

## Chapters & Indexes

### The Scene & Background

Onam, Onam procession, celebration, Maveli

### A splendid spectacle in the waters!

Kera, Keralam, tree of Life, Toddy shops, police constables

### A typical Evening in the village

Drunkards in ditches, the lives of alcohol addicts, miseries perpetuated, domestic violence

### Water, Water everywhere!!

The scenes, water logged villages, life, affinity to water, the indispensable Vallams for transport

### The Kuttanaadu Basin

Vembanadu lake, canals & waterways, Ekkal, paddy fields, farmers

### The Monsoons & floods

The bleak and miserable days of Monsoons, marooned & isolated villages

**The great human Endeavor!**  
**Reclamation & Development of land for Rice cultivation**  
**A glowing tribute to the forefathers for their legacy**

The great land reclamation project, the indomitable spirit, adventure, transformation of the region  
the social systems & cooperation created, risks faced; the monumental legacy passed on;  
unsung heroes, the resourceful indigenous people; mechanization & displacement of workers



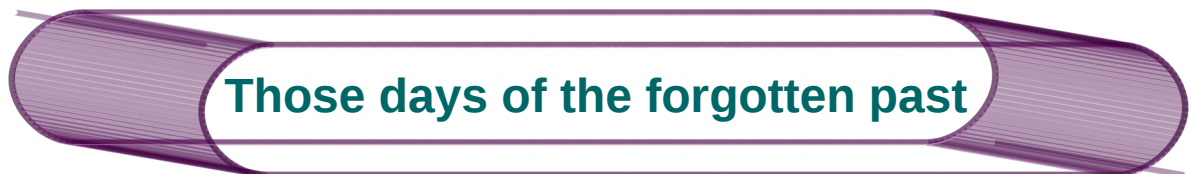
**Retraival by the Government**  
**Plight of Farmers**



The government, the menace; destructive policies & actions, ramifications, plight of entrepreneurs  
The revolutionary government, wrecking institutions & systems; sowing seeds of chaos &  
anarchy perpetuating poverty, destitution, stagnation & backwardness of the great state

**The Magnificent Vembanaadu Kerala**  
**The picturesque port city, Kochi**

The Queen of the Arabian sea, seat of highest justice, education, business, industry  
shipbuilding, transportation, naval base; the delta, palm groves, causeways & bridges  
bustling, residential, international, cosmopolitan, progressive; beautiful!



Vallams, custom made for different applications, effective & important for transportation  
Life stories of the Vallam punters, cargo transporters, the lonely oarsman's songs

**The "Ulbhavam, Genesis of "God's own Country"**

The 'beginning', evolution, cosmic activities, 'Yugams'

## A PRIMAL CHAOS BEFORE CREATION !



The Sun, solar flares, “big bang”, cosmic cycles, origin of DNA, Life on earth  
Parasuraam, Keralam, how were all of them formed?



*From the mind of a child who was seeking  
truth, meaning and righteousness*

Folklore, the 'Paathalam', the doomed abysmal dungeon, anxiety & fear created in the minds  
sins & atonements, the Saints & the holy, devils, gods & demigods, causing a confused state of mind  
in children; Life in the extended family; A defining moment of faith & belief

## THE JOYFUL FESTIVAL SEASON

The most joyful time in the Kuttanaadan villages follows the rice harvest  
and cessation of all agricultural activities

## Early preparation before the VallamKali

The village comes together for the communal festival season, Onam & Vallam Kali  
treating the Chundan ready for races

*The making of a Chun-dan-Va-llam, the race boat  
A tribute to the “Ashaari” the carpenter who design and build the Chundan*

From a tree in the forest to a proud treasure of the entire village, the art, precision, skill &  
dedication with which the master carpenter go about his task

# The ceremonious launching of the Chundan Vallam

The entire village gathers to attend rituals, ceremonies, the excitingly eventful ChendaMelam, and the launch comparison of music & instruments with those of the Western. The women folks, pride of humanity, poem "oh, Eves!"; the inspirational principal of the convent college

## The training for the races

The traditional communal Sadhya, training & practice for the races  
The versatile and facetious "Kavi" Kunjan Nambiar, also an inimitable 'Mizhavu' player

## Categories of participating Vallams, The race boats

Chundan, Vaippu, Oaadi, Churulan, IruttuKuthi, Kochu Vallam, Women's boat races, different shapes, styles, color, character, speed, traditions, number of paddlers, prestige, pride & attractions

## The grand arrival of the enthusiastic spectators

Festive & boisterous crowd arriving in flotilla, by many other means  
all determined to enjoy the races and other cultural events

## The sights & sounds In and around the race course

The magnificent ambiance, exuberance, expectations & the biggest regatta in the world  
The panorama of sceneries, backgrounds, blending of people & nature in the natural settings

# The organization & preparation The staged and orchestrated activities

The extraordinary arrangements and efforts needed to stage the event

## A 'Cultural Heritage' Show!

Enactment & staging of various cultural art forms in traditional setting and meaning  
The destructive Hartals, chaotic governance, appalling law & order situation improving transport infrastructure, amenities

## The importance played by the Malayalee Diaspora

The spirit, sacrifices & contribution made by the expatriate community the so called NRI  
The exceptional role of the the nursing community expanding new horizon and avenues



## The psyche of Keralites

Major distinctions in perception, thought processing, philosophies in different cultures

## A Mecca of Opportunities

New opportunities of many kinds open up; need to make certain changes to capitalize  
Understanding the dynamic world & changing world order

# AROUND THE VENUE

Many things to see, participate, enjoy and experience, not be just a spectator!

**Topics, conjectures, science & culture**

**Discussions & interaction between people**

The distinctions between paddling, rowing, sculling

**The pavilion & Reception center**

The decorated pavilion, the traditional greeting rituals, beautiful receptionists dressed in gilded Saree, hair-tops, ornaments, bangles & adornments offering garlands & “Namasthe”

**The television Broadcast operations**

**An informative & in-depth technical Analysis**

The elaborate set up for the satellite broadcast operations  
The video, audio, sound, graphics, technology, commentary, automation, coordination

**The preview & hype before the races**

The preview and grand introduction of boats-description, No. of paddlers, track record, the village representing, the location, the people, boat captains, odds of winning, the sponsors, etc

*The Malayalee diaspora gather to watch the race on satellite Television*

Gathering of the international expatriate community from different countries, cultures & religions, enjoying the race and potluck dinner in a relaxed, casual, cordial settings

*The Race starts!*

The details of the race, the course, distance, time needed

**THE RUNNING COMMENTARY**

The exciting commentary by specialists, color, analytical, science commentators, play by play, boat by boat, spot by spot, scene by scene, statistics, actions, projections the poet describing the scenes, beauty of the nature, the suspense & ecstasy of the boisterous crowd

**TRIP to the Vallamkali  
a nostalgic recollection**

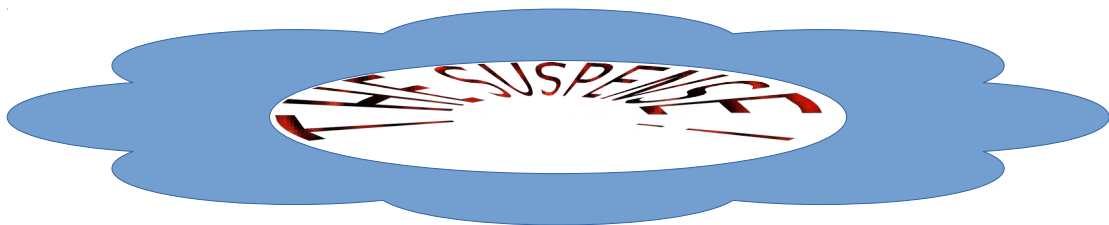
Reminiscing on the trips to VallamKali as a child

*The sombre scene*

The close finish, the uncertainties, the nerve racking wait

# A FUTURISTIC Master plan

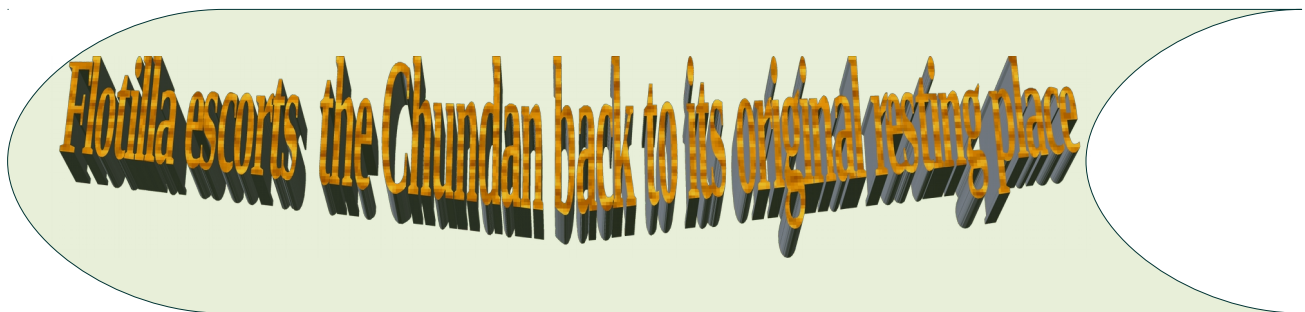
An elaborate plan & proposal for the revitalization, beautification of a sustainable, vibrant Vembanaadu region with Renewable Energy, marine research & technology complexes, marina, fishing, residential /industrial/commercial/agricultural centers, parks, recreation & amenities centers  
The end of 'current cut'! Prosperity to the people & farmers at the same time!!



The horrible, unbearable delay in announcing official results, the edgy crowd



The pictures tell the story!



The triumphant journey home, celebrations along the way



## The Final Chapter

The veneration & coronation

staging of the triumphant Chundan

The Chundan floats in majestic state, the proud village celebrate the victory with ChendaMelam  
PanchaVadhyam, fireworks, in great jubilation and veneration  
The Chundan earns a well deserved rest until the time for the next race in the coming year!

