

**INTERNSHIP PROJECT REPORT
ON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR & CORRESPONDANT
AT
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS**

**SUBMITTED
IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF**

**BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM AND
MASS COMMUNICATION
OF
AMITY UNIVERSITY MUMBAI**

**SUBMITTED BY
SREEJITH M.R
A70379821004
2021 – 2024**

**UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF
PROFESSOR NIDHI WAIRAGADE**



**AMITY SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
AMITY UNIVERSITY MUMBAI**

DECLARATION

I **“SREEJITH M.R”** declare that I have completed the summer internship as **“ASSOCIATE EDITOR & CORRESPONDENT”** at **“THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, KOCHI”** which is submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication of Amity University, Mumbai during 2021 – 2024.

The information presented in this project is original work.

Signature

SREEJITH M.R

BJMC2108

A70379821004

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the Internship project titled **“ASSOCIATE EDITOR & CORRESPONDANT”** at **“THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, KOCHI”** submitted by **“SREEJITH M.R”** in fulfillment to the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication of Amity University, Mumbai during 2021-2024.

PROFESSOR NIDHI WAIRAGADE
(PROJECT GUIDE)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Serial No.	Particulars	Page No.
1	ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW	7
2	ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION	8
3	EDITORIAL AND STRUCTURAL OVERVIEW	11
4	MAJOR COMPETITORS	13
5	SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS	17
6	OVERVIEW OF THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY	19
7	INTERNSHIP DETAILS	24

8	WEEKLY REPORT – JULY 3 TO AUGUST 2	25
9	SKILLSETS LEARNED OR DEVELOPED WHILE WORKING AS AN ASSOCIATE EDITOR	33
10	CONCLUSION REPORT	36
11	PUBLISHED ARTICLES	38
12	PHOTO GALLERY	44
13	INTERNSHIP OFFER LETTER	51
14	COMPLETION CERTIFICATE	52

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW



Type

Daily Newspaper

Format

Broadsheet

Headquarters

Chennai

Publisher

Express Publications

Slogan

It all starts here, Journalism of Courage

Founded

1932 in Madras, British India, Bifurcated from The Indian Express and renamed on 13 August 1999

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Indian Express was first published on September 5, 1932, in Madras (now Chennai) by an Ayurvedic doctor and Indian National Congress member P Varadarajulu Naidu, publishing from the same press where he ran the Tamil Nadu Tamil weekly. But soon, on account of financial difficulties, he sold it to S. Sadanand, founder of The Free Press Journal, another English newspaper.

In 1933, The Indian Express opened its second office in Madurai and launched the Tamil daily Dinamani on September 11, 1934. Sadanand introduced several innovations and reduced the price, but later sold part of his stake in the form of convertible debentures to Ramnath Goenka due to financial difficulties. When The Free Press Journal further went into financial decline in 1935, Sadanand lost ownership of Indian Express after a long controversial court battle with Goenka, where blows were exchanged. Finally, a year later, Goenka bought the rest of the 26 percent stake from Sadanand, and the paper came under his control, which took the already anti-establishment tone of the paper to greater heights. At that time, it had to face stiff competition from the well-established The Hindu and the Mail, besides other prominent newspapers. In the late 1930s, the circulation was no more than 2,000.

In 1939 Goenka bought out Andhra Prabha, a prominent Telugu daily. It gained the name Three Musketeers for the three dailies. In 1940 the whole premises were gutted by fire. The Hindu, its rival, helped considerably in re-launching the paper, by getting it printed temporarily at one of its Swadesimithran's press and later offering its recently vacated premises in Madras at 2, Mount Road later to become the landmark Express Estates. This relocation helped the Express obtain better high-speed printing machines.

In later years, Goenka started the Mumbai edition with the landmark Express Towers as his office when the Morning Standard was bought by him in 1944. Two years later it became the Mumbai edition of The Indian Express. Later on, editions were started in cities like Madurai (1957), Bangalore (1965) and Ahmedabad (1968). The Financial Express was launched in 1961 from Mumbai, a Bangalore edition of Andhra Prabha was launched in 1965, and Gujarati dailies Lok Satta and Jansatta were in 1952, from Ahmedabad and Baroda.

The Delhi edition started when the Tej group's Indian News Chronicle was acquired in 1951, which from 1953 became the Delhi edition of Indian Express. In 1990 it bought the Sterling group of magazines and, along with it, the Gentleman magazine.

After Goenka's demise in 1991, two of the family members split the group into Indian Express Mumbai with all the north Indian editions, while the southern editions were grouped as Express Publications (Madurai) Limited with Chennai as headquarters.

Editions

The New Indian Express is now published in all 22 major cities in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

Circulation

The New Indian Express has a net paid circulation of 595,618 copies. TNIE achieves its biggest penetration (paid sales per head of population) in the state of Kerala. It claims to be the first Indian newspaper to give insurance benefits to its subscribers. It is published in a geographical area that covers approximately 24 percent of the

national population. The New Sunday Express (the Sunday edition of the TNIE) is arguably the flagship publication, with magazine supplements incorporating national and international themes and sections on developmental issues, society, politics, literature, arts, cinema, travel, lifestyle, sports, new-age living, self-development, and entertainment.

Recent changes

During late 2007/early 2008, there was a big shakeout of editorial staff, with many old hands leaving to make way for new ones. In April 2008, the newspaper underwent a major, drastic, and exceptionally modern layout and design makeover and launched a huge advertising campaign.

EDITORIAL AND STRUCTURAL OVERVIEW

Editorial Values and Approach

Credibility and Accuracy

The New Indian Express prioritizes factual reporting and endeavours to present unbiased news to its readers. It adheres to high journalistic standards, ensuring accuracy in its reporting.

Diverse Coverage

The newspaper covers a broad spectrum of topics, catering to a diverse audience with content ranging from local news to global events. It provides in-depth analysis and insights on various issues affecting India and the world.

Engagement with Readers

The publication encourages reader participation through opinion pieces, letters to the editor, and interactive sections, fostering a sense of community involvement.

Sections and Content

News and Current Affairs

The New Indian Express offers comprehensive coverage of national and international news, delivering updates on politics, economy, and social issues.

Editorials and Opinions

The newspaper features editorials and opinion pieces that reflect diverse viewpoints on pertinent issues, providing readers with different perspectives.

Lifestyle and Entertainment

It includes sections dedicated to lifestyle, culture, entertainment, fashion, and trends, catering to the varied interests of its readers.

Sports

A dedicated section covers sports events, analysis, and insights, keeping sports enthusiasts informed about the latest developments.

Digital Presence

In addition to its print edition, The New Indian Express has a robust digital presence. Its website and mobile app offer real-time news updates, breaking news alerts, and multimedia content, ensuring readers stay informed on the go.

Initiatives and Impact

The newspaper has undertaken various initiatives to contribute to society, including campaigns for social causes, promoting literacy, and advocating for community welfare. It has been instrumental in raising awareness and driving positive changes in society through its journalistic endeavours.

MAJOR COMPETITORS

DECCAN CHRONICLES

DECCAN
Chronicle

Type

Daily newspaper

Founded

1938

Language

English

Circulation

1,333,668

The Deccan Chronicle is a prominent English-language daily newspaper in India with a rich history dating back to 1938. It covers a wide range of news topics, including local, national, and international affairs, politics, business, sports, entertainment, lifestyle, and more. The publication has a significant presence in South India and caters to a diverse readership across various demographics.

THE HINDU



Type

Daily newspaper

Founded

1878

Language

English

Circulation

1,415,792

The Hindu is one of India's most esteemed English-language daily newspapers, renowned for its comprehensive coverage of national and international news, insightful editorials, and analytical reporting. Established in 1878, it upholds a reputation for journalistic integrity, objectivity, and high editorial standards.

TIMES OF INDIA



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Type

Daily newspaper

Founded

1838

Language

English

Circulation

1,872,442

The Times of India is one of India's most widely circulated and respected English-language daily newspapers. Established in 1838, it holds a prominent position in the Indian media landscape and is renowned for its comprehensive coverage of national and international news, insightful editorials, and diverse content across various sections.

Hindustan Times



Type

Daily newspaper

Founded

1924

Language

English

Circulation

738,154

The Hindustan Times is one of India's most prominent English-language daily newspapers, recognized for its comprehensive coverage, journalistic integrity, and editorial excellence. Established in 1924, it has a rich history of providing reliable news and analysis across various domains, catering to a diverse readership across India and abroad.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STRENGTH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Well-built franchise model in remote places where access is difficult. ● Covers the four corners of North India with a good network and 9 publishing centres. ● It is among the top ten positions according to the readership ranking of Indian English dailies. ● Maintains an online website with daily e-paper and current updates. ● Good brand presence across India 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEAKNESS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Underwent a lot of legal battles for ownership since decades which compromised on the quality of journalism as the secondary focus. ● The Indian Express Group was divided into two newspapers for the south (The New Indian Express) and the other for the north (The Indian Express) which may lead to extra costs for gathering information.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OPPORTUNITIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can generate more revenue by promoting ads of national brands at low costs. ● Bring some good ads online through YouTube for marketing and increasing the readership. ● Add additional innovative features to target customer segments by understanding the needs of the target customer segment. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TREATS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cut-throat competition offered by other English national dailies. ● Not as effective in terms of the quality of news as that of the high-ranking newspapers in readership. ● Immediate need to move up the ladder in case it wants to gain new customers beyond the loyal readers.

CHAPTER 2

OVERVIEW OF THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

The newspaper industry has been an integral part of the media landscape for centuries, serving as a primary source of information, news, and opinion for people worldwide. Over the years, the industry has evolved significantly, adapting to technological advancements, changing reader preferences, and economic challenges. This overview will delve into the historical context, current landscape, challenges faced, and prospects of the newspaper industry.

Historical Evolution

The newspaper industry traces its roots back to the early 17th century when the first printed newspapers emerged in Europe. These papers primarily contained local news, advertisements, and opinions, serving as a means of disseminating information within communities. With the invention of the printing press, newspapers became more widespread, contributing to the spread of knowledge and ideas.

Current Landscape

- **Print vs. Digital Shift**

In recent decades, the industry has undergone a significant transformation with the rise of digital media. Traditional print newspapers have faced challenges due to declining readership and advertising revenue, while digital platforms have gained prominence.

- **Digital Dominance**

Online news portals and mobile apps have become major sources of news consumption. Newspapers have adapted by establishing digital editions, offering multimedia content, and implementing paywalls for online subscriptions.

- **Diversification of Content**

To remain competitive, newspapers have expanded their content to include multimedia elements, podcasts, videos, and interactive features, catering to the preferences of modern audiences.

Challenges Faced

- **Revenue Decline**

Print circulation and advertising revenues have declined significantly, impacting the financial sustainability of newspapers. Many have struggled to adapt their business models to the digital era.

- **Competition from Digital Platforms**

Online giants like Google and Facebook have captured a significant portion of digital advertising revenue, posing a challenge for newspapers to monetize their online content effectively.

- **Trust and Credibility**

With the proliferation of fake news and misinformation, maintaining trust and credibility has become crucial for newspapers. Building reader trust through accurate reporting and fact-checking is a constant challenge.

Prospects

Subscription-based

Models Many newspapers are shifting towards subscription-based models for digital content, emphasizing quality journalism and exclusive features to attract paying subscribers.

Collaboration and Innovation

Collaborations between newspapers, technological innovations, and leveraging data analytics are being explored to develop personalized content and advertising strategies.

Diversification of Revenue Streams

Newspapers are exploring alternative revenue streams such as events, merchandise, and membership programs to supplement advertising and subscription income.

Conclusion

The newspaper industry continues to navigate challenges in a rapidly changing media landscape. While traditional print newspapers face hurdles, the evolution towards digital platforms presents opportunities for innovation and adaptation. The industry's survival hinges on its ability to embrace change, maintain journalistic integrity, and engage audiences in compelling ways. As technology advances and consumer behaviours evolve, newspapers will continue to evolve, shaping the future of media dissemination and information consumption.

CHAPTER 3

INTERNSHIP DETAILS

MODE OF INTERNSHIP

OFFLINE (ON-SITE)

OFFICE ADDRESS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

EXPRESS HOUSE, KALOOR

KOCHI

ROLE

ASSOCIATE EDITOR & CORRESPONDANT

INTERNSHIP DURATION

JULY 3 TO AUGUST 2, 2023

JOB DESCRIPTION

The role of an Associate Editor and correspondent Intern is a dynamic and multifaceted position that bridges the worlds of journalism, editorial oversight, and on-ground reporting. This role encapsulates a blend of responsibilities, ranging from contributing to editorial decisions and coordinating with writers and reporters, to actively engaging in newsgathering and reporting. The individual is tasked with assisting the Associate Editor and senior editorial staff in the overall management of content creation and publication. Their responsibilities span a wide spectrum, involving editorial planning, content curation, fact-checking, and ensuring adherence to the publication's editorial standards.

WEEKLY REPORT – JULY 3 TO AUGUST 2

WEEK 1		
DATE	PROJECTS	RESPONSIBILITY
03/07/2023	JOINING DAY (DAY 1)	Meeting the reporting authority and the resident editor. Getting to know about the work.
04/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-1 (DAY 2)	Assigned to research information and data for an article about Koorumala's viewpoint.
05/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-1 (DAY 3)	Started drafting article. Reviewing and editing written drafts. Submitted the Final Draft.
06/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-1 (DAY 4)	The article was published as a combined project including other

		articles.
07/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 5)	Follow-up on emails, interview requests, or any pending tasks. Fact-checking and verification of sources.
08/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 6)	Meetings with the editor and team members. Pitching ideas and plans for next week.
WEEK 2		
DATE	PROJECTS	RESPONSIBILITY
10/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 7)	Pitching a new story idea to the editor. Got the approval for a new article about Esports in Kerala.
11/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 (DAY 8)	Researching information and data for an article about the growth of Esports in Kerala.

12/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 (DAY 9)	Contacted an organization called Blind Esports. Assured their full aid for the article.
13/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 (DAY 10)	Interview with Sarath Babu and Arjun Suresh, the owners of the Blind Esports Organization.
14/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 11)	Witness the proud Chandrayaan 3 launch along with colleagues. New Article assigned.
15/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-3 (DAY 12)	Assigned to interview Stephen Antony Kallarackal for an article. Started drafting article.
WEEK 3		
DATE	PROJECTS	RESPONSIBILITY
17/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-3 ASSIGNMENT-4 [FIELD WORK] (DAY 13)	Went to Aluva to pitch an article. Submitted final draft of assignments 3 & 4.

18/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-3 ASSIGNMENT-4 (DAY 14)	Both articles were published as the cover and main story in the Kochin and Trivandrum editions.
19/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 15)	Covering and following up on the funeral of former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy sir.
20/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 16)	Compiling multimedia elements (photos, videos, infographics) for the entertainment page.
21/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 (DAY 17)	Interview with Athul Sherif aka Blind Rebel for the article about BGMI.
22/07/2023	WORKDAY [FIELD WORK] (DAY 18)	Attended the press meeting of Shoot the Rain Event at Marine Inn Kochi.
WEEK 4		
DATE	PROJECT	RESPONSIBILITY
24/07/2023	WORKDAY (DAY 19)	Went to the printing and packing press unit to see how the

		mechanisms work.
25/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 (DAY 20)	Interview with Prishita Nair aka MintyyGal gaming for the article about BGMI.
26/07/2023	WORKDAY [FIELD WORK] (DAY 21)	Attended the press meeting of Iqoo India at Taj Kochi. Interviewed the CEO of Iqoo Marketing.
27/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 (DAY 22)	Interview with Dilin Dinesh aka Blind Eagle for the article about BGMI.
28/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-5 [FIELD WORK] (DAY 23)	Went to Fort Kochi for interviewing, Thankachan T.A. Saw his art exhibition named Azure. Submitted the final draft of the interview.
29/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 [FIELD WORK] ASSIGNMENT-5 (DAY 24)	Went to CUSAT Kalamassery as a press invite to cover their gaming event named Gamercon 2023. Published Assignment 5 as the cover sub-story in the Kochi edition.

WEEK 5

DATE	RESPONSIBILITY	LEARNING
31/07/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 ASSIGNMENT-6 [FIELDWORK] (DAY 25)	Submitted the final draft of Assignment 2 for publishing. Interview with Team Horizon for the next article.
01/08/2023	ASSIGNMENT-2 ASSIGNMENT-7 (DAY 26)	Published Assignment 2 as the cover story in the Kochi, Trivandrum, and Kozhikode editions. Interviewed Pinky, the owner of Pink Kurt.
02/08/2023	ASSIGNMENT-6 ASSIGNMENT-7 (DAY 26) LAST DAY OF WORK	Submitted the final drafts of Assignments 6 and 7. Cleared all the pending works in the office. Got good feedback from seniors and colleagues. Signed off the Internship

WORK REPORT OVERVIEW

TOTAL WORKING DAYS	26
INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED	8
PRESS MEET ATTENDED	2
EVENTS/EXHIBITIONS ATTENDED	2
ARTICLES SUBMITTED	7
ARTICLES PUBLISHED	6

CHAPTER 4

INTERPRETATION

SKILLSETS LEARNED OR DEVELOPED WHILE WORKING AS AN ASSOCIATE EDITOR

- **Writing Proficiency**
Enhanced writing skills through drafting and editing articles, reports, and news pieces.
- **Journalistic Integrity**
Learned about maintaining ethical standards and objectivity in reporting.
- **Research Skills**
Conducted in-depth research to gather accurate and reliable information for articles.
- **Interviewing Techniques**
Gained experience in interviewing subjects for stories or features.
- **Deadline Management**
Developed the ability to meet tight deadlines while maintaining quality.
- **Editing and Proofreading**
Perfected the art of reviewing and refining content for grammar, style, and clarity.
- **Adaptability**
Adapted writing style and tone according to the publication's guidelines and target audience.
- **Fact-Checking**
Acquired skills in verifying information to ensure accuracy and credibility.

- **Multimedia Skills**

Familiarity with incorporating multimedia elements like images, videos, and infographics into content.

- **News Judgment**

Improved the ability to assess newsworthiness and prioritize stories.

- **SEO Knowledge**

Understanding of basic Search Engine Optimization principles for online content.

- **Social Media Management**

Experience in promoting content through various social media platforms.

- **Collaboration**

Worked effectively in a team environment with editors, writers, and other staff members.

- **Communication Skills**

Enhanced communication skills through interactions with sources, colleagues, and editors.

- **Critical Thinking**

Developed critical thinking skills to analyze information and present it engagingly.

- **Adherence to Style Guides**

Followed and implemented specific style guides (e.g., AP Stylebook) for consistency.

- **Story Pitching**

Learned how to pitch ideas effectively to editors and generate engaging story concepts.

- **Understanding of Media Ethics**

Explored the ethical considerations and responsibilities associated with journalism.

- **Crisis Reporting Skills**

Managed reporting during crises or breaking news situations effectively.

- **Adapting to New Technologies**

Familiarity with using various publishing platforms, content management systems, and digital tools relevant to journalism.

CONCLUSION REPORT

During my internship as an Associate Editor Correspondent, I was immersed in a multifaceted environment that allowed me to experience the intricate workings of the media industry firsthand. One highlight was the opportunity to conduct interviews with prominent figures across various sectors. These interviews involved in-depth research, thoughtful questioning, and the synthesis of information into compelling narratives for publication.

Attending press meets was another integral aspect of my role. These events provided a platform to interact with industry experts, government officials, and thought leaders, allowing me to gather firsthand information on pressing issues and emerging trends. Contributing to publications was both gratifying and challenging. Collaborating with the editorial team, I honed my writing skills and learned the intricacies of meeting deadlines while ensuring accuracy and clarity in content. The office ambiance was vibrant and conducive to productivity. It fostered creativity and encouraged open discussions, fostering an environment that nurtured growth and learning. My colleagues were incredibly supportive and willing to share their expertise, which significantly enriched my learning experience.

The internship not only refined my editorial and journalistic skills but also taught me the importance of teamwork and adaptability in a fast-paced industry. It reinforced my passion for storytelling and journalism, motivating me to pursue a career in media with a broader perspective and deeper insight.

CHAPTER 5

ANNEXURE

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

BEAUTIFUL GAME, BOUNTIFUL TALES TOLD BY SPARHSANAM ARTS

[https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/jul/18/beautiful-game-bountiful-
tales-told-bysparhsanam-arts-2595790.html](https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/jul/18/beautiful-game-bountiful-
tales-told-bysparhsanam-arts-2595790.html)

TNIE chats up with Stephen Antony Kallarackal, a business honcho who has been immortalising yesteryear icons of Kerala football through his YouTube series of interviews titled 'Keralavum Santosh Trophyum'

SREEJITH M R

Football, they say, is an emotion in Kerala. And it's not just about the World Cup frenzy or ISL fervour. Mention Santhosh Trophy at any nook or cranny in the state, and one can see nostalgia unspool in a jiffy. Malayalis hold this national tournament close to their hearts.

This emotional bond is something that intrigued Stephen Antony Kallarackal, who is the Kerala head of a cargo company named Everfast Freight Forwarders at the Kochi international airport. It made him embark on a quest to immortalise icons of Kerala football for the younger generations through an engaging series titled 'Keralavum Santhosh Trophyum' on his YouTube channel named Sparhsanam Arts.

Stephen was never a football fanatic. "I had nothing to do with football before starting this series," he says.

"Once, while giving a motivational class, I asked the students about Victor Manjilla. None of them had heard about the yesteryear football star of Kerala. That's when the idea of doing something to preserve and popularise the legacy of football in the state struck me."

In January last year, Stephen started a journey to revisit the gems of Kerala's football history. He set aside his weekends and holidays for his trips across Kerala. "So far, I have travelled over 20,000km criss-crossing the state for the interviews," he smiles.

"Football has a storied past in Kerala. Yet, several great players, who have brought pride to our state on both national and international stages, remain unknown to our own people," says Stephen.

Through meticulous research and numerous conversations, Stephen has curated a list of legendary players. And his series transcends mere personal anecdotes; they depict the broader socio-cultural impact of football in Kerala.

Former players and coaches shed light on their humble beginnings, struggles, and the spirit that drove them forward. By documenting their stories, Stephen has immortalised their accomplishments and contributions to Kerala football, making these interviews a great resource for researchers, sports writers, and football buffs alike.

"Though I decided on the project, I initially had no clue how and where to start," he recalls.

"Then, I remembered my schoolmate Mankada Surendran - with whom I studied 48 years ago. He later went on to become a footballer."

Stephen headed to Mankada in Malappuram. There he met

BEAUTIFUL GAME, BOUNTIFUL TALES



Members of the 1973 Kerala Football team, which lifted the Santosh Trophy for the first time, posing for a photo at the get-together organised by *The New Indian Express* on the 40th year of the historic win, in Kochi. (File pic)



U Sharaf Ali

his childhood friend and former footballer K Surendran, who had played for the national university team, Titanium FC, and KSEB. Thus began the series.

A pivotal moment came when Stephen interviewed former Kerala goalie Ilti Mathew, who was part of the 1973 Santhosh Trophy winning team. "Itty Sir gave me a lot of leads and guidance," he says.

So far, Stephen has interviewed about 150 football icons, including M M Jacob, U Sharafali, C V Pappachan, Shushant Mathew, T A Jaffer, and K P Williams. He also met Anita Sathyan, wife of the late V P Sathyan.

The interview sheds light on



Former Indian football player C V Pappachan saves a shot at the goal as budding footballers look on during an exhibition match held at Manjalikulam ground in Thiruvananthapuram. (File pic)

fascinating tales from the former Indian skipper's time playing for the nation, state and Mohun Bagan, and the profound impact he had on the footballing community. "Despite the challenges of losing her husband, Anita found solace in establishing the Sathyan Football Academy with the support of numerous football enthusiasts," Stephen notes.

Each interview held a unique significance, he adds. "The session with B Devanand, the star center-back defender in the 1973 squad (who passed away last year), left a lasting impact as he was bedridden after losing his legs," recalls Stephen.

"Interviewing Victor Manjilla was special, too. I saw him first in 1976 at Thrissur Thope Ground when I was a schoolboy. The tall, curly-haired national player, in journalistic parlance, was a flying goalkeeper I had heard and read a lot about him in my youth. So, I was very excited about meeting him. He shared a lot of golden memories."

Q Football has a storied past in Kerala. Yet, several great players, who have brought pride to our state on both national and international stages, remain unknown to our own people.

Stephen Antony Kallarackal



G Ravindran Nair Dr Rajagopal P K



U Sharaf Ali Simon Sunder Raj



C P M Usman Koya Victor Manjila

When asked about how he manages to balance work and passion, Stephen thanks his wife, Molly, for being a constant pillar of support, assisting him with shooting and editing.

"All my trips were on Sundays and public holidays. I have not done anything else for the last 74 Sundays," adds Stephen, who is also a Guinness record-holding whistling artist.

"That's a problem with friends and relatives. Many people have looked at me and asked me if I was crazy. I reply that one cannot live in this world and achieve something without a little madness!"



SOULFUL SOLACE AT ALUVA MANAPPURAM

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/jul/18/soufulsolace-ataluva-manappuram-2595792.html>



TNIE lensman
T P Sooraj captures
moments from the
ancient tradition of
offering Vavu bali on the
banks of the Periyar

SOULFUL SOLACE

VAVU bali holds a significant place in the tapestry of Kerala's cultural heritage. Every year, thousands throng the Aluva Manappuram to perform the ritual of bali or pitru tharpanam, offering their homage to departed souls.

Since ancient times, it has been considered auspicious to conduct the rituals on the premises of the Sri Mahadeva

Temple, about 22km from Kochi, on the banks of the Periyar.

This year, too, devotees started descending on the riverbank in the wee hours. Many of them had stayed overnight on the temple premises.

A temple committee member pointed out that this year, the new moon and Karkidakam's first day fell on the same day. Notably, there was a spike in involvement of the younger generation, probably driven by a renewed interest in returning to the roots and conserving cultural heritage.

"The participation of women and youth was much higher this year," said the committee member. "We had set up 80 *ba lithams* (platforms for rituals) on the manappuram (sand bank). Basic facilities, including food and water, were arranged on the temple premises. Over 500 policemen and fire & rescue personnel were stationed to ensure the safety of devotees and smooth conduct of rituals. This time, too, we adhered to the green protocol and banned the usage of plastic on the temple premises."

- SREEJITH M R

AN ENGAGING EXCURSION WITH FISHERFOLK

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/jul/29/an-engaging-excursion-with-fisherfolk-2599602.html>

ART CORNER

An engaging excursion with fisherfolk



"I am a self-taught artist," smiles Thankachan as he reflects on his artistic journey.

"I got inspired to take up art after reading a book by renowned artist P L Francis. Born in the coastal village of Elamkunnappuzha in Ernakulam, from a very young age, I have been fascinated by fisherfolk and their techniques. I had an innate desire to portray their day-to-day activities. So, as I started painting, I wanted fishermen to be the central theme."

Thankachan travelled extensively through Kerala's coastlines for this project. "I wanted to showcase the grit, grime and subtle beauty of the fisherfolk's work through my paintings," he adds.

Each piece done in acrylic emanates a distinct aura, a unique story that unfolds through the vivid strokes of the artist's brush. Thankachan's attention to detail, such as the fisherfolk's emotions, is impressive. Gazing at

some frames, one can almost feel the salt-laden breeze on their faces and hear the echoes of fishermen's laughter mingling with the crashing waves.

The paintings capture not just the fishermen's labour but also their camaraderie and a sense of purpose that comes from their deep-rooted connection with waterbodies.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a striking work that shows a unique fishing technique.

"I was amazed by the method. Elderly women would wade out into the water, and create a kind of vibration as they walk. They have a knack to spot the fish underneath, and catch them with their hands — no hooks or nets," Thankachan explains.

Adding to the overall vibe of the exhibition, musical bands Voxygen and Metafolks will play live from 6pm to 7pm at David Hall on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

The exhibition will conclude on Sunday.



SREEJITH M R

ART HAS AN extraordinary power to capture the essence of cultures, traditions, and the soul of communities. And that is what former irrigation department official Thankachan T A has attempted to do in his art show titled 'Azure: A Tribute to Kerala's Fishermen' at David Hall in Fort Kochi.

The exhibition is akin to an engrossing excursion covering the coastal communities of Kerala. As the title suggests, it offers a glimpse into the lives of fisherfolk, their stoic spirit.



ENTERING THE VIRTUAL WAR WITH ALL GUNS BLAZING

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/aug/01/entering-the-virtual-war-with-all-guns-blazing-2600549.html>



Kochi Express

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: cityexpresskoc@newindianexpress.com

01.08.2023
TUESDAY



Rajeev Ravi: The true-blue independent

DAY'S DIARY

High-speed rail line

Beijing-Tianjin, China's first high-speed railway line service opened on this day in 2008 taking 35 minutes from Tianjin to Beijing

RAILWAY STATION

Designed by Terry Farrell and Partners, the building consists of 24 platforms and is bigger than the bird nest Olympic stadium. Within 10 years, it carried 250 million passengers

EXPANSION

Since the first rail line, the country has built a network that spans nearly 40,000 km and is now the world's largest for built trains

FASTEST TRAIN

In July 2023, China unveiled a Maglev train capable of travelling at a top speed of 600km/h, the fastest ground vehicle available globally

SREEJITH M R

INDIA'S love for battle royale games has reached its zenith with the announcement of the much-awaited Battleground India Series (BGIS). For the uninitiated, it's a virtual war where gamers across the country battle it out for prizes worth ₹2 crore.

Basically, gaming teams take on each other in the Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI) war zone, or the renamed avatar of PUBG, released in India after the government had banned several Chinese-made apps.

A popular concept abroad, this is the second BGIS in India. Currently, gamers across India have personal war rooms or boot camps set up by esports teams.

Preliminary qualifiers – or the Grinds – began on July 30, and the final dash is scheduled for October. Like in the 2021-22 edition, the final rounds will be telecast on Star Sports.

Each team has four lead players and two substitutes. The winners will take home ₹75 lakh, and qualify for the PUBG Mobile Global Championship, which is a different league, with a prize money of about ₹12 crore.

In what may come across as a stunner for many in this part of the world, an esports organisation from Kerala – BLIND – has emerged as a fan-favourite to win the Indian championship.

With an impressive record of five national esports tournament victories this year, including the SkyEsports Championship Series, Upthrust Esports' StarVivors Saga Season II, and Villager Esports Dominate Series, BLIND has cemented its position as a force to be reckoned with.

As per Esports Gen rankings, BLIND is currently the no.1 team in India, securing an enviable 21st position globally.

The journey of BLIND began as a small-time PUBG clan founded by gamer Arjun Suresh aka 'Blind Satan'. The organisation's rise gained momentum when Sharath Babu aka 'Blind Jocker' joined forces, transforming the small group into a thriving esports entity.

Today, Kochi-based BLIND boasts an impressive roster of over 75 players hailing from various corners of India.

"BLIND started as a PUBG mobile roster in 2019 with a vision to bring talented amateurs into the mobile esports scene," recalls Arjun, who hails from Palakkad.

"Our first professional debut was at the PUBG Mobile India Tournament, one of the biggest esports events in India. That was before the PUBG ban."

BLIND made a mark, reaching the semifinals. "Later, we expanded to other games to accommodate more content creators and esports enthusiasts under our banner," says the 27-year-old.

"Like most gamers, I started off playing video games in my teens. At that time, I had no clue that gaming was part of a booming sport or



WITH ALL GUNS BLAZING

give them complete freedom, and provide them with optimal infrastructure and support – everything needed to practise, perform and improve.

Having started off as a band of six players, BLIND today boasts of some gaming biggies with one to ten lakh YouTube subscribers. Ramesh (Kaztro Gaming), Dilin Dineshan (Eagle Gaming), Athul Sheriff (Blind Rebel), Prishita Nair (Mintygan), and Amrutha (Cupcake Gaming) are some of them whose games are widely viewed.

"Not only BGMI, but BLIND also has gamers from Free Fire, Call of Duty Mobile, and Clash of Clans," says Shaanath. "In the end, gaming and esports are about entertainment. We are what we are because of the support from the community and fans. We always try to actively engage with them via our social media platforms, and have regular meetups."

One of the major revenue streams for BLIND is brand partnerships, he adds. So far, the group has worked with big names such as LaLiga, Comic Con, Monster Energy, Samsung, NBA, Loco, Logitech G, HP, and Intel.

BLIND provides its members and teams equipment such as iPhones and headsets, coaches/analysts, and managers to handle scheduling, needs of players, etc.

BLIND also has boot camps in Kalkand and Dubai, where high-speed internet connections, recording and streaming facilities, leisure and relaxation avenues are facilitated.

"We are a player-first organisation," chips in Shaanath, 30, who hails from Thiruvananthapuram. "That is how we ensure the best performance from each member. We

BIG BANG

Battleground Mobile India Series is the national tournament to qualify for the PUBG Mobile Global Championship. The Indian edition is organised by BGMI owner Krafton. Initial rounds started on July 20. From over 1,000 teams, about 250 will compete for a place in the final clash.

WHAT IS ESPORTS?

Short for electronic sports, esports refers to competitive video gaming, where professional players or teams compete against each other. Esports organisations like BLIND manage players and teams.

MP MODEL

The Madhya Pradesh sports department recently announced the establishment of India's first online gaming academy, the MP State Esports Academy, scheduled to open this month. Currently, 80% of the seats from the final selection are reserved for gamers from Madhya Pradesh. The government plans to provide free coaching and quality esports education to the selected athletes for 12 months.

ESPORTS IN INDIA

The future of esports in India appears promising, with the industry expected to expand significantly in the next few years. According to a KPMG analysis, the esports industry in India is predicted to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 30% between 2021 and 2025, reaching a market value of ₹1,800 crore (\$240 million) by 2025.

ESPORTS ACADEMIES

With the rising popularity of competitive gaming, e-sports academies have emerged across the globe. South Korea, China, the US, Japan, and several European countries, have recognised the value of esports and invested in specialist academies.



Kerala's first gaming conclave

GamerCon, touted to be the first major gaming conclave in Kerala, was held at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) grounds last Saturday.

Jointly hosted by the Cusat esports community and VEP Official, a national esports organisation, the event saw all the latest and greatest releases from the gaming world on display.

From cutting-edge gaming consoles to top-of-the-line PC rigs and even state-of-the-art virtual reality setups, there was something in it for everyone. However, it was competitive gaming took centre-stage with intense shooting tournaments and strategic multiplayer battles.

One of the highlights that set GamerCon apart was the unique chance for attendees to meet and interact with gaming content creators, including popular YouTubers, Loco streamers, and game developers.

"GamerCon isn't just about games and gadgets; it is also fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among gaming enthusiasts," said Jackson Davis, one of the organisers from Cusat Esports.

Dipak Kumar Sahoo, head of the School of Engineering, delivered the inaugural speech. "When I was a student, my friends and I had a passion for video games. Now, not only do students play games, but they also create fantastic games for others. We are happy to host such a big event on our campus," Dipak said.

MP MODEL

The Madhya Pradesh sports department recently announced the establishment of India's first online gaming academy, the MP State Esports Academy, scheduled to open this month. Currently, 80% of the seats from the final selection are reserved for gamers from Madhya Pradesh. The government plans to provide free coaching and quality esports education to the selected athletes for 12 months.

ESPORTS IN INDIA

The future of esports in India appears promising, with the industry expected to expand significantly in the next few years. According to a KPMG analysis, the esports industry in India is predicted to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 30% between 2021 and 2025, reaching a market value of ₹1,800 crore (\$240 million) by 2025.

ESPORTS ACADEMIES

With the rising popularity of competitive gaming, e-sports academies have emerged across the globe. South Korea, China, the US, Japan, and several European countries, have recognised the value of esports and invested in specialist academies.



CC

When I started creating gaming content, I exclusively catered to the Hindi audience. As I was in Mumbai, I wasn't aware of how popular esports was among Malayalis. When I found out about BLIND Esports and heard them speak my language, I immediately wanted to be a part of it. I have a small community of people who love to hear my broken Malayalam. I never had such a dedicated audience before.

-Prishita Nair aka Mintygan, gaming content creator

CC

When I started streaming, gaming was not very popular in Kerala. It was a difficult time to establish myself. BLIND helped me with streaming contacts and revenue from various companies. I have seen the ups and downs of BLIND and I am proud that the organisation has established its roots across the nation.

-Dilin Dineshan aka Eagle, gaming content creator

CC

It is like a brotherhood, family to me. We are helping each other reach success in the gaming community.

-Athul Sheriff aka Blind Rebel, gaming content creator

KOCHI-BASED HOMEMAKER TRANSFORMS FLAIR FOR CARPENTRY INTO A THRIVING PROFESSION

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/aug/06/kochi-based-homemaker-transforms-flair-for-carpentry-into-thriving-profession-2601634.html>

Pinky Arun learnt carpentry to spruce up her home the way she wanted. Now, she is running a carpentry business creating artistic woodworks, from cabinets to handcrafted decor pieces

SREEJITH M R

IN a world where societal norms often dictate career paths, some individuals dare to defy conventions and pursue their passions. Kochi-based homemaker Pinky Arun's journey is one such inspiring tale as she transformed her flair for carpentry into a thriving profession.

Pinky, who stays in Elamkulam, says her entry into carpentry was serendipity. "While renovating my house a few years ago, I wanted to change the interior decor, give it an artistic makeover. For that, I approached a dealer and told them the designs I was looking for. But none of those works met my expectations," she recalls.

"Then I thought why couldn't I give it a shot? I have been interested in art since I was young. So I browsed Google and YouTube to get more information about carpentry. Then I bought a machine called Jig-Saw. That was the beginning."

Pinky's interest only grew as she began experimenting with woodwork. She sought guidance from a veteran named Solomon in Vaduthala, Kochi, to delve deeper into the art of carpentry. "I learnt some traditional techniques from him. He also set up a big work table for



Carving her niche



garnered attention, leading to requests for custom-made furniture and decor. "So I decided to embrace it. Now it is not just my passion but a small business, too," she smiles. Her venture, 'Pink Kut', is now flourishing. Beyond carpentry, Pinky's artistic pursuits are diverse. She is a singer, classical dancer, and Kalari enthusiast.

She also dabbles in floral arrangements, wall textures, and abstract painting. "Recently, an Arab family who liked my wall texture painting contacted me to do a project at their new house," says Pinky.

Instagram: @pink.kut



materials into exquisite creations", bringing her visions to life one project at a time.

Each piece, she says, was infused with creativity and love, turning her house into a personalised art sanctuary.

"It was challenging at first. Carpentry is hard work and requires the use of machines and tools," she says. "However, once you learn the basics, it is easy I fell in love with the craft. I wear safety glasses and gloves, and chisel away at my home workshop."

Pinky's craftsmanship soon

me," she recalls. What initially started as an adventure to enhance her living space quickly evolved into a passion. As she honed her skills, Pinky discovered the "joy of transforming raw ma-

MALAYALI STUDENTS RARING TO ROVE ON MARS

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2023/aug/09/malayali-students-raring-to-rove-on-mars-2603281.html>

Malayali students raring to rove on Mars

SREEJITH M R

IN a remarkable achievement, a team from Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) has emerged as the only one from south India to secure a spot in the European Rover Challenge, a coveted annual event that gathers the brightest minds in robotics and engineering from across the globe.

Among the three contenders from the country, Cusat's Team Horizon will create and develop a Mars rover, a cutting-edge creation designed by the team's engineers and researchers.

"Each member brings a unique blend of talent and expertise to the table, covering a diverse range of engineering disciplines, including mechanical, electrical, computer science, and more," explains Team Horizon leader Muhammed Siyad P, who hails from Malappuram.

Having participated in the



Cusat students with a concept-stage model of the rover.

The objective of the rover is to navigate the challenging Martian landscape, conduct experiments, gather vital data, and demonstrate potential for human settlement — Ashique Ajay M, Team Horizon member

rover challenge since its 2019 edition, this will be Team Horizon's second appearance in the global finals. Ten representatives from the team — which has about 25 members — are set to

travel to Poland in September for the finals. A 75kg rover that is nearing completion will also board the flight with them.

"The primary objective of the rover is to navigate the chal-



Graphic model of the rover that will be presented in Poland

lenging Martian landscape, conduct experiments, gather vital data, and demonstrate the potential for human settlement on the red planet," gushes Horizon's mech wing member Ashique Ajay M, who hails from Thiruvananthapuram.

Palakkad native Malavika S, who handles the team's marketing, chips in that the selection for the finals was based on a comprehensive rover proposal showcasing its capabilities,

along with a design report.

"The estimated project cost is about ₹15 lakh. We received some funding assistance from Cusat, and are utilising the Kerala Startup Mission labs for the project. We, however, are looking for more support. Our team is determined to make India proud on the global stage," she adds.

Horizon's media head Jishnu MM, of Kochi, says the primary objective of the team, which was conceived in 2016, is spreading knowledge and skills. "We have already conducted some industry-level skill workshops with 150 students from 15 campuses across India," he highlights.

"Every year, as members pass out, fresh talent from the Cusat campus is inducted through rounds of interview and skill tests. We make them capable for the upcoming competitions and upholding Team Horizon's legacy."

PHOTO GALLERY

DAY 1 @ OFFICE





IQOO PRESS MEET



SHOOT THE RAIN PRESS MEET



INTERVIEW WITH THAKACHAN T.A & VISITING HIS EXHIBITION



INTERVIEW WITH GAMING POINEERS OF KERALA



GAMERCON EVENT @ CUSAT



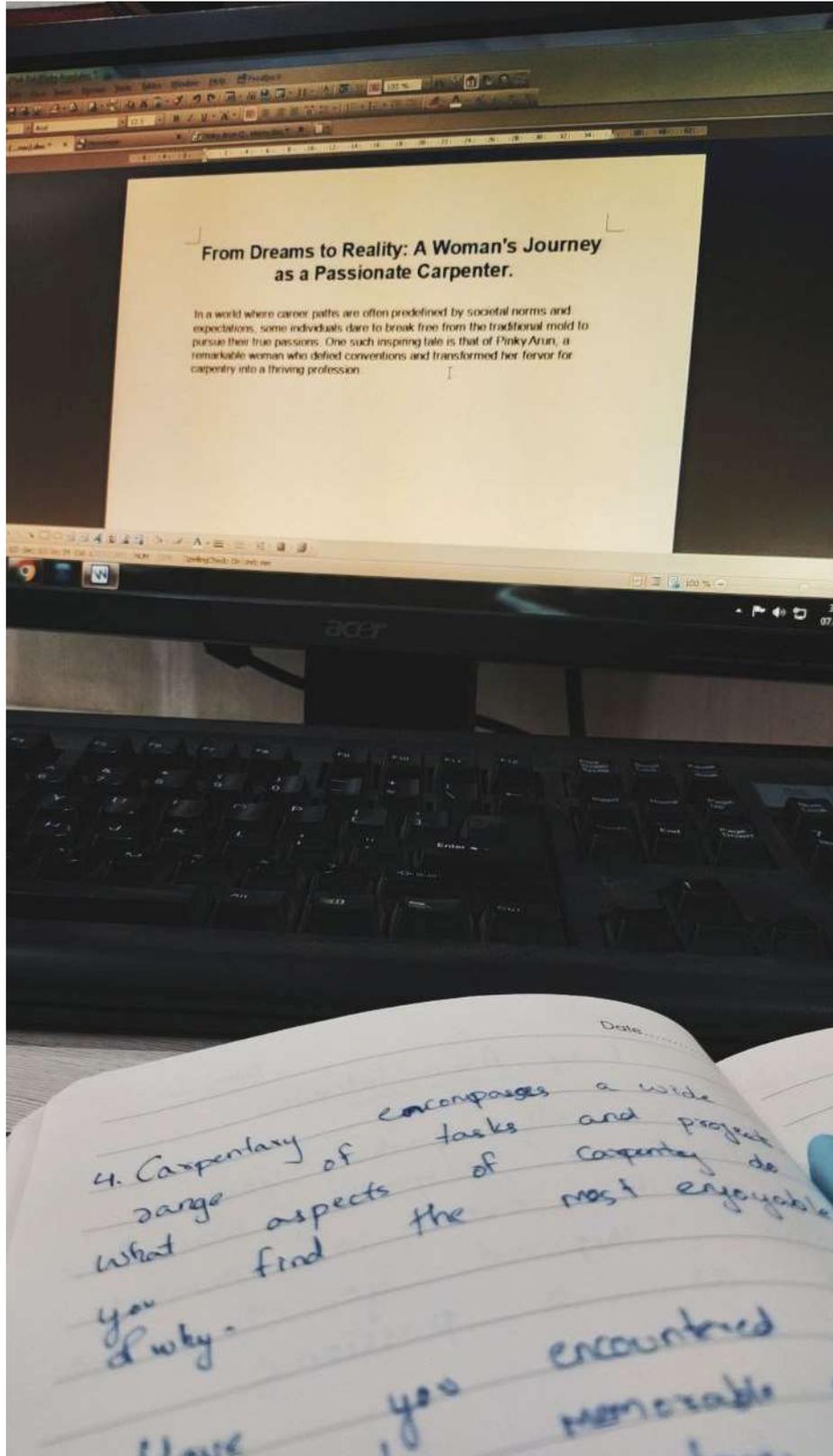
TEAM HORIZON



INTERVIEW WITH PINKY ARUN



INTERVIEWING ATHUL SHERIF & DILIN DINESHAN



WORKDAY @ TNIE

CHAPTER 6

DOCUMENTS

INTERNSHIP OFFER LETTER



re-kerala@newindiane... 22 May



to me ▾

Dear Mr.Sreejith,

This is an official confirmation for doing your internship with The New Indian Express, Kochi from July 3 to August 2, 2023.

Please Note:

Mode of internship (offline/online) --- offline

> *● Reporting Authority* ----Neeraj Krishna

> ● Contact of the Reporting Authority*---- 9746402561

> ● Reporting time on the first day of the internship 11.30 A M

> ● Documents required (if any)* ---- Resume and Bonafide

> Dress Code for internship (if any)*---- anything which is comfortable

Thanks

Office of Resident Editor - Kerala
The New Indian Express
Express House,Kaloor, Kochi.
0484-2402213

Group Publications: The New Indian Express | The New Sunday Express | Dinamani | The Morning Standard | Samakalika Malayalam Vaarika

Our Group Websites: www.newindianexpress.com | www.dinamani.com | www.kannadaprabha.com | www.samakalikamalayalam.com | www.malayalamvaarika.com | www.indulgexpress.com | www.edexlive.com |

COMPELETION CERTIFICATE



CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Mr.Sreejith M R**, student of BA Journalism & Mass Communication, Amity University, Mumbai was on internship in journalism with The New Indian Express, Kochi, from 3rd July to 2nd August 2023.

He has familiarised himself with reporting and feature writing. He showed interest in work during the period.

I wish him all success in his future endeavours.

Place: Kochi
Date: 02/08/2023




Kiran Prakash
Resident Editor

Regional Office: "Express House", Kaloor, Kochi-682 017. Tel: 0484-2402220, 2402050, 2402215. Fax: 0484-2401799.
Corporate & Registered Office: Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, Express Gardens, 29, Second Main Road, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai-600 058.
CIN: U22121TN1959PTCO3776. Tel: 044-23457601-08. Fax: 044-23457516. www.epmltd.com

The New Indian Express | The New Sunday Express | Dinamani | The Morning Standard | The Sunday Standard | Malayalam Vaarika