



**Athirapally:  
A Heaven  
on Earth**

**PAGE 2**



**India's first  
female  
farrier**

**PAGE 3**



**In  
conversation:  
Sumesh  
Sundar**

**PAGE 4**

## Increase in online frauds during lockdown



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**Gayathri R**

The data provided by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), it can be seen that in September, transactions depended on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) hit a volume of over 180 crores — nearly double the 99.9 crores volume recorded in April. Total transactions have additionally reached Rs. 3,29,027 crores. Platforms including Google Pay, Paytm, and PhonePe have also seen a significant increase in their transactions. So as a result, scams have also increased.

Despite the growth in the digital transactions, virtual job offers and new users making cashless payments, there has been a lack of awareness among the people and about digital literacy in the country. This is resulting in issues like KYC updation frauds, job frauds and many such online frauds. Digital payments platforms the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs

are using their social media channels to make people aware of financial attacks that are called mishing, phishing, and smishing in cybersecurity terms.

Law enforcement agencies in the country are also issuing advisories to prevent digital payment frauds in the country. But the way people are hiding behind the screens and victims who get trapped not reporting the cases, makes it difficult for the authorities to take action.

Keerthy, a housewife from Kerala, had seen an online advertisement about a job that ensured a very good pay. She talked to them and they had sent tons of proof to show that they were genuine. After completing her work, she still hasn't been paid for the work. Instead, they have snatched an amount from her in the name of security charges. "Things were not so good in my house. We were in need of money, so I thought of helping my husband in any ways that I can," she said. Similar was the case for

Joseph, a retired employee of a private firm. He received calls and messages from an unknown number and asked about his details to verify KYC to Paytm and this led to him losing thousands.

Many have fallen for such traps especially India's older generation. They are easily traced and made prey. According to experts, the number of such incidents is on the rise in the wake of COVID-19, since most part of one's life is virtual nowadays. Gift cards from sites like Amazon, Flipkart etc appear to be a popular way for the scammers to spend the money. They can then be used later or even sent to others in order to make it harder to track the people behind the scam.

Online financial, job frauds and digital payment scams are not exactly new in the country, there are even cases where the scammers have targeted well-known and influential people as well.

## Rise in drunk driving in Guwahati

**Haptarshi Roy Saikia**

As per the ministry's data, 12,256 road accidents occurred in 2019 which were related to drunk driving. Guwahati, the metro city of Assam has seen a rise in drink and driving cases in the recent years. There is no severe action taken against people caught in drunk driving. This is because the patrolling officers are not doing their duties as per procedure and hence lets the law breakers escape easily with a small fine on spot without any challan records.

According to law, when a person under the influ-

ence of alcohol hits another vehicle, the accused has to go through a procedure where his/her vehicle gets seized as well as their driving license and that they have to visit court hearings and pay a hefty amount for the release of the vehicle and for their Driver's License to be released, sometimes it also leads to the cancellation of the Driver's License depending on how severe the accident was.

After speaking to Mr. Kulapradip Bhattacharyya, DSP of Namrup he mentioned that the problem in the rise in drunk and driving cases in Guwahati is because that the law offenders

are well aware of the fact that a general fine to the lower ranked officers would let them escape and that they do not really understand the value of money and the consequences that might come along if somebody is found driving under the influence of alcohol.

The only solution and message that Mr Kulapradip had was that "It is the duty of the parents to be strict towards their ward about drinking and driving and the consequences it has and make them understand that it is not only us the department of police and traffic that can resolve such an issue alone".

## Covid care robot to aid health workers

**Chanchal V**

Government medical college in Ernakulam in Kochi has deployed a robot to serve food and medicines to COVID-19 patients with an aim to reduce risk of infections for doctors and health workers.

The robot named KARMI-bot was given by Malayalam Actor Mohanlal's Viswasanthi Foundation to the Government Medical College in Kalamassery. The robot developed by ASIMOV Robotics, includes facilities like UV disinfection and targeted detergent spray to ensure sanitation and focused on cleanser splash to guarantee sterilization. According to information shared by the Actor on his

Facebook page, the robot will be used to transport food and medicine and dispense of the waste produced in the isolation ward housing the COVID-19 patients, to reduce human exposure to the virus. The KARMI-bot can carry a payload of up to 25kg of weight, the robot is capable of achieving a maximum speed of 1m per sec, has been customized to sterilize the environmental factors utilizing cleansers and bright beams. The robot was hand over to District Collector S. Suhas by the directors of Viswasanthi Foundation Major Ravi and Vinu Krishnan along with Jaya Krishnan, CEO of ASIMOV. The bot has been made in a manner that items used by the patients can be disinfected with

the help of UV radiation while the bot is transporting them back to the home saturation so that any other individual touching the things does not run the risk of contracting the disease. The KARMI-bot additionally has the element of focused sterilization splash. This can help significantly on the grounds that the isolation ward could contain the spilling of some bodily fluids like urine or vomit. Since the infection spreads from droplets, exposure to these fluids could be harmful for caregivers. The KARMI-bot could initially be sent into the ward for electrostatic spray, and then the human caregivers could go in after to take care of remaining things," Jaya Krishnan said.

## Athirapally: A Heaven on Earth

Chanchal V

Athirapally is the land of rivers, forests and great waterfalls. It is Kerala's most famous and largest waterfall at over 80 ft high. The sight of the water crashing onto the ground leaves you with a sense of wonder at the sheer power and magnificence of nature. This splendid waterfall is a delight to witness.

Athirapally Falls is a marvellous cascade of frothy waters that makes its way from the Anamudi mountains of the Western Ghats. Also called as Bahubali Waterfall, it is often referred to as the "Niagara Falls of India". From here, the Athirapally fall flows

through the verdant greenery of Vazhachal Forest towards the Arabian Sea, creating a spectacular vista of scintillating water, emerald jungles and azure sky. The sheer volume of the water that flows down the mountains is overwhelming and tranquilizing at the same time. The cool breeze coupled with the gentle chirping of birds from the forest nearby is a welcome change from the din of city life, and you will thoroughly enjoy a trip here with friends and family. There is a pool above the falls where you can relax and unwind. To get a view of the waterfall, one needs to get down from the

mountain for about 100 meters. There is another waterfall on the way from Athirappilly to Vazhachal Falls, in close proximity to the road and is often called as "Charpa Falls". Another interesting fact to note is that the fall joins forces with the Chalakudy river before reaching its final destination into the Arabian sea. There are a couple of water theme parks on the way to Athirappilly called Silver Storm and Dream World and many resorts as well. The region experiences tropical weather the best time to visit here will be either monsoon or winters when the climate here remains pleasant.



Photo credit : Google

Tourists who are coming specially to see the Athirapally waterfall should visit here during the monsoon season to see it in full glory.

The Tourism Promotion Council of the district in collaboration with the administrative body of Athirapilly organises daily jungle safaris from Chalakudy to Malakkappara. The safari takes you on a

90 km tour across the Sholayar range through the rainforests of Kerala. The prominent attractions covered are Kauthuka Park, Thumboormuzhy Dam, Butterfly garden, Vazhachal falls, Athirapally falls, hills, valleys, rainforest full of resident wildlife and tea gardens. The scenic beauty of Athirapally falls has always been attractive to film-

makers. Famous songs like "Jiya Jale" from Dil Se and Aishwarya Rai's "Barso Re Megha" from the movie Guru have been shot here showing the beautiful views of the falls. More recently, song sequences for the film "Bahubali" were shot here as well. Some scenes of English movies Before the Rains and Pirate's blood are shot here as well.

## Paws: A roof for pets



Andrea Helder

In the year 2020 human beings have suffered a lot with covid-19. Likewise, animals also got abandoned due to the virus. The spread of fake news about getting viruses through dogs made it so difficult to for them survive. Number of abandoned dogs had tremendously increased during these situations.

A welfare organisation started to provide shelter and food for the local stray dogs with sufficient care and love. 'Paws Thrissur' is a certified association for sheltering local stray dogs in Thrissur, Kerala. They also ensure mandatory awareness programs about this situation and also orga-



Photo credit : Paws Thrissur

nise vaccination slots. Paws community was started by Preethi Sreevalsan who fought against many animal cruelties and has always ensured safety for animals. They also formulated anti-rabies vaccination camps and visited homes that contain more than two dogs to understand their difficulties and problems.

Paws is limited to an area for ensuring safety to all the stray dogs, but they are trying to reach out to get maximum amounts of donations and help

from the people, so that they can enhance their help. Paws Thrissur also preserved more than 1700 rescue activities, where they saved different kinds of animals. This community nursed more than 1000 animals by ensuring shelter and had conducted more than ten adoption drives in 2019. They also help to get foster homes for animals. Paws team is an organisation which shows how to build a good society by caring for each and every animal. This group of animal lovers are a true inspiration to the public.

## Increase in rape cases- Are Women Safe?

Marvi Muskan

Approximately 87 rape cases are registered daily in India according to NCRB data. Violence against woman is increasing day by day in India. Woman are viewed in different perspective for some they consider 'Ghar ki Lakshmi' while for others woman are an object.

Patriarchal society has changed to many extent today but why we are not able to put a full stop to crimes against woman, why is it increasing every passing generations. Unless and until there is a strong judiciary system in India which gives strict measures if crimes like rape happen there won't be a full stop to rape. Infact many don't even go to jail because of there political power and financial power. People are greedy and can excuse crime for some amount of money, people only



Photo credit : Google

realise the pain when it happens to them or there own family members. Women are restricted because of man's character and when woman rebel for their freedom and rights they are considered obnoxious.

Rapist see no age from months old baby to 90 year old grandmother, from city like Delhi to a small town in Haryana rapes can happen anywhere with anyone.

Today its not even safe for children's to go out and play, not safe for our grandparents to have a walk nor safe for any girl or middle age wom-

an to walk alone. Rape has no boundaries.

Waiting for the government to take any strict measures or waiting to have a strong judiciary system in India will take a long time. So one thing can be done is learning at least basic self defence, and also going out with safety like a small bottle of pepper spray. Also educating parents to liberate their children encouraging their daughters to learn self defence, also encouraging their sons to not objectify woman.

## Kalamassery authorities remain blind to garbage issues

Photo Credit : Imtias Iqbal



Chanchal V

As garbage piles up at north Kalamassery on the eastern side of NH 47, it seems there is no solution in sight for the waste disposal mechanism at Kalamassery Municipality. The dumping ground is turning out to be an eyesore for people entering the city even as the stench becomes unbearable for those living nearby. With the municipality, the biggest revenue-earning local self-body in the city with Lulu Mall and car showrooms coming under its purview, acting as a mute spectator, residents feel like being taken for a ride. "At times, the stench coming from the disposed waste is so severe that we can't even go anywhere near the area,"

lamented Soumya Shaji, a local resident. Municipal councillor Rukia Jamal said that no actions has been taken despite a notice from the parliamentary standing committee to remove plastic waste from the area. However, municipal chairperson Jessy Peter refutes the allegations. "Recently, plastic-cutting machines have arrived, which will bring some relief. These machines will cut the plastics and make them recyclable," she said, adding that the waste dumped by container trucks parked near Kalamassery added to the problem at hand. Shredding units were recently set up where household plastic waste collected by Kudumbashree workers are treated. The food waste generated within the mu-

nicipal area is being dispatched to the Brahmapuram treatment plant, said Peter. People dumping waste on the roadside are creating more problems. To track them, the municipality has taken steps to install 40 CCTV cameras across the place. "The municipality is set to complete the installation of CCTV cameras. Though cameras have been installed on the ground, it has not started functioning yet," said Peter. Former municipal chairman Jamal Manakkadan claimed that during the inauguration of the crematorium, which is situated on the ground where the plastic waste is piled up, they had removed all such garbage. Added Libin Chacko Kurian, who works in Kalamassery.

## Oli Aman Jodha : India's First Female Farrier

Andrea Helder

Oli Aman Jodha, 15 years old, native of Wayanad has set her history as the first female farrier in India. She has initiated her passion and enthusiasm towards horses from her childhood itself. Oli was gifted by two horses at the age of three, and they were named as Prithvyu Ved and Aman Chand. When she was nine years old, an outsider did the farrier for Aman Chand, and it did not go well. The horse got a serious injury, and he started bleeding from its hoof. Witnessing these circumstances paved the way for starting a carrier for fixing horseshoe.

Oli had to face a lot of dilemmas to reach out her goals. Because she was born in an orthodox Muslim family and she stepped out from her comfort zone to follow her passion. She got training sessions from Nepal at the age of nine under a famous horse farrier Thaj Khan. She also has a huge love for travel-



ling and she has travelled almost all of India.

As Oli's mother is a single parent, they had faced a lot of trouble and had to live in different places. There she explored their cultures and ideologies. Apart from horses, she is also obsessed with honeybees. As her interest expanded, she started doing beekeeping at the age of three and she was awarded the National award for beekeeping in 2017.

Oli is managing her studies with her passion. "I don't prefer studying on the boundaries of four walls," Oli said. Thus, she is doing her academics in a distant mode, along with her passion. She has registered for 10th board examination under the National Institution of Open Schooling (NOS) Oli Aman Jodha was granted a solicitation to

be a resource person in apiculture at Swaminathan Research Foundation, Wayanad.

At her younger age, she is working as a farrier, horse trainer and a riding master at Hyderabad polo and Riding Club (HPRC). Oli is also achieving mounted archery and excellences on horse polo riding. She is training to ride a camel these days. "It is more difficult to ride a camel than a horse", she added. She also takes free classes on beekeeping to the tribal village. When she completed the seventh standard, she got Thennithra Award, and got offers for joining the school. Oli had set up huge future plans, and one of the major plans is to start a veterinary hospital focusing on horses and their needs. Oli Aman also would love to explore the field of IAS and wanted to become the President of India. Currently, she is travelling through all the forests to explore and focusing her career along with the academics.

## Less hygiene maintenance in local shops

Marvi Muskan

As the world was stuck with covid-19 many new protocols came. One of the main protocols after lockdown is hygiene maintenance and to have at least one sanitizer in shops. The first few days people took it very seriously, but now except the shopping complex, supermarkets and few shops many shops are not following the protocols especially the local shops. Many shops do not to have sanitizer which is the bare minimum.

Many people are

seen complaining that they feel insecure and scared to go out and buy things because the shops are not that clean and the virus is still not over yet. What people don't realise is the possibility of getting infected by the virus, people even started to walk without a mask on.

There should be hand washing stations every kilo metre and if not the people the government should ensure every shop has sanitizer and are clean.

## Changing pub culture

Nitin Sharma

Massive changes are being experienced and incorporated in various pubs and restaurants post covid 19. Leading strata of urban population resides to young generation and they suspect pub and bar are the appropriate station where they can enjoy with lots of music with their favorite drinks. The protocols they need to adopt in their services which they provide to the public has drastically changed and has had a huge impact on their income. One of the major changes is that they need to restrict the number of

people they entertain and also, they need to maintain social distancing so they had to include new methods like pre-booking of seats or tables. The other changes include wearing masks at all times which may cause an uncomfortable situation as it is a place where food and drinks is served so

we need to break protocol and remove the masks. Another issue at hand is the use of the same utensils to serve the public. One after the other people are coming and going in the pubs and restaurants. Proper sanitization of the dishes that were used earlier must be done in order to avoid contamination

and spread of the virus. Thus, many changes have to be incorporated into the pub culture post covid 19 and they need to be aligned with the protocols given by the health department. This could change the pub culture forever but it is needed as it is in the best interest of the public health. If people flew to these pubs, it will definitely affect the entire population mainly on youth. Even though the curfew is still in action, it will be crucial and challenging for the pub owners to ensure the safety of people as well as to make a profit for themselves.

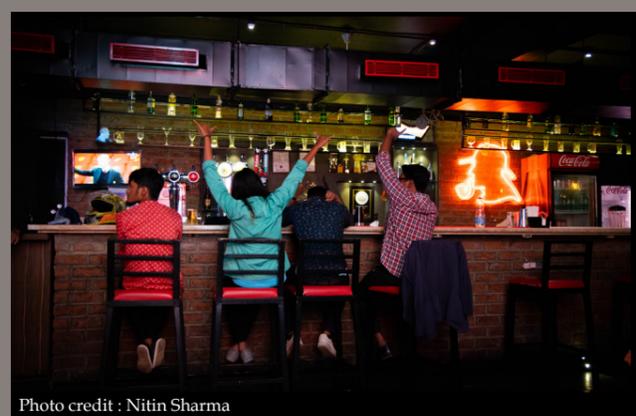


Photo credit : Nitin Sharma

## Suffering of the small scale shop owners



### Haptarshi Roy Saikia

The novel coronavirus and the lockdown measures incorporated by different governments had reshaped the world economy on a large scale. In India the decision of lockdown was imposed without any prior notice which left many small time business owners and employees in a state of shock as they were not prepared for such an unexpected situation. The central government imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 24, 2020 late in the evening. Due to this decision from the government, not only did large corporate sectors suffer a huge loss but also small time businesses and daily wage workers were the actual victims of the pandemic.

This story is about a small time bakery shop owner, Mr Satish Shetty who is the owner of Brahmalingeshwara Condiments Juice & Chats who suffered a major loss. Mr Satish mentioned that his shop was not allowed to re-open for a period of four months and that his only two employees left the job as he was not being able to provide them the required wage. He also mentioned that he faced

a loss of nearly 3.75 lakhs in total. He then decided on an alternative business which was delivering lunch boxes to the corporate employees working from home in his locality. After gathering more information from him, he told that he was well aware of the fact that the cops could file a complaint against him for going out in the streets and delivering food and he replied "I had no option as all my savings were declining towards the end of second month of lockdown and I had to make sure that I had enough money to at least feed my family."

Once the lockdown was over he noticed that the business was not running as usual and people were still afraid to visit bakery shops which made him worried as to how long it was going to take for the business to get back to normal. After two months of lockdown being released he says that the business is now slowly taking its pace and is getting back to normal but he still worries that such a devastating situation should never call upon anybody especially to people who are small time business owners.

### Gayathri R

Sumesh Sundar, a Thrissur based dancer who is the co-founder of the Dance Studio Myself and My Moves. He has been credited a lot for the changing dancing scenario in Kerala. Trained in various styles hip hop, locking, house, whacking, jazz, contemporary and many others, he is on his journey of spreading proper dance knowledge. His choreographies are unique and vibrant which is admired highly in the dancing community. With an increase in the fan following in such a short time, Sumesh Sundar talks about his journey and his goals as well.

### From an engineering student to dancer, how did this transition occur?

Engineering is actually the reason why I am now serious about dance. I was pretty stubborn that I would not take up engineering, I got there due to family pressures. Even though I used to dance as a kid in my school days, I wasn't very keen about it back then. It was during college time I got to know and learn a lot about the dance competitions and started participating in them. I did my engineering at Vidya Academy Thrissur and we formed our dance crew D' Addiction. After college I got placed at Bangalore and later in Mumbai, from there, I started attending various workshops and I learnt a lot about the dancing community. Slowly my networks started building and I got to know even more about it. Even then I never thought that dance would be my whole life, I just wanted it to be a part of my life. I would like to say I'm here by chance.

### How did you come up with Myself and My Moves?

I got to know more about dancing by travelling, attending a lot of workshops without even focusing on one particular style. I had attended Street styles, Ballet, Jazz and so many more. One thing that I noticed was everyone had their own unique way of teaching and expressing themselves through dance and I wanted to bring that to Kerala. It was hard to make everyone understand this concept here because everyone here had many presumptions



about western dance or it is rather called Cinematic dance here.

I had a clear plan to put this into shape, I got a lot of help from Kukku, Ramzan, Nasif, Shreejith Master who already were established dancers in Kerala and had a huge fan base, I also had Jishnu by my side. I conducted a few workshops which all were filled with students and I got to share my ideas with these students.

Slowly I started building up a dancing community, we interacted through WhatsApp groups, we would share about every event happening, update everyone and slowly we had a circle with people who were actually passionate about this. We had started MMM in 2016 and the studio was inaugurated shortly within a year.

With a short span you were able to get a huge fan base, you have produced a lot of beautiful artists out there. Were you expecting such a sudden growth? Of course, nothing was expected to go as planned. Maybe the concept of a dance community was the reason that it strikes between people. We only focused on providing a platform to learn for people, we never focused on any particular style. There are a lot of talented artists out there, we tried to bring them, conducted workshops. This all might be the reason why we got accepted but cannot really say in a short time, it might be a short time for someone who sees it from outside but I have struggled for a long time to bring things to where it is right now.

### All your videos are super hits. Did you put in a lot of effort to come up with such brilliant works?

To be frank, in our videos we just work on the choreography. We stick on to authentic styles House or Locking and choose regional songs. Our first video was on the song "Dosth" using Locking and house style. Then we did "Chandanamani", which was our career break. We did not expect so much reach, someone had put this up on TikTok back then and it got a lot of attention even without us knowing. To be frank, there was not much planning behind all this, it just happened without our knowledge.

How was this pandemic time for you? Was the shift from studios to mobiles and laptops hard for you? Even before the pandemic, we were plan-

ning to start online classes because we were getting a lot of enquiries. When the pandemic hit, we thought this was the right time to start online classes. But we were very unsure about how successful it would be.

We made different courses with different syllabus for everyone to choose from according to their ease. For dancers, this time was actually helpful but for the teaching field this was new, it's a bit hard and confusing but at the end we got a very positive response. Even though we do miss the vibe and experience at a studio. We got to learn from a lot of renowned artists. Since we were at home and we had the option to choose from the huge number of options that we had.

### Where do you see yourself 10-15 years from now?

10-15 years from now we want to build a strong platform for learners out there. Like any education there is dance education, we just want everybody to know and understand about this. There are a lot of options while going into this, there are institutions like Attakalari in Bangalore that are already onto such a mission. MMM wants to share this knowledge and keep on spreading this message.

### What do you have to say to your fans or young amateur artists out there?

To dancers, I would want to say to stop following the trends and to focus on the foundations. All that is trending is also built on a solid foundation, so build a strong foundation, always learn from roots, be curious to know more, respect our forefathers and never stop learning.