



Sea of people witness Mangalore Dasara amidst mystifying weather

Reshma



Goddess Navadurga being carried to the Gokarnanatha temple in Mangalore during Dasara.

Reshma

MANGALORE: Dasara celebrations at Kudroli Shri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple is known for its sparkling procession. Thousands witnessed the grand finale of the Mangalore Dasara on the day of Vijayadashami on Friday, October 19.

Citizens of Mangalore and thousands of devotees from various parts joined together in the City to witness the grand finale of the Mangalore Dasara on the day of Vijayadashami.

Mangalore Dasara celebrations at Kudroli Gokarnanatheshwara Temple are one of the biggest festivities in coastal Karnataka.

The ten days festival started with installing of the nine idols of Goddess Durga in the decorated hall. The hall was illuminated with glowing lights.

Streets in the city, decorated, were lit with colourful lights to welcome the procession. Devotees

from in and around Mangalore visited the 102- year old temple during this festival.

Idols of Navadurgas along with Mahaganapathi and Sharada were taken in procession, which saw an assortment of flowers, decorative umbrellas, tableaux, bands, chende and traditional dances, folk dances, *DolluKunitha*, music, Yakshagana characters, *Gombe*, *Karaga*, tiger dance and other traditional art forms.

The procession started with rituals held in the Temple premises in the presence of former union minister B Janardhan Poojary, along with other office-bearers and members of the administration committee of the Temple. After the procession, the idols were immersed at the Pushkarini pond in the temple premise on Saturday, October 20.

"Around 16 teams from Karnataka performed their cultural performances during these nine

days. The temple programmes were open for all. Here there were no restrictions on anybody. People from all communities were welcome to offer poojas," said R Padmaraj, treasurer of Temple committee.

Even the climate was in favour of the devotees. "I thought it would rain, because of which the whole festive mode would be affected. It was God's grace that everything went well. This year a huge crowd had gathered for the procession and it seemed like year after year the number of devotees are increasing," said Jayshree, a devotee.

Mr Padmaraj said, "As a part of the celebration, the Temple committee has also done socially obligatory programmes, irrespective of any caste or community. We have provided economic help to more than 600 students and 50 patients," said Mr Padmaraj.

Nine 'tiger teams' compete at Pili Nalike

Harshita

MANGALORE: If you had a chance to experience the *Pili-Nalike* (tiger dance) in Mangalore, you would have been spellbound by the acrobatics of the dancers exhibiting their youthful energy.

Under the leadership of the DakshinaKannada Youth Congress president Mithun Rai and Namma TV, the fifth edition of *Pili Nalike*, the tiger dance competition was held at the volleyball ground in Mannagudda on October 18. Nine teams, with a fifteen-minute time limit competed from noon till late in the night. Each team was rewarded a complimentary amount of Rs 20,000.

The 'tigers' roared, growled, prowled, pranced and stalked for their prey to the pulsating beat of the *thase* (drum). They even lifted the *akkimudi* (stored rice) weighing 42 kg with their teeth and threw it backwards with

little effort.

The first prize was won by Gourakshanatha tigers from Gorakshadand, second prize by Puraldapena Mokeda Bollilu from Purali and third prize was shared



'Tigers' dancing on the stage at Pili Nalike in Mangalore.

by Rajyalakshmi Hoigebazar and Ballalbaaghfriends. Mr Rai, the organiser said, "I have been associating with *Namma TV* to organise this competition since 2014. It has been very successful and popular. It is an effort to encourage the best teams and keep the art alive for future generations."

Committee member Mr Anurag

said that this competition was conducted in order to revive the tiger dance culture and tradition.

The performance was filled with acrobatics, flips, somersaults. The performance was filled with

Anil

acrobatics, flips, somersaults and and reverse jumps which excited the audience. A massive crowd belonging to all communities gathered throughout the day at the venue irrespective of religion. City Police Commissioner T.R. Suresh inaugurated the event and Deputy Commissioner Sasikanth Senthil presided over.

Ramakrishna Math holds Yoga camp; 3,000 benefit

Vinitha

MANGALORE: Ramakrishna Math organised a 15-day yoga-sana camp at Ramakrishna Math, Mangaladevi recently.

Kumblekar Mohan Kumar, an old student of St Aloysius College (Autonomous) and BSNL employee conducts these classes every month for fifteen days.

Classes are held between 6.15 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. for a nominal fee of just Rs 10 per day. Mr Kumar has been conducting these classes for the last five years in batches.

Every batch consists of 40 members and this batch was the 63rd batch. So far more than 3000 people have benefited through this initiative.

Mr Kumar said, "My role model is B.K.S. Iyengar, a living legend who has taught yoga in a unique

way.

I am deeply inspired by his book *The path to holistic health*. I know 40 yogaasanas. I am passionate about teaching these to others. Though these asanas are a bit complicated, they have lots of benefits."

He further added, "Every person should spend at least one hour for yoga. Yoga can make our nerves active and our body to function well. Nowadays junk food can be harmful for health. Each and every part of our body needs a doctor. Yoga helps us to overcome our weakness and keeps the doctor away."

Satyavathi, a student who attended the camp said, "I attend these classes for the last two years and I feel relaxed and happy. This Math is a peaceful place for yoga and meditation."

SAC observes World Food Day; zero hunger possible, says expert

Biny



Prof. Shamsundar inaugurating the ceremony.

Biny

MANGALORE: The world food day was observed at SAC on October 16.

The event was organised jointly by the department of Food Science and Technology (FST) and Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics.

Prof. Shamsundar BA, former head of College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, was the chief guest of the event. "Zero Hunger is possible by 2030, but only with dedicated work of students," Prof. Shamsundar said.

"When we look at the performance of Indian sector, in 1951 the total food production was around 50 million tons. Currently, we have reached up to 285 million tons and the performance is spectacular," he said.

He further added that for all the success, the policy makers, scientists and the administration who have transformed the Indian agri-

culture scenario had to be thanked.

"India is number one in the production of jute, pulses and milk. We stand as number two in the production of rice, wheat, sugarcane and also number five in the production of fruits and fish," Prof. Shamsundar opined.

A demonstration on cheese production in industry was conducted by Mukund Naidu, product innovation head, Akshayakalpa Farms and Food Pvt. Ltd., Tip-tur.

Albin Joy, a student from department of FST said, "This seminar is mainly to rededicate ourselves to alleviate the hunger problem and to overcome the malnutrition problem in the world."

Shilpa Lekha, organising secretary of the seminar said, "The theme of the event was 'Zero Hunger' which means working together to ensure everyone everywhere has access to safe, healthy and nutritious food."

Natak Sabha holds Konkani drama festival in city; theatre lovers watch 12 plays

Nafeesa

MANGALORE: Drama fest which was held at Don Bosco Hall, Balmatta as part of the 75th year celebration of Konkani Natak Sabha (KNS) ended here on Sunday, October 21.

The fest concluded with two dramas, *Magdalachi Mori* and *Home Sweet Home*. *Magdalachi Mori*, a one-act play, was produced by Padua Ranga Adhyayan Kendra.

Home Sweet Home was produced by Asthithva @ Mangalore. The play was translated from P. Lankesh's original drama by Roshu Bajpe.

The fest was inaugurated by Fr Victor Vijay Lobo, PRO of Mangalore Diocese on October 6. There were 12 plays from twelve groups.

Except for one group, others were from Mangalore. All the artists were professionals.

The plays started at 6 p.m. an-

deach play was of one-hour duration. The plays were held only on weekends and it was free for the public.

Sunil Minezes, vice president of KNS said, "The response of the audience was not as good as expected. There were around 300 people. We expected 500 people. The performance by the actors was good. The programme went on well on all days."

"Interestingly, youngsters are more interested in this field. Modern lighting technologies are used on the stage. Sound system is good. But, we cannot implement the latest technology," said Boniface Pinto, Manager of KNS.

Floyed Dmello, convener of the drama fest said, "For this drama festival, we had 12 dramas. It is for the first time in history of KNS, that 12 dramas are played at a stretch."

Dona Sharon Dsouza, an artist from *Home Sweet Home* said that she played the role of a wife

whose family life is broken and who does not have a good understanding with the husband.

"KNS is a cultural organisation for the promotion of Konkani language.

Don Bosco Hall accommodating nearly 700 people.

The hall was built in the year 1957. Since then, it is a hall for dramas.

The next dramas will be held on

Nafisa



A still from Home Sweet Home drama, performed at Don Bosco Hall, Mangalore recently.

It stands for the up-lift of cultural, social and moral values in society.

KNS has a well-equipped drama hall of its own known as

November 4 and 11.

These will be comic-social and religious dramas, organised by the members of KNS," Mr Pinto informed.

Coastalwood actor Anushree cheers 'tigers' as they enthral onlookers

Anil



Anushree taking a selfie with participants.

Anil Fernandes

MANGALURU: 'Kori Rotti' Tulu film actress and Kannada anchor Anushree was the main attraction at the Pili Nalike (Tiger Dance) competition held at Managudda volleyball ground on October 18.

People cheered Anushree as she stepped on the stage after the tiger dance performance by Chilimbi Friends Club. Speaking on the occasion Anushree said, "I feel

proud of being a coastal girl of Mangluru where cultures and coastal traditions are celebrated so well.

I am greatly enthralled by the tiger dance at this festival. Tiger dance is our traditional dance.

We should never give up these celebrations at any cost."

"Namma TV is my home. It is my gurukula. I began working on this channel.

It has played a big role in my life and shaped my career. This channel has made me popular across Karnataka," Ms Anushree added.

The fifth edition of the Pili Nalike contest was organised on the occasion of Navarathri festival. The programme began in the forenoon. City Police Commissioner T.R. Suresh inaugurated the event and Deputy Commissioner Sasikanth Senthil presided over.

SAC ranked third Swachh Campus in country; MHRD honours College

Dept. Report

MANGALURU: St Aloysius College (Autonomous), (SAC) Mangalore has been ranked third in the country for the best maintained campus under 'Swachh Campus' scheme by the Government of India. The Minister of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Prakash Javedkar announced the ranks on October 3, 2018, in Delhi. Rankings were done under the strict instruction laid down by MHRD. For the last few years the campus was focusing on becoming a clean campus. Certain strategies and expert opinions were taken into consideration with regard to the requirements of making the campus an environment friendly one.

"The MHRD has allotted five villages around Mangalore to the College including Someshwar, Kandavara, Mulur, Pilatabettu and

Kavalpadur under the scheme to provide social awareness programmes. The guidelines of the government will be employed through the Centre for Social Concern of the College," said Dr A M Narahari, Registrar of SAC.

He added that the college put out a set of criteria were to be fulfilled which included well maintained campus, green initiative, cleanliness, well-maintained toilets, canteens, hostels, clean drinking water, green audit, energy conservation, waste management system and reprocessing of waste.

A press release also said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had selected the College under 'Unnat Bharath' scheme on October 27, 2018.

The award was received by Principal Dr (Fr) Praveen Martis SJ in New Delhi.

Doll exhibition held in city

Annett

MANGALORE: Unveiling a fine collection of dolls during Navaratri, inviting friends, relatives and allowing other people to visit their homes to show their dolls in col-

palace actually looked like.

"Over one thousand dolls worth Rs 7 lakhs are on exhibition. They were collected from Mysore and Chennai. Some of them are antique pieces. Every year new dolls are added," Mamatha, a

Annett



Different kinds of dolls were on display during the Dasara festival at the Sharavu Temple, Mangalore.

lection, is a favourite pastime of many families living in Mangalore, Mysore and several other neighbouring areas.

Coinciding with such a festival of dolls, an informal association of 120 families that migrated from old Mysore region to Mangalore organised the 11th Dasara doll exhibition at the Sharavu Mahaganapathi Temple, Mangalore during the nine-day Navaratri festival.

The dolls on display were of different kinds. They were displayed in nine steps, and the first level comprised of *Pattada Gombe*, a collection of dolls gifted to a bride by her parents on her wedding day.

The exhibition depicted the Dasara culture and celebrations. There were also dolls representing the royal family, soldiers, along with rural people, among others. A miniature replica of the Mysore Palace was the centre of attraction. It contained lighting, soldier dolls, palace army and elephants, representing a model of what the

member of *Nammavaru* said.

The dolls were placed on nine

Students clean Tannirbhavi beach

Wilvia

MANGALORE: PG students of Journalism Department of St Aloysius College held a beach cleaning event on October 24, at Tannirbhavi beach.

Michael Jerome Koola, student representative, in association with Yatish Baikampady, CEO, and Panambur Beach Tourism Development Project organised this event to spread awareness on plastic pollution at Tannirbhavi beach. 15 students of the department put their hands together to clean the sea shore for three hours in the morning and collected ten bags of plastic trash.

Santhosh Kumar, beach supervisor appreciated the students for their initiative. Joshwa, a student of MA English said, "Tannirbhavi is a beautiful place. If we have to retain the beauty of the place, we need to keep it clean." Sabitha, a student of MA in Journalism and Mass Communication said that beaches are social places where people come to chill out, so it was important to keep them clean.

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King of beads

HARSHITA

Sabu Caiter, a native of North Paravur has earned his name in the Limca Book of Records in 2017 for his collection of 50,000 rosaries. This passion of his started when he was just 13 years old and when his grandfather gifted him his own rosary when he was on his death bed. "It felt special and the idea to collect such rosaries struck me as unique," Mr Caiter says. Each rosary that he possesses is unique. The longest is 12 metre long with 1000 beads, and the smallest is just an inch long.

Out of his collection, 300 are from the Vatican City and the rest are from 88 other countries.

He is happy that his collection has been blessed by well-known



People at the Rosary Exhibition at Milagres Church.

people such as Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and the present Pope Francis.

Many rosaries are from holy places like Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Fatima, Lourdes, Kibeho and Knock.

Having connections with priests and nuns across the country has helped him gather rosaries. They bring back rosaries from different parts of the world on his request.

"No two rosaries in my possession are alike. You won't find any bead or cross that looks similar.

The oldest dates back to over 200 years. It comes with a certification. Most of them are made in Italy, the biggest production house of rosaries in the world," he says.

Among his favourites is the one that was gifted to him by Mother Teresa but the one that is closest to his heart was gifted to him by his grandmother.

He has in his possession a variety of rosaries including the ones made of copper, titanium and semiprecious stones.

"Last year we received a rare collection of beautiful rosaries from Germany, one of which was manufactured in the year 1857. This was gifted to me when a priest and a group of parishioners arrived in Kerala. I was touched when they bought me some of the most beautiful ones which had hardly faced any wear and tear," says Mr Caiter. He receives undying support from his wife, Benetta, son, Francis Aghil and close friends. His ultimate aim is to open a museum of rosaries one day. Mr Caiter is passionate about exhibiting his collection.

He has been conducting several exhibitions across India under the banner 'International Rosary Exhibition.' So far he has completed 145 shows. Five more exhibitions are scheduled which will be held in Kerala and Chennai.

Recently, he conducted his show in Mangalore for the second time marking the rosary year in Mangalore Diocese.

A Treasure trove of antiques preserved for future

SAC museum finds a new place

The Hindu



The very first car to be driven on Mangalore roads in the 19th century has been preserved in Aloyseum.

NIMMY

In Mangalore, one cannot miss visiting St Aloysius College, an iconic institution established 138 years ago.

The beautiful chapel in the campus with magnificent architecture and paintings is best known among the tourist places in the city of Mangalore.

Besides, it has three museums which date back to 1913. Two of them are located in Botany and Zoology departments and the third, Aloyseum has now been moved to a much spacious and newly constructed facility near the chapel.

When one traces the history of Aloyseum, one comes to know

that an Italian Jesuit priest Fr M. Chiappi brought minerals, the herbarium, collection of Roman Emperors' coins, the collection of commemorative medals and a part of the old coins from Italy in 1912.

These were kept in the physics laboratory and a small part was placed in the chemistry laboratory. This arrangement remained till 1927 when another Italian Jesuit Fr L. Proserpio extended the college department and provided a hall for the museum.

Fr Ambruzzi continued the work and then Fr F. Airdi for want of space in the new museum reduced five of the old showcases into 10 wall almirahs and placed the minerals and rocks in them.

Fr Rondano continued his work and placed the old Roman coins and the commemorative medals, old coins, skeletons of animals, a great variety of sea shells and many other natural science specimens in the college museum.

With introduction of Natural Science course in the college in 1927, more specimens were gathered.

Aloyseum is rich with invaluable articles and antiques from places like Italy, Paris, Germany and different other parts of the world.

The enormous treasures of mineral stones, petrified rocks and fossils, antiquarian, a variety of stained shells from Cape Comorin, lava stone and priestly garments from Italy, works of artistic excellence of ivory and ceramics, magnificent paintings on calico cloth, portraits and the statues of Gandhi, Nehru, Saint Ignatius and Brutus add elegance to Aloyseum.

"The four hundred year old statue of Mother Mary, a wooden cross of the 19 century which was on the top of the chapel for more than hundred years, skeleton of fin whale which is almost hundred year old, and Mangalore's first car brought from Paris, the first generator of 10kg and newspapers from the time of Independence are some of the unique items in the museum," says Kavitha, the cura-

tor of Aloyseum.

The skin of snakes and pythons, a giant tortoise shell, skeletons of elephant, bear, reptiles, daggers and shields, radio, gramophone, holy bibles and books from Italy, koko seeds, manuscripts, and musical instruments are some of the items of attraction for the visitors in the museum.

Due to lack of space in the old museum at St Aloysius College, the antiques of the museum have been now shifted to a new place at the PU block. "Rondano, the professor of zoology had collected skeletons and set them into a small museum. Ten years back it was moved to the red building. The number of exhibits was too big that some antiques could not be displayed to the visitors. Hence we planned to move to the bigger place," says Fr Leo D'ouza SJ, former Principal of the College.

"I have worked more on cataloging during the shifting of the museum to the new block and still working more on the arrangements according to the importance of items present here," Kavitha says enthusiastically.

While maintaining museums these days is quite an expensive task, SAC seems to have given Aloyseum a facelift only from its academic value.

First Pinkathon Day held in city; Hundred women take part

Sneha

MANGALORE: When more than 5,000 women from five countries and 50 cities participated in a 5km run at 6.30a.m.

On Sunday, October 21, the city of Mangalore also witnessed its first Pinkathon Day through a marathon held here in Mangala stadium.

The event was part of the nation-wide programme organised by the United Sisters Foundation organised which held India's biggest women's run. It was to encourage and promote fitness and health among women and create awareness for breast cancer and other issues relating to women's health.

The marathon which consisted of 2km, 3km and 5km run had its starting point at Mangala stadium, from where the participants had to either walk or run towards Infosys Technologies Ltd Mangalore. They were instructed to make a turn and head back to the finish line at the stadium. The participants were asked to assemble at 5.30 a.m. for the registration, followed by warm up sessions before they began the marathon.

"As a business woman and a beginner, I require to network and my work is based on 100 per cent reference. In one of my networking sessions, I met Mrs Rahasya Pai Maroor, a business woman. Her aunt Mrs Radhika was chosen by the Pinkathon headquarters as an ambassador for Mangalore event. As I had registered for the marathon, and due to my experience, I joined for co-ordination with the core committee," said

Sanchia Nazareth, a well-known event planner in Mangalore, and co-organiser of Pinkathon in Mangalore.

"Our meetings were always punctual and to the point. Meeting women from various fields such as teachers, home makers, bakers and many more helped us at different levels. October 21, the Pinkathon day was a memorable one for us all Mangaloreans," said Radhika Pai Maroor, ambassador of the event.

"This idea of having Pinkathon Day was the brainchild of super model and founder of Pinkathon, Milind Soman, an Indian super-model and actor. His desire is to organize Pinkathon in towns and cities across the country and even abroad. This is the need of the hour for women to come together as a



Pinkathon participants after the run at Mangala stadium.

community to drive positivity and good health for all, starting with themselves! In a country like India, the change needs to start with women trying to incorporate health and fitness into their daily lives," Mrs Pai added. Some of the

participants walked while some of them ran across the milestones and ended up cheering for one another. The organisers hoped to continue spreading health awareness by organising such event more often.

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Handle #MeToo responsibly

There have always been sporadic accusations against the film industry and its directors, especially the infamous 'casting couch' scandals.

In the past, there were accusations of sexual assault against veteran actors including Gulshan Grover and Shakti Kapoor, but these allegations were not impactful enough to start a movement.

However, the recent eruption of 'me too' movement has provided men and women from all sections of a platform to raise their voices.

People have reached out to twitter and other social media platforms narrating the atrocities that the industry has been too afraid to speak about till now.

The people who did speak up emerged as survivors and not merely as victims.

Though this was considered as a progressive step, the movement has lost its original motive.

Even the media are playing the role of the jury and the judge. Nowadays, media houses are showing biased trials causing the audience to have one sided per-

spective on the issue.

Media toy with the public's emotions by manipulating their opinions. Just one minute emotional video makes them pass judgment on it.

There have been stories in YouTube videos showing comments like *Nana ki aankho mein jhooth dikh rha* (Nana's eyes shows the hidden lie).

It is important to understand that the media and the common people cannot play the role of the judiciary. It is a must to step back and stop this eye reading business.

There are cases of people saying that even if innocent people are framed here, it is okay.

But they don't understand that lives are getting destroyed when an innocent person is unjustly victimised.

The MeToo movement was long overdue. However, there is a need to make sure that it is handled well by the stakeholders.

While the perpetrators must be held responsible, the innocents must not be maliciously victimised for no fault of theirs.

Vaishali

Are we going to have a noise free Diwali this year? Not very sure. Just ahead of Diwali, the Supreme Court (SC) banned the manufacturing and sale of high emission fireworks.

The SC said that only low emission crackers would be allowed and that too from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. only, which means most of all the existing firecrackers frankly stand banned.

In addition, on Christmas and New Year's Eve, firecrackers will be allowed between 11:55 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. In Delhi, only in designated spots bursting the firecrackers will be allowed, which will be identified within a week.

Firecrackers that are within the noise pollution levels that was set up by the SC in a verdict back in July 2005 will be allowed.

This means chain firecrackers will be banned, which is personally a cheering point for quite of us. Hope your neighbours are also listening to this. The police officer in-charge of the area will be held responsible for any violation of the new rule. This sounds good on

paper, but the real question is, can the SC order actually be implemented on the ground.

A BJP Parliament member, Chintaman Malviya, MP of Ujjain Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh said that he was not going to listen to the SC verdict and said that he would burst crackers after 10 p.m. This seems unfortunate, though not surprising as the right-wing members have a history of showing contempt to law enforcing agencies.

One cannot disagree that this is a landmark judgement. Crackers have a serious effect on the health of people. It is a form of ill menace which needs to be curbed. There is no such thing like zero or no emission firecrackers. Not only this, there is also a ban on online selling of crackers. Further, e-commerce sites will be hauled up for contempt of court, if they are found doing so.

Of course, the important issue here is the implementation and the acceptance of the judgment. The SC has shown us the way by this landmark judgement.

Now it is for us, the people of the country, to look for the interest of the health of our children. We

must abide by this rule in letter as well as in spirit.

Doctors say there are various harmful and toxic gases present in firecrackers.

NO₂ present in crackers leads to premature death and reduced lung development. CO₂ damages liver, kidneys and the central nervous system.

When the manufacturers opposed the verdict, the court said that their livelihood would be ensured, but for that they had to try and invent green crackers.

They also should get the clearance from Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) before their products are sold, the Apex Court directed.

Last year also, we had a ban on the sale of crackers, but the next morning we all saw the air quality of Delhi remaining as bad as ever. Who will bell the cat is the pertinent question.

The government needs to take the responsibility and ensure that the SC verdict is followed in letter and spirit. Though this is not going to make significant impact on a single day basis, it is a step in the right direction and will surely bring about a positive change.

A day with the lonely!

Vinitha

Recently, I got an opportunity to visit St Joseph Prashanth Nilaya old age home at Nellore along with some of my friends who are members of Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), Uppinangady unit.

Prashanth Nilaya is a home for the aged, especially for ladies who for some reasons cannot stay with their grown-up children or those who do not have any family member to care of them or those who have become alone and lonely in their old age owing to circumstances.

The sisters of Charity at Nellore run this institution. There are 40 inmates in this house.

We spent the whole day with them speaking and listening to them. Some of them due to their mental illness do not remember when and where they came from.

Hilda, an elderly inmate, said that she had to live in the old-age home because both her daughters were married and well-settled. Her husband passed away long ago. She said she had opted to live at *Prashanth Nilaya* as the facilities such as safety, security, board and lodging, company of peers were good. Also, the love and care from the nuns was special, she added. Sr Therese Crasta, the superior of the convent said, "Caring those who are aged and have no one is our mission. We do it out of much love. All of them are happy here.

The able ones help the others who are mentally and physically ill." She also added that they did not need anything but love and company from their peers and from those who came to visit them.

We conducted various cultural programmes like dance, songs, comedy skit and games that bought a smile on their faces.

We distributed them food grains that we brought; dresses, sweets and fruits too were given.

They received them with grateful hearts.

Our intention of visiting the old age home was to spend time with the orphaned people, bring smiles on their faces and make them feel that they are not alone.

Letters to the Editor

#MeToo needs our support!!

The MeToo movement has sparked quite a storm this year. Women from several industries, be it standup comedy or Indian cinema, are coming out with their stories of sexual assault.

The allegations against several veteran actors have left a black mark on the film industry. It has unravelled the truth that our world of Bollywood is not all glitter and glam. From directors abusing actors with the casting couch, to actors violating their co-stars, the #MeToo movement is shedding light on the harsh realities of

Indian cinema. However, people are taking to social media to troll and mock the situation. We must not forget that these women have spent years struggling with the trauma of being assaulted, and living in fear since their assaulters are famous and influential. We as an educated society should take time to acknowledge the courage and strength of these women. This small spark should not be underestimated, as it has ignited many great changes, proving that we all have the power to bring forth change. - SNEHA

Judgement on 377

The scrapping of section 377 by the Supreme Court has come as a landmark judgement for the LGBTQ community in India.

As a developing country, giving people the freedom to choose their partners was long overdue. Many still argue that homosexuality is unnatural and should not be glorified. But the truth is the LGBTQ community has been a significant part of Indian culture for cen-

turies. Despite this judgement, it has to be noted that just legalizing homosexuality will not change the nation's views overnight. Our society needs to be educated about the fact that there is nothing impure or unnatural about homosexuality, and that people should have the right to be themselves and choose who they want to love.

- VAISHALI

Women must help uphold SC verdict

It is ironic that women groups are protesting in large numbers the recent Supreme Court (SC) verdict on the entry of women to Shabarimala temple. In our developing country when times are changing, women should come together and support one another so that gender equality can be realised.

In West Bengal widows and transgenders were considered inauspicious to take part in the Sindoor Khela. This year no conditions were applied to this celebration and in over 70 temples, all married women, including widows and transgender, were

allowed inside the temples.

This was a welcome change and one expected that a progressive state like Kerala would also welcome women into Shabarimala. But, it seems progressiveness has its limits in every religion.

In fact, it can even be considered as a form of untouchability which has been abolished in India decades ago. One hopes that better sense prevails and women are able to see through the politics and the male chauvinism at play in the entire dynamics of Shabarimala issue and help uphold the SC verdict

- HARSHITA

Wilvia

Agriculture seems to be on its last ebb in this part of Mangalore these days. However, we do find one or two persons who still continue to be passionate about the age-old practice of agriculture. William Dsouza is one such farmer. He is the vice president of Krishi Bhoomi Samrakshana Samiti (KBSS) and an agriculturist with 15 acres of land with greenery spread everywhere at Kuthethoor, Surathkal.

In fact, Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has honoured Mr D'Souza for producing the highest amount of grass in Dakshina Kannada in the year 2015-16. His surrounding is covered with different kinds of trees and plants such as mango, banana, cherry, guava, areca-nut trees, and coconut trees. He also grows paddy and hybrid cow grass in a big scale. "From a very young age of six I started this without any professional advice and through all these small expe-

riences I have built a bond with the soil. There is no great motivation as such. Only a soft corner for the soil makes me to love agriculture," says Mr D'Souza.

In the year 1997, when he was a Panchayat member, he had helped many people to build houses and worked towards the construction of a road in Kuthethoor. He was a voice among the voiceless when the first phase of Mangalore Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) struck. Many villagers had no idea as to how to overcome such a crisis. Mr D'Souza moved ahead and joined KBSS to voice out for those affected by MSEZ. "When we protect our nature, our nature protects us. We respect ourselves when we respect others who do not have mouth to speak, hands to beg and legs to run," opines Mr D'Souza.

He believes in development in agriculture, but not in companies or industries. He says: "Industries cannot make food, but agriculture can. A fertile land could be trans-

formed into industries and factories with layers of concrete, but that same land cannot be changed into fertile land again. A farmer's hands could only do farming and not any other jobs. An accountant is taught to deal with accounts, a driver knows only to drive, a teacher knows how to teach, and a supervisor knows to supervise. So ultimately, a farmer can only do farming. Every industry or factory works to satisfy the hunger of the family members of its employees, but a farmer works to fill his family's as well as other people's hunger. Hunger cannot be satisfied with money, but food."

Mr D'Souza is committed to produce safe, healthy, high-quality food in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. It is not the farmer that makes the farmer. It is the love and hard work that sustains a farmer, he avers. One cannot agree less. At a time when the young are turning their back to farming, persons like Mr D'Souza can be inspirational.

“Tulu audience in Mangalore expects entertainment; proper entertainment with proper sense”

Reshma, Nafeesa, Wilvia

Arjun Kapikad, an actor and singer in the Tulu film industry, is one of Mangalore's well known faces. He has worked in several Tulu films such *Rang* (2014), *Dhand* (2015) and *Chandikori* (2015). He also made his debut in Kannada cinema with *Madhura Swapna* (2016). The son of well-known Tulu drama and cinema artist Devdas Kapikad, the father-son duo has worked together in several films like *Barsa* (2016), *Are Marler* (2017) and *Yera Ullege* (2018).

Tvesha spoke to Mr Kapikad on many issues of Tulu film industry. Given below is the excerpts of the interview.

Q. You have done your MBA from SDM College. But you are into acting and films. Why did you choose this line?

It is mainly because of my family background. My dad has been actively involved in drama and acting for the last 36 years. So I have been influenced by his acting since I was a child. It feels like acting is already in my blood. I always loved acting, singing and writing scripts. I used to do lots of imitations of all my mentors, which might have made me to be in this field. Moreover, I have been passionate about drama and film industry.

But education is important alongside talents. Acting is something that you don't know, it comes naturally. It is uncertain, in the sense that anything can happen. So if not that, (you have) this. I did my post-graduation in marketing, hoping that I could move into business career. It was my dad's dream that I must get highly educated. I want to be specialised into some discipline. But, as of now I am only concentrating on acting.

Q. Your film *Chandi Kori* has been well accepted. Anything unique about your experience of making that film?

First of all, Tulu film industry is a new concept. Once in three years a movie used to be released. *Chandi Kori* was a movie which got all the proper cinematic formats. There was no 'heroism' used in Tulu film industry then. Since the concept was very good and the songs went viral, it clicked in no time. It was for the first that Tulu film industry saw big success. *Mattuda Ponnu* is one of the songs which people liked the most. It was the first song to reach 1.3 million views.

Q. Your dad started off with Tulu theatre. But you have come to the film world. What is the reason and what is the most important difference between theatre and film according to you?

There is a lot of difference. Theatre is something where you get instant response. As you perform,

people cheer you. You can understand from their faces, you are not doing that great! Films are also a tough job, because you have to think how people might like it and it's a base. Once you come to this industry, you should know what theatre is. Theatre gives a lot of lessons as to how an actor should be. It's not only about the acting, it's about one's style. In film industry it is very important to respect the theatre discipline.

Q. You dad had in one interview said that people come to the theatre for entertainment and we are giving it. Do you agree? Do you think movies are only for entertainment?

Basically a movie should not be of your choice. If I am a film maker, I should always keep in mind how audience would like it. The audience here in Mangalore looks only for entertainment. They come to the theatre and sit for two hours. They have to laugh and should go with the flow, enjoying the songs. The main concept here is, there should be proper entertainment with proper

“The people are smart here. Since they are multi-lingual, they watch other language movies. They expect similar stuff in our language too.”

sense. The people are smart here. Since they are multi-lingual, they watch other language movies. They expect similar stuff in our language too. But then a little more sense and good message is required in the movie along with entertainment.

Q. In the recent past many Tulu films are being made. In itself this is a good development. However, the market is small. This means that Tulu films, if released this way, will not make much money. Is there a need to bring down the number of films being released?

We should not cut down the number of movies. There are so many actors who are dreaming to come to the industry and establish their identity. The only thing we have to work on is to increase the number of theatres and the platforms, so that each and every actor can showcase his/her talents. So we are working on it. We have already come together as producers through Tulu Movie Producers Association and the matter has been referred to the Chief Minister regarding the screening in theatres. We hope to get some more space to screen the movies in the coming years.

Q. As many as 100 films have been made in Tulu, which in itself is a record. But very few films have won national awards. *Paddayi* won the national award recently. What do you think is the place of regional cinema like Tulu cinema in the world of In-



Arjun Kapikad seems very passionate about Tulu film industry.

dian cinema? And what role must they play?

Paddayi is a movie which was made keeping in mind winning an award. It's not a commercial movie. If you see it in relation to commercial movie, I think it did not get a good response. Award movies are basically in a different pattern. There are different genres in movies like we have comedy, action, entertainment and there are also offbeat movies. *Paddayi* comes in offbeat movie.

Tulunadu is very rich in culture and people look for more commercial movies. When you do an award movie it takes almost six months to film the entire movie and then more time is taken for post-production purpose. I personally prefer commercial movies. I have a plan to do off-beat movies whenever I am free.

Q. Comedy seems to be the most important ingredient of Tulu cinema. There is a danger of Tulu cinema not making experiments due to this fact. What do you say?

100 per cent true. There is a danger for the industry and that is the only fear that we have now. To be frank, it's all about generation. Now we are still in a place where my father started with the trend of comedy, three decades back. We have to get some story oriented films in Tulu, but not now. There will be a proper time, perhaps in two or three years. Right now people are not ready to accept the shift. Experimentation must be a slow and steady thing; it must not be implemented suddenly. We can't experiment much in Tulu cinema, because we don't have a bigger market. It's really tough for us to look into all things. So we can't experiment much. If we had a bigger market surely we could experiment.

Q. Many times, Tulu cinemas do not get sufficient screens in Udupi, Mangalore and Kasargod. This is also a concern. How have your productions handled such issues?

If we take other industries such as Kannada, Telugu or Tamil they have at least 180 centers, whereas we are dealing with only fourteen centers in Mangalore. The only thing we in the industry have to work on is to increase the number of theatres. We are working on it and getting some good space. In another one and half year we might come up with twenty two theatres which is really a good move.

Q. Recently there was an issue between the producers of two films- your film *Era Ullege* and *My Name is Annapa*. Both were



Arjun Kapikad in conversation with students Nafeesa and Wilvia.

released on the same day. This does not seem to be a good trend. This happened earlier as well. Why do you think such things are happening?

Tulu Movie Producers Association was mainly formed to solve issues of this sort. Whenever a movie has to be released, the release date will be based on the censorship of the movie. We presented our movie for censorship on August 3. They certified it on August 7 and then the release date was fixed in consultation with the Tulu movie screening committee. I had announced my movie long back that it is going to come on August 21. It was unfortunate that two Tulu films released on the same day. It was really disappointing. However, there will always be issues in small industry as well as big industry. But issues are issues. Good number of audience was there for both the movies and still they are running smoothly.

Q. There was also the introduction of mobile theatres to promote Tulu films. Has it helped in the cause of Tulu film industry?

Mobile theatres would surely help in the present situation. The idea was put forward by Mangalore based Hindi actor Sunil Shetty. We spoke to him when he came to Mangalore recently and addressed the problems in the industry. Mobile theatre would be made on a big truck having a seating capacity of 70-80 seats. There are no theatres in the outskirts of Mangalore like Mulki, Kinnigoli and similar interior regions. They will have to either come to Mangalore or go to Udupi by spending

Reshma

Documentary screened

HARSHITA

CAMPUS: A documentary highlighting the role of small cities in the migration and employment trajectories was screened here on October 25 for the post graduate students of English and JMC. *Small City Dreaming* is a short documentary (30 mins long) about the working lives of young people in small cities in India and Indonesia. The film which was made as part of a collaborative research project by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Just Jobs Network explores the connections between villages and small cities through the work journeys of three characters: Oscar in Kupang, in eastern Indonesia; Bhaagchand in Kishangarh, Rajasthan, India; and Latifah in Semarang Regency,

Central Java, Indonesia.

“We wanted to show comparison in every end of class spectrum of how young people are migrating for jobs,” said Pranav Kuttiah, research assistant at CPR. “We hope that the depictions of the daily lives of Oscar, Bhagchand and Latifah and their articulations of their struggles and dreams urge our audiences to move beyond the dominant unidimensional imaginations of village-to-metropolis migrations to explore multiple kinds of migrations and mobilities, often across territorial entities that do not neatly fit into our understanding of the ‘village’ and the ‘city’,” said Eesha Kunduri, research associate at CPR. The project was funded by various philanthropic organisations.

The nostalgic tale of 96

Shema

Film: 96
Director: C. Prem Kumar
Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Trisha Krishnan, Varsha Bollamma, Bagavathi Perumal

Things associated with memories and nostalgia always have a place in people's heart. What if the memory is about school life? Definitely, it would grab people's emotions. '96' is such a breezy musical drama written and directed by Prem Kumar. It tells a tale about past school life romance.

There is a lot to fall in love with the movie. Even though it is a romantic drama, it breaks all stereotypical elements of usual Kollywood romantic movie.

It gives a heart-warming experience of visualising the journey of pure love.

What makes this movie different from others is that it gives equal importance to the female lead. Vijay Sethupathi as K. Ramachandra (Ram) and Trisha as Janaki (Janu) justify their role with their flawless performance. Their chemistry as Ram and Janu really works on screen.

The film is about unconditional love between Ram and Janu, which starts during their school days and lives on even during their meeting after twenty-two years on the occasion of '96 batch

reunion'.

The first half of the film brings nostalgia that can connect the audience with their past. The songs by Ilayaraja enhance this emotion of nostalgia.

The background music is another major factor that keeps the feel of the film throughout with its soothing tone. The song, *Yamunai Aatrile* plays an important part in the entire movie.

The film portrays a simple story in a unique way. The film has used a yellowish colour tone for showing the present after the entry of Janu particularly to enhance the mood.

The cast is another success of this film. Actors like Devadarshini, Bagavathi, Adukalam Murugadoss, who appear as Rama and Janu's friends contribute much to the overall success of the film. The actors who play the younger Ram and Janu seem equally good. '96' is definitely a perfect come back film for Trisha and undoubtedly is her career best performance.

It seems a little dragging towards the end, but if seems the director has intentionally allowed it to convey the feel of their emotions to the audience.

Unlike usual Kollywood films, this has a realistic end that can make the film quite unusual for Tamil film lovers.

Biryani amidst the Bamboo

Afnan

MANGALORE: If you want authentic food in a welcoming and romantic atmosphere, you must try Bamboo Restaurant. As the name suggests, the interior of the restaurant is completely done with

Well flavoured smoky aroma in each bite to give hint of bamboo touch. Lots of veggies and minute chunks of paneer and mushroom added to it were the highlight.

While the taste lingers on, what makes the experience memorable is the way they present the items.



Bamboo biriyani served in a holo bamboo.

bamboo, located at Bendoorwell.

As we enter we get a feel of nature. The restaurant provides delicious food with good ambience. The setup is awesome with tables, walls and lights made out of bamboo itself.

There are different varieties of food items available at Bamboo restaurant. Kizhi biryani, one of the varieties, is a type of biryani wrapped in a banana leaf.

Bamboo biryani is another popular food item. A perfectly cooked good quality rice in bamboo log is the speciality here.

Apart from biryani, Chinese and Arabian delights are the other varieties of food available at the restaurant. A very reasonable pricing plus one of the best Biryani we have had, highly recommended.

The Arabian Mandi, popular among the Arabs, is available here. It is also quite appetizing. All of you biriyani lovers and whose pockets are light, Bamboo Restaurant can satisfy your biriyani taste buds.

This is my first time here but obviously not my last.

This Fort beckons all!

Vaishali

Kerala is known for its backwaters and warm beaches, but film director Maniratnam brought to the fore one more side of the alluring Kerala.

All thanks to his shots that he filmed for the movie 'Bombay.' BekalFort became one of the most romantic destinations for explorers. It was also the place where the famous song *Tu Hi Re*, starring Manisha Koirala, was shot.

'God's own country' is no doubt a tourist attraction, and BekalFort is the hidden treasure of the state.

Bekal Fort is one of the largest forts in Kerala, situated in Kasaragod district.

The fort seems to rise majestically from the sea, the sea waves washing its walls. It is spread over 40 acres and is very well preserved. It is 65 kilometers away from Mangalore. The fort is in the shape of a giant keyhole and was built in the 17th century.

There are many zigzag entrances that have been constructed more for the defence of the fort than anything else. Thus the fort is well known for its defence architecture.

You can see this when you spot small holes on the walls of the fort, which aim at different points and distances. When Tipu was killed, the fort was taken over by the East India Company.

Today Bekal Fort is an important tourist destination. It is main-



Bekal Fort is famous for its historic and natural significance.

tained by the Archaeological Survey of India, along with Kerala government.

The best time to visit the place would be monsoon or post-monsoon season. The fort is very clean and well maintained.

There is a Mukhyaprana temple (Hanuman temple) at the entrance to the fort and an ancient mosque nearby which prove the religious harmony that prevailed in the land.

There are many local vendors in front of the Bekal Fort selling coconut water, pineapple, watermelon and falooda.

Don't miss the pineapple with honey. It is delicious.

The fort is never ending and every viewpoint is worth stopping

by. The area inside the fort is lush green even during summers. It is a sort of blessing that even today Bekal Fort and the region of Kasaragod are not very crowded with tourists.

It still has preserved its calmness and beauty. For people bored of palm trees and warm beaches, this is a perfect place and an ideal getaway.

There are several good stay options in this region. You can also go for the tent option on the beach from Bekal beach camp resort.

The nearest railway station is Kasaragod which is about 16 kms from the railway station.

The nearest airport is Mangalore airport, about 50 kms from Kasaragod town.

Blind artists enthrall audience

Anil

MANGALORE: Blind artists from Shri SharadaDivyanga Kala Sanga (SSDKS) Shringeri attracted many onlookers with their melodious singing and musical performance on the footpath at Nandigudda junction here on October 25.

Five among 15 blind artists of SSDKS enthralled the public with their singing and music. A sizeable crowd gathered in no time. A. N. Yogish, president of SSDKS said, "The organisation is based in Shringeri. Five of us are living in Mangalore in a rented house. We are visually impaired. Yet, conduct musical evenings on roadsides with the support of generous people, especially the auto drivers who show a lot of concern towards us."

Krishna, vice president of the organisation said, "We exhibit our talents to make our living. We want to live without depending on others. We are all unemployed and lead our own life without depending on anybody."

"We want to show others that we are not any less. We want opportunities, not sympathy. We request you to encourage us and support our talents."

All the artists have given programmes on TV and radio as well. They are also invited to give programmes during marriages, festivals, birthday celebrations and other occasions. They have completed more than 150 stage shows in various places of Karnataka and



These blind artists make a living by their talent. Here they are seen giving a musical performance in Mangalore recently.

Kerala. As the troupe's fame grew, it was joined by more visually impaired members.

A silver-coloured box placed in front of their performance arena has a label in Kannada that reads: 'We want opportunity, not sympathy. Encourage Divyanga artists.'

Sebastian, an auto driver at Nandigudda autostand said, "Disability is not a weakness."

Where there is a will, there is a way. It is not fair if we don't make use of our God-given talents. These blind artists with their talents open our hearts and minds to look at ourselves and realise our worthiness."

The troupe is now composing original scores and wants to accomplish its dream project of directing music for a film.

Sheer will power is his only strength!

Reshma

We live in the world with dreams and expectations. But all those expectations might not turn out to be in our favour. Even when destiny urged Thasveer Muhammad to give up on life, he strived forward chasing his dreams.

The ones who give up wouldn't reach anywhere in their life. This message runs through the life of Thasveer who faced the harsh realities of life like a brave warrior inspiring thousands.

Thasveer Muhammad hails from Changanacherry in Kerala. He too had dreams of his own like any other youngster. He was a model, an active football player and the owner of a clothing shop. Five years ago Thasveer, a B'Com student, celebrated his birthday with friends.

They decided to go for a bike ride the same night. On the way, Thasveer and his friend met with a serious accident.

The main artery on his right leg was severed badly. He was rushed to the hospital. He had to undergo a surgery.

The doctors after the surgery told him that he would be able to play football like before within two months. But on the third day after surgery, the infection persisted and this resulted in the amputation of his right leg.

For days he went through extreme pain and sleepless nights. Even in all these miseries, the only thing that kept him going was the will power never to give up.

The one year of bed rest disabled his limb movements. His modelling career came to a halt. But instead of going through a



Thasveer Mohammed

breakdown he turned things around.

Thasveer's family and friends stood by his side and helped him lift up his spirit. Gradually he was able to walk on his own in nine months after surgery.

Doctors told him that he would be able to walk only after a year. But he took this as a challenge and proved them wrong.

He used his positive attitude against all odds and put on a brave face to show that he was no different from others. He got himself customised Superman and Batman crutches.

Today, Thasveer continues to be a model and he plays as a striker in a football team using his crutches. He even plays cricket without the help of crutches.

Recently, he travelled to the highest motorable pass in the world, Khardungla. He says, "I was told by many that I wouldn't be able to do anything with my life. I too believed it to be so. But all my fears had to bend their knee before my willpower."

He has written on his Instagram page that "when every heartbeat is stronger than the storm, who needs legs to perform?"

Drummer Boy!



A boy was seen beating the drums during the Dasara procession in Mangalore on October 19, 2018.

Inktober this October!

Sneha

This October grab some pens and paper and join the inktober challenge. This thirty one day art challenge was started in 2009 by artist James Parker. The Inktober challenge inspires artists to create ink drawings every day in the month of October.

The aim of this challenge was to get people to go back to the basics with traditional art supplies. Now, six years later, over 1 million photos have been posted on Instagram alone using the hashtag. The challenge includes thirty one word prompts, one for each day of the month of October.

Over the years, inktober has provided artists with the opportunity to showcase their creativity through social media. Amongst the several artists taking part in the inktober challenge is Mithisha Amin, a photographer and doodler based in Mumbai. She continued her passion for doodles by starting "Blink 13" in 2013, where she creates customised doodles, mugs, notebooks and much more.

Mithisha spoke about how she came across the concept of ink-

tober three years ago. "I was amazed by all the artwork and wanted to participate myself.

But I didn't feel that I was ready then, because I wasn't confident enough in my drawing skills," she said.

Just like most of us, Mithisha claimed that 'procrastinator' is her middle name. "I would keep

now flooded with #inktober2018, as she has to come up with a new creation every day.

Platforms like facebook, YouTube and pinterest are also currently showcasing artworks from all across the globe.

When it came to the prompts she exclaimed, "I absolutely love the randomness of the prompts! I

Sneha



Day 8 prompt - star doodling by Mithisha.

telling myself that there is always the next year," she said. However, things were different this year when her friend tagged her for this year's challenge on Instagram. "I really wanted to challenge myself with a new concept everyday and improving my drawing techniques."

Mithisha's Instagram page is

actually take some time out racking my brains to come up with a new doodle daily." She also mentioned that coming up with a new concept daily was quite challenging.

Regardless of the challenges, at the end of the month we are left with a series of artworks to look back on.

Green on top!

A city dweller is creating a terrace garden revolution of sorts.

Anil

Growing vegetables and fruits in cities is a herculean task. Due to concrete surface everywhere hardly any place is left for such cultivation. Mangalore has a lot of public space, rooftop terraces and balconies on individual houses and multi-storeyed buildings.

People have found unique ways to convert them into terrace gardens or kitchen gardens to cultivate vegetables and fruits.

Blanny D'Souza, a resident of Monkey Stand, Managluru, has been successful in making this into a reality.

He grows 200 varieties of vegetables and fruits on his terrace garden across 1200 sq. ft. of space above his house. Once you enter the terrace you will realise that it is not just a terrace, but a green paradise. He makes a happy living cultivating vegetables and fruits in his orchard cum kitchen garden cum vegetable farm.

Mr D'Souza believes that nature loves us if we love nature. He says he loves nature. Nothing is impossible, he adds. Everything started with a trial and error method.

As is well known, grapes do not grow in Mangaluru due to high humidity. But Mr D'Souza was out to prove that wrong. He has been successful in growing grapes on his terrace.

Every year he gets around 30-35 kilograms of grapes. He is proud to say that he is the first one to grow grapes in the city.

Name any fruit or vegetable, it is there in his garden. Orange, apple, pomegranate, maize, passion fruit, different varieties of mangoes and guavas, sugar cane, cocoa, peach, cashew, coffee, star fruit, cap fruit and the list just never ends.

Vegetables grown on his terrace



Blanny D'Souza in his terrace garden.

include ladies finger, bitter gourds, ash gourd, snake gourd, gherkins, chillies, lettuce and three different varieties of leafy Brahmi (Australian and Ceylonese included) the leaves of which are as big as lotus leaves! He has an Asafoetida plant with white flowers as well.

Recently, he had even jackfruit and grapes grown in small pots. "It is my passion that drives me to cultivate varieties of fruit giving plants and vegetables.

I do not consider it as work. Hence, I am not exhausted spending the whole day on the terrace," says Mr D'Souza. He is a 100 per cent organic farmer using homemade fertilizer from biodegradable materials including leaves. He grows Tulsi or Basil to drive away pests, insects that affect the plant growth. Also, diluted neem paste solution is sprinkled as an insecticide. He has also set up terrace gardens on individual houses, flats, schools and other institu-

tions in the city. So far 300 terrace gardens have been set up and are yielding fruits and vegetables, he informs.

Stating that many children are unaware of the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, he says that he has been delivering lectures in their schools and colleges and bringing them to his house. He familiarises them with different methods of grafting and hybridisation of plants. Many students from the agricultural department and Fisheries College also visit and get inspired.

He is also invited by other states to give them tips on terrace garden-

ing. "It is not a business for me. I want more and more people to grow vegetables and fruits on the space available to them.

Having a terrace garden is environmentally friendly. We learn so many things by observing nature. My entire family enjoys the fresh air and beauty of the greenery," says Mr D'Souza with much joy.

"It is my passion that drives me to cultivate varieties of fruit giving plants and vegetables. I do not consider it as work. Hence, I am not exhausted spending the whole day on the terrace."

