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Particulars Of College Magazine 2015-20:6
Sacred Heart College, Thevara


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One of the most testing times in my life was when I was preg-
nant with my son, about five years in my life was when I was preg-
nant with my son, about five years ago. But it was also one heck of a blissful set of months. I carried
him for 42.5 weeks, travelled widely by bus, train, and car and as a pillion-rider on a $500-\mathrm{cc}$ Classic Enfield. I exercised, went for work, entertained friends and family, hosted meals, nursed close friends at home, climbed whole flights of stairs, enjoyed sessions of pre-natal Yoga, and met new people, even planned for a Water Birth.

How was it possible for me to engage in so many activities, with a pregnant tummy in the way? I'd say it's all in the head. Women have been giving birth by themselves since the beginning. We've given birth in caves, forests, homes,
street alleys, and now in hospitals. I see more and more women - and men - treat pregnancy as a disease. It's confused some of us further when some medical practitioners prescribe bedrest. I agree that's necessary in urgent cases, but why for otherwise healthy women?
It's all in the head. A friend who was also expecting a baby around the same time as me asked, "Should you squat like that? Use bathrooms with the European closet." Duh. **eyes rolling** in olden days, and in some parts of the world even today, one of the most comfortable positions to give birth in is the squatting position. Your hips and legs are wide apart, giving you enough leverage to expel a baby from in there. But most of us are scared to squat. Scared to exercise, and even to go about daily chores. Come on. The womb is probably the strongest part of a human body, considering how it grows, nurtures life and gets back to almost original position in a few months' time, sometimes several times in a span of years.

Woman, know your body before heeding advice from another person. Listen to your self, your inner core. If your Self is willing, getting your body to do its bidding is easy. It's all in the head.




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## An Impending Dystopia:

# The Rise of Communalism in India 

"And my heart bled within me; for you can only be free when even the desire of seeking freedom becomes a harness to you. and when you cease to speak of freedom as a goal and a fulfillment." Kahlil Gibran (The Prophet)

There was a time on this planet when human beings lived in utter fear of the unknown. Like rats liv ing in a dark putrescent maze of tunnels, they pushed each day forth dreadfully, chanting out prayers for the sake of their own well-being, This was also a time when the religions exercised their unquestion able power and influence over people all over the world by feeding on their fears and lack of understand ing of the world around. But soon after the 18 th century, humanity witnessed the loud detonation of
reason resulting in a widespread dissemination of rationality in and around Europe. Even terms such as Art, Mass, People, Revolution, Secularism et cetera that we profusely use in this present time took form in the 18 th century, passed through their infantile childhood, teenage stages and matured in the days of modernity after almost 200 years of intensive brewing. For instance, the term 'secularism' was first used by the British writer George Jacob Holyoake in 1851. He invented the term to describe

his views on promoting a social order separate from religion without actively dismissing or criticizing religious belief. Even though similar forms of secularism have been existing in various regions of this world much before the intellectual boom of the 18th century in Europe; they were very different from the kind of secularism we discuss today; that which pertains to the separation of religion from the ruling body. This kind of secularism is absolutely political in nature and is perhaps one of the foundation stones upon which all modern political ideologies are built. Secu-

# Unlike its western counterpart, the status quo when it comes to 'secularism' in India does not imply a separation of religion and state, but it means an equal treatment of all religions. 

larism ultimately aims at bringing religion to the private sphere from the public sphere, hence resulting in a complete renunciation of all sorts of laws based on scriptures. Unlike its western counterpart, the status quo when it comes to 'secularism' in India does not imply a separation of religion and state, but it means an equal treatment of all religions. Hence religion in $\ln$ dia continues to assert its political authority in matters of personal law. The most haunting aspect of this situation is that the complexities that arise out of this turmoil are now hardwired notions in our minds as mere normalities.

Ever since the inception of the age of reason, a constant brawling between the narrow-minded fundamentalists and the progressive rational thinkers has been stirring up a quite turbulent state of affairs. And as a consequence of this miserable battle, countless men and women have fallen under the violent blows made by the maces of these religious fanatics. We could call these brave individuals who were victimized by the tyranny of religious/political dogmatism 'martyrs', but still, we simply can-

> Just like a nightmare to any sensible liberal individual, irrespective of her/his religion, caste or any other such superficial gimmicks, a right-wing political party is now rising into power.
not reject the fact that each of those terrible deaths remains as a stupendous loss for humanity. Writers, scientists, social activists, cartoonists, musicians, artists, teachers, journalists... the long trail of carcasses laid on the face of this planet by these madmen grows longer and longer as each day passes by. In the Nietzschean perspective, these 'punishments' which arise out of the transgression of the idea of 'obligation'-an obligation to abide by the rules set out by orthodoxy; could be seen as the way of the mob to settle the 'debt' (as debt is the inevitable result if one fails to fulfil obligations). And punishment creates docile bodies which the power structures badly need.

Malleshappa M Kalburgi, a reputed scholar, and academic who served as the Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University in Hampi was having a pleasant breakfast with his family on a cozy Sunday morning. Suddenly the small family's momentarily felicitous breakfast time was interrupted by a few knocks on their front door. Kalburgi slowly got up and made his way to the front door to answer the call. His wife was already in the kitchen preparing coffee for the visitors who gave them a surprise visit. She could hear parts of muffled conversations between her husband and the visitors. But as a few minutes passed by, she noticed that the visitors were starting to sound furious and violent. The next minute, she was startled by the loud noise of gunshots. As she rushed towards the front porch, she saw the attackers fleeing the scene. Malleshappa M Kalburgi was lying in a pool of blood, drowning into the dark depths of death.

Malleshappa Madivalappa Kalh -urgi was a noted epigraphist of Kannada. He was awarded the National Sahitya Akademi award in 2006 for Marga 4, a collection of his research articles. Being a rationalist, Kalburgi had his share of frequent clashes with right-wing Hindutva groups over the years, In 2014, he had spoken openly against idolatry in Hinduism in support of another Kannada writ. er U R Ananthamurthy. A controversy erupted in the early 80 s over Kalburgi's book, Marga 1. Religious zealots belonging to the powerful Lingayat community came down heavily on Kalburgi and he was forced to recant the allegedly derogatory references to the founder of Veerashaiva-the liberal Shaivism. The denouncements grew louder among the community and he was summoned to a math in Hubli and forced to 'recant' a life's work. Though Kalburgi had apologized to the Lingayat seers, the controversy continued, with the fundamentalists demanding the proscription of the book. Ultimately he was forced to commit intellectual suicide to save the lives of his family. Following his murder, Prasad Attavar, a Bajrang Dal activist in his WhatsApp message thanked the culprit who gunned down the Kannada scholar.
Just like a nightmare to any sensible liberal individual, irre spective of her/his religion, caste or any other such superficial gimmicks, a right-wing political party is now rising into power. Causally, these religious zealots have already started to sharpen their fangs and claws for a widespread 'activism' throughout the country. The hegemony which is propagated by

> This, the sound of an undeclared emergency lingers in our ears; though it hasn't been loud enough for many to notice.
these extremist right-wing political organizations is not something that should be seen casually as the saffronization (an unambiguous product of their 'noteworthy activism' indeed) is hooking down some of the cornerstone elements of our democracy. It is true that no regime likes voices which are oppositional in nature, be it any political party in our country. But it is also true that some political formations are more dangerous than others. To take a bit of perspective, many people consider the emergency period as a dark chapter of Indian history. But when various kinds of rights and freedoms are breached by this regime, including our foremost fundamental right to live, we cannot help but reconsider if the 21 month period between the years 1975-77 were the darkest ages our democracy has ever witnessed. In instances like this when we are being told what we can eat and drink, what should be thought, what to be said and how it should be said. This, the sound of an undeclared emergency lingers in our ears; though it hasn't been loud enough for many to notice. The highlight event to mark an example would be the infamous tweet made by Amit Shah, the present president of BJP in the occasion of Onam. Sadly, many fail to under stand that fascism is not something that happens overnight. We see numerous political and religious organizations desperately trying to rewrite history, by presenting new meta-narratives each day. History is indeed a void where we fill in with our narratives. Amit Shah's tweet, for instance, is a shard of the meta-narrative his political organization tries to spread. But it is such

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deliberate attempts to mislead peo ple that pose a threat to the well be ing of our democracy.

If we analyze the state of affairs in India, we could easily conclude that the idea of "unity in diversity" that we adore in our hearts is per haps a fairytale we wish to believe in. But as a hierarchy is an intrinsic part of diversity, the predominant agent that runs subterraneously in the minds of Indian people is nothing but a kind of social Darwinism. It is rather explicit that the idea of India as a nation where the demonic hands of casteism and communalism will no longer exist is more or less like any other Utopian idea, as these agents of cancer have already penetrated deep into the clockworks of this country and also at the core of Indian psyche. The 1969 Gujarat riots, Nellic massacre (1983), the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Bhagalpur riots (1989), Godhra massacre (2002), Marad massacre (2003) and countless other communal riots before and after August 15th, 1947 have swallowed millions of innocent lives. Even now, the frequency of clashes between different communities is rising at an alarming rate-- the inglorious medals which the races for power and dominance have to offer for us.
Shockingly, we have now even begun to abandon the illusion of being an all-inclusive society. The earlier regimes tried to give us such illusions but that is changing dras tically thene days. Anybody who is resisting is subjected to the most pernicious kinds of persecutions. The tragic Adivasi school teacher turned political leader Soni Sori's case is a clear example for this. The police officer, Ankit Garg who led the horrible atrocities against her
by torturing and sexually assaulting her, instead of being dismissed from the force and prosecuted for his crimes went on to receive the President's award for meritorious service. Sedition has become this new lollipop which the state hands over to anyone who raises questions. In Kashmir, we have a ridiculous case where two young men were put in jail for merely liking a facebook post. In an environment of rampant intolerance, we have a concert of puppets controlled by a regime which is in turn shaped and guided by various enterprises of corporates. Thus the new millennium has brought us a Gordian knot of post-liberalisation and conservatism backed by a gargantuan capitalist machinery.
We are living in a system which nurtures goons and madmen blinded by the desiderata for power and control, a system which constantly propagates the necessity for a 'big brother' to surrogate the present democratic (or something close to that) conditions, a system which creates multiple illusions where tyrants get metamorphosed into glorious leaders and revolutionaries into enemies of the State. The system has gradually transformed into a machine which swallows human lives for satisfying its own totalitarian desires. As long as we are not really mindful of the grave consequences of the events that are unfolding in the present, we are letting ourselves be trapped in the belly of a machine that is bleeding to death. We need to open our eyes and realize that all these facts add up significantly, to a bigger horrifying reality that awaits us in the shade of our ignorance.


# The wake of civilian conciousness 

The year Twenty Sixteen, we al ready know that like many previous years, is to go deep down into the pages of history. The then New Year Sun brought with him the terrifying news of Pathankot attack and gave us a chilling dawn. The following days saw various
dramas at different levels; from a number of Bollywood heartbreaks making headlines to another series of prospective foreign visits of our current celebrity, the Prime Minis ter, being an eternally loved topir of discussion in the news panels to the news of the death of some ever-
green movie veterans; we never had a dearth of topics. But none of these are the reasons why I think this year has found its place in the museum of events. It is the wake of civilian consciousness that makes twenty-sixteen a beautiful year for me.

India is not new to mass agitations. This decade opened with a series of unrests early in the year two thousand eleven with the Anna Hazare's Anti-Corruption Movement. The movement attracted the eyes of the world to India and was named among the "Top 10 News Stories of $2011^{\prime \prime}$ by Time magazine. The infamous Delhi gang rape that took place on sixteenth December, 2012 is another dark day which took masses to streets demanding immediate actions from the side of authorities concerned so that the guilty was brought to book promptly. It also shed light on some of the grave problems faced by women in India with respect to safety. Kerala also has had its share in the revolutionary decade with 2014 Kiss of Love. But if all these were restricted to a particular state or a few distinct places then what is happening today is a nation-wide phenomenon.

Rohith Vemula was just another Dalit scholar struggling hard to fight the stigma of a wretched caste system prevalent in the modern India until he was drained of all the optimism that was left in him and decided to give up his life; that was how he became an icon. Certain sentences in his suicide note were celebrated by our new papers and news channels, primarily to add fuel to the fire and ensure that their ratings stood good. But sadly, they also reminded us of our own lack of humanity and inability to under-
stand a fellow human being's need to live a peaceful life. This cannot be an isolated occurrence. Similar incidents might have happened in the past and will certainly take place in the future. But this indeed was a significant event as it evoked, perhaps for the first time in the history of independent India, a sense of consciousness that our country as a pluralist society has relentlessly failed to uphold the socalled constitutional values of welcoming and accepting diversity, that it has persistently done enough to ensure that the lives of our underprivileged always remained miserable. This mighty guilt- consciousness eventually shook awake our civilian responsiveness.

The story of Kanhaiya Kumar is different, yet there is an underlying similarity. The JNUSU president who was arrested on the charges of sedition became a national identity of the champion of free speech. Here again we see the wake of civilian consciousness because this was not the first time that free speech in India, though a constitutional right, was questioned and challenged. Yet only this time could we witness such a mass level, literally nation-wide and international reaction towards an issue of this substance; thanks to the technology for bringing home in time the firm response of the world.

A closer look at these two sequences of issues will give us the image of a nation with the largest youth population, alert and vibrant as they have proved to be, exercising their basic rights with rising spirits. How better could a democracy celebrate her nearly seventy years of existence?




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Doable was mine.."You can't" was your parroting
\&
"I Can" was my vent...
Deadbeat was your adage
Victor was my war cry.
When you gifted me melancholy
I gave you mirth, hilarity and feeling of masses.
Whatever you called me
I evinced I'am just the inimical of it...
Gracias populace.
Gracias
For what I am now,

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## OUT THERE AB

There she lived
A femme
An emblematic suburban girl...
She had a mom
She had a dad
She had a brother...
She lived in a gullible sphere...
Orthodox avowals were foisted upon her.
But,
Time changed everything...
One sidereal day
She gushed
She kissed goodbye to her kinesthesia.
Her psyche was carried away...
And.
Now.
She lives down there in a funny farm...
Still not knowing what's happening in her life...

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows" Sydney J Harvis

It isn't that India is suffering from an excess of egalitarianism, nor is tolerance at its acute peak, so education as a mirror is a bleak picture. The two basic aspects of our social networkequality and tolerance are subtly, yet insidiously twisted.

Indian education, like the Indian society, is skewed. Amusingly, with the growing number of private schools and the market pricing of education, this fact is becoming evident. What can't money buy? If all that money could buy were fancy yachts, vacations abroad or

Ferraris, there is little to worry. But when money has its say in education, healthcare and political power, we need to debate. This is not a moral argument with regard to privatisation or marketing of education, (private institutions have done a great deal to improve education), but a philosophical question. What happens when our children live separate lives? When the life of a maids children does not coincide with that of an investment bankers children, when madrassa going children don't get to sit along with children of the NSS, how can we not feel alienated from each other? How long can our lives go parallel, without causing horrendous conflicts simply because of the lack of the space for negotiation? Isn't it time we reworked, the models of elite private or even minority institutions?

I think education, is a weak link game, how good you are, is determined by your weakest players-how well equipped and coordinated the least of your players are, It's the contrast between football and basketball. You could probably win a basketball match with one Michael Jordan, but it takes more than one Messi to win in football. You need more than Messis, more than a 'few' excellent educational institutions to win the game. It's a weak link game, so start from the grass
rools. That's why 1 find it ridicubus when the nation sets enormous funds for a few elite institutions, and fools itself unto believing it has solved a major part of the crisis. Modi promises to expand the IIT circle in India, and we cheer, stupidly. Given India's demograply, such a venture is illogical. Of course, there was a time when the ITTs really required an investment, when the strong link argument was justified, but it's not so today.
India's population today is a whopping 1.6 billion, of which $65 \%$ are below the age of 35 and $50 \%$ are under 25 . The average age of the nation is 28 . We are a young dynamic country, impatient, with incredible potential. Education for the country is to be the biggest experiment yet, one that would solve many socio economic, political and even security issues. India will become the empire of the mind if we get it right, this time. Education is the 'window'.
Education as a window is, firstly, the reworking of the system for the marginalised of the country-women , the poor and the dalits. It poses at its core, to question the very notion of 'merit'. The idea of merit, in its current definition is dangerous, simply because it equates 'individual' talent or effort to success or efficiency. An individual's talent matter, but success; is far more complex than that one single factor. Malcolm Gladwell, in his book Outliers, shows strangely how, a majority of baseball stars happen to be born in the months of January and February an incredible coincidence? No. Baseball prodigies need to prove themselves at tender ages of nine or ten (when being born in January really contributes
to performance as oppesed to being born in December). Age matters, in fact months matter. Chosen prodigies do better not because of intrinsic meril, but merely because an arbitrary rules to determine age, works in the advantage of older children. Chosen children or older children, with intense training are heralded successful. It's incredible! What seemingly insignificant arbitrary rules can do. Individual merit is a hyperbole.
It matters, in the evaluation of merit, if you had been a victim of sexual abuse, belonged to a marginalised community with its psychological burdens or if your economic situation provided you with opportunities and exposure. Merit is never only individual, it's much more complex. It is the reason why only $7 \%$ of women become pilots and become neurosurgeons. Are women just dumber, or are there more important psychosocial factors at play? The current theory of merit makes some pariahs, a few tokens and even fewer pioneers.

Secondly, education as a window puts forth a much more generic philosophical question. What is education? Is it merely the learning of facts and figures? Or, is it something more? Education, in the present design, was developed to meet the needs of 19 th century industrialisation. It has been two centuries since, and yet no radical change has occurred. In the hierarchy of subjects, mathematics and the sciences reign supreme, followed by the languages and only then the arts and humanities. The current notion of academic ability is focussed merely on getting students through the university entrance. The crisis hence is the lack of vision. Graduates finish their higher education programme within a span of 3,4 or even 5 years. Within this span, none can fathom the changes that can occur. The world is fast moving. Within a decade, nano, bio, cognitive and robotic sciences will have become a part of everyday reality. With the current mode of education with little or no emphasis on ingenuity and creativity, adapting to the changes will be difficult. Creativity is the missing quotient in the learning process. Creativity for the next decade will be as necessary as literacy was to education in the last few decades. To nurture this incredible potential, we need to recognise one basic factor-Intelligence. Intelligence is diverse, dynamic and interdisciplinary. The present educational system does not consider any of the nuances of intelligence. It is standardised, leading to conformity. Standardised education is necessary, but not sufficient. We need to learn maths and sciences, so do we have to learn arts and humanities. This is what completes education the interdisciplinary mode, what truly makes education a 'window'.

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## Hey woman, Can you be a herald of the SNVRON- MENT

Woman!!! How powerful are you as a woman? What does being woman' mean to you? In Indian culture, the woman used to make a living for the family. She was physically fit enough to fetch available resources to feed her man and kids! What were the qualities that women possessed in order to be a hunter amidst woods and moun-
tains? Could it be compassion? Or natural instincts like those of a mother bird?
People often say "be like a man, walk like a man, talk like a man" to instruct a man if he exhibits feminine characteristics. So, are the feminine qualities that make a woman different from man a mark of weakness or humiliation? Man

can easily renounce; whereas a woman cannot because of her motherhood instincts and sense of attachment prevails. If man and woman are unique or not equal aren't they supposed to fulfil each other? They have to help each other to become complete. Osho, Mahatma Gandhi are some who have learned it and did try to gain feminine qualities like compassion, love, and patience to become a complete individual. Man has to grow into a woman to become a wonderful man! A woman has to learn from Man how to renounce to know what spirituality means!
Today, a woman in their menstrual cycle is a bad omen in a few places and in others she has to keep herself away from rest of the family. In the golden days of women, she used to be a mediator of God for her community while she menstruated. It was she who used to bring messages, perform miracles and give blessings in her clan or community. It was the historical subversion that happened when the warrior instincts of men survived his nomadic life and established his own territories/nations when women withdrew into bomes. The 'his story' was further designed without her but influenced by war and blood! Ecofeminism is based on a belief that oppression of nature is closely related to oppression of women. She is more close to nature due to her maternal instincts and therefore becomes naturally sensitive towards the environment and fellow beings that give birth.
In Uitarakhand, women compete for 'village queen' who tan cut grasses without disturbing other herbs. It is a proud achievement for a rural woman to be able to cut grass while caring for other lives. This is the kind of empowerment and promotion that can develop environmentally conscious women in any culture. This blessing of sensitivity towards sature has to go on. Once a woman empathizes for the environment she can never ignore any reason that can possibly burt the nature or environment. How strange it is that our foung woman isn't connected to any form of life around them. It happens when a culture or tradition deteriorates *wing to the mistakes of elder generations.
There are many ways to become an ecologically conscious voman. For instance, let us take the example of sanitary napkins . I was shocked to learn that the sanitary napkins that teplaced cloth in course of time are a huge menace to entire ladia and also to Kerala. They usually end up in landfills or when burnt, release dioxins into the atmosphere. Envifonment portal 'Down to Earth' estimated that 432 million pads are disposed every month. The environmental and hykienic consequences of plastic sanitary pads made me look
for other alternatives for an environment-friendly, healthy

## Village queens



Oyans Dovi, Alrria Denl and indira Devi who won the Dost Ginyyr' contest, where they ous grass for fodes, whout destroing outher plants in the hilis of
Teri Gerthal in Utarithend - Neo meonso
and hygienic menstruation. That is how the world of cloth pads, sea sponges, tampons, menstrual cups opened up to me! How do they help? According to health science, the alternatives of sanitary napkins are the best in terms of hygiene and the environment. Cloth pads are economic, friendly, ecologically friendly and healthy. They look cute too! But the number of times you can use them may be limited. The star of the time is menstrual cup! They are healthy because of high quality inert silicone, trav-el-friendly and 'eco'- (ecological and economical) friendly option for a grown up woman. Remember, a single menstrual cup can take you through ten years of your moon cycle, save your money and make you an ultra-modern woman in front of others.

It is you who mould the coming generations. If you really wish for a healthy generation of yours, make sure you leave them with options for a healthy environment such as good air, good water, and good soil! It is you who can make huge changes in a society by choice out of environmental consciousness. Be a herald of the environment; be eco-feminine!

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The liberal hates the ghetto, particularly the ghetto of the mind. S/ he is the freedom-loving, open-minded, tolerant pluralist. As John f Kennedy says: "The liberal is someone who looks ahead and not behind; someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions; someone who cares about the welfare of
the people, their health, housing, schools, jobs, civil rights and civil liberties. Someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that gulp us in our policies abroad". The liberal is non dogmatic, non doctrinate and not committed to any cause. Or so, the liberals would have us believe.

The 'liberal', in the modern contest is a far more complex title. Since even the tolerant liberal is tolerant only as long as you agree with his/her viewpoints. Being a non-liberal puts one at the risk of being tagged a racist, sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic, xenophobic, Hindutva-loving, corporate indulgent bigot. Either viewpoints are lazy reductionisms of the liberal philosophy. It is much more nuanced, for the liberal, (at least in India), as an inhabitant of 'in-between'.

So the history of the liberal philosophy is a story of 'in-betweeness'. Mainstream history has taught us that the liberal philosophy is a western concept. Conventional wisdom would point to the 16 th century, the momentous century of the Renaissance. For it was then that humanism emphasised the importance of the individual. It made the study of man through his actual behaviour instead of understanding him through rigid, doctrinate formulae. The early humanists are all Christian white men-Erasmus, Colet and More. The key liberal thinkers too are remembered as western men like Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Green, Keynes and Rawls. But the history regulated by a concept of singularity, paints a flawed picture. For the liberal philosophy, liberal in its very birth, is not a western idea. It has its roots in the confluential Mediterranean, where the East and West meet, where Christianity and Islam converge. The forgotten history of the liberal philosophy traces its origin in the most unlikely of places, for the key exponents of it were Muslims of Turkic, Arabic and Persian origin. Ibn Sina, or Avicenna, as he
is popularly known, produced a defence of independent enquiry and scientific reason in the 11th century. He tried to reconcile rational philosophy with Islamic theology. Ibn Rushd, supported this by upholding the autonomy of critical rational thought and reflected on the notion that faith did not have a monopoly over truth. Ibn Khaldun was a key representative of the rationalist Islamic thought. All these influences converged and gave rise to the liberal philosophy and the understanding of the individual. Feudalism was overcome, the church, stripped of its power and a new democratic state, and was established. These events had occurred, seeking inspiration from the muffled noises that spoke against the overpowering caliphate in the east. Soon after, the liberal philosophy spread from the political to the economic arena in the west. The concept of laissez faire or the free market was developed. One of its chief exponents, Adam Smith emphasised that the state should not act as a watchdog of the economy, instead, should let market forces determine its course. It gave rise to one of the dominant ideologies of the 20th centurycapitalism, the machinery through which MNCs today work in the globalised economy. In the 21st century, liberal ideas have evolved from capitalism to the concept of welfare state.
The economic concept of liberalism might be a western idea, but its political seeds are a result of East West confluence. The Europeans can be forgiven for mistaking the liberal philosophy to be theirs exclusively. Such was the success of clusively. Such was Europe believed
itself to be the centre of the world. Moreover, amidst the attacks of tyranny, the initial liberals were declared heretics in their own lands. The philosophy did not succeed to establish itself in the lands of its birth. Modern context often emphasises the binary distinction of the liberal and conservative. But given its confluential history, there is the need to rethink. Who is the liberal? Who is the conservative? These are questions that need answers especially in a pluralistic country like India where these distinctions are ambiguous.
India is a cultural web of intricately connected people having different ethnicities, languages and religions. There is no 'one' single factor that connects all Indians. It is a heterogeneous, plural society with "schizophrenic diversity", as Rama Bijapurkar would say, There are 23 official languages and many other local tongues with thousands of dialects each having its unique local flavour. On top of all this, there are many many religions and ethnic groups. Shashi Tharoor says, "All of us are a minority in India", as the numerous divisions here ensure that we, as Indians, can never find a common ground other than our nationality. But contrary to Indian pluralism, there is rising fundamentalism, the Hindutva. Powerful organisations like the VHP (Vishwa Hindu Parishad), BJP (Bharathiya Janata Party), RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) and the Shiv Sena are key players in its promotion. They claim that India is exclusively the land of the Hindus and that its minorities, the Christians and Muslims are second class citizens, not true Indians. The Hindutva be-
lieves in cleansing all of India from its borrowings safeguard Indian culture and bring forth a new race of pure Hindu Indians. Curiously, all these strategies have a resonance with the western conservative ideas of Victorian Puritanism, Nazism and Fascism. The Beef Ban, the indiscriminate banning of books and art works that provide a different understanding of the Hindu texts, the Ghar Vapasi, the rewriting of text books,... are all its recent propagandist manifestations. The irony in the conservative rights, Hindu 'fundamentalism' is the fact that Hinduism has nothing 'fundamental.' It has no single text, no single leader and even no single god. Hinduism is more a way of life than a religion. Such is the pluralist liberal fabric of it that it can even accommodate an atheist. The liberal India 'can' be called the Hindu India, but herein, the word Hindu, would refer to the Indian spirit of confluential tolerance.
The rising Hindu radical thought is one major challenge to the secular liberal framework of India. But even more important a challenge would be the 'consciousness of liberty'. India is a nation in which the literacy level is $71.2 \%$. The educated people, aware of their rights, are a thin population and are unequally spread across the states. This disparity amongst the states makes the states like Kerala, have a majority population of educated, aware individuals; on the other side, northern states like Bihar constitute one of the most disempowered groups of people. Caste system is deeply rooted in many such states, a system that does not even qualify a major group of its lower castes as humans. Moreover, many
women in India believe themselves to be the second sex and hence that men have a right over their bodies, clothes and even minds. Given the situation, there arises the question; whose liberty are we talking about? Can liberal ideas be incorporated in this great multicultural, economic and political mix, where each one has a different perception of liberal ideas?
We can now say that liberal philosophy in India cannot vouche for absolute liberty. This is the paradox. We need to bring forth a liberal view, but within the constraints of the Indian environment. The liberal philosophy is centred on the individual. What is good for you is good; what's not is not. This works perfectly well in utopia, where we can safely assume every individual is law abiding and respects the rights of the other. But reality is different; so the philosophy in its ultimate sense spells disaster when we talk about a society, especially one as complex as India. It would lead to a situation that the early liberal philosopher Thomas Hobbes said, 'All against all". Herein, we need to recall J.S. Mills' 'harm principle', according to which, the rational human beings should be able to exercise maximum freedom until it does not harm the freedom of the other. It works on a rational discourse, in such a way that someone who does not share the same culture or consciousness, can negotiate for the benefit of each other, The idea of a 'qualified liberal' works on this, liberal, yet aware of the environment in which it works. The Qualified liberal is aware of individual liberty, but is also aware of the organic unity of the society. S/he stands by the ideas of liberal
democracy (welfare state), human rights, economic freedom, justice and law. So given India's current state, who is the qualified liberal?

Is it the right wing, pro-development, liberal and capitalistic team under Modi? Or is the left and the moderates who stand for the minorities and secular (as they claim) idea of India? Or, is it the anti-corruption team of AAP workers and the likes of Anna Hazare? Can the liberals be called the new gen, tech savvy youngsters who are very aware of India as a nation? Are they the people fighting for gender equality and LGBTQ rights? Are the liberals the environment conservationists? These questions are more rhetorical in nature because they provide fuzzy answers. We cannot find the quintessential liberal in a single person or group in India. India's diversity cannot ever be narrowed to any single idea. The qualified liberal is a 'concept' or 'myth', the manifestations of which find itself in the myriad nuances of Indians. It is dynamic and ever-evolving even as a concept. The liberal in India (today) is plural, that which transcends the very binary of liberal vs. conservative. We have liberals, like India's many gods, each God with its own perfect imperfections.

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## Cinematic Tourscapes: Ideology of Tourism in



To travel, to explore, fascination for the unseen are not something new to mankind, expeditions done during the course of history has witnessed the rise of significant historical events. Discovering of places, colonization and even the discovery of Earth as round is the result of travel. Travelling has always had a kind of magnetic spell on people towards places and the soul of things. A tourist makes a journey with the comfort of a home. He is always at home even when
away. Traveller, unlike tourist, is a countercultural being: he makes a journey all on his own, and the backpacker tourist is a version of the traveller. This article explores various aspects of tourism, the influence of cinema on tourism and also on how tourism utilizes cinema as an instrument in promoting the charm of destinations. It further focuses on the recent award winning Malayalam movie Charlie and on how Charlie becomes an iconic tourism propaganda film.

## Cinema and Tourism

Tourism since its inception has been an elitist practice as the luxury of travel was not something which every layman enjoyed. It was a privilege, privilege for the rich and the ones who get sponsored. The Grand Tour of Europe during the 18 th century was undertaken only by men of upper middle class family. With the coming of cinema, people were provided with an opportunity to see the natural world in motion; prior to it only landscape paintings were able to give glimpse of the outside world.
Early films like George C. Hale's Hale's Tours and Scenes of the World offered an opening for people to travel without making any actual travel. The idea of tourism in cinema is not something new, even though much less has been explored by film and tourism; and it is interesting to note that cinema and tourism share an intrinsic relationship as they present to us virtual image of actual location making one enter a world which is physically inaccessible; and the moving images in cinema give one the sense of travel.
Film has the potential to create an image of a place in the minds of people; it offers a visual spectacle and a spectator watching a movie shifts between two modes, narrative mode and spectacular mode. Spectator is always caught up in a tension between the story and the spectacle. Usually in cinema we find landscapes getting subordinated to the narrative where they only function as an exterior space or a setting for the story to unfold, but when the viewer shifts into the spectacular mode, the spectacle of the movie halts the narrative and the gaze of the spectator is born. This gaze of the spectator can be compared with the gaze of a flaneur, the 19 th century figure found in the works of Baudelaire. The flaneur is considered as an ideal street-stroller, a voyeur, a window shopper, an accidental gaze or an amateur detective. Flaneur is considered to be someone who is in the crowd yet is not part of the crowd.

Baudelaire, in his description of flaneur's characteristics, addresses him as "kaleidoscope gifted with consciousness" (4), this is to suggest that what the flaneur observes and reflects is not the actual knowledge of the city but a space to be experienced. The gaze of the spectator can be further related with the gaze of the tourist photographer seen in John Urry's work The Tourist Gaze, here the image of the photographer tourist is an extended version of a flaneur, who not just observes the city but everything and anything that catches his eyes (Urry 3). The spectator too thus like the tourist photographer catches whatever that comes his way, he through his ability to interpret what he sees and let himself be abandoned in the crowd, thus the fantasy world

is created on screen. Vikas Bahl's 2013 stunner Queen can be taken to exemplify this notion of spectator as a flaneur.

Here the spectator will take up the role of a 'flaneuse', the female flaneur. The film traces the journey undertaken by Rani giving its viewers a virtual tour of the city: Here the spectator's gaze is linked with that of the flaneuse who through the film is given a world in miniature form where she though immobile is able to stroll around the cinematic representation of the streets of Paris and Amsterdari. An advantage which the cinema provides is that the spectator at the stance of her safety and comfort will be able to experience the fresh. unfamiliar foreign landscapes.
Cinema often creates the dichotomy of traveler and tourist; as a traveler, unlike a tourist, always en joys an authentic experience of his journey. Travel is considered to be a countercultural notion and is re garded superior to tourism. Coutrtercultural notion of tourism has ${ }^{3}$

desire to escape the mundane ordinary life, Joseph Heath and Andrew Potter in their work The Rebel Sell, talks of about how a countercultural being takes up a joumey into an exotic land or one into their self both of which exemplifies the notion of escape, an escape from the crushing norms of the mainstream society.
In movies like The Beach by Danny Boyle and Bernardo Bertolucci's The Sheltering Sky, one can clearly see this idea of traveller being explored; the protagonists of both the movies embark on an unconventional adventurous journey filled with risks. These movies define for its spectators who a traveller and who a tourist is. When the protagonists of the movie The Sheltering Sky say that they don't expect to return to their native place anytime soon, a traveller might never go back to his home, but a tourist goes to a place looking forward to return; for him it is an escape into a place different from his home where he is promised confort that resembles the one he gets at home or even a better comfort and for the journey he always takes up the conventional safe path to experience his journey:

Indian popular cinema too toy with the idea of travel let, Sameer Thahir's 2013 release Neelakasham Pachakadal Chuvanna Bhoomi takes up the figure of a backpacker lost In the labyrinths of geography and love. A bachpacher is considered as a 'global nomad', someone who is complets contrast to a tourist. A global nomad or backpacher like a traveller portrays the idealized form of travel; he liberates thimself from the limitations and restrictions of sociemy and
goes in search of difference. He is master of his own plan and can alter his own travel plan and can create his own itinerary, a sort of freedom that is solely enjoyed by the backpacker.

When a traveller travels he gets an authentic experience of the journey where he encounters his self, while a film like Neelakasham Pachakadal Chuvanna Bhooni. explores the idea of traveller making the spectators experience an authentic journey into the unseen and untouched parts of a tourist's dairy, we also come across movies that reinforce the idea of a tourist, for example the vety recent 2015 re lease of Sachy, Anarkali. Through the protagonist Shanthamu, the spectator is taken on a virtual guided tomur of Lakshadweep. Filmic soyages oftell enchant the viewer and he expects to experience the very satme representation of the place while what cinema does is re constructing the desired landscape in a very skilful manner.

## Marketing a destination

Bella Dicks in her book, talks about the 'visitability' of a place, on how a place becomes an exhibition of itself. Its architecture, historic past or its multiculturalism give the place an identity of its own which lures tourists. Such places become a 'legible' space for people to come and experience something different. Dicks further says that 'visitability' is dependent on 'Cultural Display'. Cultural display can be considered as an outlet where one experiences the essence of a local world: museums, galleries, cinemas, and all become a cultural space where without any physical travel people experience what a traveller experiences. Place identity promotion is done through cultural display and in order to promote the indigenous identity of a place they attract visitors from outside to make them spend time and money on local leisure activities.
Film has the potential to create an image of a place in the minds of people or alter an existing image, and these cinematic images enhance one's fantasy and expectation of a place and they desire to visit this unreal exotic location and encounter similar experience. According to social scientist John Urry the basic motivation for a tourist is the desire to experience the pleasure they have imagined in their mind and the cinematic representation of travel reinforces this desire in people.
Every tourist place has got an image, a well created image. A place often evokes a sense of rootedness, submerged with enriching yet transcending culture. It is the traces or marks left by the cultural life that define the place and give it an identity of its own. These marks can be materialistic in nature like buildings, signs, graffiti, etc... or it can also be non-materialistic like an event that happened there, a performance performed or even an emotion invoked. Some trace makers conceive the power to alter the traces made by others and generate a new identity for that place, cinemas can act as such trace maker where they with their dominating power of cinematic images can implement a new identity for a place.
Destination selection is one of the most complex processes for a tourist as he has to rely on various factors like his physical needs, psychological wants, and other factors. A tourist, therefore, selects a destination from around 4-5 choices available to them. Tourism tries to market a place or destination to reinforce an existing image or create an entirely new image so that it matches the ideal self-image of travellers, marketing tool like an apt slogan for a place can be used for destination marketing. Among the available marketing tools visual media will be the strongest one to
create an image, even though theit primary aim is not marketing a place.

An article in the daily Dectan Chronicle, report about how $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ lywood movies like Frozen, Percy Jackson, Mamma Mia! have fired up the tourism industry, where you see a steep rise in the percentage of tourists in countries like Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Greece etc..., where the movie has been set. Vehicle of persuasion for the individual to travel can be anything from the appeal of a fictional character to an emotion evoked by something on screen.

Let us take the case of the movie Mamma Mia!, directed by Phyllida Lloyd. The movie is set in a fictitious Greek island named 'Kalokairi'. For the selection of this des tination the producers of the film has checked out around 25 islands in Greece before settling down with Skopelos, prior the release of Mamma Mia! Skopelos unlike other islands in Greece was a less explored place with no airport and a ferry being the only reachable option, and the place was known only for its plums, pears and pine trees but with the release of Mamma Mia!, tourists from all over the world have been packing into the place A daily, The Guardian, if ports on how people, wooed by the spectacular landscape of the film. demands for a similar beach wed ding in Skopelos,

Similar is the case with mawy other destinations. Even around 50 years after the release of Robert Wise's classic The Sound of Music. around 300,000 people around the world visit the city of Salzburg in Austria; and around 40,000 take the official Sound of Music Jour.
a tour in which one will be taken around the important sites where the movie was filmed. Other notable examples of movies whose impact had a rise in tourism of a particular place are Peter Faiman's 'Crocodile' Dundee that has stepped up the rise of Australian tourism, a survey done even suggest that the movie has doubled the number of visitors to Queensland.

The way a film works as a tool in destination marketing is entirely different from how a literature works as a tool for place marketing. In literary tourism it is the writer, who persuades one to travel, here the visitor's interest lies in places that are significant to writer but this is not the case with films, where it is not an individual who gets a role to influence a spectator but of recent actor or actress are able to persuade people to travel but post $9 / 11$ when tourism in America was stooping down, the US government used celebrities as a marketing tool to lure tourists, something similar to that of literary tourism.
Indian cinema especially Hindi film industry or Bolly wood too helps in endorsing place marketing specially front of global tourism. There has been a host of movies shot in foreign and exotic locations but Bollywood's lowe with the ice caped mountains of Swiss is something that can't be ig nored. The first Hindi film shot in Swiss is Raj Kapoor's Sangam released in 1964 but it was with the Yash Raj Film. and their movies like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaayenge, Darr, and many other films shot in Switzerland paved way for a steep rise in Swiss tourism so much that Yash Chopra was awarded with 'Swiss Ambassador's Award' Recently, there are lots of movies extensively shot in foreign locations and exotic locations in the country itself, and nowadays movies explore beyond the popular locations of Swiss, London, Goa, etc... for example places like Prague and Corsica are seen in Imtiaz Ali's movies like Rockstar and Tamasha.

## Charlie

Martin Prakkat's recent award winning movie Charlie, revolves around the character Tessa and her search for a mysterious figure named Charlie, there is an elusive, magical aura revolving around Charlie, we see him doing magic. saving people's lives, and he calls himself to be a genie, 'jin' as said in the film. It is interesting to note that the popular belief of Aladdin's genie is that of a slave, someone who was constrained by certain laws and here Charlie gets bounded by the laws and limitations of tourist industry.

The character of Charlie becomes a filmic interface betheren the spectator and tourist industry. Here the spectators

without their knowledge are made to take ride of Kerala where they will be taken to places which are of appeal to the sentimentalities of tourist agencies. The movie makes an attempt to create an image of a nomad in Charlie. He's been addressed as a 'migratory bird' by people who have met him. There is an air of difference and ambiguity surrounding the image of Charlie.

His introductory scene itself strives to establish this nomadic image in him. He is shown to be in an unknown place, name of the place refused to be revealed by him. By not revealing the place name he is metaphorically hiding his true self. In that scene he is shown calling himself to be a traveller 'who travels wherever his feet take him'. This reveals a kind of flexibility in his travel plan through which the movie tries to give a picture of a nomad or backpacker in him, a backpacker or a traveller is always associated with his flexible travel plans.

Charlie's attire strongly resembles the kind of dress of the hippies, or that of someone who separates himself from the mainstream society, a countercultural being. For Charlie his costume is just a facade
which reinforces an image of nomad in him. He though appears to be nomadic in nature is in actuality a tourist who strengthens the idea of tourism. He is in fact the figure of promoter of tourist industry.
The promotional figure attributed to Charlie is similar to the kind of promotion celebrities do, where the film uses the star image of Dulquer Salmaan to attract people. This tourism promotional technique is similar to the literary tourism which was used for destination marketing. The character of Charlie is given a superman-like image, someone who is always there to help the one in need. This in a way contradicts the wanderer image of Charlie.

Attributing superman-like image to Dulquer is a way of manipulating the star image, the impact of stars over their fans. When a star like Dulquer comes in and guides one through the oft taken paths of Kerala, it creates an image of the place, like how the left-over marks or traces give a place an identity, the track taken by Charlie gives the spectators or mostly fans of Dulquer Salmaan a new identity for the place, a kind of sacred identity associated with that of pilgrimage which creates in them a desire to visit those places. Sue Beeton, in her work, clearly explains how viewers can get influenced by actors or characters so much that they tend to worship. This tendency in spectators has been misused by both film and tourism to set forth their ideology.

Charlie becomes a cultural display where one is taken on a tour and is shown the essence of Kerala culture the way a tourist does. The images of Kathakali, elephant as in temple festivals like pooram, kalaripayittu and other traditional cultural practices forms the ideal brochure for Kerala tourism. In Charlie, there are instances where we get to see glimpses of these cultural practices, like the margam kali performed by Tessa and others or the Kathakali artist in his costume whom Tessa sees on her way to her new home. Further the movie also gives one glimpse of various cultural art forms which form the backdrop as the narrative.
In the movie the character of Tessa can be associated with the figure of a 'flaneuse' or an extended version of flaneuse like the photographer tourist who gazes on everything that comes her way. Robert Tally discusses about Fredric R. Jameson's concept of 'cognitive mapping' (67). This concept of 'cognitive mapping,' which has been developed by Jameson can be employed in multiple ways, one usage of the term, as discussed by Tally Jr , is that of an individual trying to make sense of an unfamiliar place and makes an atternpt to discover himself or herself in that particular social context, this is a method adopted by the individual
to overcome the anxiety of getting lost. The individual, using visugy reference, maps the place and finds sa does in the movie is someling similar to this. She unfamiliar lands in se unknown figure, here m discovering her in that particular context.

She has been portrayed as some one who strolls around the city observing things. Through the character of Tessa the spectators are also given a virtual tour of the city. The gaze of the spectator here gets associated with the gaze of Tessa. In the very beginning of the movie itself, we are shown the curious observer in Tessa where she becomes a kind of perplexed observer. While touring around the city, on the way to her new home, she makes an attempt in capturing everything that meets her eye. The foreigner couple in the boat fascinates her and with awe she goes on observing them. The eyes of Tess catch the very little nuances of the city. As the gaze of the spectator gets identified with the gaze of Tessa, spectator is also taken on to stroll around the city.

Charlie here takes up the image of a Lonely Planet guide, where bc, along with Tessa, guides the spectators into exploring the spectacles of Kerala. Tessa's search for Char lie takes her through the oft-taken path and the spectators are taken on a ride to experience staged attthenticity of Kerala culture. Char: lie is nothing more than a tool of tourism industry, a marketing agent, an advertisement of Kerala tourism.

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# A life to live beautifully 

Yes? No? Well the answer is up to you, You may make your life worthy or worthless. So, here it is. A life to live. And for some people 'to live' is difficult and perplexing while some others, it is simple and exciting. In fact, it is us who make it complicated and simple.

'Is life worth living?' is a question that formed in my mind after meeting a street boy at my bus stop. It was a Monday morning. I just happened to be at the bus stop too early that day. As I was early than usual, no living body was to be seen around except the occasional vehicles that passed by. As I stood
leaning on one of the pillars of the bus stop, oblivious to the happening around me since my mind was revolving around my best friend's prank that she used on me the other day, a small boy of, apparently, eleven approached me. "Will you buy a packet of candles?" the boy asked. Only then I had become aware of his presence. I gave him a surprise look. He had all the shabby features of the rag pickers of my area; tattered clothes messy hair, barefoot, dirty hands.
"I'll have to sell these packets by noon" he added.
"Why do you want those to be
sold by noon itself?" was my question to him. I waited for this kid's answer curiously, smiling.
"Because I don't think I would even be able to stand if I don't have anything to eat by noon. I hadn't had food since yesterday morning" he answered.
I stood looking at him for few seconds then I took out my lunch box and extended towards him. He dropped the three packets of candles that had been in his hands at once. After having accepted my lunch, he sat on the muddy floor of the bus stop and started having his feast. Questions rushed to my mind and - on him. I thought a moment and picked one.
"Where do you live?" I asked
"Everywhere I happen to be" was his answer.
I felt something special about him. Even the rag he wore or his ruffled hair or his dirty hands and nails could not dampen one thing. That was the sparkle in his eyes.
"Who gave you the candles?" asked I as he gobbled up the food.
"The old lady at the church" he said.
"Are you happy with this livelihood?"
"I am always happy"
"Even when you are hungry?"
"Aah. That gave me a purpose in life. My hunger keeps me going in a way. Each day is like new experience. Different kinds of chaps I meet each day...Different... Some are rude to me when I approach them while some others are ignorant. But that's ok. You know, my amma once told me that in fact I didn't ever have to be sad of being deprived of normal living because unlike most of the people we came across every day who were in constant hunt for power, status, money, we have freedom. That's what she said. I am free, you know. Nobody knows me nobody cares about me. I am not answerable to anyone. My amma was always happy. Even when she died she had a smile on her face." His face lit up. He then took the last morsel as I stood gazing him with wide mouth, taken back. He asked "do you have water with you?"
While he drank water and washed his hands I put back my lunch box in my bag, still astonished at the boy's Godly words.
Raising my water bottle towards me he said "I love watching people. You have no idea how many type of people with varied characters I come across each day. From the old lady at the church to the man who wore suit and tie who spat on my face once." He paused to wipe his mouth and
hands with worn out cloth and resumed few minutes later "I wish I would live thousand years so that I would see more and more people and one day I would call out to the world how indifferent people have become. Everyone ignorant of the other. Don't you think?" He looked at my eyes. I could sense the enormity in those words.
"Wow! You see people." I said in an appreciating tone.

Having taken the dropped candle packets back in his hand, he rose to his feet. I suddenly took out my purse and bought all the three packets from him, for the gaiety apparent on his face was worth than the money. I had so many questions still to be shot at him but I just keep looking at his childish face startled by the zeal he held high in his heart; zeal for life even after having nobody to call his own.

He almost took three steps when he turned back and said "you are one of a kind like the old lady who often gives me candle packets free to sell. When I become a great businessman like the one who spat on my face, I would return the favour. Mind you, I would never do stuffs he does to others, though."

I stood there laughing for long time hearing this as he disappeared from sight. The coming days I reaches bus stop early to meet the young aspirant but I never came across him again. He left a valuable mark in my heart. True, I could not get all the answers I wanted. But that's ok. However, regret creeps in to me for 1 forgot to ask him one main question- what was his name?
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## NIPUN PIUZ

## The Promethean Quest

Every generation creates and is a part of the continuum of cultural consciousness. When the contemporary existence leans to the spectrum of decadence and disintegration, it is the responsibility of the essential man to systematize the conundrum of reality by promptly understanding the anomalous cultural situations. Every essential man, as Socrates described, is a gadfly that stings to awaken the beast of society from its narcotic slumber.
Every individual is a potential seeker of truth. Knowledge Ignites man to pass the promethean fire for posterity and repair the reality of our existence. To seek truth is the noblest mission of man. The rationality of man could scissor, like the surgeon's blade, the cancerous cultural cells. It is indeed a bliss when knowledge aid one to transcend to a renaissance; his eyes could trace the totality of the evolution of his kind, from earthly brutes to civilized beings.
Every inspired writer is a social engineer. The office of edIcation, rather than contributing to the stagnant memories, thould be to weave fresh textures from the evergrowing stands of human understanding. Every literary genius im-
parts to others the spirit to climb the uncanny mountains and see the universe with a 'perspective of eternity'.
Absolutely Truth still remains an enchanted mystery; no sense of man can sense the absolute form of Truth. But it is the magnificence of words that drives us with the noble conquest to explore and define this undefinable. Language is the best invention of man, the quintessential device for him to interpret and harness reality. When the culturally conscious man wears masks of discursive disguises the cultural scientist creates a road for himself, one that is less travelled, one that ushers to a glorious tomorrow.

## Fighting Discrimination against Transgender in India



Even though many people in India are familiar with the struggles of the transgender community, their rights are denied. The trans genders and hijra communities have been part of our culture for possibly thousands of years. Despite this, they are marginalised from society - a topic that should be hotly debated.
The plight of the trans community is that they are, predominantly forced into begging or sex work. If the police find them on the streets, they are beaten up and a charge is trumped on them under IPC 377, an archaic law established during the British colonial period. They are ill-treated everywhere and are denied access to public toilets and washrooms. Even if they are permitted inside, they have to face questions and abuse: verbal, mental and even physical.

The Transgender Rights Bill has been recently passed by the legislature, which has awakened a ray of hope in our minds. Even the participation of a vast number of hijras
in the Maha Kumbhmela held in Ujiain in 2016, was glorious. An initiative was started in Kerala for eradicating discrimination against transgender people. Known as 'Gender Taxi' it is a service that will be owned and operated by transgender people. A number of hospitals also provide sex reassignment facilities throughout India. But still, we have a long way to go.

The time has come to join hands and fight discrimination against transgender people. Only then will our nation be truly developed.

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## CLUB AND FORUM REPORTS

## AICUF

The 2015 AlCUF programs were enitiated with the 'AICUF Day' cel. ebrations on lune 13th 2015 at Marian Hall. The new expcutives were selected at this ceremony. Our studeats attended the three day leadership camp at 'Sameeksha' on the month of July. On the month of August, 10 of our stadents attended the seminat 'Migrant Worker - A Friend Not a Foe' held at St. Xavier's College, Aluva. Three of our students weat to Altapady and camped with the Tribal during the Onam vacations. A three day Fresher's camp was organized for juniors at 'Sareeeksha', AICUF celebrated Teacher's Day on 5th September and our students extended a huge support for the college initiated Cancer Survey. Orientation Classes for luniors was taken by Fr.Renjith S) and on the very same day a Tribal Seminar on the topic 'Tribal culture and folklore' was arranged on our college. An outreach program to Ahashaparavakal, a destitute home was organized on the month of November. A poster competition in association with AIDA Day and tribute to our Missile Man 'APJ Abdul Kalam' was some events arranged by the AICuF Members. Our stufents attended the National Tribal fest at tharkhand and even went Cur an exposure trip to Mumbal, Al. CUF opened a food stall for providing tefreshments for volinteers, college

## HOLISTIC EDUCATION

Helistic Education Department of our College is a body which co - ordinates all organisations and clubs functioning in the campus for personal upilt, and moral and spiritual development of the students. OrganIsations like Campus Ministry. AICUF, Women's Cell, and Career Guidance etc. come under this.
Six Meetings of Teachers in charge of Holistic Education and Class teach. ers were convened during the report year to discuss and plan various valtue oriented activities for the benefit of the students.
Five value education classes on themes relevant to youth issues, three special lectures, and two invit. ed lectures were conducted directly by the HE Department.
Various other activities of similar intentions were also undertaken in campus with the monitoring of this Department are mentioned in the reports of the respective Clubs / Or . ganisations.

## DANCE CLUB

The activities of the dance club started with the inaugural function Unilike the previous years the club was inaugurated this year by two young artists Ramzan and Sania Ramzan is the winner of the program "D 4 Dance" organized by the famous orayalam channel "MazhavilMan. orama" and Sania is also a contes
a live performance for the staff and students of the institution followed by a dance fest by the members of the club. The members of the dance club presented an amazing performance for the HEARTIFEST 2015. Different dance forms Eastern, Western, Contemporary and Fusion were presented for the program.

The Sacred Heart College Dance Club in collaboration with "Folded Paper Dance and Theatre", Settle, Honk Kong, "Water in Kerala" was conducted, It was a weeklong workshop scheduled from 16 th to 22 nd August 2015 under the leadership of Kanta Kochhar Lindgren, U.S. artist and project director for the workshop, in addition there were three other U.S. artists - Beth Graczyk, Morgan Chang and Aaron Gabriel and also three Indian artists namely Sen Jansen T.F, (Alumnus, S.H. College. Thevara), Rag Saseendrababu, Jebin lesmes who are specialized in this field. About forty students of the college attended the workshop during these seven days consisting of five days theory and practical sessions and two days of performance

## INTERNATIoNal office

The degree of flexibility in the international office was evident in this academic year, with the partners all expressing their willingness to con-
tinue with
highlights of the international office for the academic year.

SH international office continued to have its alliances with the existing partners namely, Juniata college, USA; AUT, New Zealand; Nihon Fukushi University, Japan; Concordia College, USA

Achievements for the current aca. demic year.

Following the exchange programme from Sacred Heart by a team of three students, led by Dr. Sibi Zacharias, the invitation was sent to juniata to get another student from Juniata. Audrey Zehren completed her course and left to Juniata.

Ashwin Romy and Hridya layram from the Economics Department, Mafia from the English Department, Banushree from the English department and Mr. Muhammed Nissin from the Zoology department were selected to participate in the exchange programme. The faculty accompanying the team was Dr. Grace Thomas from the Chemistry Department. The team left on 1st February 2016.

The world Youth Meet at Japan invitation was received and likewise Mr. Manu from the Physics department was selected for the programme, which was held during 7th and 8th of August 2015.

A team of nine students accompanied by their faculty Prof. Neil Pelky visited our campus on 13 th January 2016 for a study on culture. The cultural exchange was successful with the students benefitted the same.

A team of 10 students from Japan Nihon Fukushi University visited our campus on the 15 th of February 2016. As part of the annual science symposium INSPIRE, noted Japanese scientist and Nobel laureate Prof. Ei-chi- Nigishei and his associate Prof. Thomas colacot visited the campus on the 15th and 16 th of February 2016.

## NCC AIR WING

The activities for the academic year 2015-'16 commenced from 15 th /uly, 2015 onwards with the enroliment of first year cadets. Former CO of the unit, Gp. Capt. C. V. Sunil Kumar was given a notable farewell in our college by the principal, ANO and the cadets in the event of his posting out to New Delhi Air Head Quarters. JUO Meenak-
shi T. G was the only cadet from the Kerala \& Lakshadweep directorate for this year's YEP (Youth Exchange Programme) to Singapore. World Environment Day was celebrated by planting Lakshmi Tharu and Mulatha (anti-cancerous plants), apart from celebrating Independence Day by cleaning KSRTC buses at Ernakulam Transport stand. This social initiative of the cadets got attention of the public and Malayala Manorama news channel had covered and telecasted the same. Onam was celebrated by the cadets and ANO by going to the government old age home and organized variety programs for the inmates. On 7th December 2015, on account of Flag Day our cadets conducted awareness about the same and collected funds to be distributed to the families of martyrs. Under the command of Fg. Offr. Dr. Joseph George, the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) was held at SNV HSS North Paravur with strength of 583 cadets from 21 schools and 6 colleges, from 18th December, 2015 to 28th December, 2015. College won the runner up trophy of the camp. Eight Cadets became eligible for their 'C' Certificate Examination and 19 for their ' $\mathbf{B}$ ' Certificate Examination.

## NAVAL WING ANNUAL

NCC Naval wing began its activities in the 2nd week of July, enrolling 34 cadets under the guidance of Lt Commander Dr. Siby Mathew. We inculcate a sense of discipline and leadership among cadets. Besides training cadets in naval service subjects, we gave emphasis on personality development by conducting group discussions, quiz, snap talks \& cultural programs and some adventure activities.

Many of our cadets participated in various camps, which gave them an opportunity to get special training in boat work, ship modeling, communication, boat pulling and sailing. Training helps them to develop character, comradeship and to adapt themselves In any spheres of life. We have 25 SD boys and 25 SW Girls in our subunit

We began our parade session in 2015 by planting Lakshmi Tharu and Mullatha as a part of anti-cancer movement on July 5th 2015.

Three cadets Alphy Mathew. An-
jaly Jobai and Akash 5 participated in the All Kerala RD Inter-group Competitions held at Trissur and five cadets Ajay Kumar Bharathy, Riya Tomy, Anjaly lobai, Deena T David and Akash S attended All Kerala NSC IGC held at Kollam and Cadet Riya Tomy was selected to represent Kerala and Lakshadweep directorate at the prestigious NAU SAINIX CAMP (January 2015). She won a gold medal in Health and Hygiene and competed for the Best Cadet title in Karwar. Cdt Dinu T David, Alphy Mathew, Anjaly lobai attended All India ATC held at Kozhikode and won gold medal in parade competition, group dance \& Ever Rolling Trophy in Service Subject.

Cdt Akash S attended NIC Raipur and Cdt SreeRam attended ship attatchment camp in December 2015. Leading Cdt Sonu Siwach, Cdt Ankita Kumari, Cdt Deena T David attended NIC Delhi in January 2016. Four Cadets Sreevidya, Dinu t David, Riya Tomy and Ajzy Kumar Bharathy attended ATC Lakshadweep in January 2016. Fifteen cadets went for one day sailing expedition at Southern Naval Command, Kochi. Twenty Cadets attended Annual Training Camp at Chottanikkara. They won individual and group prizes in parade, semaphore, rigging, service subject, tug of war and cultural competitions.

## Paradigm program

On October 2nd our social service programme PARADIGM was inaugurated by Mr Renish P Rajan, councilor Kochi Corporation. Commander Shinod Karthikeyan, Executive Officer INS Garuda who is a former cadet capas a special guest. Our principal Rev. Dr. Prasant Palakkappillil, presided over the meeting. ANO LT.C Dr. Siby Mathew and Superintendent Mr. Ravendran were also present on the octasion. Cadets helped to clean the area There were lot of sharing between the cadets and the inmates. Both cadets and inmates participated in cultural programmes. Lunch for inmates and cadets were arranged by cadets and ANO of SH College, Thevara. Lot of Ex.NCC cadets were also present on the occasion. We also handed over medicines and provisions sponsored by $7(\mathrm{k})$ naval NCC unit and ex-cadets.



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Associate NCC Officer Lt C Dr Siby Mathew and others at old age home are giving full support for the efficient and regular conduct of the programme.
As a part of Swach Bharat Abhiyan along with Army 8Air force NCC Cadets we conducted a cleaning programme in and around the college. As a part of 'creating career opportunities' NCC Naval Wing along with the cooperation of Coastguards conducted a career orientation camp and gave an idea about the career op. portunities in Indian Coast Guard service. NCC cadets took anticorruption pledge and a group discussion was also conducted on impact of corruption in India.

On behalf of the cadets of our sub unit I extend my profound gratitude to our principal, commanding officer and all others at 7(k) Naval NCC Unit for their hole hearted co-operation, supportand guidance.

## NSS ANNUAL REPORT

Sacred Heart College, Thevara has two units of dynamic and vibrant Na tional Service Scheme. A total of 122 volunteers joined the two units in this academic year 2015-16. Combining first year and second year volunteers NSS unit has a total strength of 250. The NSS unit undertakes various communities related activities like social awareness campaign, charity activities etc. The activities of NSS are co-ordinated by Program Officers Prof. Sanu Varghese (Dept. of Commerce) and Dr. Ignatious Abraham (Dept. of Chemistry) and volunteer secretaries Mr. Jerome Joseph and Ms. Sara George. The annual report of activities undertaken by the NSS unit during the academic year 2015-2016 is presented below.
The NSS unit celebrated World Environment Day on June 05, 2015 with great ardour. Student's day was observed for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet. In connection with the World Environment Day celebrations; training classes were held in St. Teresa's College EFnakulam on 05 June 2015 for making unisex multipurpose cotton bags.

A symposium was organised by the Alumni Association of SH College in collaboration with NSS unit of the college on cancer prevention awareness. Dr. V.P. Gangadharan, Senior Consultant and HOD of Medical \& Paediatric Oncology at Lakeshore Hospital gave the keynote address. NSS unit offered a grand welcome to the young minds that arrived at the doorstep of Heartian family on 11 June 2015. NSS unit of the college participated in the Bio-Mithram Project, held under the wing of social protection mission on 15th June 2015 at Kundannoor.

NSS volunteers of SH Unit actively took part in the Anti-narcotics seminar and a workshop organized by Excise department of Govt. of Kerala at Ernakulam town hall on 19th June 2015

NSS SH Unit observed World Population Day on 11 th of July. National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Sacred Heart College (5HC), Thevara try to re-capture the traditional spirit of imbibing the porridge known as 'Karkkdaka kanji,' during the eponymous Malayalam month of heavy monscon.

NSS unit joined hands with Chavara Bhavana Padhati of Sacred Heart Monastery. Volunteers of National Service Scheme (NSS) rendered mianual labour at the site in Chellanam, where the non-teaching staff of SH college, Mr. P. A. Varghese is building his new house as part of SH Chavara Bhavana Padhati.

NSS joining hands with the Entrepreneur Development (ED) Club organized Trade Fest 2K15 at SHC auditorium. International Peace Day was observed on 21st September 2015. In connection with this, the members of NSS Unit pledged their love and loyalty in promoting peace and in keeping the flame of fratemity alive in this world. The international day of Older Persons was observed on 1st October 2015. Group discussions were held to analyse various abuses encountered by the old. 'Social protection and agriculture' the theme of World Food Day held on 16th Octobet, 2015 was welcomed wholeheartedly by the NSS family of Sacred Heart College. NSS unit organised an outreach programme on 16th October 2015 for collecting clothes and distributing them to the leprosy affected people.

This endeavour set up in collaboration with the Leporosy Association, Vadakkanchery, turned into a grand success. As a part of social commit. ment of NSS volunteers towards the needy and weaker sections of the society. NSS unit of our college donated a solar water heater of 200 L capacity to the Relief settlement, Palluruthy. Realising the importance of environment protection and sustainable development, NSS volunteers participated in the people's climate march which addressed the protection of forest and nature. The march from Vazhachal to Athirappilly held on 29th November 2015
As a part of world AIDS day observation, the NSS unit of our college conducted a series of programs.
January 12, National Youth Day, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated with a series of programs. The three day minicamp for the year 2015-16 was commenced from 21st august 2015. The camp commenced at 6 pm on 21st August 2015. The tamp was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Prasant Palackapilly, the principal of the college. 150 students attended the camp.

The annual seven day camp of the NSS unit was held at Govt. U.P. School, Chempankuzhy, Neriamangalam from 18th December 2016 to 24th December 2016. One hundred volunteers from the two units of NSS attended the camp.

Vice-President of Kavalangadu grama panchayat Sri. Savitha lose inaugurated the camp. Principal Rev. Dr. Prasanth Palackappillil CMI inaugurated the project works and gave the key note address.

Alumnus of SH college and water resources minister of Govt. of Kerala Shri, P. J. Joseph visited the NSS camp and interacted with the students. Hon'ble Kothamangalam MLA T U KUruvilla was also present.



Gautham Jayachandran, Joe Christo, Hamsa MM, Arun Chernbarakky M Angel Mary Mathew, Aswathy Krishne, Sidharth Bhattathiri Rahul Radhakrishnan, Kevin Thomas








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## COLLEGE UNION 2015-16

## The election for the

 college Union 2015-16 was conducted on 24 th July 2015, which turned the revolutionary quest of the students into a reality after three years.
## Inaugural ceremony

The Union kick-started our work with the inauguration of the same by Shri Renji Panicker. The event was followed by a concert by the prestigious rock band 'Rocazaurus' and dance, drama and musical performances by the students.

Union Honoured Teachers

Teachers' Day was celebrated in the campus by the College Union. All the faculty members were honored and we expressed our respect and love for them.

## Cafeteria

Taking into consideration the uncontrollable rush in the college canteen, we requested another cafeteria to be opened in the campus. The request was considered and a cafeteria was built. A variety of food items are now available to students at subsidized rates.

## Saparya 2016

College Union abled to ensured one of the highest participation of the students in the Mahatma Gandhi University Youth Festival 'Saparya 2016' conducted at Thoduppuzha from March 10 to 14.

## Celluloid The Film festival

For the first time in the college, a film festival called "Celluloid" was organized with three movies screened in different screens in a day for three consecutive days. Films were screened under Art, Popular and Mass titles. Altogether 9 films were screened.

## Sangamam

Hridya Sarga Sangamam, with intra-college level competitions, was conducted. It saw the participation of hundreds of students, allowing them to showcase their talents on an open stage.

## Wi-Fi Campus

Wi-Fi facility was made available to all students for any academic purpose at the request of the Union.

## NAVRANG 2K16

Arts Day of the college. NAVRANG 2K16, was one of most successful ones till date. It being conducted during the study holidays never compromised on its grandeur. Various dance and musical performances and skit performed that day are still etched in the minds of everyone who witnessed it.

## Namukkoppam

 2016The College Union organised a Christmas celebration and luncheon "Namukkoppam 2016" at Govt. Old Age Home, Thevara Ferry on the Christmas day. The celebration was held with the help of great contributions by the students and faculty members. Poet Shri. Madnu Vasudev, Principal Ff. Prasanth Palackappilil were also part of the celebration. Music concert by 'H Cross Omega was the highlight of the celebration.

## Korero Series

As a part of expressing solidarity with the protests against fastist invasions, the College Union organised a seminar 'Korero' on Fascism, Art, and Resistance. Director Amal Neerad, Journalist K.K Shahina and Cartoonist Bony Thomas were the thief guests.
The second session of Korero was organized on the topic "Commercialization of Spirituality". Prof. Ravichandran $C_{\text {, }}$, famous writer and cultural activist Mr. Arham Muhammed, representing 'FreeThinkers', were the major speakers.

## Break time extend

Considering our Muslim friends, the College Union requested to extend the lunch break time duration to 2:00 PM from 1:30 PM on Fridays. The same was granted.

## Parva 2016 <br> The first campus biennale

The first ever campus biennale in Kerala, Parva 2016 was conducted under the patronage of the Kochi Biennale Foundation to encourage Art and Expression among students. KBF Treasurer Shri, Bonny Thomas was the Chief Consultant of the event. This included Graffiti, Installations, Photography, Clay Modeling and Painting exhibited from the 17 th to 21st of February in the college campus. The process happened over a month and the world saw the students bring out their hidden talent on an open stage and the transformation of SHC from a 'campus' to a 'kalalayam'. Shri. Ashik Abu inaugurated the mega event along with Australian street artist Daniel Colonel. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a folk musical concert by Kannaki Nadanpaattu Sangham. The event was covered by almost 11 dailies and more than four television channels.


ARSHA ANN PRADEEP VICE, CHAIRPERSON


MANEESH MAHIPAL LUC


GOLDA ANE BENY LADY REP.


ATHEESH O $3^{\text {2⿻ }}$ YEAR UG REP.


ARUNLAL CHAIRMAN


ANGEL MARY MATHEW MAGAZINE HDTOR


YEDUKRISNA M NAIR ULC


ROYACHAN MANLAMKOT
$1^{\text {IT }}$ YEAR UG REP $1^{15}$ YEAR UG REP.


GREESHMA
$1{ }^{51}$ YEAR PG REP.


ASHEETH MUKUNDAKLDAR GENERAL SECRETABY


ROOPESH MENON ARTS CLUH SECRETARY


MALAVIKA SHANKAR LADY REP.


BASIL RAJU
$2^{20}$ YEAR UG REP.


SHONA SMITH $2^{20}$ YEAR PG REP.


HAMSA MM CURATOR


The first ever campus biennale in Kerala

幾受 THE CAMPUS BIENNALE




Group song Indian- First Prize
Roopesh Menon N I raduKrisnnan M Aisha Mathen Theoy Agnes MalveKhal Krishnapriya MP F mavi प्रrt v. Branu Uuas Anamay Prakash, Aswn Paj if


Group Western- Third Prize
Olve Aktraham Chanty Nikhel Wispon



Radhikal R. Aswathy Menon. Revathy Sreabumar Ueer a Plakash, Amrurtha S. Aneetta Regina Shipa K R Merisu Kurian, Anjana K Ajayan: Sona Maria Ther psa Nicholas v


Sona Sebastian
Kathaprasangam. First Prize. Ottam Thutialsecond Prize Kerala Nactanam-Third Prize


Sidharth K Bhattathiri
Kavitha Parayanam-
Thard Prize


## Vishnu Sasi

Poetry Writing HindThurd Prize


Jincy Joseph
Mono Act- Third Prize


Sanoop K Luis Western percussion
-Fist Prize


Job Rinol
PhotograpnyThird Prize

Qtive Abraham Chandy Ally Achamma Sebastian and Megha $P$ Joseph participated and secured first prizes at the Inter-Unversty Natonals at Mysore Olive Minna Jose ang Rajasree were selected for the National Level Competitions scheduled to be hald at Murnhas in February. 2017

Amerthas 8
Mohinigattam - Second Prize


Inter-University National Youth Festival 2015
Anlutha Lakshyni (IInd MA Engishy wan 1st prize in Grsup Song (Western). Asiy Sebsstiar. Megha P Jospph (IInd DC Engish), Niletn Sancra (Ist DC Econgmes) and Crystel Babu iIItra DC Computer Applicatiens) won 2nd grist in Mirme with Niteen winning 2nd in both mime and skit at the Inter-University Natesnal Youth Festival hested by Divi Anlya Universty. Indore

MGU INTER COLLEGIATE TOURNAMENTS
WINNERS $\quad$ Shuttle Badminton (Men) • Volleyball [men] • Tennis(Men) Kabaddi [men] • Table Tennis [men] • Table Tennis [women] • Cricket [men] RUNNERS UP- Handball (Men) • Basketball (Men)


Volleyball Team

Cricket Team


Kabaaddi



Basketball

## OTHER INTER COLLEGIATE TOURNAMENTS

- College cricket team qualified for All indie Redbull Trophy - Winner of inter collegiate Basketball Tournament at Baselius College, Kottayam
- Runner up of Fr. Bartholomew memorial inter collegiate basketball and volleyball men

Handball


23 stubents repuesented the M. ©. Unwersily and 14 represented the kerala state in ranious ganes
Arun George-Badminton, Shyam Prasad-Badminton and, Maria Roney-Table Tennis
He the can reat Internaticeal l'aners inver cothote
MB Unmes ity Badminton |Men| tean wer she Runter up topliy in the All Insia Inter Unmersity Badminton Championship which


## ACHIVEMENTS



## MANU S

He represented Sacred Heart College at the International Youth Meet in Fukushi Organized by our international partner NIHON FUKUSHI UNIVERSITY, Mihama, lapan.

## QUALIFIED NET

- ARYA B
- AJNA GEORGE
- ARYA PONNAN
- ASHITHA A B
- ATHIRA VINOD
- JITHIN JHONSON
- LAKSHMI S NAIR
- MARLEENA ANTONY
- SREEGANGA K A
- NaVYA PIOUS
- NAVAMITS
- FIONA FRANCIS
- ELSA JACOB


PROF. RAJESH JAMES
P. K. Rosy Award for Best Documentary

- DR. FRANKLIN JOHN

Member, Royal Society of Chemistry. UK

- DR. GEORGEKUTTY JOSPEH

Paper Presentation at Australian Polymer Conference

- DR.SUMOD S G

Young Scientist Award, International
Union for Radio Science

- DR.MATHEW M I

Research Guide, MG University

- DR. JINU GEORGE

Research Guide, MG University

- DR.SAMSON DAVIS

Research Guide, MG University

- DR. SIBY MATHEW

Research Guide. MG University

- REV DR. JOSE JOHNSON

Research Guide, MG University



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