

The background of the image is a photograph of a tropical landscape. Several tall palm trees with green fronds are visible against a light blue sky. In the lower right, a portion of a building with a red-tiled roof is visible. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# Onam and National Day Celebrations '97



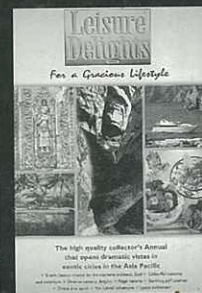
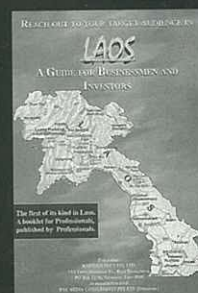
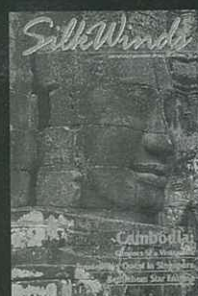


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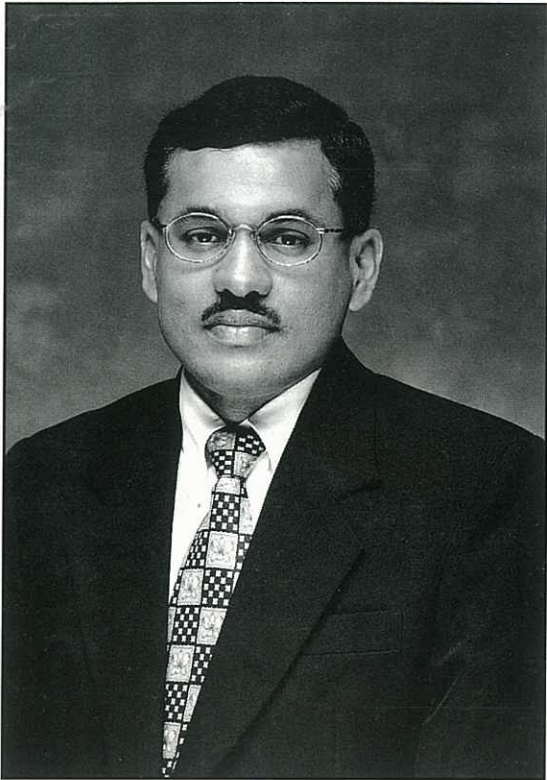
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# Message from the Guest of Honour

## Onam Greetings to all Malayalees!

The Singapore Malayalee Community has made many contributions to the social and cultural milieu of our country. One of these is the annual celebration of Onam.

I understand that although Onam has certain mythical origins, it has transformed into a harvest festival celebrated by Malayalees all over the world. I am indeed happy to be able to extend my greetings and well wishes to all those who enthusiastically participate in the Onam festivities.

I am informed that there are eight Malayalee organisations in Singapore. One of the organisations, the Singapore Kerala Association is among the few Indian organisations which has its own premises.

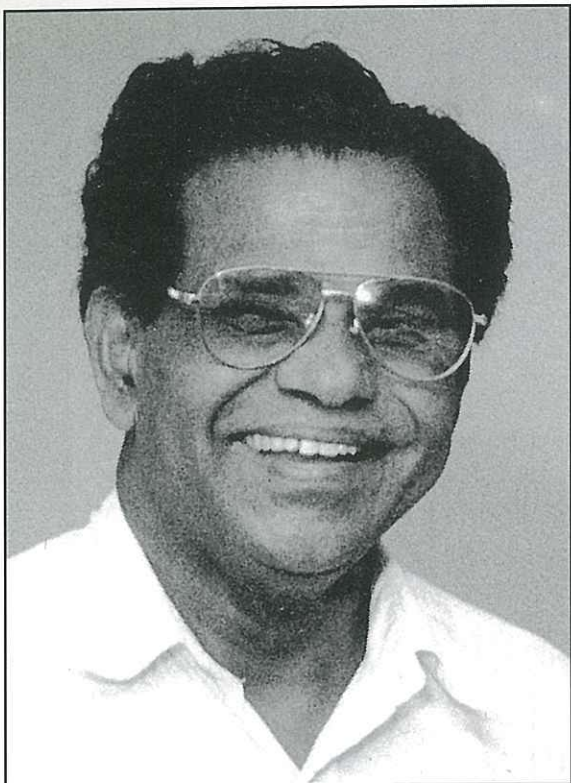
It is important that the Malayalee community work together and continue to build on its achievements. It is equally important that you recognise the immediate challenges facing the community and work with other like-minded organisations to overcome these challenges.

Let us work together to build a better community and make Singapore our best home in the coming years.

Mr R Ravindran

MP for Bukit Timah, GRC





## President's Message

During the year under review, our Association not only looked into our internal, structural problems but also took some active steps towards attempting to address the needs and problems of the Indian community.

In March this year, we organised a Forum on "The Future of Indian Cultures in the 21st Century". The keynote address was given by Prof Tommy Koh, our Ambassador at Large. And the panellists were Dr Kwok Kian Woon of NUS, Mr Arun Mahizhnan of the Institute of Policy Studies, Mr Zainul Abidin, MP, Chengsan GRC and Mr James Gomez, a Ph.D. research student.

We have also actively participated in the Dialogue sessions organised by the Feedback Unit of the MCD in their study of ethnic communities. Our proposal to form a coordinating council to study the needs and problems of the Indian community was generally accepted. And we also seriously support the efforts of Singapore Indian Association to promote greater unity and purposeful action among the Indian community groups.

At the same time, we are vigorously preserving our long cherished idea of uniting our Malayalee organisations into an umbrella body.

These activities will not only assist the Indian community to become more united but also enhance the achievement of a greater cohesive Singapore.

Michael Fernandez



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# Onam Nite Program

## 1. Songs - *Onam Vanne*

Duet sung by Krishna Kumar and Rani

## 2. *Kaikotti Kalli*

Sheila Nair, Sujatha Nair, Badhravathi Nair, Gouri Pillai, Savithri Nambiar,  
Jennifer Ronald, Anuradha Menon, Adhira Nair

## 3. Children's Item

## 4. *Mohini Aattam*

Rubina Hari

## 5. President's Address

## 6. Presentation of Awards

## 7. Song Time

Duet sung by S Malarvizhi and Abdul Rahman  
The song is entitled *Aattirambill*.

## 8. Harvest Dance

Sheila Nair, Gouri Pillai, Jennifer Ronald, Anuradha Menon, Adhira Nair,  
Reshmi Pillai

# Interval



### 9. Onam Queen Contest

Nisha Nair, Sharon Fernandez, Dhanya Radhakrishna Warrior, Rathi Menon,  
Jess Mathew, Sudha Menon, Rubina Hari, Sethu G Kumar

### 10. Songs

A solo by Pramod Gopalan who will sing a song called *Channana Choelayil*.  
Sangeetha Kumar will sing a song entitled *Theva Kaayalil*.

### 11. Mimicry

Thomas

### 12. East Meets West

Kaneswaran, Melissa, Nithya K, Pamela George, Saravanan, Ivan, Jignesh Bhal,  
Sarshi Thambi Raj

### 12. Presentation of Mementoes

### 13. Finale

Singing of 'We Are Singapore'.

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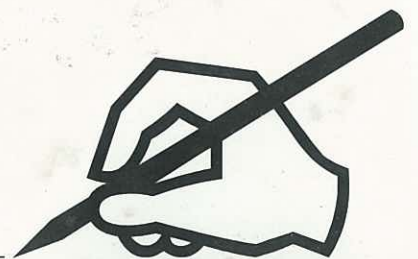
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