



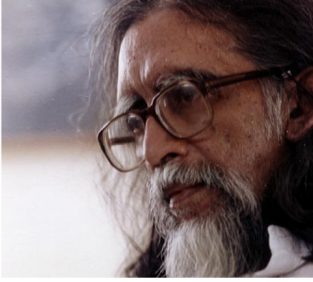
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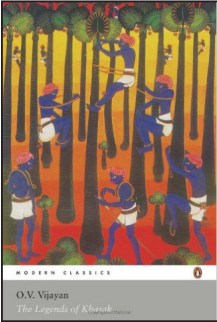
2022



The Legends of Khasak

(Khasakkinte Ithihasam)

O.V. VIJAYAN (1930 – 2005)



Khasakkinte Ithihasam does not have a single narrative plot. It is crafted in the form of the spiritual journey of an under-graduate dropout, Ravi, plagued by the guilt of an illicit affair he had with his stepmother. Ravi abandons a bright academic career and a research offer from Princeton University. He deserts his lover Padma and leaves on a long pilgrimage, which finally brings him to the small hamlet of Khasak near Palakkad. At Khasak, he starts a single – teacher school as part of the District Board's education initiative. The novel begins with Ravi's arrival at Khasak and his encounters with its people, Allappicha Mollakka, Appukkili, Shivaraman Nair, Madhavan Nair, Kuppuvachan, Maimoona, Karuvu, Unipparadi, Kochusuhara and others. After some years, his

lover Padma calls on him and Ravi decides to leave Khasak. He got bitten by a snake while waiting for a bus at Koomankavu. The novel has no story – line perse. It recounts the numerous encounters of Khasak from a spiritual and philosophical bent of mind. Through these encounters, Vijayan narrates numerous stories, myths and superstitions cherished in Khasak. He places them in opposition to the scientific and rational world outside, which is now making inroads into the hamlet through Ravi's single – teacher school. The irony of the interface between these two worlds occupies a substantial space in the novel. Through the myths and stories, Vijayan also explores similar encounters of the past recounted by the people of Khasak, enabling him to have a distinctly unique view of cultural encounters across time and space.

O.V. Vijayan

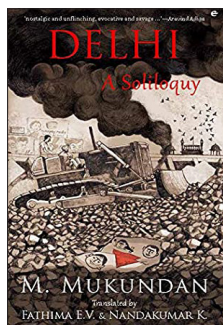
The writer has successfully combined modernity and philosophical tradition in Indian literature. His first novel, 'Khasakkinte Ithihasam' (The legends of Khasak) won accolades as the best novel in all Indian languages. It has already been reprinted 53 times. His later works including 'Dharmapuram' (The saga of Dharmapuri), 'Gurusagaram' (The infinity of Braze), 'Madhuram Gaayathi', 'Pravachakante Vazi' (The path of Prophet), 'Thalamurakal' (Generations) are all being widely discussed, particularly 'Dharmapuram', which describes the failure of Indian democracy. While his first novel had "Khasak" as its theater his later ones have the whole landscapes of India as their background. His last novel, 'Thalamurakal' which is Dravidian – Judeo background, presents a global prescriptive. 'Madhuram Gaayathi', a novel suffused with eco-sensitiveness, which combines Indian Mythological tradition with the western mechanical life. Presents the vision of green world before the Indian and world readership. His perceived bias in favour of Israel, his concepts of Hinduisms and his critique of democracy have all attracted widespread criticism.



Delhi: A Soliloquy

(Delhi gathakal)

M MUKUNDAN



Journeying through life of the protagonist Sahadevan, “Delhi: A Soliloquy” shows the struggle of living as an immigrant in the city in the backdrop of various political situations like India-China and Indo-Pak wars, the Emergency and the anti-Sikh riots. The book is an ode to Delhi, from the perspective of all the wandering hearts who drifted to the capital city over the years and became a part of it. It soon transforms from a destination for economic success to something that has a hold over your heart. In this desolate representation of pre-liberalisation India, saving or improving one’s situation are daunting prospects.

The book is about making friends and finding his own people in a city that he eventually comes to call home. Different facets of the city such as its casteism, Islamophobia, and the oppression of the refugees are revealed through the characters and their experiences. There are numerous instances in the novel that demonstrate how small lives are permanently changed by the big events of history. Fiction resists forgetfulness and the tragedy and mourning that the characters go through can be related to the tragedy of the present faced by millions in the country.

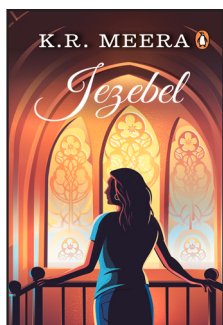
M. Mukundan

The writer, born in 1942 in Mahe, is in the best Indian cultural tradition. As Mahe had long been a French enclave, the influence of French culture is patent in Mukundan’s works. His first novel, ‘Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil’ (On the Banks of River Mayyazhi) is created in the backdrop of Mahe’s cultural traditions. ‘Daivathinte Vikruthikal’ (Mischiefs of God) narrates the story of a French citizen staying in Mahe. His later works incorporate the changes like modernism in Kerala society. ‘Haridvaaril Manimuzhangunnu’, ‘Aadityanum Raadhayum Mattu Chilarum’ (Aadithyan, Radha and Others), ‘Aavilayile Sooryodayam’, ‘Oru Dalit Yuvathiyude Kadanakatha’ (The Sad Story of A Dalit Woman), ‘Kesavante Vilaapangal’ (Kesavan’s Lamentations), ‘Nrittam’ (Dance), ‘Delhi’, ‘Delhi Gaadhakal’ (Delhi Stories) are the other important works. ‘Kesavante Vilaapangal’, which incorporates the story of the Chief Minister of Kerala, who headed the first Communist ministry in the world, elected through a democratic poll, and ‘Oru Dalit Yuvathiyude Kadanakatha’, which tells the story of a woman, belonging to the Dalit community, who has been persecuted and sidelined for long, have caused animated political discussions.

Jezebel

(Sooryane aninja oru sthree)

K. R. MEERA



Jezebel is a courtroom drama draped in gender inequalities and abuse. It begins as Jezebel, the protagonist looks back and remembers scenes from her marriage that brought her exciting life and career to a screeching halt. The novel also ponders over the progress of modern medicine against the hardening of stereotypes and stigmas. The novel is a battle cry to end the silent suffering of gender injustices in homes and outside. In Jezebel, the author continues her search for truth in the painstaking peep into the inner selves of her characters, who surprise us and themselves with their spirit and fortitude. reveal deeper psychological insights into the nature of individual identity.

Meera makes her point unobtrusively: the twin forces of religion and family have crucified the individual. Using the myth of Queen Jezebel as a cultural glue, Meera drives home the point that when it comes to societal beliefs, despite their empowered status, the lives of modern women continue to be ritualistic in nature. It is all about endurance and sacrifice. This comes from the expert blend of myth and modern reality, but it also owes much to the seamless incorporation of other women's stories. With so many generations of women, the novel gains a sweeping grandeur. It becomes the story of every woman. And a more authentic version of the myth.

K.R. Meera

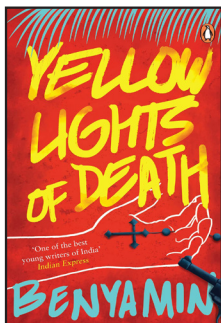
K.R. Meera is freelance journalist and writer. She was born in 1970 to K.N Ramachandran Pillai and A.G. Amrithkumari in a place called Sasthamkotta in Kollam district. She took her post – graduation from Gandhi gram Rural Institute and joined Malayala Manorama as a journalist in 1993. In 2006 she resigned her job as chief sub editor and turned her attention completely towards writing. She started writing from 2001 and has won several literary wards. Her stories have been translated to English and Tamil.



Yellow Lights of Death

(Manjaveyil Maranangal)

BENYAMIN



The story is set in Diego Garcia, a tropical island in the Indian Ocean. It revolves around the central character, Christie Anthraper; the youngest descendant of the Anthraper clan. The story starts in an interesting way with the author receiving a part of the manuscript of the novel written by Christie. The manuscript narrates the incidents in the life of Christie, how he witnesses the murder of his classmate Senthil and later finds out, to his surprise, that the authorities are trying to cover it up as a natural death. Meanwhile Christie's girl friend also dies in an accident and he decides to go to her hometown. He would meet her mourning parents. But little did he know what was in store for him! What happened to Christie Anthraper? Who was Senthil and why was he killed? Why were the authorities trying to pass it off as a death due to 'Cardiac arrest'? Was Mervin's death really an accident? The book tries to find out answers for all these questions. Well received by the readers and critics, Manjaveyil Maranangal is a trend setting novel in the history of Malayalam literature.

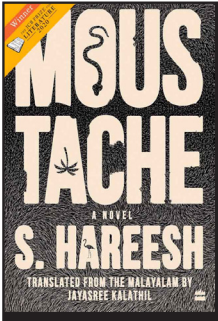
Benyamin

Indian Novelist and short story writer. Benyamin has written extensively on a variety of issues, including the experiences of migrant labour in the Gulf States. Originally written in his native Malayalam, many of his works have been translated into other languages. He is from Kulanada, near Pandalam in Kerala State. Benyamin is the only writer who openly declared that Indians, who come home with perfumes and other bounties, are really fated to lead a hard and cruel life. In his first novel, 'Aadujeevitham', he narrates the lamentations of Indians in a desert world. 'Akkapporinte 20 Nasrani Varshangal', 'Abhisagin', 'Pravachakanmaarude Randaam Pusthakam' are the other notable works of Benyamin. 'Aadujeevitham' has won Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award.

Moustache

(Meesha)

S HAREESH



Hareesh unfurls the story of 'race' and 'patriarchy' in Kerala in the fantastic backdrop of North Kuttanad – A land locked-in by water. The characters and the land are born out of water and scarred by it, they are infused with magic and fantasy – he awakens them from the slumber of dull realities into a kaleidoscopic world of mythical intensity. A world, ageless and dark, that entices you with its beauty, the starkness of its raw human passions, and locks you forever in the dark recesses of its myths and legends. The story holds a mirror to the utter depravity with which men objectify women and consume them, and through this process construct their fragile edifices of masculinity. It is indeed ironic that it is the cosmic Seetha, the female protagonist, as much a

raped woman as a primal goddess, who spits on the face of Meesa's mighty masculinity. Through sharply tinged irony, pungent satire and farce, the novel mocks at the certitudes and beliefs that is so central to the pervading patriarchal and racial order. The water-logged land and its story leaves the reader thirsting, looking for leaks and spills that would help anchor the dizzying narrative on more solid grounds.

S. Hareesh

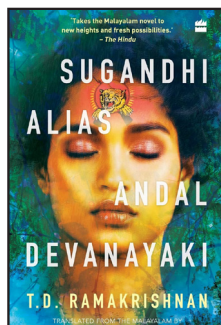
S. Hareesh is the author of the short-story collection Adam, which received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award. He is also a recipient of the Geetha Hiranyan Endowment and the Thomas Mundassery Prize. Hareesh also authored two screenplays – one for the film Aedan, which received the Kerala State Award for best screenplay in 2017, and for the 2019 film Jallikattu, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and won a silver peacock at the International Film Festival of India.

SUGANDHI ALIAS ANDAL DEVANAYAKI

T.D. RAMAKRISHNAN



This postmodern novel in Malayalam has at its core a real life incident from 1989 when Rajani Thiranagama, a prominent Sri Lankan human rights activist was brutally gunned down, reportedly by rebel Tigers. Initially, she had been active in helping the Tamil Tigers but had become increasingly disillusioned by the atrocities committed by the Peace Keeping Force, LTTE and the Sri Lankan army, choosing to voice her discontent at the fast disappearing democratic ideals in the country, in both state and insurgent spaces. It is the political intensity of the novel that is most striking about it. As the tale of the Tamil- Sinhalese strife unfolds its historical dimensions, the personal and the mythical enter the framework of the story to reveal the constructed-ness of all histories.



The novel's plot begins in the present day, when a team of international film-makers, aided by an intrepid but somewhat hangdog Malayali named Peter Jeevanandam, arrive in Sri Lanka to make a movie about Thiranagama. Peter is using the movie as a pretext to look for a young woman named Sugandhi whom he fell in love with on his last visit to Sri Lanka, at the end of the civil war.

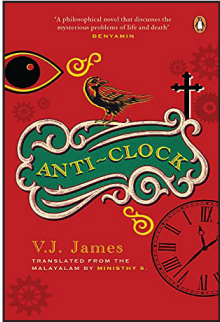
Through Peter's eyes, fiction stalks real life, and myth begins to mirror his story. Through him, we understand that Devanayaki is a symbol of resistance; she represents the spirit of a warrior who rises to defend women destroyed by war. The Sri Lankans he meets resurrect Rajini in their memories, while Sugandhi and the truth about her life floats about him in rumour, story and songs. Both are almost always out of reach, both for him and for us. The story of Devanayaki ranges over Kerala and Tamil Nadu, deep into Ceylon, and even as far as Cambodia and Indonesia: it draws on the vast and gorgeous expanse of Sangam-era imagination.

T.D. Ramakrishnan

Thathamangalam Damodaran Ramakrishnan (born 1961) is an Indian novelist, translator, and retired Chief Controller in Southern Railway. He was born at Eyyal village in Thrissur, India in 1961 to a Brahmin family as the son of Damodaran Elayathu and Sreedevi Antaranjanam. He completed his schooling from Kunnamkulam Boys High School and Erumappetty Government High School, and his pre-degree and degree from UC College, Aluva. In 1981, he joined Indian Railways as a ticket collector in Salem. Ramakrishnan, who had lived in Tamil Nadu for the most part of his career, is also deeply associated with Tamil literature. He introduced several Tamil literary works to Keralites and has won the E. K. Divakaran Potti Award for Best Translator in 2007.

Anticlock

V J JAMES



V.J. James, a gentleman from Changanacherry, who has step into the world of literature through his first and most popular work 'Purappadinte Pusthakam'. It was published by D.C. Books. He has won the award in the novel competition on 25th Anniversary Celebration of D.C. Books in 1999 and also other numerous awards. He is well known for his unique style of presenting subject in Malayalam Literature. The novel travels into the dark alleys of the human mind the longlasting revenge, romance, relationship and with the deflection in the human behaviour has been expressed, which hold a mirror to certain bitter truth in society. His style of narration gained much attention and praise.

The work is an eye opener to the realities of the world for the present young generation. As the inseperable two sides of a coin, life cannot be denoted as black and white. It has to be grey. The novel passes deeply through different strant of life which cannot be seperated from reality. It tells in every dark situation, we can spot that there is some positive energy that will enable us to push our life forward. V.J. James takes inspiration from the paradox, he once witnessed in a coffin shop which was combined hiring shop for electronics. The author questions the "clock wise - mechanical daily routine" of a man with an anticlock wise - routine". Suggesting the paradox all of mankind is in. He has travelled through the unexplored roads, with different experience and mingling with the different people . He has step outside his comfort zone to write this book.

V.J. James

Novelist and Engineer at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. A pure scientist and philosopher. It is rare to find writers who can write science in novels and make readers read it. Here the writer, V.J. James makes this impossible as possible. Author stays strongly with the humanity, challenging the limitations and opens the possibilities. By writing this book, he made it as a must read book for all those wants to think differently. His way of writing serious matters in simple language and sense of humour in his books makes them highly readable. He has won DC Books Rajatha Jubilee Award, Malayattoor Award and others.

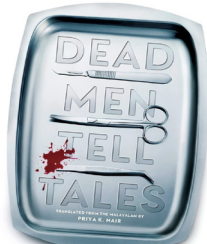


Dead Men Tell Tales

(Oru Police Surgeonte Ormakkurippukal)

DR B UMADATHAN

THE MEMOIR OF A POLICE SURGEON



DR B. UMADATHAN

Oru Police Surgeonte Ormakkurippukal is an interesting memoir with plenty of anecdotes, inside view of Indian forensic investigations written like short murder mysteries. Dr umadathan's methods and findings resembles sherlock holme's style of deducting facts and possibilities from a crime scene which has helped in arriving at successful and satisfactory conclusions in various popular mysterious murder cases of kerala which were once hot topic for keralites. All cases are thoroughly detailed with concrete facts and scientific explanations.

He created in his mostly short chapters, an air of mystery and suspense before the revelation of truth. The science of it all had brought him into the picture every time. To his readers, he explained the science in the simplest of terms,

the technical jargon never jutting out to sway your attention off the humane side of the story. For these are real life stories of suicides and murders, man's cruelty on man, and Umadathan often sheds his surgeon's robes and stands there as the human he is, helpless and pained. Written in simple language, this is not a book to know facts but to understand how the mind of a forensic expert works. He also talks about mental health and how it not just affects the individual and his family but also the society at large.

Dr B Umadathan

Renowned forensic surgeon from Kerala. Born on March 12, 1946, he started his career as a tutor in 1969 after completing his MBBS degree and MD. He was a forensic medicine professor and had served as medical legal expert for Kerala police. He had also worked as medico-legal consultant with the Libyan government. As a forensic expert, he had helped Kerala police crack dozens of sensational murder cases and other crimes even after his retirement.

Dr Umadathan's works include: 'Science in the Detection of Crime', 'Investigation of Unnatural Death'; 'Practical Forensic Medicine', 'Forensic Medicine for the Police', 'Forensic Medicine for the Medicos'; 'Memoirs of a Police Surgeon' 'Oru Police Surgeonte Ormakkurippukal and 'Principles and Practice of Forensic Medicine.'

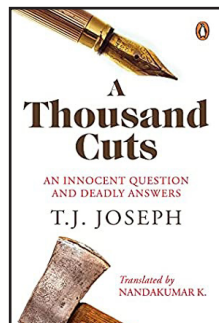
A THOUSAND CUTS

(ATTUPOKATHA ORMAKAL)

T J JOSEPH



This book, spread over 400 pages, is an honest and poignant testimony of his unparalleled agony. It is written in a compelling idiom that makes the book literally unputdownable. Its strong sentimentality and readability have already made a serious impression among the reading public of Kerala. The human story involved, the range of emotions portrayed (fear, anger, revenge, suffering), the pathos and tragedy of a tale that reminds the saying about 'truth being stranger than fiction' -- all these have combined to create a unique work of life writing.



This story is so powerful and the telling so compelling that the book should easily resonate with readers anywhere in the world. One wouldn't be surprised if it becomes a global sensation.

T J Joseph

The Author – Prof T J Joseph – was an Associate Professor and Head of the department of Malayalam at Newman College, Thodupuzha. When a question paper he drafted for an internal examination in 2010 caused absolute havoc in his personal life as well as endangered the communal harmony of the region.

He was suspended from service and later dismissed. On 04 July 2010 Joseph was brutally attacked by a group of religious fundamentalists

who chopped off his right hand and threw it into a nearby compound. He spent several weeks in hospital and underwent a lot of pain and agony. The hand was stitched back but could not be used. His wife Salomi developed severe depression. Joseph filed a case against the college management against his dismissal and won a judgement in his favour. But the college still refused to take him back



DISSENT Life Struggle of the Son of Cherona and Ayyappan

(Ethiru)

KUNJAMAN



Ethiru is not a conventional biography, rather it is the reference text to understand the history of caste and oppression in Kerala. It also speaks the political history of left parties as well. Prof Kunhaman is one of the highly recognised scholar and his thought process always reflect the deeper understanding of the political economy of the time. This biography gives a deep insight of the caste practice of Kerala in late 20th century and explain how it continues. The first chapter of the book is quite disturbing in terms of the facts. He narrates an incident in which the upper caste family gave him food in a small pit in the ground and ask their dog to share the food. He said he had to fight with the dog and had to defeat the dog. Prof Kunhaman

consider this was fought between two animals for food. It was an upper caste practice at that time to avoid a physical touch with the lower caste. No can read this chapter as a casual biography, it is as equal as reading the entire history of the caste system in brief. This biography questions the established claim of Kerala's renaissance and progressive political activism. Prof Kunhaman's life history never endorses the idea of Kerala's social reforms history.

Another major contribution of his biography is that it offers a critical view on Indian Marxism and its trajectories in India. He dares to comment that Indian Marxist thinkers and leaders never understand Marxism in its true spirit and they all carried away by the simple and distorted translation of Marxian theory. Prof Kunhaman's biography should be read along with the writings of Cedric Robinson who's book 'Black Marxism' is somehow close to Ethiru.

KUNJAMAN

The book is a memoir by Dr. M Kunjaman, Dr. M. Kunjaman alias Sodhiyambathur Kunjaman is an economics scholar and Dalit thinker and teacher in Kerala. After K R Narayanan, Kunjaman is the first Dalit Keralite to get first rank in MA in Economics. Kunjaman is known as a Dalit leftist thinker who is at odds with the mainstream left. Kunhaman received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 (Biography/Autobiography category) for his biography 'Ethire', but he declined it. He was born to Ayyappan and Cherona at Vatanamkurissi near Pattambi in Palakkad district. Born in the Pana community, Kunjaman's childhood was one of poverty and caste discrimination. He faced it all with self-confidence and hard work. Obtained first rank in MA in Economics from Victoria College, Palakkad. He received his M.Phil from CDS, Thiruvananthapuram and PhD from Cochin University. He worked for 27 years from 1979 to 2006 as a lecturer in the Department of Economics at Kariyavattam Campus of Kerala Sarvakalasha. followed by Tata Institute of Social Science Worked as a teacher in Tuljapur campus for nine years. About Kunjaman, journalist M. Kannan's edited and published memoir "Ethire" opens before the readers the shocking glimpses of caste discrimination and caste persecution experienced by Kunhaman throughout his life.

Budhini

SARAH JOSEPH

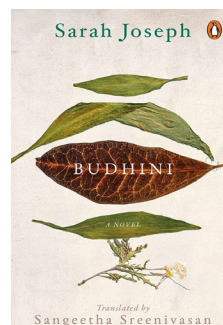


The acclaimed Malayalam writer Sarah Joseph based her new novel on Budhini Mejhan's life. Budhini was a young Santal girl who used to carry bricks and mud for the construction of the Panchet Dam in Dhanbad district. On the 6th of December 1959, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru arrived in Dhanbad, she was chosen to do the inauguration with him. When Nehru entered the stage, Budhini welcomed the Prime Minister with a garland and tikka on his forehead. This caused an uproar in the village.

The fifteen-year-old girl was ostracised by the village elders, citing violation of Santal tribal traditions. Eventually she was expelled from the community. The DVC also dismissed her from her job because of the gossip among villagers that she was "Nehru's wife"! How she lived her life after the incident wasn't anyone's

concern. Budhini is based on this incident Sarah Joseph heard while attending a seminar and in the last two years she elaborated it into a novel. She argues her case with vigor, authority, and panache, conjuring up a very strong and endearing feminine character and reminding us that such marginalized lives should never be forgotten.

Taking Budhini's life as a framework, Joseph is also trying to unfold with great narrative power the wider biopolitics of our civilization. By adopting a radical and pan-Indian approach, Budhini's life-story reminds us that ecological insouciance is dangerous and it merits efforts to fight it as exacting and pressing.



SARA JOSEPH

Sarah Joseph is one of the leading women writers in Malayalam. She has also been one of the leading figures in the feminist movement in Kerala and also the founder of 'Manushi'. Her literary career started at an early age. Her major works include Othappu, Aathi, Maattathi, Aalabayude Penmakal, Manassile Thee Mathram, Kadinte Sangeetham, Oduvilathe Suryakanthi etc. Aalabayude Penmakal won her the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and Vayalar Award. She had also received the Muttathu Varkey Award for her short story collection, Papathara (2011). She has won much critical acclaim for her Ramayana Kathakal, a subversive reading of the Ramayana. An English translation of this work has been published by the Oxford University Press and is the recipient of the very first O.V. Vijayan Sahitya Puraskaram. In 2012 she won the Padmaprabha Literary Award.



DCBOOKS

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DC Books has its corporate office in Kerala. The company in its present form came into being in 1974, but its roots go back in time, prior to independence.

In the year 1945, late D C Kizhakemuri, founder of the DC Group, along with his friends started the National Book Stall (NBS). After NBS came the Sahitya Pravarthaka Co-operative Society (SPCS), the largest writers' Co-operative in Asia, the first of its kind. The SPCS and NBS merged in time and transformed the publishing scene in Kerala beyond recognition.

Under the dynamic stewardship of DC Kizhakkemuri publishing, production, retailing and management attained remarkable heights. But this was just the beginning. In August 1974, D C Kizhakkemuri launched D C Books and it was the dawn of a new era in publishing not just in Kerala, but in India., Today DC Books is a household name in Kerala and a byword for excellent publishing at an affordable price.



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