

NEWSLETTER

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

JUNE 2021 | PAGES 16



► School of Epigraphical Studies, KCHR Pattanam Campus, North Paravoor, Ernakulam, Photo: Jishnu S. Chandran, 2021

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



G. ARUNIMA

This is the inaugural issue of our newsletter, and we hope to give our readers a flavour of the KCHR; its different activities; our fine library and its holdings; and our growing body of digitally accessible research material. In normal circumstances, writing a note such as this would have filled me with great joy, yet it is difficult to ignore the challenges of these extraordinary, pandemic ridden, times. Like all our readers, we too hope that this crisis will pass soon, and that we could resume normal activities that would help restore to us the joys of reading and researching. In the meanwhile, KCHR has made special efforts to overcome such difficulties and continue with as many of our routine activities as possible. One of our big achievements has been holding our seminars in an online mode. We currently run three series

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESK



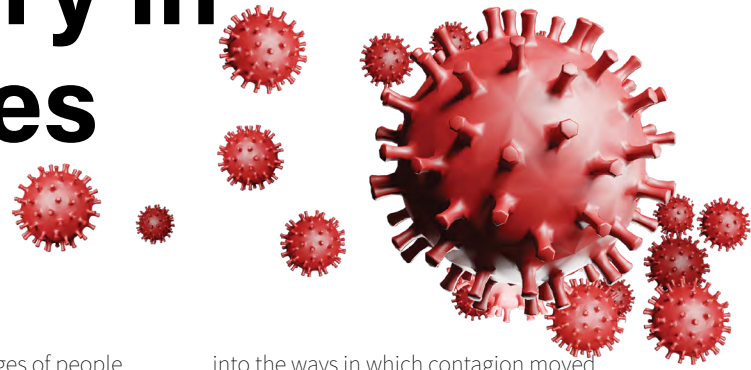
P. K. MICHAEL THARAKAN

This is a satisfying moment of communication with friends of KCHR. The occasion itself is not very satisfying, with a severe pandemic threatening the whole world. As historians, as persons working in time - of past, present and future - we ought to know that the world had survived similar crises in the past. We shall overcome. But for that each one of us has to work to the best in our own assigned areas, not only for ourselves but more for others. This Newsletter is a limited testimony of what we in the KCHR, with the help and cooperation of others, were doing in the immediate past.

The KCHR was promoted by the Government of Kerala as an autonomous organization which is to act as a nodal agency for the generation of historical research and its

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Thinking History in Pandemic Times



G. Arunima, Professor and Director, KCHR

There is something about living through a pandemic of the ferocity and proportion of Covid 19 that demands a serious engagement with both the task of the historian, and the question of documenting the histories of our time. It is obvious that no one, whether ill or otherwise, can be impervious to the ravages around us. Hard though it is, there is also urgent need at the moment to not simply write about, or respond in other ways to, the pandemic but also to document, record and archive this history of the contemporary. Normally historians do not engage the complex meanings of disease, pandemics or otherwise, unless they are researching the history of medicine. This is in spite of the fact that an earlier pandemic, HIV-AIDS, received worldwide attention (due to its links to sexuality), and affected many in different parts of the world. In India, historians studying disease or medicine have always constituted a tiny, sequestered, group. Yet, right from the time the ‘novel coronavirus’ began its extremely contagious travel across the globe, we were reminded of how central illness is to life. Unlike other diseases, pandemics affect large numbers of people at once, making its check extremely challenging. From Wuhan, to South Asia, across many parts of Africa, Europe and the Americas, the exploding pandemic forced us to see the links between disease, the environment, economy, state institutions, medical infrastructure, competing schools and systems of cure and care, and an avalanche of information thanks to the internet, verified or otherwise, regarding the pandemic. Certain images of this time will always stay with us – of migrant workers in India trudging across hundreds of kilometers with their children and their worldly possessions in their arms, of the elderly dying almost continuously in parts of Europe, making burials difficult, of bodies wrapped in personal protective equipment in the US being loaded into ambulances.

More recently, painful images of people gasping for oxygen, or bodies wrapped and lined up in long neat lines in front of crematoria have imprinted themselves on our consciousness. As the human tragedy unfolds, we are witness to heartrending scenes of loss and bereavement.

And despite this, all across the world we have also witnessed more life affirming developments. ‘Locked down’ life has created new socialities, new forms of caring, sharing and connecting, and all manners of creativity. Despite severe asymmetries of access, the internet has opened up many possibilities ranging from education; political, academic and social engagements; an increased number of podcasts on various subjects including the environment and climate change; fundraising; sharing critical information; and creating helplines. That aside, other forms of sharing have sprung up that lighten the day – from recipes, to music, dance and theatre. Support groups for Covid survivors and their families have sprung up over social media pages, heroic deeds are performed by individuals and groups reaching out with forms of concrete care to those unknown to them, and people have shared chronicles of their time spent in isolation using words, visuals and aural materials. These assertions of life and humanity need documentation, as these too are integral to these frightening times.

Scholars writing about earlier pandemics have unpacked the ways in which the then extant medical knowledge, governmental response, and popular belief and healing practices were all connected. They have used sources ranging from government and news reports, histories of town planning, memoirs, novels, letters to visual information like maps and photographs. Other than giving us a sense of the enormity of past pandemics, and ideas about bodies, disease and medicine, they also give us an insight

into the ways in which contagion moved. If the medieval plague could be tracked back to the infected rats moving across vast stretches of geography by boarding ships, then the movement of the Spanish ‘flu could be tracked, to a large extent, to soldiers returning from the First World War. The present pandemic gives us a glimpse into the ways in which food markets, air travel, and multiple forms and contexts of human contact seems to have permitted the SARS CoV 2 virus to travel rapidly across continents. So, a historian must not only engage with the social, medical, economic and emotional aspects of the pandemic, but also make links between disease and everyday life practices like travel, eating and personal hygiene. Repeatedly, people writing about their experience of living through this time speak of a vacuum generated by the absence of social life, and the importance of physical touch. In dramatic contrast many, especially women, have attested to an escalation of domestic violence as families are forced to be in continuous contact and proximity. The vast amounts of material on the lived reality of the pandemic pulls us constantly in different directions, and a concerned historian must be attentive to all these realities. Any attempt at archiving the details of this time must be sensitive to these different registers of life, the small notes alongside the bigger patterns.

That aside, Covid has forced many of us to engage the centrality of the climate emergency to our lives. Be it zoonotic viruses like SARS CoV 2, fierce flooding or raging fires in different parts of the planet, environmental degradation in the Anthropocene has exacerbated all manners of dangers. The pandemic moment demands that we put to use the skills we’re learning now – if not in helping us reexamine many certainties of the past, then at least to document intelligently for the future. The survival of the histories of our time depends on that. ●

Flood, Archives and Memories

The 'Flood Archives and Memories' project seeks to research the 2018 August Floods in Kerala through the analysis of the memories of the people who had experienced it. By archiving and sharing the experience of the flood survivors and rescuers, the project aims to build 'conversational narratives' around flood memories supplemented by archival

research. The project was formally inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Higher Education, Dr. K.T. Jaleel on 6th August 2019. The KCHR Research team has been engaged in archival research, pilot surveys and interviews and collaborative efforts with research and academic institutions. Utilizing the online possibilities befitting the pandemic

times, the team is currently focusing on conducting interviews, training college students for conducting fieldwork, digitization of newspaper archives, archival research on previous flood events and working paper presentations to discuss the progress of the research to a wider audience.

Drawing: Eshana Ebrahim, Deja vu Arts

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

'Evolution of Kerala Society', a lecture series in Malayalam, aimed at a student audience; Research Seminars on different aspects of History and Social Sciences; and 'Interventions' – a series that brings in distinguished academics to engage with topical issues from a scholarly perspective. The success of these series of lectures is evident from the fact that we have a growing number of dedicated listeners who engage with these in a lively fashion. Our experiments with using digital tools creatively have meant that we are now recording and archiving these lectures, thereby providing a resource that can be utilized by anyone around the world. These lectures aside, we are

now in the process of acquiring new and exciting digital archival resources that can be used by our library members, which we hope to make available to them anywhere in the world by adding remote access features to our library. Alongside there is a great effort to build our e-resources, so that KCHR's community of researchers will be able to continue their work without any hindrance in these extraordinary times. We shall give you updates of all these and other exciting news in our newsletters. Keep reading!

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESK

dissemination. With these objectives in mind, the KCHR has undertaken several projects such as the Pattanam Archaeological Research, Digitizing Kerala's Past, building KCHR's Library and Resource Centre, offering fellowships and scholarships etc. Over the immediate past, KCHR has reformulated or continued most of them. In Pattanam, besides Post-Excavation Studies, a School of Epigraphical Studies has been launched that will offer a certificate course in the Studies of Old Scripts. The Site Museum building is being built and it will also contain the Children's Museum. An attempt to prepare an account of the 2018 Floods from accounts of people's memories is underway, and this will add to our digital archives.

KCHR's main preoccupation will continue to promoting research, presented through Seminars, Webinars and Web talks by scholars from different backgrounds. They will be backed also by our Publications Division which will in addition also republish select classics.

KCHR is working in collaboration with colleges, local Government institutions and academic centres like the Institute for Studies in the Heritage of Coastal Kerala (ISHCK). Together we hope to reach at a substantial contribution to the world of knowledge generation in this part of the world.

Post Excavation Studies of Pattanam Archaeology Research

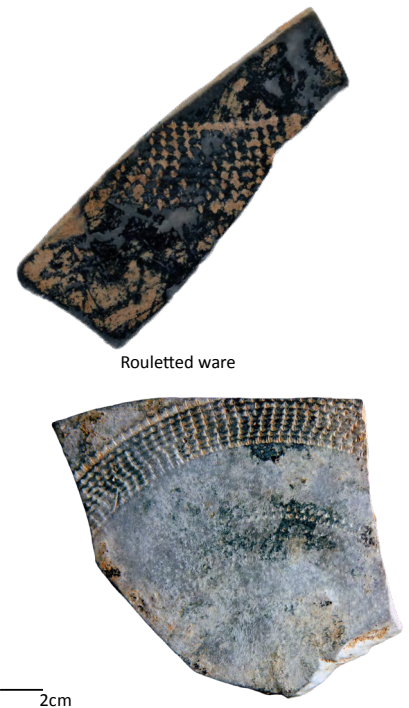


Stone Bead blanks
© KCHR 2014

0 10 mm

Study of Semi-Precious Stone Blanks from Pattanam

Dineesh Krishnan, Office Assistant and Rachel A Varghese, Research Officer, have initiated the study of semi-precious stone blanks from the 2007-2015 excavations by the KCHR. The study will involve detailed documentation of the blanks followed by an analytical enquiry into their function, location within the production sequence and the exchange networks of the period and comparative analysis. The first phase of documentation has commenced recently.



Rouletted ware

0 2cm

A Comprehensive Study of Indian Rouletted Ware and Other Associated Fine Wares from 2007 Pattanam Archaeological Excavation

Sarathchandra Babu, Research Assistant, has undertaken the study of Indian Rouletted Ware (IRW) and associated fine ware at Pattanam with an aim to build a ceramic catalogue for Pattanam with drawings and interpretation of the types and forms from the site. The study focuses on the 2007 season of excavations. Cataloguing is an important step towards referencing, interpretation and comparison of ceramics. In addition to cataloguing, fabric types and intra site distribution are aspects that the study looks into.

Visuality, Cityscapes, Public History: Ways of thinking Contemporary Kerala

This project aims to use the visual as a way of studying Kerala's contemporary public history. It looks at a range of material, from posters, billboards, statuary, wall writing (including campaign material, and other kinds of wall art, including graffiti and painting), the use of flags, and public notices, amongst others. Kerala is awash with visual information, both in terms of images, words, and material objects. These can be found on streets, walls, shop fronts, traffic islands, inside paddy fields, backs of autos, buses, and trucks or in less obviously visible spaces as outside, or immediately inside places of work or worship. These vary from advertising, political posters and signage, shop front artwork, to notices to people regarding appropriate sartorial modes to be



► Visuals from Thiruvananthapuram, 2021
Photo: G. Arunima

used in a place of work, or who is permitted in a place of worship. These individually and collectively provide us with a semiotic system to study aesthetic, commercial and political issues. Professor G. Arunima is the Principal Investigator of this project.

Study of the Chola, Chinese, and Venad coins from Thankasseri, Kollam

The coins in the possession of the KCHR from the explorations at Thankasseri in Kollam District during 2014, are being studied by the Research Assistants, Hari Shankar B. and Sarathchandra Babu. The study attempts a detailed documentation and metallurgical study of the coins through XRF analysis.



► Dredging at Thankasseri, 2014,
Photo: Jishnu S. Chandran, KCHR

School of Epigraphical Studies



KCHR established the School of Epigraphical Studies at Pattanam Campus in North Paravur. Under the aegis of the School, we are initiating a Certificate Course in the Studies in Old Scripts from 2021 onwards. Our effort is to build a team of scholars capable of reading the documents available in the region written in old scripts like Vattezhuthu, Kolezhuthu, Malayalam, Tamil, Grantha etc. We seek to train students to understand the regional practices, paleographical styles, types of articulation, special signs and short forms that characterize these documents.

The classes will be led by Professor M. R. Raghava Varrier (Honorary Course Director) and Professor Kesavan Veluthat (Honorary Course Deputy Director). They are supported by the Course Advisory Committee and the Course Convenor (I/C), Mr. Sarathchandra Babu, Research Assistant, KCHR. We have an array of experts from different parts of the country as guest faculty teaching the first batch of 12 students over 64 weeks. Smart Classroom and a specialized Library for the course are arranged at Pattanam Campus. The second wave of Covid 19 has forced us to suspend the commencement of the offline classes for the time being.

Academic Inauguration of the School of Epigraphical Studies

The School of Epigraphical Studies was inaugurated on 12th February 2021, at Pattanam Campus by Dr. K.T. Jaleel, the Honorable Minister for Higher Education, Welfare of Minorities, Waqf and Hajj, Government of Kerala. Professor Dharmarajan P.K., the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady was the Guest of Honour in the inaugural function presided over by the Paravur MLA, Advocate V.D. Satheeshan. Professor M. R. Raghava Varrier, the Honorary Course Director elucidated the scope and vision of the School and the KCHR Chairperson, Professor P. K. Michael



► Inauguration of School of Epigraphical Studies, KCHR Pattanam Campus, North Paravoor, Ernakulam, 2021
Photo: Jishnu S. Chandran

Tharakan invited support of the academia and the general public in the activities of KCHR. The function, well organized following covid protocol, was welcomed by Professor G. Arunima, the Director, KCHR and the Research Officer, Rachel A. Varghese expressed sincere thanks.

Pattanam Campus Events

Visit of Former Indian Ambassador to Netherlands at Pattanam Campus

Sri. Venu Rajamony, Former Indian Ambassador to Netherlands visited Pattanam campus on 8th January 2021. The KCHR Chairperson, Professor P.K Michael Tharakan, Dr. Gopalakrishnan M.B, Registrar, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (SSUS), Professor Kesavan Veluthat, Director, Institute for Studies in the Heritage of Coastal Kerala (ISHCK) were also present during the visit. The meeting discussed the possibilities of conceptualizing

the unique initiative, *Cosmos Malabaricus*, a proposed academic collaboration of the KCHR, the Leiden University, the Directorate of National Archives of Netherlands, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit and the Directorate of Archives, Government of Kerala, intended to shed light on Old Dutch documents pertaining to the history of Kerala and the Dutch East India Company.



During the Visit of Former Indian Ambassador to Netherlands at KCHR Pattanam Campus, 2021 Photo: Jishnu S. Chandran, 2021

SEMINAR

Scientific ways of restoration of oil paintings of Raja Ravi Varma

Sri. M. Narayanan Namboodiri

Conservation Lab Consultant, Muziris Heritage Project
19th January 2021, KCHR Pattanam Campus.

The art restorer and artist, Sri. M. Narayanan Namboodiri gave an enlightening presentation on the scientific ways of restoration of oil paintings of Raja Ravi Varma in the seminar. The seminar organized strictly in accordance with the stipulations of the Government with regard

to Covid 19 pandemic was presided over by the Chairperson, Professor P.K. Michael Tharakan and welcomed by Sarathchandra Babu, Research Assistant, KCHR. T.R. Sukumaran, Local Consultant, Pattanam Campus, delivered the vote of thanks.



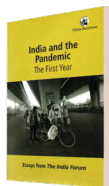
Before and after restoration of oil paintings of Raja Ravi Varma Photo: M. Narayanan Namboodiri

KCHR Library Centres

New Arrivals in KCHR Library

India and the Pandemic: The First Year Essays from The India Forum

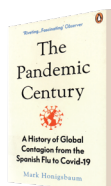
Publisher: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2021
ISBN : 9789354420092



Collection Type: General
Accession No.: 13192
Call No.: G 614.40904/ IND
Status: On Shelf

The Pandemic Century: A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19

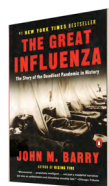
Author: Mark Honigsbaum
Publisher: Penguin Random House UK, 2019
ISBN – 9780753558287



Collection Type: General
Accession No.: 13106
Call No.: G 614.40904/ HON
Status: On Shelf

The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History

Author: John M. Barry
Publisher: Penguin Random House UK, 2018
ISBN – 9781101200971



Collection Type: General
Accession No.: 13116
Call No.: G 614.51809041/BAR
Status: On Shelf



KCHR Library & Research Resource Centre Thiruvananthapuram

We have a well-stocked reference library and resource centre at Thiruvananthapuram with specialized collection of books on Kerala History, Indian History, Historiography, South Indian History, Archaeology, Architecture, Caste and Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Political Science etc. In addition, library have a good collection of primary sources such as Gazetteer manuals, Administrative reports, Census of India reports, Thesis reports etc.

Books of various genres donated by Professor K. N. Panikkar, the founder Chairperson of KCHR is shelved as a separate collection. The collections donated by eminent economist, Dr. I.S. Gulati and the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi donated by Sri. K.G. Sukumara Pillai, former Additional Secretary (Finance), are valuable assets of the library. We subscribe various national and international journals, magazines and digital resources on History, Archaeology and other Social Science disciplines. We take sincere efforts to purchase new arrivals to enrich our collections.

Pattanam Campus Library

We have initiated setting up a library at Pattanam Campus. Presently we have an array of around 148 archaeology books in the shelves which come under the genre of architecture, archeological methods and techniques, maritime, heritage, civilization, historiography, rock art, Sangam literature, excavation reports etc. We have recently begun purchasing to enrich the collection with Epigraphy books.

KCHR Annexe Library

For the convenience of organizing KCHR programmes, we have established an annexe at Kesavadasapuram, Thiruvananthapuram. Adjoined to this annexe, we have set up a reference library and a reading room, facilitating convenient user experience to our library users. Reading room users have access to our subscribed newspapers and magazines. In addition, they can use the facility for reading books they bring along too. Dr. Naresh V. Padiyar, a renowned dermatologist from Ernakulam, has recently donated 99 books to the Library. The collection includes books in history, archaeology and literature. As our initiative to create a women friendly public place, we have set up a feeding room providing comfortable facilities for young mothers and kids.

Area in Focus @KCHR Library Local History

A collection of local history documents is valuable to a wide variety of library users, particularly people who have research interest in the history of places, establishments, institutions, families etc. We have a dedicated section in our library for the books of this genre. Shelf has around 140 books, well categorized for easy access. *Keralathile sthala charithrangal: Palakkad Jilla, Thrissur Jilla, Ernakulam*

Jilla, Thiruvananthapuram Jilla by V.V.K. Valath and the history of other districts such as Kollam, Kozhikode, Alappuzha, Idukki etc. enrich the shelf. Panchayat histories; Institutional histories; Grandhavari such as *Niranam Grandhavari, Perumbadappu Grandhavari, Perumanam Grandhavari, Thiruppuliyoor Grandhavari, Thiruvalla Grandhavari* are some others worth mentioning. *Pradeshika charithra Rachana,*

a handbook by K. N. Ganesh details how to write the history of local places. KCHR has a legacy of publishing the local history of Vaniyankulam as *Vaniyamkulam Panchayat Vijnaneeyam* in 2001.

The list of the books in Local History section is available in our website (<http://kchr.ac.in/images/img/localhistorylist.pdf>)

The Uninhabitable Earth

LIFE AFTER WARMING

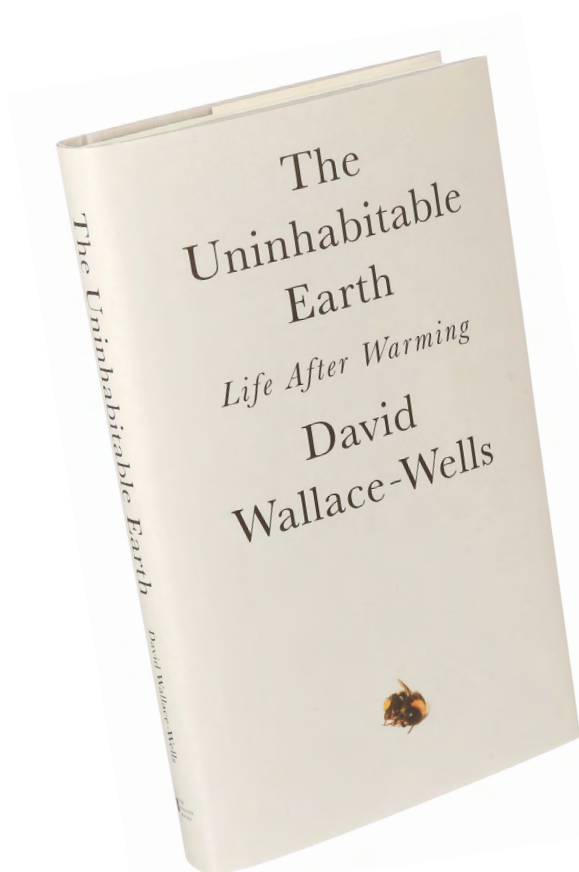
David Wallace -Wells

Penguin Random House UK, 2019 | ISBN 978-0141988870
Paperback : 336 pages | Price: Rs.599/-

Details of the Book in KCHR Library

Collection Type: General | Accession Number: 13169

Call Number: G 363.738 74/ WAL | Status: On Shelf



Hari Sankar B.

The *Uninhabitable Earth*- A story of the Future, a book by David Wallace-Wells speaks on climate change and how it will transform the aspects of our lives in many ways. The book starts with the phrase 'it is worse, much worse, than you think', where he wants the readers to understand the sad reality of our present and future. Each chapter of the book unpacks different issues and their resultant effects that contribute to global warming. He mentions that he is not an expert in any of these matters, but he wants to address these issues for the people to understand. The people are not scared and think global warming is a slow process and affects the only Arctic region. On the contrary, he argues that it is an issue created by us all, not by certain people, and will have an impact on everyone. If people don't stop activities affecting the earth, it will become uninhabitable. He tries to make people conscious about catastrophic results if the temperature rises by a few degrees.

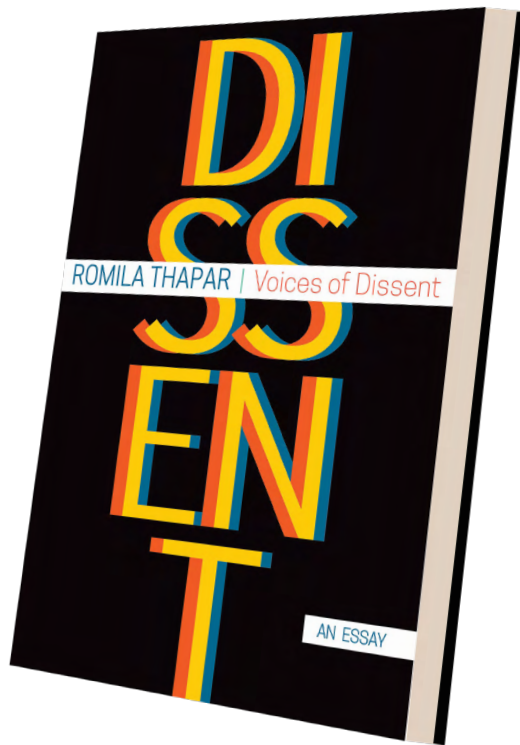
An aspect that he discusses is environmental justice, demonstrating that the poor people are much more affected by climate change, and related issues, and the rich are the one who are more responsible for these problems. This is true in fact or the sad reality. The developed countries are exploiting the resources and contributing to

global warming and other issues. They enjoy the economic benefits from these problems created whereas the third world countries are badly affected by it. They are more prone to natural disasters and other environmental issues. Hunger related issues would rise on a large scale if the rate of warming of the planet continues at the current rate. The production might decline. People are more prone to disasters and many die due to heat, storms and floods in many countries and they seek asylum in other countries. There arises the issue of refugees due to the climate changes. The Syrian crisis due to the civil wars which was inflamed by climate change and drought and Rohingya refugees are prime examples of this.

However, Wallace-Wells says that the future can be changed if the present generation works on it. The technologist has ideas which seem to be like fantasies as Elon Musk quotes 'Technology will take care of everything. If the Earth goes, we'll just live-in spaceships. We'll have 3D printers to print our food. We'll be eating lab meat. One cow will feed us all. We'll just rearrange atoms to create water or oxygen.' These ideas are not effective in addressing the issue of global warming, as we cannot escape into the world of virtual reality. We know what will happen if we exploit all the

resources at a high pace. But why are they not bothered about the catastrophe that might happen? Instead, people are adapting to the new normal. This, he quotes from the words of a Governor in the US, where the state was affected by storms. This term can be connected to the floods in Kerala in 2018. The next year people were expecting the flood and were ready to adapt to the situation, which is the new normal.

Wallace-Wells has sketched beautifully the issues affecting us such as wildfires, melting of ice which leads to rise in water level, fresh water which will be in high demand in the near future, drought which not only leads to crop failure but also affects the quality of air we breathe (where the case of Delhi being a good example), the plagues, conflicts and wars, collapsing economies etc. As he believes, all the issues started with the industrialization process, but most resources were exploited recently and it is the fact. The use of fossil fuels increased and still we are dependent on such resources. These fuels have created most of the carbon emission when burned. These carbon emissions trap heat in the atmosphere and lead to climate change. We all are looking for economic prosperity and we are not ready to compromise on economic growth. We exploit the natural resources to the



Voices of Dissent

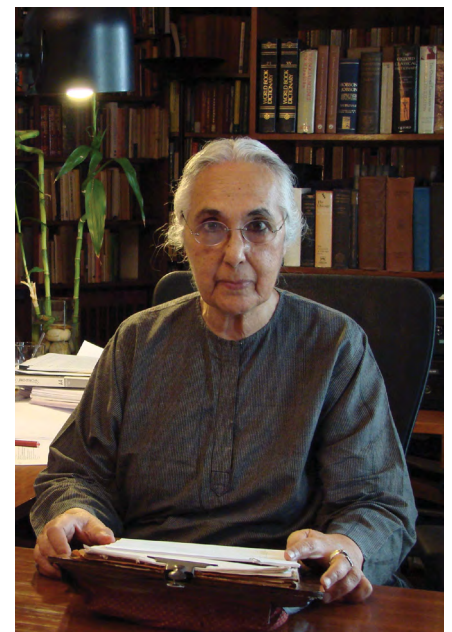
AN ESSAY

Romila Thapar

Seagull Books, Calcutta. 2020 | ISBN : 978 - 0857428622
Hardcover 172 pages | Price: Rs.499/-

How the past becomes part of the political projects of the present, has been a persistent concern in Romila Thapar's writings over the decades. In *Voices of Dissent: An Essay* published in 2020, Thapar locates herself firmly (even physically at the site of the anti CAA/NRC protests at Shaheen Bagh) in the present, to explore the intellectual and multifaceted history of the idea of non-violent dissent. Dissent in the pre-colonial times, she argues, was dominantly expressed through the idiom of religion. This is rarely marked in the colonial and later understandings that reformulated Hinduism as a less plural and inflexible category. Thapar seeks to make this absence visible, by marking the presence of the Other. She takes up three chronologically separated examples from the region's precolonial history -the *Dasi-putra brahmana*, the *Sramana*, and the *Bhakti*

sant and the Sufi peer- groups that have questioned what constituted the dominant religions of the past. This allows to challenge the idea that Dissent was an import to India from the West. With nationalism, the idiom of religion is seen to give way to that of civil society, even as it continues to use some of the older avenues in expression of dissent, as she demonstrated through the *case of Sathyagraha*. Search for seamless continuities, authenticating singular events, and attributing historicity to rigid and monolithic notions of religion and region have been the prevalent ways in which past figures in the recent dominant political discourses. Apart from historicizing the central and transformative role of dissent in civil society, *Voices of Dissent* offers a methodological alternative of looking into the past for continuity of ideas through a focus on their multiplicity and change. ●



▶ Romila Thapar

→ maximum extent, not thinking of the future generations.

The book does not provide any solutions to all problems, but it gives an insight into what will happen in future if we are not concerned by what is happening now. He

urges the readers, every common person, to address the issue which is also a future problem. Wallace-Wells has covered most of the issues which are of significance in the present as well as future but has kept silent on the population explosion. Assigning the task of solving the issues concerning the

habitation on this planet is not a future one, but a task to be undertaken in the present situation. The book ends with the lines 'You can choose your metaphor. You can't choose the planet, which is the only one any one of us will ever call home'. ●

Speaking in Many Tongues

ARTICULATION OF VIOLENCE IN POETRY WRITTEN BY TAMIL WOMEN IN SRI LANKA (1981-2009)

Dr. Aparna Eswaran

ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellow
Centre for Women's Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

21st January, 2021, 03.00 PM in Google Meet



The context of the paper is the three-decade long war in Sri Lanka fought over competing ethnic nationalisms, which was a period of grave human rights violations and of 'unspeakable' violence for Tamil women. While there were severe limitations in speaking out, women who lived through the violence, inflicted on their bodies and souls, spoke out in many tongues of pain and rage. Poetry was an important mode of witnessing in this period of surveillance and censorship where violence was in many occasions a state condoned act to enforce ethnic supremacy. Dr Aparna traces different articulations of violence found in the poetry of Tamil women written during the period 1980-2009 and the tentative seeking of justice present in this act of poetic witnessing. She looks at poetic texts that



► Illustration from the cover page of the anthology of poems titled "Sollatha Seithigal" edited by Sitralega Maunaguru, published by the Women's Study Circle, Jaffna.

make visible the sexual violence inflicted by the Sri Lankan army as well as read poetry that puts forward an articulation of the insidious acts of daily violence found within homes, the difficulties inherent in navigating public spaces and checkpoints, the burden of expectations that the society had put on women to be bearers of Tamil cultural purity and the difficulties of holding in remembrance difficult deaths and disappearances.

Dr. V. Padma (A. Mangai), Associate Professor (Retd), Department of English, Stella Maris College, Chennai was the discussant of the paper. She commented that the paper bears witness to the nuanced explorations of surviving and resistance being Tamil during the war.

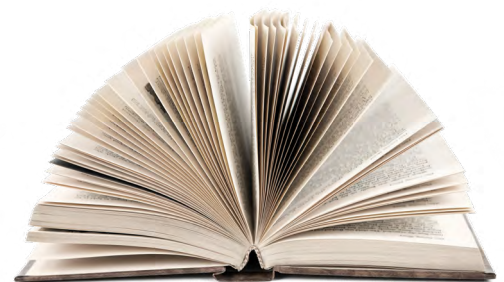
PUBLICATIONS IN PIPELINE

Autobiography of Late Parukutty

Amma, freedom fighter and leader of Indian National Congress compiled by Dr. T.K Anandji, Gender Advisor, Government of Kerala is in its final stages of production. Parukutty Amma narrates her life and experience during the time of independence and after. Being an activist and a leader of Indian National Congress and Women Congress Committee, she analyses the culture of practicing politics of her times in the book.

Vamanapurathinte Pradeshika Charithram

, an extensive documentation of local history of Vamanapuram panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram analyses the history of people, places, occupation, institution, culture, economy etc. of Vamanapuram. The author, Sri. Rajendran Niyathi did the research work for history writing with the research grant of KCHR.



Scholarly Reflections on Contemporary Issues

Commercialization of Agriculture

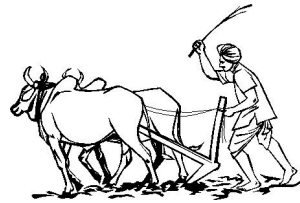
IN THEORY, HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY INDIAN POLITICS



Professor Amit Bhaduri

Visiting Professor, Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR), Dharwad
08th February 2021, 04.00 PM
in Google Meet

The scholastic talk by Professor Amit Bhaduri on *Commercialization of Agriculture: In Theory, History and Contemporary Indian Politics* unpacked the layered histories of the Indian agrarian economy by exploring linkages between land, labour, capital, informal economy, markets and indebtedness. He noted that this historical lesson has assumed paramount importance in India in recent times. The three farm laws rushed through the parliament without consultation by the central government in power intends to commercialize the product market for wheat and rice without any minimum support price without dispute resolution by civil laws over price. He added that the two biggest industrial houses are waiting in the wings as the market price will be settled by the vastly asymmetric market power of those large industrial houses as buyers and individual farmers as sellers. He commented that it is clearly a no-win situation for the farmers, and the small farmers are afraid of losing their land through indebtedness and unviability of farming at low selling price. He concluded that it is criminal irony when democratically elected governments decide to go down that path not even for industrialization, but a special kind of industrialization that is meant to benefit a handful of industrialists and pauperize the farmers.



Farm Laws, Dissent and Democracy

SOME ISSUES FOR INDIA'S DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM



Professor Atul Sood

Centre for the Study of the Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

01st March 2021, 03.00 PM in Google Meet

Scholarly Reflections on *Farm Laws, Dissent and Democracy: Some Issues for India's Democracy and Development Paradigm* by Professor Atul Sood revealed the government's agenda in the field of Agriculture sector reforms for the last few decades. He opined that it was not only the farm acts, but also the Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and the Occupational Health, Safety, and Working Conditions Code which were introduced and passed in both houses of Parliament in record time in September 2020 without any discussion. The lecture opened up the question of the 'jugalbandi' - the twin strategy of reform and repression - between the economic and the political and discussed its implications for the changing nature of the Indian State and the cracks in the development paradigm.

Changing Conceptions of Citizenship in India



Professor Partha Chatterjee

Former Director, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata and Professor of Anthropology & Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, Columbia University, New York.

12th April 2021, 03.00 PM in Google Meet

The talk on the topic *Changing Conceptions of Citizenship in India* by renowned political scientist and anthropologist, Professor Partha Chatterjee was a scholarly analysis on Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). He opined that it was actually the constitution of 1950 that created the concept of 'Indian Citizenship'. People of India actually played themselves as citizens. i.e., people of 1950 gave themselves the constitution. The speaker explained the proposed legal justifications for the exclusion of neighbouring countries in the CAA. It became important in the context not just of the Rohingya exodus and now those fleeing the massacre in Myanmar.

KCHR Webinar Series

Maariyattam

EXORCISING PANDEMIC IN
A RITUAL WAY



14

Dr. Dinesan Vadakkiniyil

Assistant Professor, Govt. Arts & Science
College, Kasargod

13th January 2021, 03.00 PM

The paper on *Maariyattam : Exorcising Pandemic in a Ritual Way* by Dr. Dinesan Vadakkiniyil discussed the myth of the performing art, *Maariyattam* in the context of pandemic realities. The two questions that the talk addressed were, why does the exorcism rite called *Maariyattam*, believed to have originated sometime in the medieval period in Malabar, continue in the present despite the changes that happened in the socio-political and economic order in the last several centuries, and what reality does it generate when this rite is invoked in the present. The birth of *Maariyattam*, as the myth says, was at a critical moment of the outbreak of a pandemic, inscribed as *maari*, that had the potential to 'end the world'. Experiencing the pandemic in the present, the human community is increasingly redrawing the horizon of human existence. The paper claims that while performing *Maariyattam* in the present, history and the present, and myth and reality are brought into conjecture. Looking at the kind of experiences learned from it about the social world, human relations we envisage, and the 'reality' that the exorcism -*Maariyattam*-brings forth in and through its rites, the talk argue that, the demon's occupation and release of *maari* (death/pandemic) could be a kind of totalitarianizing moment.

Between Faith and State COLONIAL PERSONAL LAWS IN 19TH CENTURY BENGAL



15

Professor Tanika Sarkar

Retired Professor in History,
Centre for Historical Studies, JNU

4th March 2021, 03.00 PM

Professor Tanika Sarkar, in her presentation on the topic, *Between Faith and State: Colonial Personal Laws in 19th Century Bengal* described the structure and conditions within which Colonial Personal Laws operated in 19th century Bengal and then underlined some of the predicaments that courts faced when they tried to apply them. Tanika Sarkar, the author of several important works like *The Hindu Wife, Hindu Nation: Community, Religion, Cultural Nationalism and Rebels, Wives, Saints: Designing Selves and Nations in Colonial Times* concluded her talk with a few episodes of widow immolations in 19th century Bengal in the light of the laws and of the religious controversies that framed them.

From Footnote to Text PUBLISHING FEMINISM'S ALTERNATIVE KNOWLEDGES



16

Ritu Menon

Feminist Publisher & Writer

18th March 2021, 03.00 PM

Ritu Menon, the co-founder of *Kali for Women*, the India's first feminist press in 1984 presenting the paper on *From Footnote to Text: Publishing Feminism's Alternative Knowledges* elucidated the decades of the 1970s & 1980s which saw the production of an extraordinary range of material by feminists across the world that transformed perspectives and radicalized movements for women's emancipation. She explained how the tracts, pamphlets, manifestos, resolutions and sundry documents galvanized the creation of an alternative knowledge about women has changed the meaning of the political, as well as the personal. She explained how was this material made available and disseminated, who were its authors and where did it originate. She stated that the convergence of the women's movement, the women in print movement, and the women's studies movement enabled the generation of the kind of knowledge that emerged organically from a practice that began with the experiential, but grounded in the social and political.

Conceptualizing Dalit Historiography



17

Professor Gopal Guru

Editor, Economic and Political Weekly & Former Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU

16th April 2021, 03.00 PM

Professor Gopal Guru, Former Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University explored historiography as a method that can be deployed to establish the Dalit conceptual claim to take charge of history and make it their own. The main focus of the presentation was to work out the possibility of Dalit historiography that could be developed around four aspects. First, it would foreground its conceptual validity in the interrogation of the mainstream historiography. Second, an attempt to conceptualize Dalit historiography would make it necessary to centrally factor in the discursive moves that are aimed at offering different interpretation of emancipatory impulses that are available in Indian history. Third, the Dalit historiography announces its arrival by proposing new historical thesis and making sound arguments that sustain stipulative protocols in particular regard to annihilation of caste. Finally, Dalit historiography as the methodological protocols does provide historical thesis as proposed by Ambedkar. Quoting Ambedkar from one of his historiographical speech in 1935, "I was born as Hindu, but will not die as Hindu", Gopal Guru argues that the new historical thesis in Ambedkar's ideas such as, Dalits are part but they are part apart, they are the broken men of history, has its roots in the Ambedkar's historiographical speech itself.

Beyond Victimhood LESS TOLD STORIES OF MALAYALI DALIT WOMEN HEROES



18

Dr. Rekha Raj

Assistant Professor, School of Gandhian Thought & Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University

19th April 2021, 03.00 PM

Focusing on the fact that, Dalit women are often underrepresented and their struggles and achievements are overlooked by both mainstream and alternate political discourses, Dr. Rekha, Dalit and Feminist thinker informed that amidst the diverse symbolic and explicit oppressions and exploitations which is the everyday reality of dalit women throughout history, some Malayali dalit women were able to create their own path. The presentation discussed their lives and how they negotiated and confronted with everyday caste patriarchy in their life period and how this signifies dalit women politics in Kerala.

Intersectional Histories?

REFLECTIONS ON THE HISTORY OF WORK FROM AN URBAN SLUM IN KERALA



19

Professor J. Devika

Centre for Development Studies

05th May 2021, 03.00 PM

Professor J. Devika explored the intersection of spatial, caste, and gender axes of power in shaping contemporary inequalities in Kerala, through mixed-method research in an urban slum in her talk. She argued that relying largely on qualitative data, it constructs a history of work in the slum for lower caste men and women against the backdrop of Kerala politics from the 1940s until the present. She noted that it examines the role of widening gender gaps, the persistence of secularized caste, and flagging working-class politics and discourse in shaping contemporary socio-economic exclusion in urban areas. She argues that the new egalitarian politics that contemporary challenges call for demand a far closer understanding of the forms of secularized caste and naturalized gender as axes that shape inequalities in the world of work, and not just in the spheres of family, community, and class.

കേരള സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ പരിണാമം



കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആർ പ്രഭാഷണ പരമ്പര

കേരള ചരിത്രത്തിന്റെ വികാസവും പരിണാമവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വിഷയങ്ങൾ ഓൺലൈൻ സാധ്യതകൾ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ട് ഹയർ സെക്കൻഡറി - കോളേജ് വിദ്യാർഥികളുടെ പഠനത്തിന് സഹായകരമാകുന്ന തരത്തിൽ ചർച്ചചെയ്യുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടെയാണ് കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആർ ഓൺലൈൻ പ്രഭാഷണ പരമ്പര ആരംഭിച്ചത്. ചരിത്രപഠനത്തിലെ ഉപദാനങ്ങൾ,

ഗവേഷണങ്ങൾ, വികസന ചരിത്രം, ചരിത്രകൃതികൾ, അരികുവൽക്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടവരുടെയും തൊഴിലാളി പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളുടെയും ചരിത്രം തുടങ്ങി കേരള സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ പരിണാമ ചരിത്രത്തിലെ ചെറുതും വലുതുമായ ഏടുകൾ വിദ്യാർത്ഥി സമൂഹത്തിനും ചരിത്രാന്വേഷകർക്കും ഗുണകരമാകുന്ന രീതിയിൽ ചർച്ചചെയ്യുവാനാണ് വെബ് ടോക്കിലൂടെ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്. കേരളത്തിലെ പ്രമുഖ ചരിത്രകാരാണ്

വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങൾ അവരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് വെബ് ടോക്കിലൂടെ സംസാരിക്കുന്നത്. വിഷയാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ചിട്ടപ്പെടുത്തിയ വെബ് ടോക്കുകൾ വിവിധ ഓൺലൈൻ സങ്കേതങ്ങളിലൂടെ ലഭ്യമാണ്. വെബ് ടോക്കുകളുടെ പ്ലേ ലിസ്റ്റ് താഴെ നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള ലിങ്കിൽ ലഭ്യമാണ്.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4scSow7PljvIxcBrHHJZ6_oKcE7PWkyo

കേരളത്തിലെ പ്രാചീന ലിപികൾ



പ്രൊഫസർ എം. ആർ. രാഘവ വാര്യർ
ഡയറക്ടർ, പൈതൃക പഠന കേന്ദ്രം

2021 ഏപ്രിൽ 07

സ്ത്രീചരിത്ര നിർമ്മിതിയുടെ രീതിശാസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ



പ്രൊഫസർ അനീബ കെ. എം.
ചരിത്ര വിഭാഗം, ശ്രീശങ്കരാചാര്യ സംസ്കൃത സർവകലാശാല

2021 മാർച്ച് 24

കാർഷിക വ്യവസ്ഥയുടെ വ്യാപനം: സാമൂഹ്യമാനങ്ങൾ/ സാമ്പത്തികമാനങ്ങൾ



പ്രൊഫസർ കേശവൻ വെളുത്താട്ട്
ഡയറക്ടർ, ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഫോർ സ്റ്റഡീസ് ഇൻ ദ ഹെറിറ്റേജ് ഓഫ് കോസ്റ്റൽ കേരള

2021 ഫെബ്രുവരി 10 | 2021 ഫെബ്രുവരി 15

Website and Youtube playlist link



Webtalks
<http://kchr.ac.in/ml/pages/137>
Youtube playlist : https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4scSow7PljvIxcBrHHJZ6_oKcE7PWkyo

Webinars
<http://kchr.ac.in/pages/151/Webinars.html>
Youtube playlist : <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4scSow7PljuIkzdDrZE1Ilyr95liGCX0>

Interventions
<http://kchr.ac.in/pages/177/KCHR-Interventions.html>
Youtube playlist : https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4scSow7Plju2Xe7T2ieE9yXpvBSe1Q9_

Working Paper presentations
<http://kchr.ac.in/pages/165/Working-Paper-Presentations.html>
Youtube playlist : https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4scSow7Plju7RUyDvG__IRU8tjMjeahW

പട്ടണം ഓർമയും ജീവിതവും

ചരിത്രവഴികളിൽ സുകുമാരൻ മാഷ്

Interviewed by
Bibitha K. R. | Sarathchandra Babu | Sreelatha Damodaran



സുകുമാരൻ മാഷ്

പട്ടണം എന്ന പ്രദേശം ചരിത്രശ്രദ്ധ ആകർഷിക്കുന്നതിനും പതിറ്റാണ്ടുകൾക്ക് മുൻപ് ഇവിടെ ജീവിച്ചുവളർന്നയാളാണല്ലോ മാഷ്. എങ്ങനെ യായിരുന്നു ബാല്യത്തിന്റെ ഓർമകളിൽ പട്ടണവും ജീവിതവും?

ബാല്യകാലത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടതും കണ്ടിറഞ്ഞതുമായ ഓർമകളിൽ പട്ടണത്തിന്റെ പ്രകൃതി ഒന്നു വേറെതന്നെയായിരുന്നു. ഈ പ്രദേശവുമായി ഇഴുകിച്ചേർന്നു ജീവിച്ച അനുഭവങ്ങളാണ് എന്റെ ഓർമയിലുള്ളത്. പ്രാഥമിക പഠനത്തിനായി അടുത്തുള്ള പുതിയകാവ് സ്കൂളിൽ പോയിത്തുടങ്ങിയകാലം മുതൽ പട്ടണം എന്ന പ്രദേശത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ധാരാളം ഓർമ്മകൾ എനിക്കുണ്ട്. കുട്ടിക്കാലത്ത് അമ്മുമ്മയും മറ്റും പട്ടണത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞതും ഓർമ്മയിൽ തങ്ങിനിൽക്കുന്നു. മുതിർന്നപ്പോൾ ഒന്നര കിലോമീറ്റർ അകലെയുള്ള വടക്കൻ പറവൂർ ചന്തയിലേക്കും ഹൈസ്കൂളിലേക്കും സിനിമ തിയേറ്ററിലേക്കും മൊക്കെയുള്ള യാത്ര ഇത്തിപറമ്പ് പട്ടണംകവല വഴിയായിരുന്നു. ചന്തയിൽ നിന്ന് സാധനങ്ങളും വീടുനിർമ്മാണസാമഗ്രികളും മറ്റും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്ന ധാരാളം വഞ്ചികളും അവയ്ക്ക് സഞ്ചരിക്കാനുള്ള വലിയ തോടുകളും ചെറുതോടുകളും നിറഞ്ഞതായിരുന്നു അന്നത്തെ പട്ടണം. ചന്തയിൽ നിന്നു സാധനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങി വഞ്ചിയിലാണ് വീടിനടുത്തുവരെ വന്നിരുന്നത്. ചെറുതോടുകൾക്കു മുകളിലായി തെങ്ങിന്റെയും കവുങ്ങിന്റെയും പാളിയിൽ തീർത്ത പാലങ്ങളും അതിൽ കയറി അപ്പുറമിടാനും കടന്നതും രസകരമായ ഓർമ്മകളാണ്. നാളികേരകൃഷിയും കയർപിരിച്ചു മറ്റു പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേക്ക് എത്തിക്കലുമായിരുന്നു അന്നത്തെ പ്രധാനതൊഴിൽ. പ്രളയം മാറ്റിമറിച്ച ഒരു പ്രകൃതിയാണ് പട്ടണത്തിന്റേത്. വർഷംതോറുമുള്ള വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം നാടിനെ കനത്തതോതിൽ ബാധിച്ചിരുന്നു. പുതിയകാവ് അമ്പലത്തിന്റെ ഊട്ടുപുരയുടെ പുറകിൽ 1924 - ലെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിന്റെ അടയാളം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോഴും കാണാം.

പ്രളയം അതിജീവിച്ച ശേഷിപ്പുകളാണല്ലോ ചരിത്രാന്വേഷകരെ പട്ടണത്തെക്കെത്തിച്ചത്. അത് ചരിത്രാന്വേഷണത്തിലും കേരള ചരിത്ര ഗവേഷണ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലുള്ള താല്പര്യവുമായി മാറിയതെങ്ങനെയാണ്?

അതെ, പറമ്പുകൾ കിളക്കുന്നതും തടമെടുക്കുന്നതും ഇവിടുത്തെ പ്രധാന ദൃശ്യരക്ഷണ പ്രവർത്തനമായിരുന്നു. മഴപെയ്തു കഴിയുമ്പോൾ തെങ്ങിന്റെ തടത്തിലും മൺകുന്നുകളിലും സൂര്യപ്രകാശമേറ്റ് തിളങ്ങുന്ന മുത്തുകൾ കുട്ടികൾ പററുക്കി വക്കുക പതിവായിരുന്നു. ആതിര എന്ന കുട്ടിയുടെ പക്കലും എന്റെ ബന്ധുവായ ഡോക്ടർ കൃഷ്ണകുമാറിന്റെ സഹോദരി ഉഷാദേവിയുടെ പക്കലും ഇപ്പോഴും ഇതിന്റെ ശേഖരങ്ങളുണ്ട്. അവ വെറും കൗതുകത്തിനു വേണ്ടി സൂക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതാണെങ്കിലും വളരെ മൂല്യമുള്ള കല്ലുമുത്തുകൾ ആണെന്ന് പട്ടണത്തുനടന്ന പഠന ഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായിട്ടു ശേഷമാണ് എനിക്ക് ബോധ്യമായത്.

ബി.എഡ് പഠനത്തിനുശേഷം സഹോദരൻ മെമ്മോറിയൽ ഹൈസ്കൂളിൽ അധ്യാപകനായി ജോലി ആരംഭിച്ചു. അതോടൊപ്പം തൊട്ടുതൽപക്കത്തെ കുട്ടികൾക്കായി സ്വകാര്യ അധ്യാപനവും നടത്തിയിരുന്നു. അക്കാലത്ത് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഇന്ന് എൻജിനീയറിങ് പഠനത്തിനുശേഷം പാലക്കാട്ടുള്ള 'മൈത്രി' എന്ന എൻ.ജി.ഒ യുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന വിനോദ് എന്ന ചരിത്രകൗതുകിയായ കുട്ടിയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. 2004ലെ ഒരു തീവണ്ടിയാത്രയിൽ വിനോദും ഡോ. കെ.പി. ഷാജനും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പരിചയപ്പെടലിനിടെ പെരിയാറിന്റെ വടക്കൻ തീരങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ഭൂമിശാസ്ത്രപരവും ചരിത്രപരവുമായ പ്രാധാന്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും സംഘകാലകൃതികളിലെ സൂചനകളെക്കുറിച്ചും കേരളതീരത്തിനുമുണ്ടായ യിരുന്ന ഇന്ത്യൻ ഓഷ്യൻ ബന്ധങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും ചർച്ചചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. അത് പിന്നീട് വിനോദിനെ വീടിന്റെ അടുക്കളയ്ക്കു സമീപമുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലം തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു പരിശോധന നടത്തുന്നതിൽ കലാശിച്ചു. തൃപ്പൂണിത്തുറയിലെ ഹെറിറ്റേജ് സ്റ്റുഡീസിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിരുന്ന ഡോക്ടർ സെൽവകുമാറും ഈ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ ഭാഗമായതോടുകൂടി കാര്യങ്ങൾ സൂക്ഷ്മമായി മുന്നോട്ടു പോവുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഞാനും അവിടെ വിനോദിന്റെ ആവശ്യപ്രകാരം ചെന്നിരുന്നു. ഏതാണ്ട് രണ്ട് മീറ്റർ താഴെ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ഇഷ്ടിക കൊണ്ടുള്ള ഒരു ദിത്തിയും, പച്ചനിറത്തിലുള്ള മൺപാത്രകഷ്ണങ്ങളും,

മറ്റു വിവിധതരത്തിലുള്ള മൺപാത്രകഷ്ണങ്ങളും കിട്ടി. കൗതുകത്തിന്റെ പേരിലും, ആ പ്രദേശത്തെ വീട്ടുകാരൊക്കെ എനിക്കു പരിചിതരായതിനാലും ഞാനും അതിൽ പങ്കുചേർന്നു. അവിടുന്ന് ലഭിക്കുന്ന വസ്തുക്കളെക്കെ ചരിത്രപരമായി വളരെ വിലപ്പെട്ടതാണെന്ന് ഡോക്ടർ ഷാജനാണ് ബോധ്യപ്പെടുത്തിത്തന്നത്.

കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആർ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച പഠനഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ പട്ടണം നിവാസികൾ എങ്ങനെയാണ് സ്വീകരിച്ചത്. പ്രതിസന്ധികൾ മറികടക്കുന്നതിനും ജനകീയ ചരിത്രബോധത്തിലേക്കു പട്ടണനിവാസികളെ രൂപപ്പെടുത്താനും കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

പഠനപ്രവേഷണങ്ങളുടെ ആദ്യകാലഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ സഹകരിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഡയറക്ടറായിരുന്ന ഡോ. പി.ജെ. ചെറിയാൻ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുമായി സൗഹൃദം പുലർത്തുവാനും പഠനത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം അറിയുകുവാനും ശ്രമിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ സ്ഥലം എറ്റെടുക്കുമെന്ന ഭയത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ 2008 മുതൽ എതിർപ്പുകൾ ഉടലെടുത്തുതുടങ്ങി. അപ്പോഴും ജനവാസമില്ലാതെ ഒഴിഞ്ഞുകിടന്ന പറമ്പുകളിൽ പഠന ഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ഗവേഷകർക്ക് താൽക്കാലിക താമസത്തിനുപോലും വീടുകിട്ടാതെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിലായി. അത്തരമൊരു സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ എന്റെ ശ്രമം പോലും ചില രാഷ്ട്രീയനേതാക്കൾ വിലക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. സ്ഥലം വെറുതെ എറ്റെടുക്കുകയല്ലെന്നും മാർക്ക് വിലയേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ലഭിക്കുമെന്നുമറിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ചിത്രം മാറി. നിരവധിപേർ സ്ഥലവും വീടും തന്നുതുടങ്ങി. സമീപനത്തിലും മാറ്റുമുണ്ടായി.

2004 - നു ശേഷംനടന്ന പഠന ഉത്ഖനന പ്രവർത്തനകളിൽ മാഷ് ഭാഗഭാക്കായിരുന്നല്ലോ. കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആറുമായ ചേർന്നുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഒരു പുതിയ ദിശാബോധം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയെടുക്കാൻ സഹായകരമായി കാണുമല്ലോ?

തീർച്ചയായും. 2004 - ലെ പഠനഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കുശേഷം ആ പ്രദേശം മുഴുവൻ സർവ്വേ നടത്തുവാൻ കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആർ തീരുമാനിച്ചു. 2007 മുതലാണ് കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആറിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ഉത്ഖനന ഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടന്നത്. 2004 ലെ പഠനഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഭാഗമായതിനു ശേഷം കിട്ടുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം തറവാടുവീടിനു ചുറ്റുമുള്ള പറമ്പുകളിൽ വീടുപണിയുകയും

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Effective Academic Writing Early Career Researcher Skills Development Workshop 2021

6-9, December 2021

KCHR in collaboration with the British Academy (UK) and the University of Edinburgh plan a three-day workshop to offer training in developing research grant applications and publications in any discipline within the arts, humanities and social sciences. The early career researchers based in Kerala and the other parts of India is expected to benefit the workshop. The virtual workshop scheduled to be held during 6th – 9th December 2021, will be led by an international team of researchers, authors, and editors of key South Asia journals and book series. The network with the national and international professionals will provide participants the opportunities to further their publishing profile and academic career.

Website and youtube playlist link



KCHR Upcoming programs
<http://kchr.ac.in/pages/172/Upcoming-Programs-2021.html>

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പട്ടണം ഓർമയും ജീവിതവും

കിണർകുഴിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും സന്ദർശിച്ച് എല്ലാവരോടും ആശയവിനിമയം നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആറിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ഗവേഷണപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടക്കുമ്പോൾ സമയം അനുവദിക്കുമ്പോഴൊക്കെ താൽപര്യപൂർവ്വം പങ്കെടുത്തിയിരുന്നു. മണ്ണിനടിയിൽ നിന്നും ലഭിച്ച വഞ്ചിയും കടവും മറ്റും കാണുവാൻ എനിക്ക് അവസരം കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. കേരളത്തിലെ ചരിത്രപുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ അർഹമായ ഇടം എന്റെ നാടിനും ലഭിക്കണമെന്നും ഒരുപക്ഷെ ഇതിനേക്കാൾ തെളിവുകൾ ലഭ്യമാകുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതൽ തെളിമയുള്ള ചരിത്രപഠനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് അവ വഴിതെളിക്കട്ടെ എന്നും ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

പട്ടണത്തിന്റെ പഠന ഗവേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ മാഷ് ഇപ്പോഴും സജീവമാണല്ലോ അല്ലേ?

അതെ, പട്ടണത്ത് ഞാൻ ഉണ്ട് . കെ.സി.എച്ച്.ആറുമായി സഹകരിച്ചു കാരുണ്യം ചെയ്യുന്നു. പട്ടണം പദ്ധതിയുടെ പ്രാദേശിക ഉപേക്ഷാഭവനനിലയിലും പ്രദേശവാസിയെന്ന നിലയിലും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമെന്ന നിലയ്ക്കും കൂടുതൽ രാസ്യത്രിയ അന്വേഷങ്ങൾക്കു പട്ടണത്തെ സജ്ജമാക്കാനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നു. കേരളത്തിന്റെ ചരിത്രത്തിന് കൂടുതൽ ഉൾകാഴ്ചകൾ നൽകാൻ പട്ടണത്തെ പഠനങ്ങൾക്കു കഴിയുമെന്ന് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

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