilege by bringing Bacchus to Berchman's (the saint after whom the college is named). Babu, Bacchus and Berchmans cannot and should not co-exist! Yes, perhaps I was intoxicated spiritually after listening to the talks of a cardinal, 4 bishops and 2 priests!

I am still licking my wounds of that horrific night!
Here I am, Signing off.

BABU JACOB

(The wounded soldier)

(FEED BACK WELCOME:bjacob20@rediffmail.com/9840089864



Babu Jacob, KCF no. 026

Anna Nagar zone Onam celebration.

Anna Nagar zone leadership under Geetha, Lekha, and Susan (respectively in the picture) volunteered to distribute payasam to the zonal families at their doorsteps, virtually celebrating Onam. Romey (Vergheese George) helped to drive the ladies to some of the houses. The effort was commendable and successful despite the onslaught of torrential rain during the morning. We look forward to the day when we could meet and celebrate Onam in



Chennai Express features KCS family

Thanks to our newly introduced website, enquiries are coming to our office. Recently a lady from Ireland who published books on exemplary Catholic families around the world wanted our help for an introduction to such a family in India.

Chennai Express newspaper contacted the president for an interview to know how Christian Community celebrates Onam. Its representative, Sahana Iyer, talked with Susan Thomas. A short report was published in the newspaper on August 21, 2021. She asked for a Christian family in Onam attire. The talk and the picture with Chennai Express are reproduced here.



THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM OF MALAYALEES

KANNALMOZHI KABILAN, SAHANA IYER

Whether you are a Malayalee or otherwise, Onam calls for full-fledged celebrations. It doesn't take ethnicity and roots to appreciate a good *kasavu sari*, the crisp white *mundu* with the *zari*, the elaborate *sadya* and the signature *pookalam*. The younger generations might even add a favourite Malay movie in the mix. With the harvest festival having become more cosmopolitan, much of the festivities have taken a whole new avatar for Malayalees themselves. And with it, the idea of prosperity — an element that goes hand in hand with the festival that celebrates the arrival of King Mahabali to his lands — has changed over the years too. It's even more so for Malayalees far from home, it seems.



Generations of Malayalees in the city discuss the idea of prosperity and how it has rendered itself in the celebration of the harvest festival of Onam

Nothing compares to celebrating Onam back home in Kerala, begins Rajalakshmi, whose father Achuthan Nair moved to Chennai in search of a fresh start at the tender age of 12. By the time Rajalakshmi (this second child) was born, he had a thriving restaurant set up in Cholamelu. Leaving that behind to visit their hometown in Kerala was not an option when she was a kid. But, they were able to make merry with the whole band of relatives in the city and that made up for it pretty well. "*Pookalam* was a big thing back then. Those days, there was no Koyambedu market but there were a lot of trees in our neighbourhood. We'd go about picking the flowers that were available and come back home to make the *kolan*. There was a lot of garden space in the house too. It's not so anymore. We have to make do with a *kolan* inside the house," she narrates. To her late father, by all means the head of the whole family unit, Onam was all about being able to provide for the family. It is good food, new clothes for the kids or gathering everyone under one roof. Preparation would start a month in advance. But, that role has changed for the subsequent heads of families, suggests Chandrasekar, Rajalakshmi's husband. "In those days, Onam was just a family affair. Even our neighbours didn't know much about it. By the time we were married, the celebration included the neighbourhood. We would visit them and give sweets and chips. In the next generation, even the market was ready for it," he says.

newer traditions than those from her Kerala days, ones that she shared with her Hindu neighbours. "As a Christian, Onam was celebrated with the Hindu families of the neighbourhood, who would provide us with *sadya* and gifts that we reciprocated on Christmas. We looked forward to the day, saving our best attires to match the new clothing of our peers. We hung out the *onkol* (ornaments) collected flowers for *pookalam* and eagerly awaited the feast," she recounts. But, years since that migration, their celebrations have become far more multicultural. They have moved to cooking their own *sadya*; became a part of the Kerala Catholic Society for its many events. "Now, people celebrate within their friend circles. There are similar Malayalee communities here; however, I am not personally involved. For us, the celebration of Onam has continued through friends and food. We get dressed up, get together and bring traditional dishes for a feast. There is still a bond between the Malayalees

here but more through food than festivities," she says. Her children — five-year-old Ishan and two-year-old Anya — are not used to the *sadya* flavours yet. For the generation that is still Chennai-bound, things went in a vastly different direction, it seems. For one, *sadya* got more and more elaborate, says Rahul, Rajalakshmi's son. "Ironically, people in our family moving out of the grandparents' house, some even to other countries) happened during the liberalisation era. It was when we moved to our own house in the 90s that we came to know about the

While the rules of the game have constantly been changing for people of Rajalakshmi's and Susan's generation, the change has been much more stark and rapid for their children and beyond. For Maryann Thomas, having lived in the UK for a while, the festivities have filtered down to focus just on friends and food. "There are similar Malayalee communities here; however, I am not personally involved. For us, the celebration of Onam has continued through friends and food. We get dressed up, get together and bring traditional dishes for a feast. There is still a bond between the Malayalees

WILDLIFE IN INDIA
India is home to 7% of the world's wildlife—including 461 endangered plants and animals, of which 133 are listed as critically endangered in the IUCN's Red list 2020.

Wildlife Act
The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 is an Act of the Indian parliament that was passed on this day, but implemented on September 9, 1972.

THE ACT
This Act prohibits the capturing, killing, poisoning or trapping of wild animals. It extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

OBJECTIVES
Prior to this legislation, India had only five designated national parks. Among others, the Act sought to protect and conserve or harvesting these species.

Tracing America's footprints in Chennai

PSA has started a new concept where you can get ranking points even if only Indians take part. Introduced a few months ago, it's applicable till December 31.

EXPRESSIONS
AS normally gradually returns after the second wave of COVID-19, the environment is becoming conducive for hosting local sport once again. In Chennai, the fifth edition of the Tamil Nadu Premier League was held recently at the MA Chidambaram Stadium without any hassle and the first division league of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) is back too.

Now, the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) is set to host the third edition of the HCL SRFI Indian Tour Challenger event — a Professional Squash Association (PSA) Challenger event — from August 29-30 at the Indian Squash Academy here. It is the first squash event in the city since March end, when USA's Todd Harrity won the men's event and Egypt's Hana Moataz claimed victory in the women's field. Unlike the event in March, the upcoming Challenger event will feature Indian players only with the winner in both the men's and women's categories having 200 ranking points up for grabs. Earlier this year, the PSA allowed national squash associations to host tournaments and give away ranking points even if no international players are taking part.

"PSA has started this new concept where you can get ranking points even if only Indians take part. It was introduced a few months ago and is applicable till December 31. Basically, they are trying to revive the sport across the world. They have encouraged associations to host tournaments in their countries. We are happy to do it. The players get points. There is no international participation. So, the Indian players will benefit," SRFI secretary-general Cyrus Poncha said.

While the top players are out of the country and taking part in international events, the second rung of Indian players stands to benefit. In the men's section, Abhay Singh is the top seed while Harinder Pal Sandhu and Jaid Zaveri are the second and third seeds respectively. Among the women, Sunayna Kuruvilla and Tanvi Khanna are the headline acts as the first and second seeds respectively. The players taking part in the event will be in a big-bubble and strict Covid protocols are expected to be followed.

Customised traditions
Dhanya Aiyar reports that their family has managed to preserve their version of Kerala-ness through the years. Living in the same apartment as her parents and sister's family (each on a different floor) certainly seems to have helped. Her father, V Mohanan, had moved to the city of his wife Latha Mohan a few years after their wedding. A marine engineer by profession, he began his career in Guruvayur as a ship repairer and sailor. He moved to the city when sailing was no longer feasible and now trains youth for the merchant navy as the CEO of the Maritime Foundation. His memories of Onam consists of celebrating farmers and feeding them in exchange for their produce. "We used to play an active role in the festivities too. The Onam *chanda* (market) allowed for such a communal celebration, he says.

While Rahul's children — Aashrith and Anugraha — are only toddlers, his older brother's seven-year-old, Dhvani, looks forward to the *pookalam* part of the day — much like her grandmother had. She also feels that she is grown up enough to be seated at an *elal* by herself and the entire *sadya* autonomously. And from his vantage point, his US, UK and Canada-based relatives are more invested in the festivities, given how much distance has deprived them. "Much like last year, this time too we hope to catch up with our relatives abroad over a video

Madras Day puzzle podu!

How well do we know our city? Where was the first waterworks constructed? How many floors does the building at the house? As we celebrate the 382nd founding day of the city, walk down with us to learn a little more about Madras — the place we call home — with this crossword curated by Madras Inherited.



- ACROSS**
- The name of the last surviving boundary pillar of Black Town.
 - The Anglo-Indian of Madras predominantly worshipped by the British.
 - This was an earlier name for 'Korambathal' (This name was reserved for the British).
 - A popular literary work written in Portuguese.
 - The magazine that first covered the term 'Korambathal'.
 - Not that long called this earlier name of the city.
 - The person in the image below is projected to be the first person to have been named after this person.
 - The building in the image below is the first of its kind in Madras.
 - An association in Madras established by Anne Boleyn.
 - The first waterworks in Chennai was constructed here.
 - The Anna Nagar Theatre was built by this person.
 - ICE was originally functioning here.
 - The first bridge in Chennai was built by this person.
 - A temple turned into a marriage hall in Mylapore during the WWI.
- DOWN**
- The Chennai Boat Club is traditionally held in this institution.
 - The Indian's first gathering witnessed the formation of the Indian National Congress.
 - This was the first of its kind in the city.
 - The name of the first newspaper published in Chennai.
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(Clockwise from top) Onam at Rajalakshmi's, Dhanya Aiyar's and Susan Thomas' homes





Hearty thanks to Mr. Sunny Immatty & Mrs. Gracy Sunny Immatty for posting their family photo with Onam Pookalam at their home. They deserve all appreciation. They are beautiful couple young at heart exploring and celebrating life.



Date	Wedding Anniversaries September	KCF NO	Mobile no
1	PT Jacob & Julie Jacob	91	94451 75659
2	Babu Emmanuel & Molly Babu	8	98840 60633
2	K J Job & Geetha Job	159	87545 55339
3	Geo Paul & Geena Geo	131	95662 11318
6	Abraham Vadakkal & Mary Abraham	1	98407 00092
9	C J Jimmy & Dominica Jimmy	29	93810 14060
9	Jose Isaac & Ittyanam Jose	86	99943 50713
10	Jose Thomas & Mini Jose	34	94440 61754
10	Terry Thomas & Mary Terry	71	98803 25000
12	Paul Peter W & Sajini Paul	180	98410 42591
12	Thomas Thaliath & Tessa Thomas	77	99869 49051
15	Thomas John & Celinamma John	75	96770 44701
20	P J Raphael & Litty Raphael	97	89251 46701
21	C K Devassy & Sally Devassy	14	94443 81059
25	V P Udhippu & Celine Udhippu	139	94440 16881



Date	Birthday September 2021	KCF no	Mobile no
1	D Thomas	73	98402 70228
1	Cyriac Jose Sunil	210	99620 02333
2	Stella Varghese	81	97911 09502
2	Sajini Paul	180	94443 67546
2	Mariamamma Thomas	198	94445 41603
4	Chechamma Pailo c/o Pailo	59	94456 72474
6	Babu Emmanuel	8	98840 60633
7	Geo Paul	131	95662 11318
7	Shini Pious	133	96000 40015
7	Ramya Sunil	210	99625 57740
10	Anto Tharappen	4	94440 17301
10	CC Johnny	128	98400 27100
11	George Pious Tharayil	123	98410 21011
11	Alphonsa	181	98402 82002
13	Joseph Dominic	170	96770 89696
13	P K Jose	95	94443 99780
14	Zacharia George	115	98403 55173
15	V A George	24	98409 70077
17	P J Raphael	97	89251 46701
17	T J Pollo	125	91766 17599
17	Susan Mathew	110	98401 30533
18	Viji Joseph c/o Roy Joseph	249	98403 32679
19	Annie Fredrick	74	98400 48951
19	Sujatha Vinod	218	99625 48110
22	Mary Beena M c/o Malcolm	83	93810 37892
23	Thomas John	75	96770 44701
23	K S Joseph	98	94446 50246
24	Anna Madiath	107	94443 76257
26	Peter Kurian Manavalan	62	98410 20784
27	Roy Joseph	249	98403 32679
29	P K Pailo	59	94456 72474
30	E C Thomas	148	99626 29781
30	Sally Devassy c/o Devassy	14	94443 81059



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Please send your articles, comments, suggestions, feedback to

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