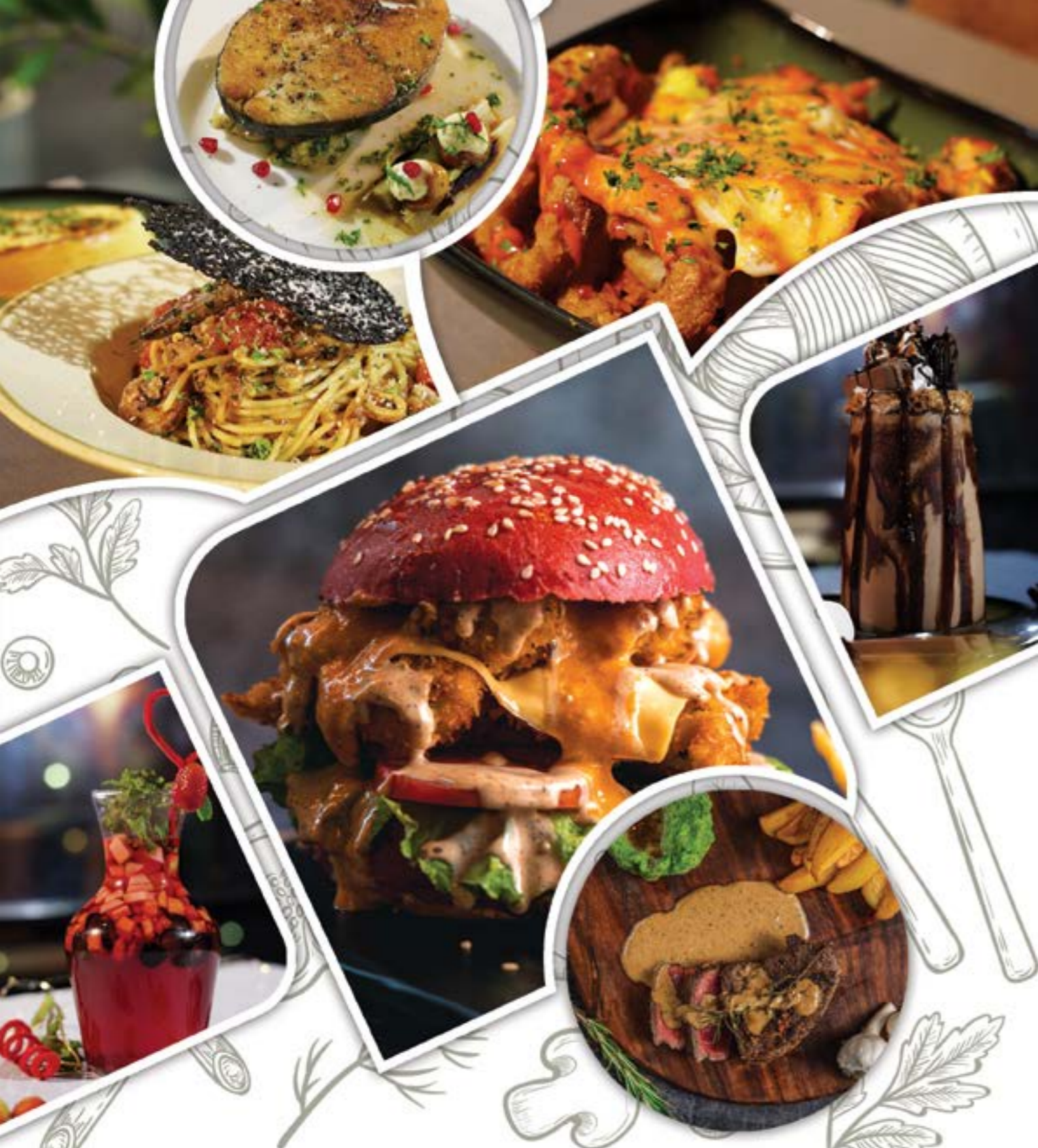


HUES OF LIFE

Vol 01 | Issue 12 | 01 July 2022
Monthly | Price ₹100 | Thiruvananthapuram



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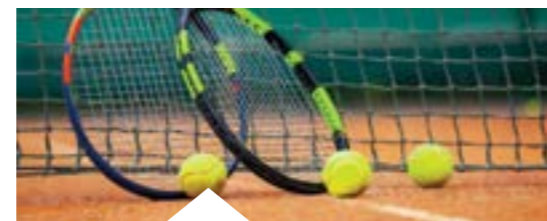
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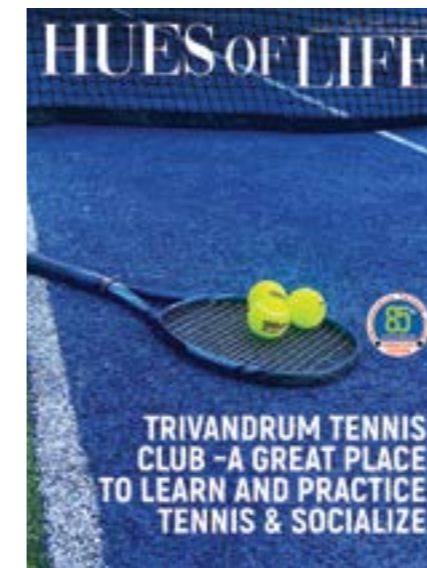
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HUES OF LIFE

Volume 1 - Issue 12 - July 2022

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editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

The Trivandrum Tennis Club, one of the monumental Tennis spots in the country successfully enters its 85th year. The club, which has undoubtedly been imparting pre-eminent Tennis lessons to thousands of aspirants can be considered as the State's proudest tennis institution so far. It was the visionary approach of Colonel G.V. Raja, the father of Kerala sports to promote the sport through a full-fledged Tennis Club in Travancore. His views on the future of sports in Kerala was not only prescient but also progressive. Trivandrum Tennis Club was later established as one of the paramount centers to promote and train tennis. As a part of this, aspirants regardless age are passionately developing their Tennis skills under the structured and systematic guidance of efficient coaches.

As the club focuses on the blooming talents, Hues of Life is extremely grateful to have an opportunity to introduce the wide and exemplary endeavors of TTC for our readers. Today, the club is paramount in the list of best tennis centers in India, hosting various programs including new strategic matches in accordance with the 85th Anniversary. We would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of the leading personalities of the club and the blessed players who have conquered the heights of tennis through the club and gained national as well as international attention. The popularity of the Trivandrum Tennis Club is continuing to rise over the years as new talents who embrace Tennis are given efficient coaching by the club.

Happy reading
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Printed by Nijith Raj, Published by Nijith Raj on behalf of M/S Fefe Intelligent Business Solutions and Printed at S B Press Private Limited, College Lane, Statue Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, PIN 695001 and published from 24/606, "JAYANI", Valiyakunnu, Kizhuvalam PO, Kizhuvalam-Koonthalloor Road, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala, PIN 695104. Editor- Nijith Raj.

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Volume 1 Issue 12 of Monthly Magazine "HUES OF LIFE" printed on the 1st day of July 2022. No of Pages - 40 Price - INR 100
 RNI REFERENCE NO 1358516 | TITLE CODE KERENG02661



TRIVANDRUM TENNIS CLUB – A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN AND PRACTICE TENNIS & SOCIALIZE

Playing a historic role in nurturing the tennis lovers in Kerala, The Trivandrum Tennis Club (TTC) is in its eighty fifth anniversary. As a result of Kerala's sports world legend G.V. Raja's foresight, TTC today stands out as one of the best tennis clubs in India and the face of Thiruvananthapuram. The club focuses on creating a high-quality atmosphere and facilities that will appeal to any tennis lover, ensuring the physical and mental well-being required for tennis training. This is evidenced by the fact that the field is still producing a huge number of

players, coaches and professionals.

Tennis was not a popular sport in the old state of Travancore. The idea of starting a tennis club in Travancore was conceived by Goda Varma Raja alias G.V. Raja. Marrying Karthika Thirunal, the only sister of Maharaja Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, G.V. Raja stayed in Travancore and focused more on the development of sports, being a true sports fan. On November 11, 1937, the first general body meeting of the proposed club was convened. The club's office was inaugurated at Radhapurakunnu at Sasthamangalam Junction in the heart of



Thiruvananthapuram city with two tennis courts and a three-room building. On January 30, 1938, Bill Tilden and his team arrived in Thiruvananthapuram to play an exhibition match on a specially constructed court at the Travancore University Stadium. The distinguished patronage and heartfelt presence of Sree Chithira Thirunal and the Travancore royal family made the ceremony even more memorable. On February 1 of the same year, The Trivandrum Tennis Club was formally inaugurated at Sasthamangalam. The club premises, which houses a three-room building was rented on lease from Captain V.P. Thampi at Rs. 5 per month. The area had two tennis courts and a cement wall at one end of the club premises facilitated wall practice.

The President of the Club was Captain G.V. Raja and the Secretary and Treasurer was T.P. K. Nair. Along with them, Dr. D.H. Watts, C.V. Chandrasekaran, A.N. Thampi, M.K. Govinda Pillai, K.L. Moudgill, T.K. Gopalan Nayar, S.N. Ure, Lieutenant Colonel H.L. Watkis, and C.R. Pattabhiraman were present at

the inauguration of the club. During 1938-39, nine new members joined the club. In the same year, the Yuvraja of Pithapuram as well as the President of the All India Lawn Tennis Association, was elected an honorary member of the club. The Maharaja of Travancore Sree Chithira Thirunal agreed to be the Patron-in-chief of the Club. His Highness the Elayaraja and Her Excellency the first Princess of Travancore also agreed to be Patrons. Later, Princess Gouri Parvathy Bai and Princess Gouri Laxmi Bai became the patrons of the club.

1950 was an important year for the club as the government invited TTC to reserve land in Kowdiar on a 25-year free lease to set up tennis courts and promote the game. Construction of the building for the club with extensive facilities began in the same year. The club was supported by the late K.G Menon, the then Chief Secretary of Travancore-Cochin State. The entire construction cost of the existing five-acre plot building in Kowdiar was borne by the lifetime membership subscription and donation. The subscription for a lifetime membership was Rs. 1000 and when the

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The club provides all tennis requirements for the club members and guests, except racquets. Tennis balls are also available on every court except for the Morning members.”



construction was completed by the end of 1951, the total cost was Rs. 1,07,457. The building was formally inaugurated on January 9, 1952. In 1975, the lease of the land was extended for another 50 years. The building is still preserved without any damage to its old beauty. What sets TTC apart from many other clubs is that the tennis courts here are open to the public except for selected times, at which time it is reserved for club members for recreation and various competitive training. There are tennis programs designed by the club which provide extensive training.

From the first day of operation, the club's priority was to train tennis for young people. The official coach of the All India Lawn Tennis Association, Ranbir Singh stayed in Thiruvananthapuram in 1940 for coaching. After Singh left, T.K. Neelakanta Iyer was appointed as the coach. Noor Mohammed, the coach of All India Lawn Tennis Association also stayed here for a few months during 1955-56 to provide training for boys and girls on the TTC tennis courts. A Regional Coaching Center sanctioned by the Kerala Sports Council was established in 1977 at the Club. NIS Coach N. Krishnaswamy and Gopakumar were also sent to Delhi for advanced coaching under Doug Maccurdy. Many national and international trainers have joined TTC as trainers. Until two decades ago, TTC was the only centre in Kerala that provided tennis training for youth. From national players like K.G. Kottoor, K.K. Kamath, K.E. Eapen, S. Thankappan, S. Manian to today's undisputed champions, TTC has marked its legacy. There are many prominent personalities like N. Krishnaswamy, V. Krishnan, and K. S. Chidambaram who started as TTC players and became prominent coaches. Ramanathan Krishnan, Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati and Sania Mirza are some of the honorary members of the Trivandrum Tennis Club.

Over time, the Trivandrum Tennis Club has grown to become one of the leading tennis clubs in the country, with nine state-of-the-art facilities, including tennis courts, a clubhouse for various indoor

games, a gymnasium, guest rooms and dining facilities. These facilities enabled TTC to compete with similar sports clubs and associations globally. Of the nine tennis courts mentioned above, four are clay courts and five are synthetic hard courts. All three synthetic courts have solid roofs and sufficient light arrangements. The club's show court-Court No. 1, is a clay court providing flood light setup. The world-class infrastructure of the Trivandrum Tennis Club is striking at first glance. The TTC Complex has been hosting many international and national tennis events for years.

The club provides all tennis requirements for the club members and guests, except racquets. Tennis balls are also available on every court except for the Morning members. That is, it is customary for members in the morning to bring their own tennis balls. Morning members will arrive after 7.30 a.m. and start training. The public can also reserve tennis courts to play any day from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm in various courts. There will be lights in various courts after 6.30 p.m. Only 2, 3 and 4 courts are not available for spot reservation. The club prioritizes the organization of tournaments and any specific coaching needs. For members, the Trivandrum Tennis Club hosts tennis tournaments throughout the year in a variety of formats. They are a great platform for members to compete with each other in a friendly atmosphere with mutual love and respect. Members from other clubs also often attend these events.

The ultimate goal of TTC is to provide quality coaching and is proud of its public tennis coaching program for children. Courses are organized for beginners, top level players and those who are in a middle stage of practice. The club offers tennis coaching facilities for boys and girls between the ages of six and eighteen. The coaching team consists of a head coach, 3 senior coaches in charge of advanced trainees, intermediaries and beginners. Junior coaches and feeders support them in various stages. Very young children



Group training in the special batch exclusively for women is available from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and they can also arrange personal training at any other time of their choice.



under the age of 8 are first enrolled in a mini tennis program and given junior racquets and softballs to play on the small court. As they mature, they will be able to progress to higher levels step by step. The general public can also benefit from special programs designed for adults and women. There are currently 80 to 100 senior trainees at the student level alone. Adults in any area of life can take advantage of tennis lessons from 8 to 3 in the morning and from 7 to 10 in the evening. They have the option of joining group coaching in pre-arranged batches at specific times and setting up coaches or courts for individual training at selected times in defined time slots.

Group training in the special batch exclusively for women is available from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and they can also arrange personal training at any other time of their choice. Trainees over the age of 18 have the opportunity to become student members of the club and continue to use the tennis facilities and coaching services at great subsidized rates.

Community tennis

The club also runs a community tennis program that provides free training and other facilities for underprivileged gifted children interested in tennis. The



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The Trivandrum Tennis Club aims to provide the best training conditions for its students while maintaining the past and present credibility of tennis in the Indian sports sector.
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initiative is one of the club's notable services in helping to introduce tennis to the local community. In addition, the club offers free tennis lessons and special training every weekend to children from economically disadvantaged families selected from various schools in and around the club. More than 50 boys and girls between the ages of 6-14 are currently availing this facility. They are provided with rackets, uniforms and other essentials at the club's expense and are provided with free refreshments after coaching sessions. Launched in 2009, the program is becoming increasingly popular as some of the

training participants have made rapid improvements in their level of play. Four of the top ten players in Kerala in all categories from the Community Tennis Scheme are from TTC. The idea put forward by the Trivandrum Tennis Club through this program is to make tennis accessible to all children who show promise and interest in the game, regardless of gender, caste, religion or parents' financial status. Through this program, TTC Community Tennis is highly successful in identifying and nurture blooming talents. Future promising players are being selected for more innovative and intensive training. In addition to learning tennis

while staying at the club, the club has all the support to develop a tennis lover into a great player at a very low cost.

The Trivandrum Tennis Club aims to provide the best training conditions for its students while maintaining the past and present credibility of tennis in the Indian sports sector. Expert instructors and coaches ensure that their students understand all the intricacies of the game. Various tournaments in tennis and other sports and games are held at the club from time to time throughout the year. Major tournaments in tennis include the AITTA for all ages, the Southwest Tournaments for

men and women, the ITF Futures, and more. The club organizes about 20 to 25 tournaments each year. The Trivandrum Tennis Club hosts the ITF Senior Tournament, which is held in four different age groups: 35+, 40+, 50+ and 60+, and the Tennis Tournament organized by the Women's Tennis Association for women over the age of 35. The relevance of various national and international tennis tournaments and tournaments has multiplied through the media and digital platforms. The activities of the club indicate that tennis players have a global platform to showcase their talents and spectators have the opportunity to learn more about their favorite sport. TTC has doors that are open to any tennis lover. TTC aims to create more great players who can shine internationally by 2030.

Facilities at the club

The club is equipped with well-appointed guest rooms, restaurants,

permit room, gymnasium, meeting rooms, function halls, library, lounge, lawn and round-the-clock service. Facilities include indoor sports such as billiards and snooker, table tennis, bridge and rummy, and carrom. The club also has 12 marvellous residential rooms, including 2 suites, 5 deluxe rooms, 2 executive rooms and 3 standard rooms. They are made available to members, their guests or members of affiliated clubs subject to availability. All rooms are air conditioned and suitable for double occupancy. All rooms are on the first floor, except for room number 7 (standard) on the ground floor. Rooms 1 and 2 are usually not available for advance booking as they are kept for short notice availability. The guests have to present their photo and ID cards at check-in. Members require written reservation in advance from affiliated clubs and these are permitted only at the discretion of the Honorable Secretary. Check-out time for all rooms



is 12 noon. Cancellation rates do not apply if the booking is canceled 48 hours or more before the check-in time. Cancellation within 48 hours will result in a one-day room rental equivalent. Guests who want to check in early in the morning and use the room all day and check out in the evening on the same day will have to pay rent for one and a half days. Guests who check in early in the morning and check out the next day will have to pay two days' rent. If more than two people are staying in a room other than suites, no extra beds will be provided. The charge will be Rs. 250 plus GST and extra bed fees. Children under the age of 12 will not be charged extra if they do not avail of extra beds while staying with their parents.

Residents, except members of the club, have the opportunity to pay in full by cash or card every five days if all charges, including room rent and canteen bills, exceed the duration of their stay. Room service is available to occupants from 6.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. and there will be no service between 11.00 pm and 6.00 am. Members who wish to check in during this period will be notified in advance of the facility.

Another attraction of the club is the spacious multi-cuisine family restaurant for members and guests. If table bookings are required for five or more members, advance notice and order may be given to the F&B Manager.

There is a permit room or bar club with excellent atmosphere and a wide drink selection. It operates under a club license in accordance with government regulations. The permit room is active every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., except on the first day of every month and public holidays. Liquor, beer and wine are procured from authorized sources and served to members/guests on a regular basis.

GV Raja Hall is a premium air-conditioned conference-cum-party hall on the first floor for ceremonies and meetings. The beautifully furnished first-floor Royal Chambers can be used for small groups of meetings. The ground floor tomb hall is ideal for use on almost every occasion, such as parties and meetings. The air-conditioned hall, which can seat up to 30 people, is equipped with lighting and audio-visual facilities. It is no exaggeration to say

that the surroundings of the club are a storehouse of lush greenery. The club's front lawn is open daily. There is also a snack bar with a cash card system on the front lawn to serve snacks, tea, coffee and ice cream to trainees and parents every day from 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

A library with a vast collection of books to read and relax is also available. The library and reading room are located in the corner of the main lounge. Members are free to borrow books, newspapers and periodicals free of charge, except the latest issues. The member borrowing books, periodicals or newspapers should record the details in a register kept in the office for the purpose. Failure to repay within the stipulated time will result in recovery of the price of any items borrowed from the concerned member. The TV area in the main lounge can be converted into a mini-theater for projection of live major sports events onto the big screen.

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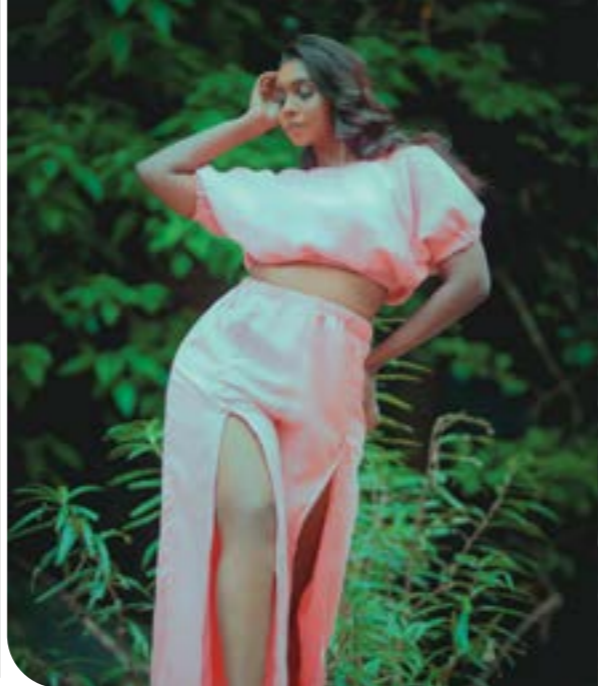


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PRINCE OF THE PEOPLE WHO PROMOTED SPORTS IN KERALA

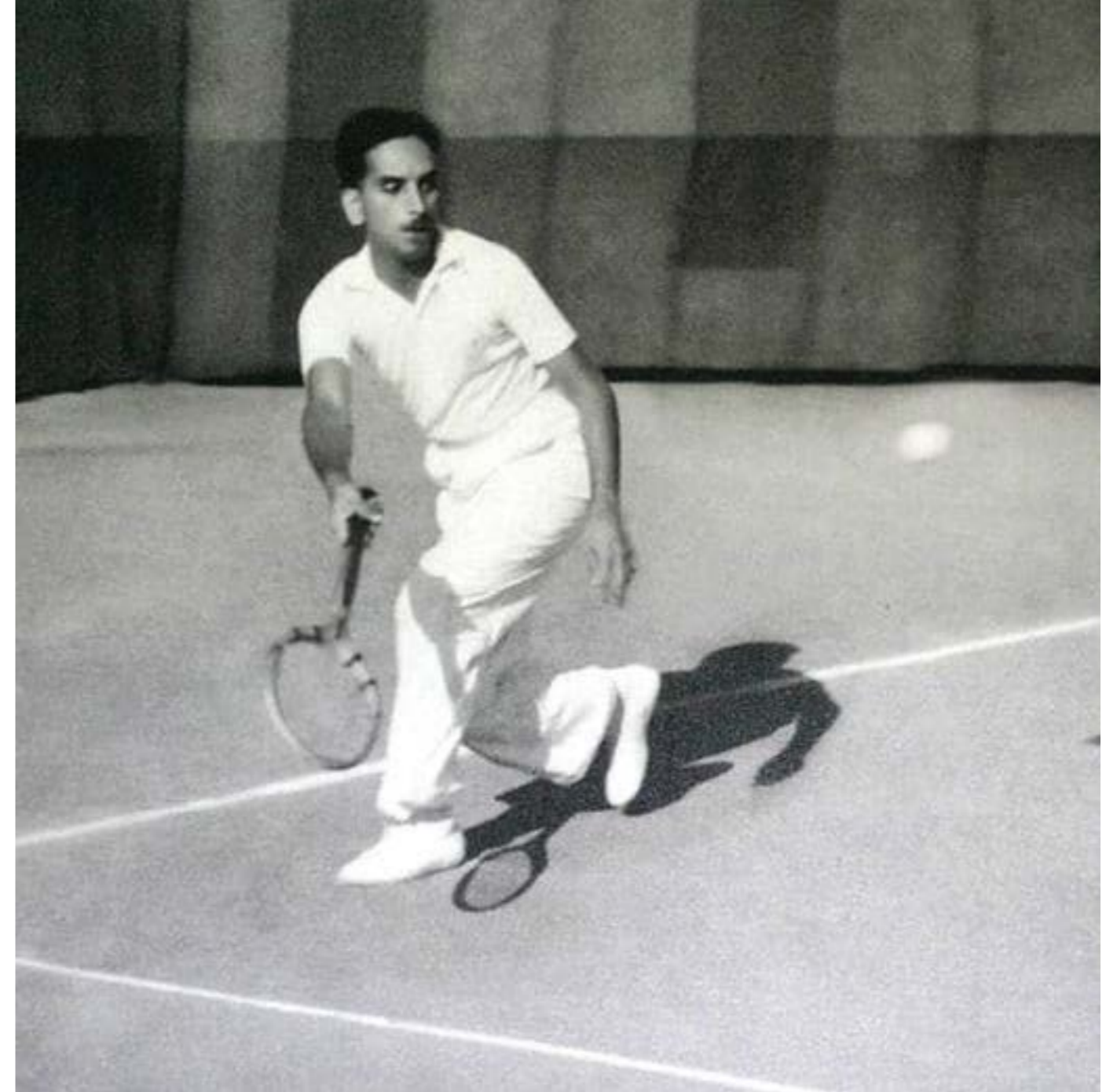
Lt. Colonel. P. R. Godavarma Raja aka G. V. Raja is a predominant personality who gave Kerala its own space in the sports map of India. With his eventful activities and authentic sports life, he became the founding president of the Kerala Sports council, which paved another way to give popular contributions to the sports world. Many organizations were formed as a result of his efforts, including the Trivandrum Tennis Club. It is an undisputed fact that without G. V. Raja, Kerala loses its sports history. Apart from all these, there is also a story of dedication and sacrifice of a popular organizer behind the numerous awards and stadiums named after him. Being an ambassador of Kerala, his memories still prevail at Thiruvananthapuram



who took the initiative for the Golf Club Association. In addition to golf, he worked to mould the best athletes through a number of development programs in football and tennis, with the seriousness of the training in mind to uplift the sportsmen to excellence. History has it that even the first-class cricketer A. G. Ram Singh was brought here to train the aspirants. As an adventurer, Mountaineering was also made available for the adventurous youth by G. V. Raja. He was the only one at that time in Kerala who got mountaineering training in Switzerland and practiced on the Alps.

Even today, the people of Kerala remember G. V. Raja – the best Tennis player. American Tennis player and Wimbledon winner Bill Tilden was once invited to an exhibition match to promote tennis in the state. Following this, the Trivandrum Tennis Club was established on February 1, 1938 at Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram. Some of the players he faced at the Trivandrum Tennis Club have a history of later rising to the top ranks of state players. He was the President of the Kerala Cricket Association from 1950 to 1953, and also became the Vice President of the BCCI. G. V. Raja was the first Malayali who held the post. He was the founding president of the Travancore Sports Council, formed in 1954. The organization was formed as a result of a meeting of 11 sports organizations. With the formation of the State of Kerala, the Travancore Sports Council became the Kerala Sports Council and he remained the President of the Council till his death.

He also served as the Commandant of Travancore University Labour Core. He was the first Director of Physical Education at the University and the first Chairman of KTDC. Veli Boat Club and Attingal Sreepadam Stadium were built with the same importance as an indoor stadium for roller skating at Shankhumukham. The Aquatic Association was formed and the Thiru-Kochi Swimming Championships were organized in 1953. He was also



the President of the Lawn Tennis Association. Once he said that the future of Kerala lay in two 'Ts', Tourism and IT. G. V.'s foreseeing was years before the IT sector sprang in Kerala. Time later proved that what he said was true.

G. V. Raja, who was a member of the Poonjar royal family came to the capital in 1943 after marrying Karthika Thirunal Lakshmi Bai, the only sister of Chithira Thirunal, the last ruler of Travancore. From then on, Thiruvananthapuram became part of his breath. It was his habit that when he saw someone playing badminton or football on the roadside, he would stop the car and join them. Such a mindset made him known as the prince of the people. He took a

special interest in bringing the giants of international sports to the capital city. In 1938, world tennis players including Bill Tilden, Roy Emerson and Ken Rosewall performed in the venue of the University grounds. Travancore-Cochin Cooperative Travel Services is the first travel agency in Kerala set up by G. V. Raja to facilitate travelling services for famous tennis players from abroad, who played with him in Trivandrum Tennis Club. This venture later became Kerala Travels.

The results of G. V. Raja's efforts made India in hosting the 63rd Annual International Conference of the Federation Aeronautica International, the governing body of Air Sports. Neil Armstrong and Yuri Gagarin were among

the astronauts who attended from the US and Soviet Russia. At that time, cold war between the US and Soviet Russia was at its peak but in short, the conference became a history of peace efforts. G. V. Raja was incomparable as he was also a successful leader, devoting time beyond his own reputation to doing quality work for new sports talents. On April 30, 1971, G. V. Raja was killed in a plane crash in the Kullu Valley in Himachal Pradesh. The Government of Kerala celebrates October 13 as the State Sports Day, the birthday of that multi-talented genius who left his mark in all spheres of interest, including laying the foundation for sports in Kerala.

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Airport, Golf Club, Tennis Club, Flying Club, Kerala Cricket Association, Kerala Football Association, Sports Council, and so on. He was also instrumental in turning Kovalam into a tourist hub.

Colonel G. V. Raja, who was well versed in all fields, was born a great sportsman and a brilliant organizer. With a keen insight, vision and effort, he proved his mettle in sports, tourism and aviation. He is also considered as the father of tourism in Kerala. The Kerala Sports Council is a prime example of Raja's organizing skills. When it was formed in 1954, it was the first of its kind in India. It was none other than G. V. Raja,



PATHWAY OF TENNIS

Tennis is one of the most celebrated sports which created an everlasting fanbase since the origin. Centuries before, it was in France the earliest form of tennis originated. The origins of modern tennis, which became a popular sport, date back to the twelfth century. The truth is that this great grandfather of tennis had no resemblance to current tennis. Instead of using a racquet, the game at that time was to hit a ball with open arms. Records from the remains of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman civilizations, as well as written reports in Arabic, indicate that a game resembling tennis was played on stone platforms and clay fields. Another theory is that the word tennis is derived from the Egyptian city of Tinnis. However, the lack of clear evidence has led many historians to believe that a true predecessor of modern tennis originated in France in the 12th century. After being adopted as a favorite pastime by the royals and nobles in various European regions such as France, England, and Italy, a sport more similar to modern tennis was developed.

“

Lawn tennis originated in Birmingham, England. Major Harry Gem, an English lawyer and sportsman between 1859 and 1865, successfully combined the components of racquets, the Spanish ball game Pelota, and the croquet lawn playing field.

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Designed by Italian priests and widely played by the common people of northern Italy, palm tennis (French: Jeu de Paume) began to feature simple racquets in the 16th century. The original tennis racquets, which developed in the mid-nineteenth century, later came into the scene. Palm tennis could have been played indoors and outdoors, gaining significant recognition on the royal courts of Europe. However, the popularity of tennis increased throughout Europe in the 17th and early 18th centuries, except in two regions. One was England, where such sports were not encouraged due to the influence of Puritanism, and the other France under the pressure of common people who were dissatisfied with the noble rule. 18th century England slowly moved from real tennis to modern lawn tennis as the one we know.

American tennis player Jay Gould II made history when he won a gold medal against Eustace Miles of Great Britain in 1908 when palm tennis became a part of the Summer Olympics. Remaining in the sport scene for over two-and-a-half century without significant changes, Jeu de Paume is considered as the oldest ongoing annual World Championship. It is often referred to real tennis since the players use their racquets to hit the ball across the field.

With the invention of patented lawnmowers in 1830, tennis courts were transformed into open lawns. Professional clubs and large courts appeared in Europe and many other parts of the world. Wimbledon (1877), US Open (1881), French Open (1891) and Australian Open (1905) are the four Grand Slam tournaments that form the basis of court tennis. In 1900, professional tennis players started an annual tournament known as the Davis Cup, and in 1963, a new tennis tournament called the Fed Cup was also organized. Tennis managed to maintain its image as one of the favorite sports of upper/middle class players in the early and mid-twentieth century. However, the opening up of commercial



avenues and the launch of major tennis tournaments for professional/amateur players brought tennis to the masses.

Lawn tennis originated in Birmingham, England. Major Harry Gem, an English lawyer and sportsman between 1859 and 1865, successfully combined the components of racquets, the Spanish ball game Pelota, and the croquet lawn playing field. He and his friends formed the first modern tennis club, the Leamington Tennis Court Club, in 1874. Just one or two years later, many aspects of modern tennis were upgraded by

the efforts of the British military officer Walter Clopton Wingfield.

Wingfield began experimenting with lawn sports at that time and most importantly thought of incorporating the newly developed, better bouncing rubberized balls into the indoor game of tennis. In the spring of 1874, he promoted a new game called Sphairistike, with the aim of turning this indoor sport into the flat surface of croquet lawns. Through this he was able to obtain a new court patent, selling boxes of rubber balls and playing



exhibition matches in various courts. The main net separating the two players was set at 4 feet 8 inches high. The winning 'ace' was awarded a 15-point scoring system for each player. He was able to sell more than 1000 ball sets to the English aristocrats in one year. The incident prompted several croquet lawn owners to go for tennis courts. Wingfield also invented the basic rules,

the hourglass-shaped playground, and more. It was during this time that tennis opened the way for the establishment of many small clubs and the organization of competitions. He is remembered as the father of lawn tennis and a key figure in shaping modern tennis. Lawn tennis, also known as the Wingfield's Game, arrived in the United States a few years later in 1877.

Types of Tennis Courts **Grass Court**

The most popular form of tennis is the small field of grass structure that is neatly trimmed on top of a layer of very hard soil. But, sad to say, they are something that is rarely seen today. Expensive repairs and the time required to maintain them in good condition have led many courts to

move to clay courts or other surfaces. Due to the low bounce of the grass, this surface usually leads to energetic games and enables the player to move the fastest. However, differences in the density of the grass determine how the ball bounces. The main drawback of grass courts is that they need to be well maintained and trimmed regularly after long competitions.

Clay Court

The most famous tennis courts in Europe and Latin America are clay courts. This surface encourages baseline players and greatly affects fast servers as the speed of the ball decreases after bouncing on the clay surface. Although clay courts have proven to be easy to make, there is a significant cost involved in maintaining their surface and keeping it dry. Of the four majors, this court surface is used only at the French Open.

Hard Court

Hard court surfaces are usually made of a solid and uniform material coated with an additional acrylic surface layer. It is sometimes mixed with sand. The amount of sand determines how fast the ball will go. This surface slows down the bounce of the ball a little. Different types of hard surfaces are used for the US Open and the Australian Open.

Carpet Court

The carpet courts on tennis represent any surface that can be removed or replaced in an instant. Many indoor areas use rolls of rubber-backed court surfacing to convert them to tennis tournaments played on artificial turf. This surface type is very common in Asia. In addition, some bigger tournaments such as the Paris Masters and the WCT Finals use carpet courts.

Championships and Tournaments



The most important tennis series in the world which takes place every year is called the Grand Slam. The Australian Open is the first of four Grand Slam



The French Open is the second largest Grand Slam tennis tournament. The tournament is held at the Roland Garros Stadium in Paris



tennis tournaments. The competition is held annually in January. The tournament, which began in 1905, was held on the lawn from 1905 to 1987. But since 1988, the Australian Open has been held on the hard court in Melbourne Park.



The French Open is the second largest Grand Slam tennis tournament. The tournament is held at the Roland Garros Stadium in Paris. The French Open, the only Grand Slam tournament using clay courts today, is held in any two weeks during the months of May and June.



Wimbledon, the third Grand Slam tournament, takes place every year during the last week of June and the first



two weeks in the months of August/September and it is the Grand Slam tournament which has the highest prize money.

With the revised rules and tradition, Wimbledon became increasingly important among the Grand Slams. At Wimbledon, a rule set was formed that later became the basis of modern tennis. These differences were only in the distance of the service line, the width of the net posts and the height of the net. Although the Wimbledon courts moved to a new position in 1922, the overall layout of the stadiums, including the famous 'centre court' surrounded by smaller tennis courts, remained the same. In addition to men's singles, Wimbledon has promoted ladies' singles and gentlemen's doubles since 1884 and mixed doubles since 1913. Until 1968, when there were only the best ranked amateurs at Wimbledon tournaments, professionals also came to compete. Today, Wimbledon is considered one of the best tennis tournaments in the world. Tennis legend Roger Federer is the one who won the most Grand Slam titles. Sweden's Bjorn Borg sustained the champion title at Wimbledon from 1976 to 1980. In 1954, Ramanathan Krishnan of India became the first Asian to win the Wimbledon Junior title.

week of July. The famous Wimbledon Courts were founded in 1868 as a private club providing lawns and courts for the nobles who enjoyed croquet. However, with the popularity of the 'Wingfield lawn' version of indoor real tennis, this private club turned its attention to tennis. The club, renamed The All England Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club, began annual tournaments, giving birth to the famous 1877 Wimbledon Championship. This is the only Grand Slam match played on the grass surface.



The U.S. Open is the last of the Grand Slam tennis tournaments. Since 1978, the tournament is held at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, US, every

Davis Cup

The famous Davis Cup Tennis Tournament was first conceived in 1899 by four members of the Harvard University tennis team who wanted to test the skills of British players. The Davis Cup began to gain popularity in 1900, when Britain and the United States competed in the first official Davis Cup match. Years later, the Davis Cup attracted national teams from several European teams, and in 1914 Australia and New Zealand joined the tournament. Since then, the Davis Cup, which has gained worldwide recognition, has effectively dealt with the growing number of national teams in several divisions, including the Eastern, American and two European zones. The format of the competition changed to knockout elimination in 1972. The competition, which is still in use today, was formed in 1981. Each year, teams

from 12 subgroups compete for the opportunity to enter the main 'World Group', which consists of teams from 16 top ranked countries.

Chronology of Indian tennis

Over the past few decades, India has evolved from being a cricketing nation to a multi-sport nation. Tennis has cemented its place here in every sense as proof that the Indian sport has undergone a major transformation. The origins of tennis in India date back to the time of British colonialism as the game has been a popular sport in England since the late 1800s. The game was brought to India by the British Army and civilian officers. Initially confined to the elite class of the time, tennis became popular in our country with the advent of the Punjab Lawn Tennis Championship, the Bengal Lawn Tennis Championship and the All India Tennis Championship. In the early days, the main winners of these tournaments were the British. However, later, when the Indians started actively playing tennis, their subtle performances came into the game with more importance. After independence, tennis players gained influence in India through the likes of Ramanathan Krishnan and Premjit Lal.

In 1920, the All India Tennis Association (AITA), the governing body of tennis in India, was established and affiliated by the International Tennis Federation and the Asian Tennis Federation. All national tennis teams representing India, including the India Davis Cup team and the India Fed Cup team, operate under the auspices of the All India Tennis Association. The AITA is solely responsible for organizing, hosting and scheduling tennis tournaments in India and international home matches. Between 1921 and 1929, India won the Davis Cup against France, Spain, Greece, Belgium, Romania and the Netherlands. Leading Indian players like Saleem, Fayzee brothers, Cotah Ramaswamy and Krishna Prasad have won against many top ranked European players and teams. However, the golden age of tennis in India is said to be the sixties.

Ramanathan Krishnan, a six-time All India Championship winner, reached his highest seeding at Wimbledon in 1962, finishing fourth. In addition, India has consistently been zonal champions in the Davis Cup. Ramanathan Krishnan, Premjit Lal, Jaidip, R. K. Khanna, S. P. Mishra, etc. led India to the final of the 1966 Davis Cup. Although he did not win the cup that year, Ramanathan Krishnan and J. Mukerjea also defeated Wimbledon champions Newcombe and Tony Roche in 1965. After Ramanathan

Krishnan retired from the sport in 1968, Vijay Amritraj, a 17-year-old player became one of the most prominent in Indian tennis. Along with his teammates Shashi Menon, Jasjit Singh and his brother Anand Amritraj, he led India to their second World Cup final in 1974. He reached the quarterfinals of the US Open in 1973 and 1981 and at Wimbledon in 1973 and 1974. Vijay Amritraj also defeated three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe at the 1984 Cincinnati Masters, while at Wimbledon he competed with Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg. Along with Ramesh Krishnan, son of Ramanathan Krishnan, he won the Junior Wimbledon Championship and the Junior French Open in 1979. He topped the world junior rankings and twice reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in 1986 and the US Open.

With the advent of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupati in the 1990s, Indian tennis entered its second phase of evolution. Leander Paes won a bronze medal at the 1996 Summer Olympics. Mahesh Bhupati became India's first Grand Slam champion to win mixed doubles at the 1997 French Open. The duo competed in four Grand Slam tournaments in 1999 and won two. Paes and Bhupati competed separately or together in the 2000s and 2010s, winning several Grand Slam doubles and mixed doubles tournaments. They enjoyed an unbeaten run of 24 matches in the Davis Cup in the period of 1995-2010. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, they lost to gold medalists Roger Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka.

Sania Mirza became the first Indian woman to win a WTA tournament in the 2000s. Mirza, who gained popularity through her outstanding performance on the International Tennis Federation's Junior Circuit, won the Wimbledon and US Open titles with Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the women's doubles at the 2015 Open. Rohan Bopanna is another prominent name in the current list of top Indian tennis players. He is ranked third in the world and has been a member of the Olympic, Davis Cup and Hopman Cup teams. He won the French Open mixed doubles title in 2017, 16 ATP Tour doubles titles and keeps consistency in the top 15 rank.



“
The famous Davis Cup Tennis Tournament was first conceived in 1899 by four members of the Harvard University tennis team who wanted to test the skills of British players.”

R.S. BABU - CONNECTING LIFE TO PAINTINGS @ THANAL ART GALLERY



A visit to Thanal Art Gallery at Mannanthala, Thiruvananthapuram would give you a chance to experience the way R. S. Babu – a gifted artist and relevant face among contemporary painters – copies revolutionary ideas into his canvas. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, visitors from far and wide come here to get acquainted with the vast world of contemporary art forms. Along with the works of art here, their creator R. S. Babu often plays an integral part in international painting exhibitions today. Many of the artistic excellences painted by him have adorned the room walls of art-loving foreigners.

R. S. Babu, who started his art

acquaintance with paintings from Class V, later became an assistant to director Bharathan in Madras and then worked in an art section of one of the advertising companies in Bangalore. During his tenure as a drawing teacher at the Model School, Thiruvananthapuram for eighteen years, he has also made his presence in painting exhibitions known. Since possibilities of drawing classes that could be given to school students were limited, Babu expanded his world of painting with the idea of creating new paintings during the holidays and after-work breaks. His travels to various districts of Kerala with exhibitions and fairs greatly aided him in not losing his innate ability during his busy official life.

After the 2000s, Babu decided to



focus more on the many international painting exhibitions, fairs and sales of art works. He still had the dream of having his own art gallery, giving free entry to those who love paintings. After retiring from official life in 2004, he bought a plot at Mannanthala the next year and began setting up an art gallery. The unprecedented growth in information technology has also helped him to get familiar with different ways of art exhibitions and fairs.

While attending various exhibitions and camps of the Lalithakala Academy, he gained the attention of art lovers by exhibiting his paintings in Mysore and later in Delhi and Mumbai. Many of the paintings have been sold for large sums at over eighteen exhibitions, including in foreign spots like Italy, Hong Kong, Berlin, South Korea, etc. Thanal Art Gallery became a reality in 2021, inaugurated by internationally acclaimed Malayali painter Bose Krishnamachari. Thanal Art Gallery, which welcomes visitors 24 hours a day also exhibits paintings by artists from different states of India.

The paintings of R. S. Babu are mostly made using acrylic medium. Those paintings have once again made a name for themselves outside India with a new way of style called Termit Art which has not been tried by many in the world of paintings. Babu was engaging new interpretations to the art form, from the lines and marks left by termites during the making of mounds in their colonies.

The theme of Babu's contemporary styled painting 'Space Elevator' is inspired from NASA's idea of launching a man to the moon in 2040 via an elevator. The painting also gives insights through sight of smoke, pollution, war, and sea rage engulfing the earth and the suffocating people. The gallery also features two modern-day portraits of feminine beauty in gleaming ensemble titled 'An Elysium of the Ultimate Embellish'. The black and white portrait 'Beyond the Sun' was sold at an exhibition in South Korea. The heart of the painting is the idea of watching the sun as a whole from below. Paintings like 'Secure Earth', which portrays a dreadful picture of how modern life affects the earth definitely provokes every spectator's minds. More than just a feast for the eyes, the sensible ideas of R. S. Babu's paintings is a timely message for everyone who consider art and life are connected together.

Thanal Art Gallery

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GASTOPIA - A NEW WAY OF EATERY

GASTOPIA



When Dr. K. Ajith and his wife Nuhaid planned to set up a food outlet, they took the word Gustopia and refined it to the brand name Gastopia. The couple worked around the idea of a supermarket under the brand name, and then switched their ideas to another area, by creating an extensive list of bakers' product range. It was a time when cakes, sweets and packet food items became a pertinent part of our daily life. By preparing Gastopia into a hygienic bakery and confectionery world, the two master brains managed to capture a huge customer base.

The enterprising couple was sure that Gastopia would be a sure success in the highly competitive arena.

A warm customer relationship has a lion's share to do with the growth of a new venture. Offering a variety of resources to the customer, Gastopia managed to function in a systematic way from the beginning itself. From the Borma section, which complies with all the standards of cleanliness, baked foods and delicacies reach the display area. The neatly displayed products can be clearly seen by the customer as the items are kept in a well organized manner. Consumers testify that they get a right feel of the food item when they see these, even before tasting. Also, some new customers are skeptical about whether Gastopia is an upmarket bakery brand that only the rich can access, or whether the products are too expensive. But when compared to the quality and price of bakery items available in the external market, many are surprised to find that Gastopia is a place where you get pocket-friendly high-quality sweets and bakes.

The couple's positive strategic approaches at Gastopia is evident in the functioning of this food outlet – right from product development and testing of new resources, getting customer feedback on each product, taking into account of enquiries and considering demands etc.



A large collection of dry fruits and chocolates has been introduced in Gastopia to cater to the constant needs of regular customers. Every new product is updated to make it better again with proper improvements. The products that became super hits in Gastopia's unique series range from cookies to special bread items. Gastopia makes sure that every single one reaches the shelf only after considering the nutrition value as well. While cookie varieties include dry fruit flavours like pistachios, groundnuts, cashews, almonds, sesame, etc. Different spices also contribute more to the wide range of cookie sections. One of the most popular new range of products include sugar free and gluten free Almond Cookies, which has a huge fan base.

If the taste of sweets and snacks is to be remembered fondly, the oil used to make them must also be pure. Pure rice powder and coconut oil are used in the preparation of dishes such as Achappam and Kuzhalappam. Gastopia also specializes in making traditional as well as locally popular snacks such as mixtures, banana chips, and fried tapioca-jack fruit food items. Moreover, Gastopia only accepts cent percent quality materials to prepare snacks and manages to avoid human contact on food during the baking and frying process.

Starting with Sweet and Savory, every

eatable goes through a pure processing method, from jam rolls to meat rolls, cutlets to donuts, puffs to burgers, etc. Wide varieties of muffins, shortcakes and pastries also have a large fan base. Butter Coconut Bun deliciously prepared by combining coconut flakes, butter and sweet is one of the highlighted products of Gastopia. In addition to the variations in the bun sections, Gastopia prides in setting a complete menu exclusively for fresh cakes, for various parties and birthday functions. Butter cream cakes, Vanilla cakes, Pineapple cake, Pistachio cake, etc. are made without the use of synthetic colours. Red velvet, Butter scotch, Black Forest, White forest and Nut cake varieties too possess a highly-successful customer reach. They are prepared by using high quality materials such as creams and organic flavours available in the market.

Ajith points out that the consumers have embraced Gastopia's idea of delivering good food on time. Working with the intention of satisfying all types of customers, there are no compromises on quality. The essence of Gastopia's success lies in introducing a new way of eatery for every food lover.

Gastopia Bake House

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BUBBLE TEA @ BAO TAO

BAO TAO



Unadulterated taste and incomparable quality make some food ideas famous beyond the continents. Many of them, which quickly dominate over time, country and language, prevail as favourite ones for a great number of people too. Nandu Prasad, a young engineer, and interior designer, identified and experimented some of these savour experiences and eventually became

popular through his food venture named 'BAO TAO'. The spot located at Kowdiar deals in a unique drink - Boba, aka bubble tea, which evokes the taste buds of the customers who want to explore even the unfamiliar tastes. Today, Bao Tao is the first of one and only hub in Kerala exclusively for bubble teas. Immersed in natural and subtle colour themes with a tropical touch, the spot makes people flock here to enjoy every

connection between bubbles and tea. Giving more than 200 popular flavour combinations and hundreds of drink customizations around the world, one can simply guess the range of this drink. Launched during the Covid lockdown in 2021, Bao Tao is all set featuring around 150 Boba flavours. Nandu Prasad was inspired to start a business exclusively for bubble tea by his experiences in long travels to various countries. A product that everyone loves, but does not compromise on health, and above all nothing can replace; the idea of bringing it to his homeland without altering the true qualities of the drink later turned his ideas to Bao Tao. The honesty in following authentic flavours grew through mouth publicity and was later adopted by the masses.

Bubble tea is celebrated in many countries in different names like Pearl milk tea, Boba tea, Tapioca ball drink, Boba milk tea, Boba nai cha, etc. No bubble tea is complete without the addition of small bubbles known as boba or pearl. In Bao Tao, high-quality bubbles made from cassava starch that are imported from Taiwan itself. There are two different types of boba: the chewable boba, and the popping bobas wrapped in thin films. These bobas fit through the straws, giving a relish. Mainly, popping bobas feel so relaxing in every sip as they explode in the mouth showering a true infused flavour experience of its kind.

Different flavour infused bubbles and jellies like Agar Boba, Honey Boba, Red Bean, Grass jelly, Aloe Vera, Fresh Taro, Lychee Jelly, Brown Sugar, Nata-de-Coco and Pure Coconut jelly made from coconut water play a major role in flavouring. In toppings and even in jelly formations, Bao Tao follows a great variety, and follows exact dimensions so the customer can enjoy the drink without wasting time and a single bubble. The sales in the Covid time itself is a proof that Bao Tao and



their Boba tea became a super hit very quickly among the youth who were experimenting with different types of drinks. About 200 Boba teas were sold here on the opening day itself.

Bao Tao never use artificial sugars for this and the issue is resolved here by using substitute sugar obtained from Stevia plants. Stevia, which is one hundred to three hundred times sweeter than table sugar, has no artificial ingredients, no calories, and no carbohydrates. Only condensed milk is used in Bao Tao for stimulating sweetness. Bobas are on their menu for those who are not sweet lovers and, even diabetic people can also choose Bobas here as the ingredients are not harmful to the blood like direct sugar.

Boba tea in Bao Tao enjoys a separate fan base as it is made with a shake consistency as the watery boba tea is not so familiar to Indian consumers. This shake style is very helpful to build the flavour more effectively. For example, Boba tea cheese foam which gives a zest of a cheese cake flavour, is one of Bao Tao's special items. They are also introducing different bubble tea flavours that have become international hits. Bao Tao introduces new flavours each month as 'Drink of the Month.' The Apple cinnamon flavour introduced at the last Christmas period became an instant hit and achieved a permanent part in the menu. Ahead of these, daily introduction of a 'Drink of the Day' by selecting popular flavours is on the verge.

If any of the newly introduced drinks surpasses a particular number in terms of sales, they will occupy a place on Bao Tao's regular menu. Boba Milo Godzilla is one of the best examples for this, as it took mere three months to get

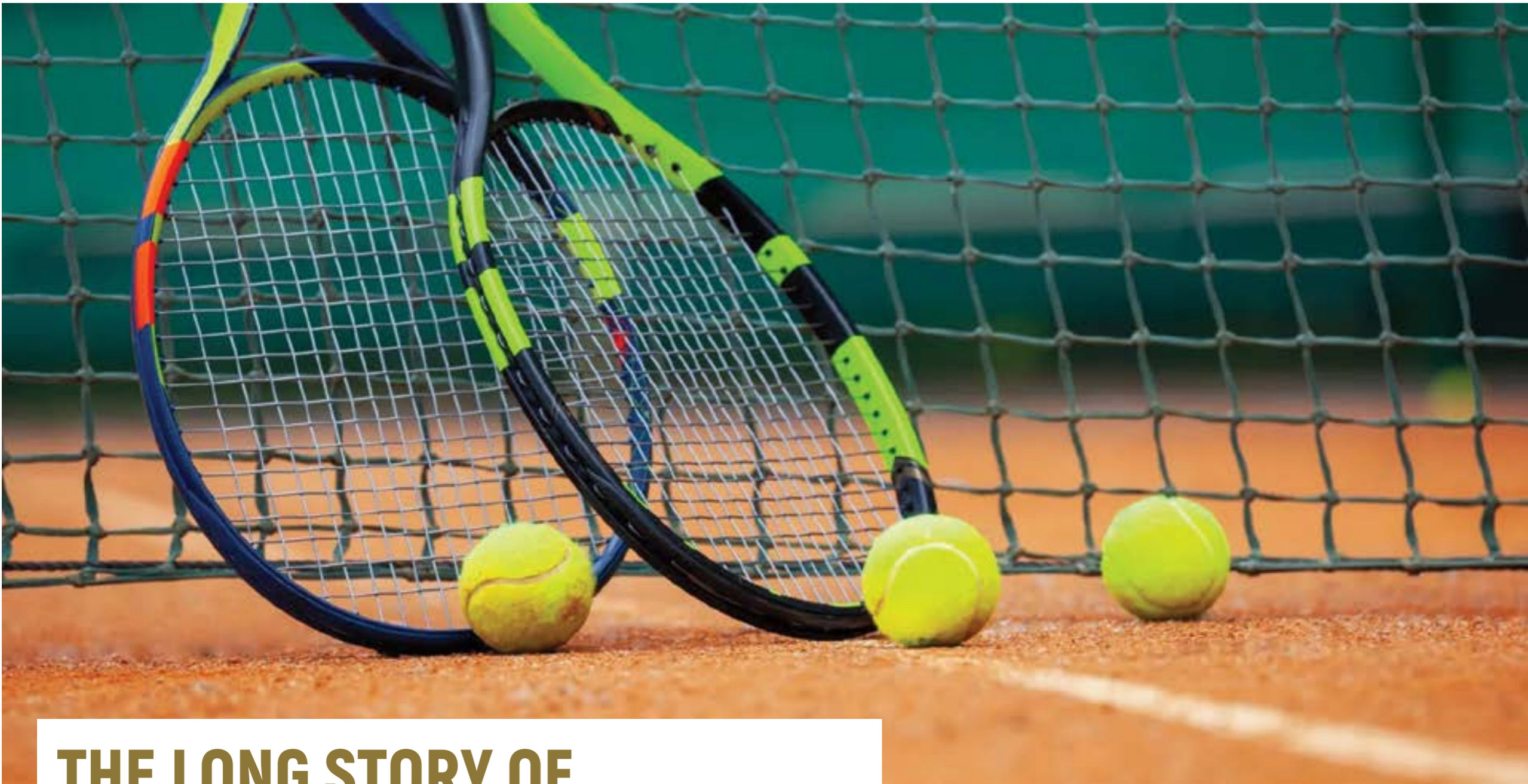
into the regular menu. Milo Godzilla, which includes 80 to 100 grams of Milo infused per drink, maintains an all-time favourite position. A coffee flavor named Korean lacta, and yellow yam, a sweet potato flavor similar to purple yam, are also on Bao Tao's customer favorite list. They also introduced lavender berry and red rose lychee flavours, those are rare even in foreign countries. All the flavours are processed and imported, with an undisputed customer health consciousness. To beat the flavour effectively, even milk used here strictly maintains a 6% fat content. Bao Tao is not ready to lose the feel of the consumers with non-dairy creams in place of milk.

As to Bao Tao's expansion plans, they aim to open outlets in metro cities, including Kochi, within three years. New outlets will be present in Kazhakoottam, Kozhikode and Kochi before the end of this year. A section of new flavours that can be consumed by people of any age, including flavours of non-alcoholic beverages such as chilli and olives with martini olives, is also under discussion. Bao Tao literally means 'food this way'. Bao is a special Korean bun dish with fillers, along with drinks not so familiar to the customer folk. Korean wings, momos, waffles and pancakes are the other 'hot selling' dishes on their menu. Innovative ideas and uprightness of BAO TAO branding, offer more bobas and other food items soon during the first anniversary of the venture.

Bao Tao

Ali Plaza, next to ICICI Bank TTC Junction, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram

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THE LONG STORY OF RACQUETS AND TENNIS BALLS

It is no exaggeration to say that the tennis racquet and the ball are as important as the history of tennis. They vary in size from shape to material, and manufacturing process. It's all about the ancient forms of tennis racquets and balls found on the courts today, as well as a humble way to get acquainted with the latest tennis racquets. The birth of tennis racquets traces back to the middle of the eighteenth century. This means that racquets were not used in *Jeu de paume*, which was invented by monks of France. The average tennis racquet is now about

28 inches (71 cm) long and weighs 10-14 ounces (284-397 grams). There have been many innovations in racquet technology recently. Hexagonal racquets and wide-headed racquets are being manufactured today. Some of the main materials found on tennis racquets are nylon, gut, or synthetic gut for strings, and leather or synthetic material for handle grip. Nylon is the most common string material since synthetic gut is made from nylon. Older wooden racquets usually used grip on the leather handle, while modern racquets are usually replaced with vinyl-like ones.

Most racquets sold in the United States are mass-produced in large factories either in Japan or elsewhere in Asia. Inspectors study the racquets at various stages of the construction process. When the frames are first taken out of the mould, they are properly inspected for the first time. Defective racquets are segregated and passing racquets may be graded for quality. Aluminum racquets are subjected to stress testing to determine the quality. Inspectors weigh the racquets before and after attaching the string to ensure compliance with the specifications. They check the balance as

it is very important how well the racquet performs, i.e., its head or handle should not be too heavy. There is also a method of inspecting the grommet holes. If these are smooth or uneven, the string tension will be affected and those will break at the rough edges. All finishing details are subject to visual inspection. The butt cap should fit snugly and the print on the frame and strings should be even and clear. The grip should be smooth and free of cuts or scratches. Some racquets are play-tested to see if they are effective in the new design. The future of tennis racquets is incredibly complex. What will change in the future is not the construction process, but the physics of the string and frame vibration that occur when the ball is connected to the racquet.

Racquets are now being designed by mathematicians to measure the effects of weight, size, and physical changes. New racquets are manufactured using computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacturing (CAM) because the rules for acceptable racquets are so broad that they ensure the rigidity of the material and the accuracy of the center of gravity. New racquet models with strange features will continue to be developed. Today's tennis world is leaning towards lighter and bigger racquets.

In London, Major Walter C. Wingfield made the first tennis racquet made of solid wood. This racquet was so large and heavy that it could withstand even great damage. It is noticeable that the emergence and popularity of lawn tennis

in the mid-nineteenth century increased the popularity of wooden racquets. The wooden racquets used during this period were made with a wide head to facilitate the use of the ball. They were heavy but flexible, allowing a fair playing field for all players. The wooden racquet remained the same for about 100 years. Dunlop, Spalding, Slazenger, and Wilson dominated the wood racquet industry. Many other competitors dropped out during this time due to a lack of innovation and the dominance of big brands. Dunlop Maxply Fort and Wilson Jack Kramer were the two most important tennis racquets of this era.

Metal racquets have been around since 1889 and have never been widely used. However, in the 1970s Jimmy Connors used a steel racquet as it proved how strong metal racquets are compared to wooden racquets. Connors' landslide victory over Ken Roswell was a testament to the metal racquet industry's boom. The metal racquets had heads twice the size of the wooden heads traditionally used in the previous century. The triumph of modern metal racquets began in 1957 when Rene Lacoste invented and patented the first metal tennis racquet for his use. The famous tennis racquet company Wilson finally bought the rights to it.

Aluminum racquets came into being after metal racquets gained popularity during the Connors era. But the flexibility displayed by these racquets on the court quickly exhausted the players. The strong blows created a flex on the aluminum frame and changed the level direction of the strings. This string caused the ball to go in the wrong direction. Graphite racquets were introduced to replace the unpredictable aluminum racquets. These racquets were less flexible and lighter than the original metal racquets. Arthur Ashe was the first to use a graphite tennis racquet capable of adding power to each swing. However, he was not the most popular tennis player to use this racquet. The first famous graphite racquets were used by John McEnto and Steffi Graf in the 1980s.



There has been no major change in the material from which the racquets are made since their evolution to graphite. Many companies add some graphite to give all racquets flexibility and stability.



There has been no major change in the material from which the racquets are made since their evolution to graphite. Many companies add some graphite to give all racquets flexibility and stability. Some have tried adding other materials such as titanium and Kevlar to see if the racquet would improve. So far no one was able to make a perfect substitute for the modern racquets; the basic things remained the same. Graphite is similar to Kevlar except that it is lighter, harder and transmits vibrations more easily. However, beginners say that Kevlar and titanium tennis racquets are difficult to control and won't be hand-friendly after a long time.

Can we imagine a tennis world without tennis balls? They also have a history of over seven hundred years. To learn about this incredible journey one has to go back to the days of real tennis, the forerunner of modern tennis. Real

tennis, also known as the Sports of Kings, originated in England in the 1400s. The game is played on an oval court with rules that confuse any student, with bouncy balls, strange racquets and a scoring system. Balls of the time of real tennis were often made of cork, wrapped tightly with a fabric cloth and covered with a hand-sewn layer of heavy woven woolen cloth. But since there were no uniform balls in Europe, they could be made of anything that could fit inside the covering, including the intestines of animals.

In England in 1463, a law passed by Parliament banning the importation of tennis balls had a profound adverse effect on the game. In 1480, Louis XI of France, also a tennis lover, banned the filling of tennis balls with chalk, sand, sawdust or dirt and sand. He said the balls needed to be made of good leather and well stuffed with wool and he did

not want to see them stuffed with the intestines of animals. Centuries later, some old balls made of putty and human hair were recovered from the roof of Westminster Hall in London, during the 1920s.

The first major change in tennis ball occurred in England in the 1870s when lawn tennis was introduced. Walter Clopton Wingfield, one of the pioneers of lawn tennis, began importing rubber balls from Germany with his companions Augurio Perera and Harry Gem. These balls, which were light gray or red with air, had no outer covering. Then, an English barrister and a real tennis player named John Moyer suggested that the rubber ball had to be covered with flannel. By 1882, Wingfield had begun advertising that the balls were wrapped in thick cloth. This was the beginning of the tennis balls we know today.

The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor affected the tennis market and it stopped the production of tennis balls, as 90 percent of the rubber grown went to war priorities. Tennis players went into tennis stores and began to buy balls in a fear that there would be no balls available in the market since then. But all the ball brands went into research and development in search of ways to create balls that do not require crude rubber. The Victory Ball, about 6 inches lower than traditional balls, came out of black seams with reclaimed rubber. The Pennsylvania Ball Company also made balls from recycled rubber and, at a large point in the game's history, was the first company to sell balls in pressured cans.

Modern balls have gone through their own evolution. Of course, traditional white balls were replaced by optic yellow in 1972, especially when it came to packaging and cans. The TV audience was also able to watch the ball well during the matches. Due to the regulations of the International Tennis Federation, the production of tennis balls has not changed over the years. Outside Bangkok, Wilson's 118,403-square-foot factory produces 100 million yellow-green balls each year using a process involving 24 complex steps. Tennis balls, which are used at



all levels of the game and with the advent of youth tennis, now come in different sizes. The bigger foam balls and various depressurized balls used by the youngsters are intended to develop the game by helping the players to become more skilled.

Tennis balls are manufactured through a complete range of flexible production systems. The manufacturing process can be divided into six stages, including rubber mixing, half-shell forming, core forming, felt forming, assembly stamping & packaging. After all, 'felt forming' and 'assembly stamping' are processes only in the manufacture of tennis balls. The first step, rubber mixing is to design the rubber formula according to the specification of the ball. The rubber and other chemicals are weighed and mixed evenly in a rubber mixer and the mixture is then deposited inside the mould of a hydraulic pressing machine for first curing and then formed into semi-spherical half-shells under certain conditions. The next step is to stick these

half shells together with a special glue. In the second curing process, the two half-shells merge into a fixed core. This is the final stage in the manufacture of standard rubber balls. Felt forming, as mentioned earlier, is the process only used for tennis balls. It fits well with the surface of the ball, and during the final manufacturing phase of tennis balls, the glued cores and felts are assembled by hand or by machine. The cores and felts stick together as the balls move to the third curing process. In the final stage, flawlessly manufactured and tested products are stamped with the logo or trademark. The balls are packaged in custom packaging and the product is delivered to customers as soon as possible. Tennis balls have become an unavoidable presence in our world today. Every year about 125 million tennis balls are sold in the United States alone and 325 million worldwide. Sadly, more than 100 million balls are thrown into landfills each year, and it takes more than 450 years to decompose.



BACK LOBE



The city becomes vibrant when there is a whole lot of people on the outside. When people live in cramped spaces, what gives them a breather is the open space. Well, it is true for even those living in luxurious large houses. When you are out and about, you feel free

to breathe in the air and breathe out your worries to some extent. You tend to see people and may be repeated sightings would lead to talks and could develop friendships or lasting relationships.

However, as soon as we term a place 'city' what comes to mind is just buildings, crowds, etc. World Cities Culture Forum states that Istanbul has 2.2% and Taipei has 3.4% public green space. How would the air quality be? How will people relax in open areas?

It need not be so distraught. When cities are being developed, the planners should give adequate consideration for allotting green areas for the public. Yeah, to find budgets for developing green spaces would be a bit difficult. Let allotting spaces take place first. Encroaching should be prevented at all cost. Later as and when budgetary requirements can be met, the area can be beautified. We have several examples of private players taking up such activities as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. The development and beautification will happen ultimately for sure.

It is the responsibility of governments to demark specific areas as public green spaces. Once that is done and the area is guarded from encroachments, people will take note and support in endeavors to develop it.

So, what if it is not developed and just left open? What else, go out to these places, have a breath of fresh air and be happy. Let's make our city Vibrant.

Viswanath V.
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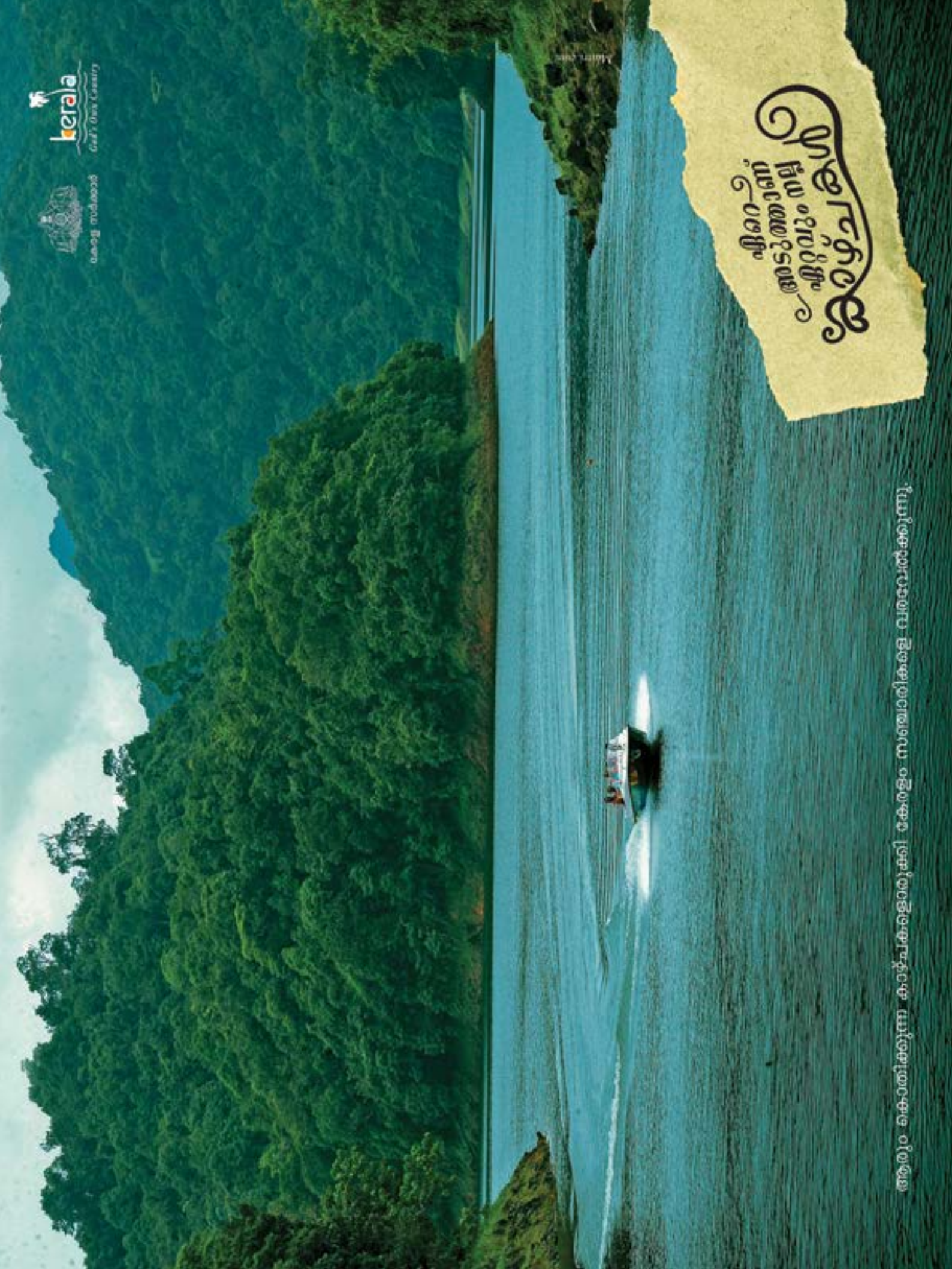
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കൊച്ചിയിൽ
സമുദ്രസഞ്ചാരം
എന്നൊരു
പ്രവേശനം

ആര്യം കെന്തിക്കുന്നു കൊച്ചിയിലെ ആര്യം കെന്തിക്കുന്നു സഞ്ചാരികളെ വരവേൽക്കുന്നു.