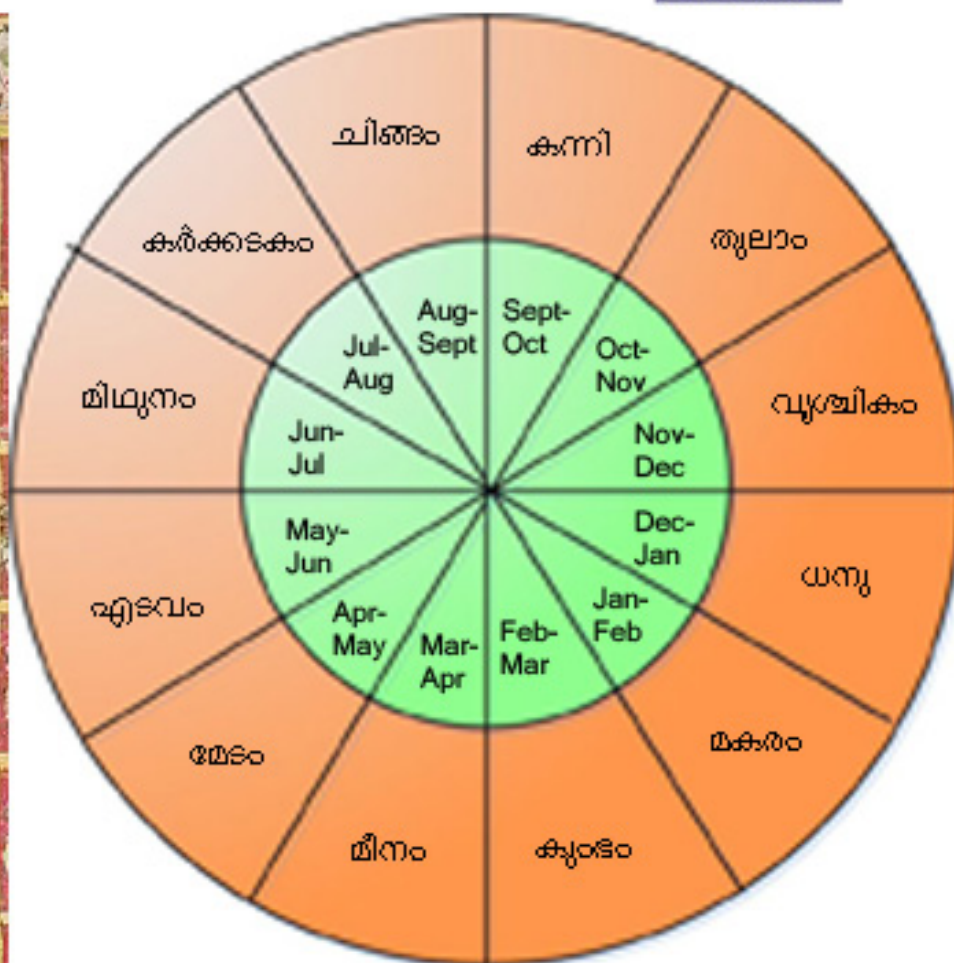


Gitanjali 2009



ഒാങ്കാരം 1184-1185

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To Our Readers

This is the second souvenir of Ohmkaram, and is being published in connection with its 4th anniversary celebration on January 9, 2010. This souvenir is a collection of articles on a wide range of topics of interest covering the organization's history, the literary and artistic talents of its members, and the spiritual culture and philosophy of Hinduism. This souvenir reflects the phenomenal progress which the organization has made throughout the year 2009.

This publication has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of several members of our community and businesses alike. We take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored our organization by advertising in this souvenir. We highly appreciate the efforts of all the members of our organization who contributed to the successful completion of this souvenir.

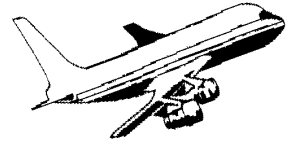
For the Souvenir Committee,

Samir Unni

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President's page

Namasthe, my friends

I feel deeply humbled and privileged by the opportunity given to me by you all to serve you as the president of ohmkaram during the past year.

In the beginning of 2009 I was quite anxious about the prospects of our organization because of the global economic down turn, and the possibility of adverse effects on our members. Having seen the "Mumbai terrorist attack" at close range in India, this anxiety was enhanced. However fortunately our members had only minimal effects and total membership remained stable.

Even though we had lost the services of our treasurer, Manoj Madhavan and cultural committees' chairperson Rajesh Menon, during the mid year executive committee managed to conduct our traditional celebrations of Vishu, onam and also the summer picnic as usual. Increased participation of the children in the cultural programs was really gratifying.

Audio Visual committee, & the food committee, gave their excellent performance as usual. The Malayalam classes, continued to be a very popular program. Thanks to Sooraj kuttikrishnan who served as a dedicated Teacher and we wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

Publication of the souvenir is another effort, we can be proud off. However in future we should strive to include more of our literary and artistic creativity in this medium than at present.

I would like to express our gratitude to and thank all the businesses for their sponsorship and urge our members to return the favor (a list of the advertisers with the contact information is listed on page no: 50)

Movie committee worked hard to screen Malayalam movies . As you know the committee is working on bringing the 3rd movie at present.

The new activities Ohmkaram, initiated this year includes No1. creation of "kerala corner", by which we can communicate with a wider audience, 2. Social service: we have taken baby steps in this endeavor and some members have quietly and honorably gave timely services to the needy. 3. Scholarships program; I am happy to report that the 1st check to a needy student(a " pharmacy technology") was written a few weeks ago. This was from the "donor designated" track, of the program. The other track viz, " general scholarship fund" is still in infancy , having only \$ 200.00 in the kitty. Much thanks to the movie lovers, who donated most of it. We hope to raise further funds by selling T shirts carrying inspiring message of the "original commandments" from the upanishaths. Of course individual donations are always welcome. 4. Sandhya vandanam was another program, this executive committee initiated and the debut of the first event will take place during the annual meeting, Jan9th 2010. 5. Our members participated as volunteers, in the Kumbhabhishekam celebrations of St Louis temple.

As a result of these expanded activities, the executive committie may need more help and with that in mind, amendments to by laws were made, to expand executive committee membership, by adding up to 3 additional members if needed.

An obligatory review of organizational matters show that our organization reflects its age (4 years), meaning that we still have to grow and mature. One of my initial actions as president was to call a special meeting of the general body and I am told that the open communication during the meeting was healthy and constructive. I hope that we do carry out such open and honest communications in future, as much as possible.

The board of directors started to function for the first time in 2009. During the 1st meeting of the board, conducted by the president, Mr. sudhir Prayaga was elected as chair person of the board of directors for the current year. During December 2009, Mr. Natesan , the senior member of the board resigned, graciously to make a slot for the incoming member of the board. Savitha kartha is the new board member, nominated by the executive committee.

I want to thank all the members for their kind co-operation and contribution to the organization and my special thanks to executive committee. I would also like to welcome all the new members our Ohmkaram family.

With a humble prayer in my heart.

"Lokah samastah sukino Bhavantu".

I wish all the growth and prosperity of Ohmkaram.

Yours sincerely
P.G. Ravindranathan



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Origin of Ohmkaram

By Raj Unni

The name Ohmkaram is derived from the word “aum,” which is the most important word in Hinduism, and is often included at the beginning of Hindu scriptures. From the *Chandogya Upanishad*:

The essence of all beings is the earth.
The essence of the earth is water.
The essence of water is the plant.
The essence of the plant is man.
The essence of man is speech.
The essence of speech is the Rigveda.
The essence of Rigveda is the Samveda.
The essence of Samveda is OM.

Aum is comprised of three sounds: “aa,” “oo,” and “mm.” “aa” represents the creation of the universe, “oo” represents its preservation, and “mm” represents its destruction. These sounds are respectively known to Hindus as three forms of God: Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Shiva (the destroyer). In addition, there is a fourth and final sound to aum : silence.

The name Ohmkaram more specifically originates from the term Aumkar, meaning “Form of Aum,” which is another term for the Hindu Gods and Goddesses.



Cover Page

Illustration and Description by Vimal Nair

The Malayalam Calendar, also known as Kollavarsham, is based on astronomical observations and calculations. The months of the Malayalam calendar are named according to the constellations in front of which the Sun can be seen during those months. The first day of the Malayalam month of Medam, which coincides with the celebration of Vishu, are considered by some to mark the beginning of the new year. However, others consider the first day of the month of Chingam, which coincides with the celebration of Onam, to be the beginning of the year.

The man at the center of the bottom of the page is Parasurama. There are myths concerning the origin of Kerala. One such myth is the creation of Kerala by Parasurama, a warrior sage. The Brahminical myth proclaims that Parasurama, an avatar of Mahavishnu, threw his battle axe into the Arabian Sea. As a result, the land of Kerala arose and was reclaimed from the water. The word Parasu means ‘axe’ in Sanskrit and therefore the name Parasurama means ‘Ram with Axe’.

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Year In Pictures

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എം. എൻ. മഞ്ചിറ

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ഗീതോപദേശം ഇവിടെ ആർക്കുവേണം?

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ഭയന്നു വിറയ്ക്കുന്നു ഭൂമി കുലുങ്ങുന്നു....
കടൽ ഇളകി.... കരയെ വിഴുങ്ങുന്നു.

സുനാമി തകർക്കുന്നു.... പ്രപഞ്ചസൃഷ്ടികൾ....
വില്ല് കൂലക്കുന്നു ദേവലോകത്ത്
തീ ആളിപ്പടരുന്നു.... കത്തി നശിക്കുന്നു
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~~~~~

## Stock Market

Contributed anonymously

Once upon a time in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for Rs 10.

The villagers seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest and started catching them.

The man bought thousands at Rs 10 and as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He further announced that he would now buy at Rs 20. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again.

Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms. The offer rate increased to Rs 25 and the supply of monkeys became so little that it was an effort to even see a monkey, let alone catch it!

The man now announced that he would buy monkeys at Rs 50! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on behalf of him.

In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers. Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that the man has collected. I will sell them to you at Rs 35 and when the man returns from the city, you can sell it to him for Rs 50."

The villagers squeezed up with all their savings and bought all the monkeys. Then they never saw the man nor his assistant, only monkeys everywhere!!!  
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# Innocence Lost

By Puja Natesan

Confusion wraps me in her dark cloak  
I have done a most terrible deed  
Betrayal chains me  
Evil has taken over me  
I feel its whispers even now.....

Alone, quite sweet sad loneliness engulfs me  
Everywhere it follows me  
I turn away from warmth  
Love has no hold over my cold heart  
Darkness surrounds me  
Desire ignites my soul  
On innocence where have you gone?

Confusion destroyed it with the folds of her cloak  
While betrayal's chains trapped innocence  
Desire, betrayal, confusion, everywhere  
In my soul and heart dark magic flies  
After they revenge me there is nothing left  
An empty shell of what was  
And what is never again to be.

~~~~~

Wall Street Bailout in Layman's Terms

Contributed by Madhu Madhavan

Young Fred moved to Texas and bought a Donkey from a farmer for \$100.

The farmer agreed to deliver the Donkey the next day. The next day he drove up and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news, your donkey died.' Fred replied, 'Well, then just give me my money back.' The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I went and spent it already.'

Fred said, 'Ok, then, just bring me the dead donkey.' The farmer asked, 'what ya gonna do with him?' Fred said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.' The farmer said: 'You can't raffle off a dead donkey!'

Fred said, 'Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.' A month later, the farmer met up with Fred and asked, 'What happened with that dead donkey?' Fred said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars a piece and made a profit of \$898.'

The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?' Fred said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back.'

Fred now works for AIG.

St. Louis Malayalam School

This is the the third year (2009-2010) of the St. Louis Malayalam School. We currently have 3 classes and 4 volunteer teachers. The various classes are handled by Lekshmi Kalathil (beginner), Anjana Prayaga and Nisha Augustine (intermediate), and Savitha Krishnan (advanced). We also have two substitute teachers, Deepa Thomas and Priya Abraham. Deepthi Unnikrishnan was the teacher for the first year of the school, while Sooraj Kuttikrishnan taught last year.



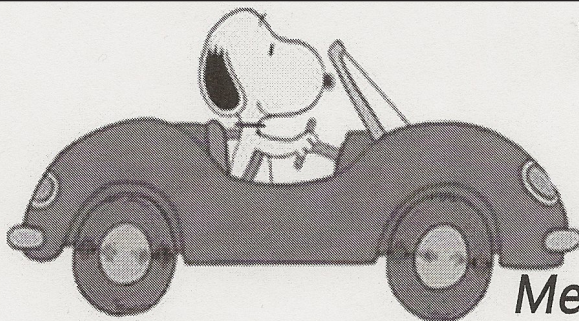


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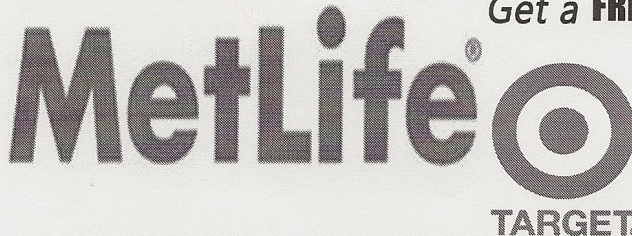
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The Prisoner's Cry

By Rajesh Menon

Inveterate I wish was in my life
I tried to propound
But my vainglory expatiated in between
For good or bad, no clue I have

I longed to segue and frission I was
Until the acrid bestowed on me
Truculent and lugubrious it was
Finally I sundered the silence

I had to exculpate
Stolid and Unctuous it was
No one to solace me
For it was just a peccadillo

Charges were so mendacious
Wish I were a sycophant
I tried to recrudescence
No ears to my censure

The verdict finally drew its line
My dreams turned ephemeral
Body enervated and languor I became
And the pulchritude of death grinned

~~~~~

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# A Tale of Two Cities, Two Worlds ...

By Mrs. Madhu Babu

It's said often that one can never really go "Home"...that trying to recreate a fondly remembered past is folly. Yet the phrase, "There's no place like "Home" resonates even stronger.... My family and I have responded to the latter sentiment and soundly trounced the former! Yes! One can go "Home".... even to two "Homes"!

My husband and children were born in America. I was born in India. As children, he and I lived and studied in & around Kochi and now we are giving our children the same opportunity! In 2004, we moved back to Kochi after years of weighing the pros and cons. Why did we voluntarily choose to move back to Kochi when we were living the "American Dream"?

Because we had a deep urge to support our parents as they aged, by being not just being emotionally but physically available for them....Because our children, in 2004, were at an age to absorb the nuances of language and life there, without undergoing major stress...

Because we wanted the children to see and experience their roots, their kin, the pleasures and frustrations that we know from having lived there for many years of our youth...Most of all, for them to know that "family" is not just the four of us, but grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins ... 2nd or 3rd removed, thru marriage or just because they fall somewhere on the intertwined branches of our family trees. In short, that they, and we come from a long, long line of people before us.... and these connections are an inseparable part of who we are.

We could move to Kochi because my husband created a viable position for him to practice his considerable skills as an academic physician in Kochi, where most of our families reside. Of course, life in Kochi is not all milk and honey! More like guns and roses!! At least, getting through the horrible traffic on the terrible roads (do we all remember Kerala politics?!!) often bring road rage but then getting Amma's luscious meals soothes the savage beast! And yes, the indifferent, ignorant and stubborn attitudes of workers and people are hard getting used to after the professionalism and efficiency seen in the US. Luckily, we have escaped (so far), the Indian bane of bribery and corruption, though we know it still exists. All these irritations are outweighed by the pleasure of hours spent laughing and living with our beloved family members.



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Though we moved bag & baggage in 2004, we are fortunate that through my husband's work, we have come to St Louis for a few weeks every year since. We love our life in St Louis, for reasons too numerous to count! Prominent among them are the dear friends that we have in this city. Another would be our desire for the children to know their American heritage and ethos too. Since last year, we have increased our time in St Louis. To our great good fortune, from this year, 2009, we can claim addresses in both USA and India now. Having been here for decade(s), this country has also made us grow and think, has given us freedom of thought, speech and action, welcomed our efforts for self sustenance in the manner set by its forefathers ... "come from wherever but flourish here based on your ability". Of course, it helps that the Midwest has some of the nicest people around! Though skeptics shake their head at our attempt to keep a foot in both places, we intend to keep trying! After all, the world is a smaller place to navigate these days. As for our children, they accept lives in both nations as a matter of course and so far have adapted wonderfully!

There are more and more of us moving back n forth for similar reasons. Contributing to this wave of change is the fact that it's possible to earn and live very well in India these days. Many feel too that they would like to contribute to India's development. And finally, the happy change in perspective that maybe relationships are what really give joy, rather than money!

So, when our hearts can't let go of those memories ... the sight of our green, green paddy fields, the chants from temple, mosque and church, the Onam Melas, sitting down to aromatic sadyas and biryanis among glittering, chattering folk, the first mango of the season, the monsoon torrents and steaming tea.... they need not always remain just in our thoughts. A little ingenuity might open up the door for you and your children to also make such priceless moments a part of your life.

Strangely enough, our life in India led us to more friendships around the world than we did when we had only been staying in the US. In numerous ways, many unexpected, our move has enriched our lives. Our leap of faith has given us the incredible experience of living in two wonderful worlds. Could this be in your future too...?

Contributed by Dev Vichu

Why did Nemo go to the bottom of the ocean?

Because he dropped out of school!

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## Manu and the Fish

Manu was washing his hands in the river one day when the waters brought to him a tiny fish. The fish begged him to save it, saying that it would return the favour one day.

Manu naturally asked the fish how it thought it could save him, and it replied that there was a great flood on the way, which would wash away all living things.

So Manu put the fish in a pot, but it outgrew that. He then moved it to a tank which too proved to be small. He then transferred the fish to a nearby lake. Soon the lake too was proving to be inadequate. Finally Manu moved the fish into the sea itself.

Once there, the fish advised Manu to build a boat, for the flood was coming. Manu complied and when the ship was built, the waters rose. The fish returned and towed the vessel by a cable fastened to its horn, thus saving Manu. The fish was Mahavishnu in his first incarnation as Matsya.

## A Helping Hand

A nurse took a tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside in a hospital. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the old man's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated, he dimly saw the young uniformed soldier standing beside him. He reached out his hand. The soldier wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the soldier could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young serviceman sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the soldier move away and rest awhile. He refused.

Now and then the nurse heard him say a few gentle words to the dying old man. The old man said nothing, only held his son's hand tightly all through the night.

Towards dawn, the old man died. The soldier released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited. Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the serviceman interrupted her.

"Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father" she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the soldier replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed."

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# Life in these United States of America . . .

## Comfort through the telephone?

By Kavita Menon

I always look forward to calling up India and talking to my kin. So does my husband. We call up every week and still there would be something my mom would want to tell me the next time I called up. Of course it's a week since I last called and she has her list ready – a new servant has been employed, somebody's birthday is coming up, a distant relative called and conveyed his regards etc., etc. Not that I do not enjoy listening to the little tidbits. I enjoy them so much that the day when she has nothing to say I prompt her to say something. I quiz her about the servants, our relatives, my brother, dad, and by then she would definitely come up with something new that I hadn't heard before.

Calls to my other relatives are not the same. I try to call up my cousins and friends whenever there is an event like a birthday, wedding or some festival. Sometimes I forget. Other times, mom's reminder comes as a help. 'Avade ellam sugam alhe?' 'Mon endu edakanu?' 'Climate enganu aanu? Tanap oondavum alle? Sushicha irikyanam'. These are some of the most common things they would say. Some questions they would ask became funny depending on when they were asked. For example, questions about meals, sleep times etc. always brought humor to the conversation. Breakfast time in India is usually dinner or past-dinner time for people here. Sometimes the kids are even asleep. So when questions like 'Have you finished your dinner?' and 'What was for dinner?' pop up it sounds funny. It is even more funny because they almost always forget the time difference between the two countries. And with the time change happening every six months it gets confusing for even our closest relatives to judge the difference in hours.



Approximately half the world has four seasons per year – spring, summer, fall and winter. The U.S. falls in that half. Depending upon the time of the year there are about ten and half to eleven and half hours of time difference between India and the United States. When it is Saturday morning in America, it is already Saturday night in India. So now when our relatives want to call and wish us on birthdays or for the anniversary, most of them now know that they should call up in the Indian evening when it would be morning for us. That way they would get to wish us on the day of the event (in both countries) and not the next day. It was not so straightforward earlier. Sometimes we would wake up in the wee hours of the morning to the sound of the phone ringing, only to discover that the terrifying rings were from a well-meaning call to wish us on some event. Many a time, the calls were pretty late into the night. My relatives are very enthusiastic, and the calls sometimes exasperated my husband. But anyways, all is well that ends well.

(continued on page 32)



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## What is being offered?

Contributed by Kavita Menon

Once Lord Buddha allotted a day for collecting charity. He sat under a tree and began receiving gifts. King Bimbisara came and gifted him with lands, houses, and valuable properties. Then Prince Ajatashatru followed him and offered rich and valuable gifts. Then the grantees and other wealthy merchants offered nice items. Buddha accepted all their gifts by extending his right hand in token thereof.

Then an old shriveled woman came and said to him, "Lord, I heard about your appeal for charity only this morning. I am a poor old woman and have nothing. I was eating this pomegranate, and had eaten half when I heard the news. I had nothing else to give but this half pomegranate. So I brought it along. Please, Lord, accept this."

She looked at him appealingly. Buddha at once came down himself and accepted the gift with both hands, in deep gratitude.

Bimbisara, Ajatashatru, and all others were immensely surprised. "O blessed one," asked Bimbisara, "Why did you receive her gift with both hands, coming down yourself from your dais, when you took our gifts merely by extending your right hand?"

Lord Buddha replied, "Because King, she gave her all! The rest of you merely gave a fraction of what you have!!"

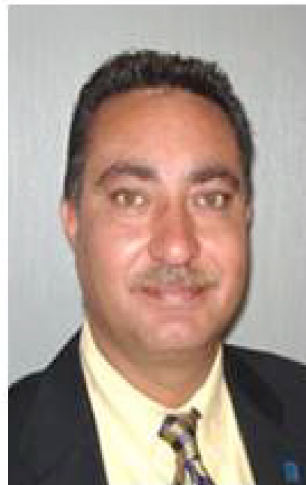
It doesn't matter how little one has. It doesn't matter how inexpensive the offering is. It is the love in the heart of the worshipper that's really makes the offering palatable to the Supreme Lord (Premnaiva Bhakta Hridyam Sukh Vidrutam Syat- Raya Ramanand).

With the increase in the usage of the Internet, it's easier, economical and convenient to communicate through chats and emails. The services provided by many of the websites are excellent and a lot of them are free of charge. Computers having become another necessity, many families in India now have it in their homes. And with Internet services becoming competitive, it didn't take long for my parents to sign up. It did take a while though before they could do anything by themselves. The credit goes to my brother for teaching them. And it wasn't easy on any one of them. But they went through all that trouble so that they could use it to be in touch with us often. With it's advantages the Internet still has its set of problems. And with the passage of time it will perfect itself. But till then, whenever I feel like talking to my kin I have the telephone. The only thing I hope I don't run out of is my husband's patience.



Illustration by Maya Vijayan

Top 10 finalist in Missouri Department of Conservation Endangered Animal Postcard Contest



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# Kerala Corner

By Sudhir Kozhikkal

This is Ohmkaram's entertainment portal. Through this Google group, Ohmkaram plans to communicate with everybody who subscribes to any cultural events, entertainments, etc. in and around the St. Louis area.

Ohmkaram would like to encourage all its members to join this group, so that eventually all emails pertaining to Ohmkaram's events will be sent only through this group. This group is open to all, so one does not have to be a member of Ohmkaram to subscribe to it. Anyone interested in receiving emails from Ohmkaram regarding its events may join.

Another important point is that by maintaining a separate group (i.e., Kerala Corner) that is open to all, we can ensure the privacy of the Ohmkaram's members' Yahoo group, which will eventually become members only.

If you have registered already, thank you very much! If not, please send an email to [keral-acorner@googlegroups.com](mailto:keral-acorner@googlegroups.com) to join.

## Top 10 Malayalam Movies in 2009 (Highest Grossing)

Compiled by Vimal Nair

1. Pazhassi Raja

Starring: Dr. Mammooty, Sarath Kumar, Manoj K Jayan, Kanika Subramaniam, Padmapriya  
Music: Dr. Ilaiyaraaja

2. Harihar Nagar

Starring: Mukesh, Jagadish, Siddique, Ashokan, Lakshmi Rai  
Music: Alex Paul

3. Puthiya Mukham

Starring: Prithviraj Sukumaran, Bala, Priyaman, Meera Nandan  
Music: Deepak Dev

4. Ivar Vivahitharaya

Starring: Jayasurya, Bhama and Samvrutha Sunil  
Music: M. Jayachandran

5. Bhramaram

Starring: Mohanlal, Bhumi Chawla, Suresh Menon, Lakshmi Gopalaswamy  
Music: Mohan Sithara

6. Bhagyadevatha

Starring: Jayaram, Narain, Kanika, Innocent, Venu Nagavalli, Nedumudi Venu  
Music: Ilaiyaraaja

7. Robinhood

Starring: Prithviraj, Narain, Jayasurya, Bhavana, Biju Menon  
Music: M. Jayachandran

8. Passenger

Starring: Dileep, Sreenivasan, Mamta Mohandas, Lakshmi Sharma, Jagathy Sreekumar  
Music: Biji Bal

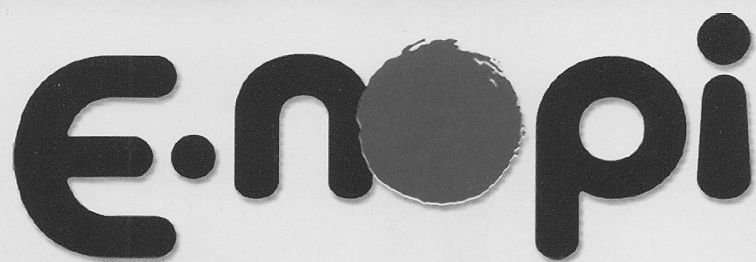
9. Makante Achan

Starring: Sreenivasan, Vineeth Sreenivasan, Suhasini, Salim Kumar, Jagathy Sreekumar

10. Loudspeaker

Starring: Mammooty, Gracy Singh  
Music: Biji Bal

Source: Internet



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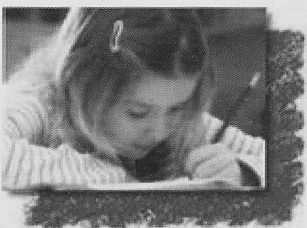
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# Numbers – India's Contribution to the World

By Dr. Sudhirdas Kumar Prayaga

Can you think of living a day without ever using numbers? In today's world we use it consciously and unconsciously in every aspect of our lives, not just for doing mathematics. The decimal number system now used across the world, which we take it for granted, is probably the most important contribution of India to the world. The invention of number system is equated with such feats as the mastery of fire, development of agriculture, or invention of wheel in the history of human kind.

It has its origins in the Brahmi numerals which were in existence since 3rd century BCE in India. Zero was introduced later, probably about 5th or 6th century CE. The decimal number system with the introduction of zero and place numbering greatly simplified arithmetic and probably lead to the acceptance and spread of this number system across the world.

The Hindu-Arabic numeral system, as it is called currently, has its origins in central and south India. Scholars from India introduced it in Persia, the present day Baghdad, about 8th century CE from where it spread to Europe and rest of the world. Because it was introduced to Europe by Arab scholars it got its current name as Arabic numerals.

Indians were very prolific in mathematics and astronomy since ancient time. Probably the oldest mathematical work is from India call Baudhāyana Śulbasūtra (~800 BCE), written by Baudhayana Maharishi. One of his sutra describes what we call today as 'Pythagoras theorem', many centuries before Pythagoras. Since modern science texts are written by western Europeans who have no knowledge of the contributions of Indians, due credits are not given.

The great Mathematician & Astronomer Aryabhata (476-550 CE) in his great works Aryabhatiyam and Aryabhata Sidhandaham explains the use of trigonometric functions such as Sine and Cosine. He determined that the earth is round, rotates own its axis and revolves around the sun (many centuries before Copernicus). He made several astronomical measurements such as the diameter of earth, time of revolution of earth around sun, etc. with great accuracy. Although we do not have a clear account of his whereabouts to pin point where he lived, many evidence indicates that he may have lived in central Kerala, the present day Kodungallur.

Brahmagupta first described the rules governing the use of zero, negative numbers and elementary arithmetic operations in his book Brahmasputha Siddhanta (628 CE), which we still use today. He may very well be the inventor of zero, although there is no clear evidence to support it.

Bhaskaracharya (Bhaskara I), a contemporary of Bhramagupta, (600-680 CE) was another great Indian mathematician who have made considerable contributions to the study of fractions. He was also an Astrological scholar and a proponent of Aryabhata's Astrology.

He is also believed to have lived in Kodungallur in Kerala. Chera Dynasty which ruled Kerala till about 12th century CE, probably the golden age in the history of Kerala, had their capital in Kodugallur. These scholars probably were under the patronage of Chera kings.

There were many other Mathematicians and Astronomers during the classical period of India, who contributed considerably to our understanding. Because modern education system was developed mostly by Western Europeans, including British and other Colonial invaders, the contributions by Indians were largely ignored or not understood. May be it is time we recognize our heritage and give due credits to our ancestors for their inventions and discoveries.

Reference: The Universal History of Numbers, by Georges Ifrah.





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# തീരാത്ത ചിന്തകൾ

Contributed anonymously

ചിന്തകൾ - ചിന്തിച്ചാൽ ഒരു അന്തോം ഇല്ലാ  
...ചിന്തിച്ചില്ലേൽ ഒരു കുന്തോം ഇല്ലാ

ട്രയിൻ ടിക്കറ്റ് എടുത്തു പ്ലാറ്റ്ഫോമിൽ ഇരിക്കാം...  
എന്നാൽ പ്ലാറ്റ്ഫോം ടിക്കറ്റ് എടുത്ത് ട്രയിനിൽ ഇരിക്കാൻ പറ്റുമോ?  
പറ ഉണ്ണിയണ്ണാ ...ഇൻ്റെങ്ങു തന്നെ പറയീൻ

ഉയരം കുറവാണെങ്കിൽ ഹൈ ഹീൽ ഇട്ടു ഉയരം അഡ്ജസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്യാം.  
..എന്നാൽ ഉയരം കൂടുതലാണെങ്കിൽ ലോ ഹീൽ ഇട്ടു ഉയരം കുറക്കാൻ പറ്റുമോ?

കൊതുകു കടിച്ചാൽ ടോർടോയിസ് കത്തിച്ചു വെക്കാം...  
എന്നാൽ ടോർടോയിസ് കടിച്ചാൽ കൊതുകു കത്തിച്ചു വെക്കാൻ പറ്റുമോ?

കൊതുകു നിന്നെ കടിച്ചു രക്തം കുടിക്കും ..എന്നാൽ നിനക്ക്  
കൊതുകിനെ കടിച്ചു രക്തം കുടിക്കാൻ പറ്റുമോ?

ടീ-കപ്പിൽ ടീ ഇരിക്കും, എന്നാൽ  
വേൾഡ് കപ്പിൽ വേൾഡ് ഇരിക്കുമോ?

ഉറങ്ങുന്നതിനു മുൻപെ ഉറങ്ങാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നു പറയാം..  
പക്ഷെ ഉണരുന്നതിനു മുൻപെ ഉണരാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നു പറയാമോ?

ഇന്നു ഉറങ്ങിയാൽ നാളെ എഴുന്നെൽക്കാം, പക്ഷെ  
നാളെ ഉറങ്ങിയാൽ ഇന്നു എഴുന്നെൽക്കാൻ പറ്റുമോ??

നീ ഏതു വില കൂടിയ മൊബൈൽ മേടിച്ചാലും, അതു എത്ര  
റീ-ചാർജ് ചെയ്യാലും, നിനക്കു നിന്നെ തന്നെ വിളിക്കാൻ പറ്റുമോ??

ജോലി തീരണമെങ്കിൽ ഇതു വായിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കാം, എന്നാൽ  
ഇതു വായിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ ജോലി തീരുമോ??



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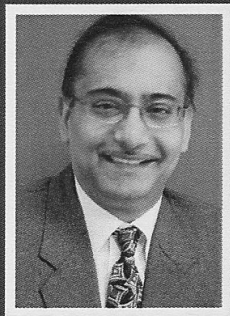
## Indian Restaurants in the St. Louis Area

| Name                                  | Address                                          | Phone Number   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Baba's Restaurant                     | 10282 Page Avenue<br>Overland, MO 63132          | (314) 427-8500 |
| Bombay Grill                          | 20 Crossroads Plaza<br>O'Fallon, MO 63368        | (636) 272-3070 |
| China In Bombay                       | 14626 Manchester Road<br>Winchester, MO 63011    | (636) 386-8320 |
| Curry In A Hurry                      | 235 Chesterfield Mall<br>Chesterfield, MO 63017  | (636) 532-8818 |
| Curry In A Hurry                      | 612 Olive Street<br>St. Louis, MO 63101          | (314) 241-7900 |
| Delicious, Hygienic North/South Meals | 1028 Raritan Drive<br>St. Louis, MO 63119        | (530) 570-3064 |
| Flavor of India                       | 11939 Olive Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63141     | (314) 997-4224 |
| Gokul Snacks & Sweets                 | 10633 Page Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63132         | (314) 428-8888 |
| Govinda's Vegetarian Restaurant       | 3926 Lindell Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63108    | (314) 535-8085 |
| Haveli Indian Restaurant              | 9720 Page Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63132          | (314) 423-7300 |
| Hot Punjabi Kitchen                   | 127 Steamboat Lane<br>Ballwin, MO 63011          | (502) 472-2007 |
| House of India                        | 8501 Delmar Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63124     | (314) 567-6850 |
| India's Kitchen                       | 14222 Manchester Road<br>Ballwin, MO 63011       | (636) 394-2911 |
| India's Rasoi                         | 4569 Laclede Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63108       | (314) 362-6911 |
| Indian Food                           | 8629 Olive Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63132      | (314) 991-9999 |
| Island Cafe (S & N) Indian Catering   | 9600 Natural Bridge Road<br>St. Louis, MO 63134  | (314) 443-4544 |
| Lal Qila                              | 15222 Manchester Road<br>Ballwin, MO 63011       | (636) 527-4717 |
| Mayuri India Restaurant               | 12513 Olive Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63141     | (314) 576-7272 |
| Priya Indian Cuisine                  | 1910 McKelvey Road<br>Hazelwood, MO 63043        | (314) 542-6148 |
| Raj's Rasoi                           | 2286 McKelvey Road<br>Maryland Heights, MO 63043 | (314) 576-6666 |
| Saffron Indian Cuisine                | 2137 Barrett Station Road<br>St. Louis, MO 63131 | (314) 965-3822 |
| Taj Palace                            | 92 Thf Boulevard<br>Chesterfield, MO 63005       | (636) 728-1000 |
| Taste of India                        | 3279 Hampton Ave<br>St. Louis, MO 63139          | (314) 646-8488 |

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# How Mahavishnu saved the Universe...

Contributed by Kavita Menon

Brahma, the creator of the Universe, tired after a full day's work, was almost asleep. It was rare for Brahma to sleep because when he did the whole Universe – animate and inanimate – got destroyed. Then the Vedas, which stayed safely lodged in Brahma's body, were required for the creation of the Universe. But when Brahma yawned that day, the Vedas flowed out of his mouth. Brahma had been too sleepy to notice this catastrophe, but a cunning demon named Hayagriva, determined to become eternal by any means, had been hanging around and immediately gulped the Vedas down. Without the scriptures Creation would be impossible. Mahavishnu, watching all this, decided to act.

As Vishnu was wondering about what could be done, he noticed King Satyavrata making the ritual offering of water to God. Vishnu immediately assumed the form of a fish. As Satyavrata scooped water from the flowing river, he spied a tiny fish in the water that he had scooped. When he tried to put it back into the river, the fish entreated the King not to do so as it would be eaten up by the big fish in the river. Satyavrata took the fish into his water urn and went back to his hermitage. Overnight, the fish grew too big to be in the urn.

The next morning when the King looked it up, the fish requested to be removed to a larger vessel. Satyavrata did so but soon the fish became too big for the larger vessel as well. Addressing the King, the fish said that the King should find a suitable living space for it. Satyavrata then emptied the vessel into a large pond along with the fish. But, in no time the fish grew as large as the pond and filled it. Then the fish exhorted the King to take it to a large and deep lake. Although Satyavrata took it to several lakes, one larger than the other, the fish kept growing bigger and bigger. It went on asking for larger and larger living space.

Satyavrata got vexed and decided to put it into the ocean. When he reached the ocean, the fish addressed him thus: "O! King, do not put me into the ocean, I am sure to be swallowed by the gigantic creature there." Satyavrata became suspicious now. In a flash, he realized that it was Lord Vishnu in the form of the fish. Satyavrata immediately prostrated himself before the fish and prayed to be told why God had appeared in the form of the fish. The Lord told his devotee, "Just a week from now, the ocean will rise and inundate the entire Universe. At that time you will see a spacious boat approaching you. Collect all the seeds, plants and animals required for the next spell of creation and get into the boat and wait for me. Take Vasuki, the King of Serpents, with you. The seven Sages will also be with you".

The fish left for fulfilling its mission. Hayagriva, the demon, saw the gigantic fish approaching him and was overtaken by fear. He held the Vedas tightly in his mouth. But soon the divine fish slew him and recovered the Vedas and restored the Vedas to Brahma for him to resume the function of Creation at the appropriate time.

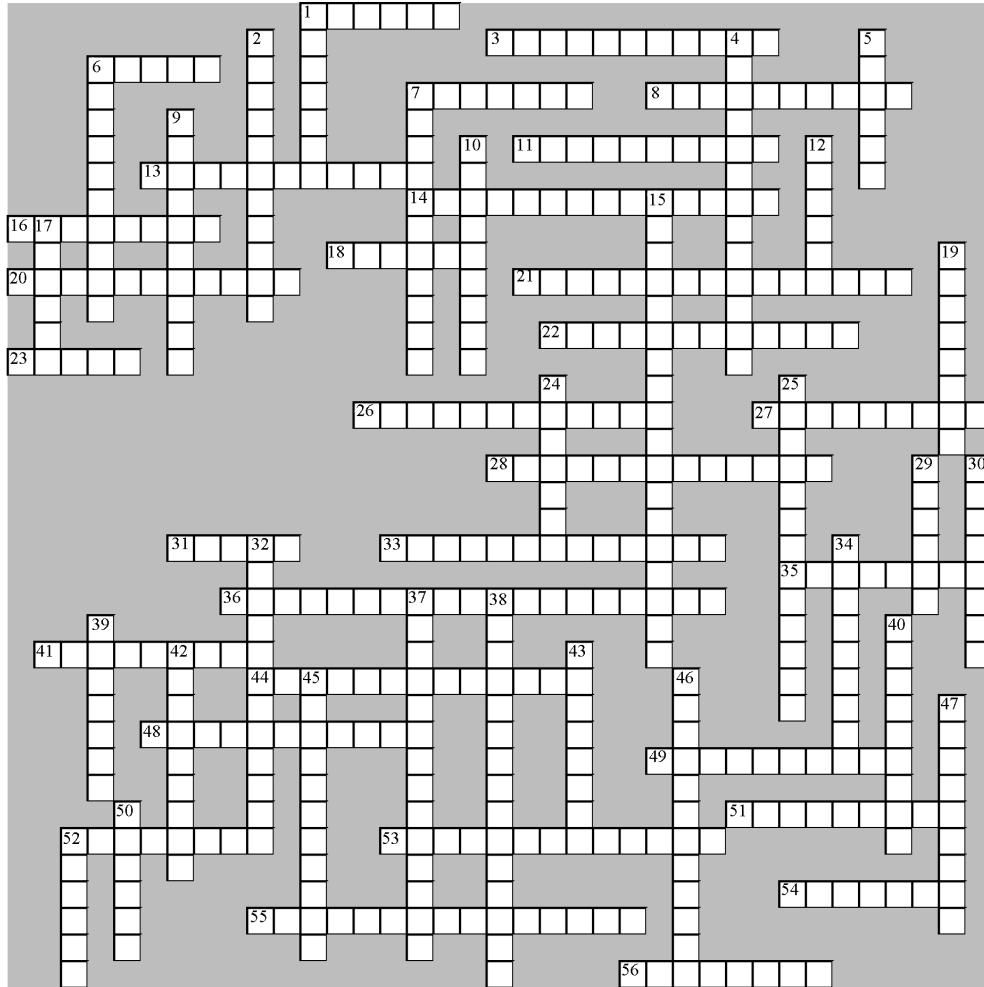
As foretold by the divine fish, a huge flood followed and on the turbulent waters, a boat appeared. Satyavrata, the seven Sages and all the living creatures found haven in the boat. The fish in the color of gold and now with a horn came by and ordered that the boat be tied to its horn using Vasuki the serpent as a rope. While the boat floated safely on the rising and enveloping waters, Vishnu gave Satyavrata the knowledge he would require for his role as Manu, proto-Adam, in the next cycle. Thus, came the Matsya Avatar by which Mahavishnu saved the universe from a disastrous calamity.

This version of the Matsya Avatar is as told in the Bhagavata Purana. Some other mythological texts have a slightly different version.



# Kerala Facts

By Latha Unni



## Across

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Panchavadyam instrument    | 28 Chief minister        |
| 3 Pooja lamp                 | 31 Vishu flower          |
| 6 Port                       | 33 % population          |
| 7 Fasting in honor of Vishnu | 35 Science of life       |
| 8 Capital                    | 36 Celebrity             |
| 11 Sadya dessert             | 41 1991 second best film |
| 13 Male dress                | 44 Longest river         |
| 14 Elephant pageants         | 48 Warrior sage          |
| 16 Palakkad college          | 49 Number of taluks      |
| 18 Ernakulam village         | 51 Dance                 |
| 20 Poet                      | 52 Hill station          |
| 21 2007 popular movie        | 53 Beach                 |
| 22 Devadasi dance            | 54 A sanctuary           |
| 23 Medam 1st                 | 55 Onam dance            |
| 26 Temple music              | 56 Number of districts   |
| 27 Language                  |                          |

## Down

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Famous beach          | 37 Waterfall           |
| 2 House boat            | 38 Olympic long jumper |
| 4 2004 best actress     | 39 Palakkad village    |
| 5 Athlete               | 40 Vishu tradition     |
| 6 Flag hosting ceremony | 42 Chenda              |
| 7 Historian             | 43 Export              |
| 9 Border                | 45 State income        |
| 10 Number of rivers     | 46 Spirit of the deity |
| 12 Sadya fruit          | 47 Airport             |
| 15 2008 best film       | 50 Spice               |
| 17 Wildlife             | 52 Ritualistic dance   |
| 19 Weather              |                        |
| 24 1971 best actor      |                        |
| 25 Martial art          |                        |
| 29 Export               |                        |
| 30 Plate                |                        |
| 32 Airport              |                        |
| 34 Temple               |                        |

Solution on page 47



Name  
That  
Fish!

By Samir Unni

Clue: the fish names are in English.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| f | a | l | s | e | t | r | e | v | a | l | l | y | a | o | n | t | s |
| b | u | d | a | d | h | o | p | m | f | r | e | t | t | i | a | t |   |
| p | m | t | u | v | r | b | o | h | e | e | h | n | o | l | l | n | u |
| s | i | u | s | c | e | h | s | c | o | c | h | p | a | m | c | o | s |
| u | l | p | r | y | a | r | g | n | i | t | s | p | o | h | u | a | i |
| r | k | n | e | w | d | r | t | a | u | l | i | n | g | s | s | h | t |
| u | f | w | o | f | f | r | r | n | r | a | f | e | a | i | n | l | u |
| l | i | s | t | a | i | e | a | a | i | t | n | m | l | f | a | p | o |
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| s | h | a | a | o | b | p | h | d | u | l | e | b | a | e | e | a | g |
| m | a | c | k | e | r | e | l | n | n | r | g | u | w | e | h | t | s |
| i | y | r | a | c | e | d | r | i | m | n | r | l | s | e | f | s |   |
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| t | e | i | t | t | y | e | e | v | r | h | o | w | m | r | s | f | l |

Solution on  
page 47

കടൽ കുതിര      കോര/കാല      കിളിമീൻ      അയല      പരവ

മത്തി/ചാള      അയ്യൂര      വട്ട      ആകോലി      കണവ      മുഷി

നെയ്മീൻ      തിരണ്ടി      ശീലാവ്

കുരി      ആവോലി      പാല      പൂമീൻ

കരിമീൻ      വരാൽ      വാള      ചൂര

കാരി      കൊഴുവ      കേരള കരിമീൻ      രോഹു

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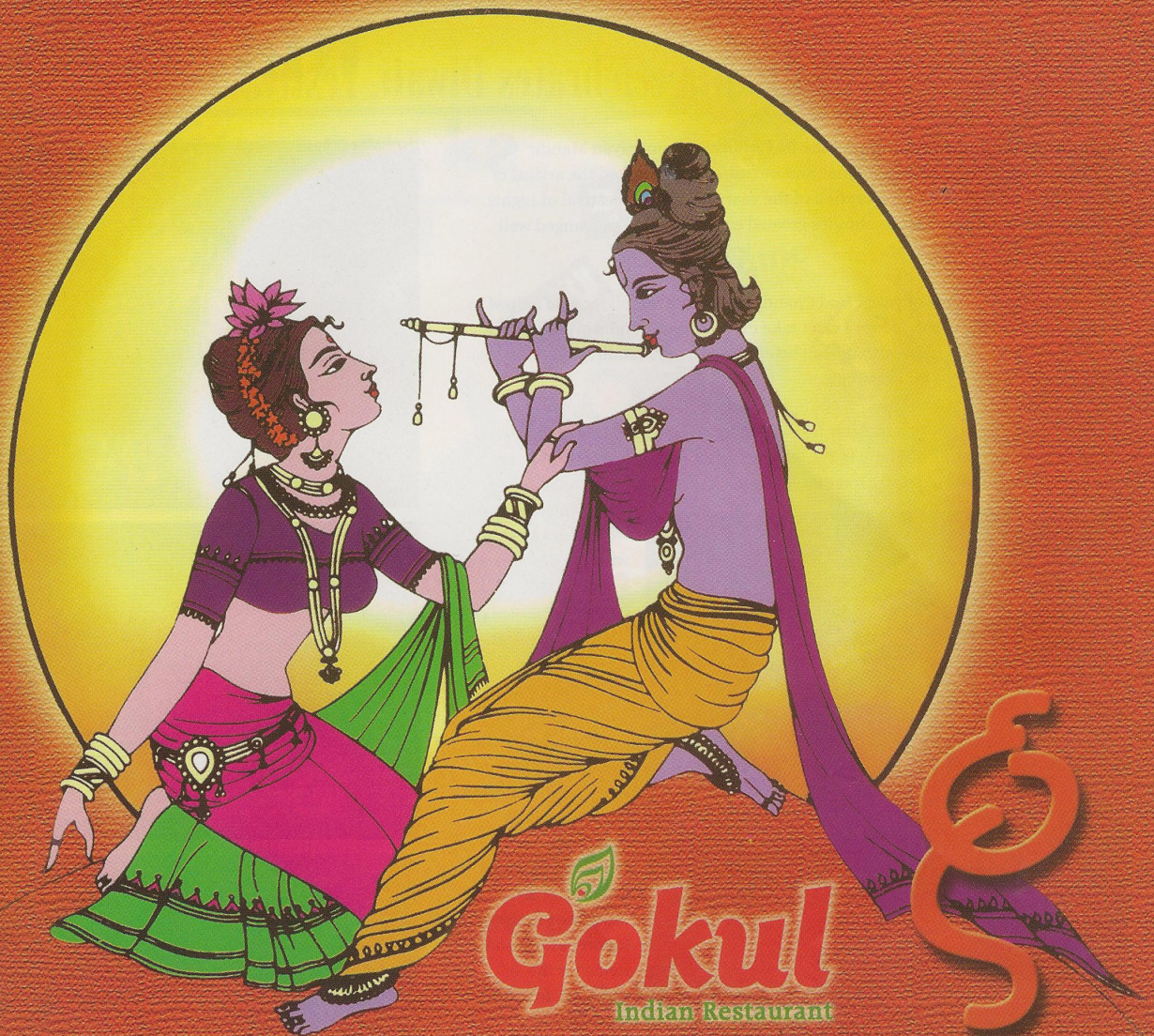
## Indian Grocery Stores in the St. Louis Area

| Name                             | Address                                             | Phone Number   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 786 Pakistani-Indian Halal Meats | 13007 Olive Boulevard<br>St Louis, MO 63146         | (314) 439-5599 |
| Akbar Grocery                    | 10606 Page Avenue<br>St Louis, MO 63132             | (314) 428-1900 |
| Ambica Foods                     | 12264 Saint Charles Rock Road<br>Bridgeton, MO 6304 | (314) 344-1999 |
| Asian Spices                     | 1928 McKelvey Road<br>Maryland Heights, MO 63043    | (314) 397-4331 |
| Global Foods Market              | 421 North Kirkwood Road<br>Kirkwood, MO 63122       | (314) 835-1112 |
| India Bazar                      | 10755 Page Avenue<br>St Louis, MO 63132             | (314) 423-5900 |
| Indian Market                    | 1395 Triad Center Drive<br>St Peters, MO 63304      | (636) 794-6196 |
| Jay International                | 3172 South Grand Boulevard<br>St Louis, MO 63118    | (314) 772-2552 |
| Mid East Market                  | 14345 Manchester Rd<br>Ballwin, MO 63011            | (636) 230-7018 |
| Mideast Market                   | 2429 Highway K<br>O'Fallon, MO 63368                | (636) 410-6409 |
| S & E Indian/Asian Grocery Store | 2294 McKelvey Road<br>Maryland Heights, MO 63043    | (314) 452-8201 |
| Seema Enterprises                | 14238 Manchester Road<br>Manchester, MO 63011       | (636) 391-5914 |
| Seema Enterprises                | 10635 Page Avenue<br>St.Louis, MO 63132             | (314) 423-9990 |
| Spice Bazaar                     | 3449 Phesant Mdw Dr, S #106<br>O'Fallon, MO 63366   | (636) 294-3716 |
| Spices & More                    | 13007 Olive Boulevard<br>St Louis, MO 63141         | (314) 439-5599 |
| St. Louis Halal Market & Grocery | 10276 Page Avenue<br>Overland, MO 63132             | (314) 427-8500 |

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| Barb Woodham (RE/MAX Prop.)                   | 16100 Swingley Ridge Road<br>Chesterfield, MO 63017     | 52          |
| Bhasin Associates                             | 3939 Secretariat Drive<br>Florissant, MO 63034          | 27          |
| Charles W Guill (AAA Insurance)               | 15480 Clayton Road<br>Ballwin, MO 63011                 | 21          |
| Charles Isaac (Hanoah Real Estate)            | 6243 Walsh Street<br>St. Louis, MO 63109                | 37          |
| Des Peres Family Dentistry                    | 12360 Manchester Road<br>St. Louis, MO 63131            | 25          |
| Enopi                                         | 13416 Clayton Road<br>St. Louis, MO 63131               | 35          |
| Flavor of India                               | 11939 Olive Boulevard<br>St. Louis, MO 63141            | 29          |
| Global Foods Market                           | 421 N. Kirkwood Road<br>Kirkwood, MO 63122              | 18          |
| Gokul                                         | 10633 Page Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63132                | 51          |
| Goldsmith Insurance                           | 9801 Fall Creek Road, #171<br>Indianapolis, IN 46256    | 4           |
| India Market                                  | 1395 Triad Center Drive<br>St. Peters, MO 63376         | 39          |
| Kathy Bresnahan<br>(Sandy Bender Real Estate) | 4400 Laclede Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63108              | 8           |
| Kumar Consulting                              | 16024 Manchester Road<br>Ellisville, MO 63011           | 31          |
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| Metlife Auto Insurance                        | 10542 Page Avenue<br>St. Louis, MO 63132                | 21          |
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