

Media Mogul K.M. Mathew Passes Away

Kottayam: (IANS) Chief editor of Malayala Manorama K.M. Mathew died at his residence here in Kerala recently. He was 93.



Mathew is survived by three sons and a daughter. His wife passed away in 2003.

Thousands came to pay their last respects to Mathew, who was known as Mathukuttychayan to all. The body was lying in state at his home at Kanjikuluzhy, close by the

Malayala Manorama office.

Condolences poured in from President Pratibha Patil, Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, union cabinet ministers, governors, UPA chief Sonia Gandhi, Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan and state ministers.

In 1954, Mathew became the managing editor of Malayala Manorma and its chief editor after his brother passed away in 1973.

Despite his advanced age, he kept working in office till the very last week, actively taking part in meetings and airing his opinions on news.

During his glittering journalistic career, Mathew was the chairman of Press Trust of India, president of the Indian Newspaper Society and the chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulation besides holding numerous other positions.

The first issue of Malayala Manorama appeared March 22, 1890. It started as a four-page weekly newspaper published every Saturday and since then has not looked back. Today, it is a media group that has 48 publications. The highly acclaimed English news magazine - The Week - was his brainchild. Mathew's position as a colossus in the media industry could be gauged from the fact that he always had the first audience with any political leader passing through Kottayam, which included even Pope John Paul II on his Kerala visit in 1986.

Chidambaram Appeals For Peace In Kashmir



New Delhi: (IANS) Home Minister P. Chidambaram recently appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to "end the cycle of violence" that has been continuing for the past more than 50 days.

"I appeal to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to end the cycle of violence," Chidambaram said in the Lok Sabha.

He said the central government was behind the Omar Abdullah-led state government in its efforts aimed at restoration of peace, holding dialogue and redressal of grievances in all parts of Kashmir. Chidambaram made a specific appeal to parents in Kashmir, urging them to ensure that their children do not become part of violent activities.

He said that there were 872 stone pelting incidents in June and July 2010 and 1,456 security personnel were injured, adding that the security forces showed "great fortitude" in dealing with the violent protests. The Kashmir Valley has been on the boil due to violent protests against civilians being killed in firing by security forces since June 11.

In The Eye Of A Storm: Who Is T.S. Darbari?

New Delhi: (IANS) T.S. Darbari, the joint director general of the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee (CWGOC) now in the eye of the storm over alleged irregularities, is a man who switched roles between the corporate sector and the government and is given to reminiscing his "close association" with late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Darbari works closely with CWGOC chairman Suresh Kalmadi and has been named as the person who worked out some of the deals that have been questioned in financial audits and sparked controversy.

An alumnus of St. Stephen's college and Britain's Hull University from where he did his MBA, Darbari has held various positions in his 29-year career that included stints in the cabinet secretariat, petroleum ministry, Oil and Natural Gas Corp. and even a multinational like Hewlett Packard.



He was an officer on special duty with the Implementation Committee of the cabinet secretariat between February 1987 and December 1988, where he worked under the chairmanship of then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Those who worked with him say he fondly talks about the proximity he enjoyed to Rajiv Gandhi and his office.

Darbari's stints in the government also included a tenure between December 1990 and June 1991 as secretary to the petroleum minister and as an executive director of a project launched by the ministry of social justice between May 1998 and June 1999.

His other assignments include director for corporate strategy with Hewlett Packard between July 2005 and January 2009, vice president of computers major CMC between September 1993 and June 2005 and general manager with Oil and Natural Gas Corp between June 1991 and Decem-

ber 1992.

The Nathpa Jhakri Power Corp, the Union Bank of India and Management and Consultancy Associates are among the other organisations he has served.

Darbari, according to officials in the Organising Committee, has also been instrumental in forming the Business Club of India to facilitate business networking among Commonwealth countries during the Games.

He has roped both the business chambers, CII and FICCI, in this venture.

Those who knew him well say he has always impressed his employers with excellent testimonials from past jobs.

"Dedicated Officer with a flair of getting the things done," reads one such testimonial about him, attributed to P. Murari, former secretary to the president, dating back to 1990.

"I have rarely seen such an officer who is so highly result oriented, and with tremendous executive flair with qualities of excellent team work," says another purportedly written in 1991 by the petroleum minister.

Bihar Now Building One Bridge A Day, Connecting People

Patna: (IANS) Bihar, now ranked among the fastest-growing Indian states with an enviable expansion of 16.59 percent last fiscal, has been building one bridge each working day since November 2005, leaving Chief Minister Nitish Kumar quite busy cutting ribbons.

"We have built 1,671 bridges under the Chief Minister's Bridge Building Programme and another 450-odd bridges under our plan and non-plan outlays since November 2005," says Bihar Road Construction Department Secretary Pratyay Amrit.

"We built more than 2,100 bridges in last four-and-a-half years. That makes it close to one-and-a-half bridges every day. So, what we have achieved in the past four-odd years surpasses what was done in the past four decades," Amrit told IANS here.

As a result, the turnover of the state-run Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd, mandated to build bridges, has leapfrogged from just Rs.42.62 crore in 2004-05, under the previous government of Rabri Devi, to Rs.858 crore during 2008-09 with Kumar at the helm.

"Our government is building bridges not only on rivers; it is also building bridges of trust in society, connecting people of different communities," says the chief minister often, underscoring the importance he attaches to infrastructure-building.

Bihar's emphasis on this infrastructure is understandable, as its bridge-building spree has helped the state government to connect better with the people in trying to realise the stated goal: "Aap ki sarkar, aap ke dwaar" (your government at your doorstep).

More so since the state is criss-crossed by over two dozens rivers, largely major ones, including, Ganga, Punpun, Sone, Falgu, Kiul, Durgawati and Karmnasa in south and central parts, and Kosi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati,

Kamla and Mahananda in the the north.

"Till last year, going to Patna was a herculean task for us as we had no bridges over Punpun. We either had to wade our way across, or rely on boats," said Sanjay yadav, a resident of Jamalpur village on the outskirts of the capital city across the river.

"Even though our village is barely 20 km away from Patna we had to walk to the nearest pucca (all-weather) road first that was three kilometres away and then take a local transport that would go to Patna. Now we have three bridges near our village," Yadav told IANS.

"The bridges are really a blessing for over 700,000 people who live in nearby villages. You can imagine how a river can cut people off — when you can virtually see the city across. Now, the bridges seem god-sent," added Rajaram Yadav, another villager.

Road Construction Secretary Amrit said the government was also targeting large projects — like in the case of Ganga that runs a 475-km west-to-east course in Bihar, dividing the state into two parts.

At present this river has only three bridges over it — the oldest a rail road bridge at Mokama in central Bihar, the second one in Patna in west-central part of the state and the third at Bhagalpur in its far-eastern side.

"Now, we have undertaken to build two more mega bridges over the Ganga — one at its western end in the state connecting Arrah to Chapra and the second one at Patna, which will connect Bakhtiyarpur town in the district to Samastipur," Amrit said.

"Similar plans are also on for many other mega bridges. These include two bridges each on Gandak and Koshi rivers and one each on Sone, Bagmati and Kamla."

He Abused Me: Rahul Mahajan's Wife



Mumbai / New Delhi: (IANS) Rahul Mahajan's showy wedding on reality television, watched by millions across the country and

abroad, seems headed for a split with second wife Dimpy Ganguly alleging that her husband, son of late BJP leader Pramod Mahajan, had punched, kicked and dragged her by the hair.

Dimpy married Rahul - who gained national notoriety after his father's death because of his brushes with the law - on the Imagine TV reality show "Rahul Dulhaniya Le Jayega" in March this year amid much hoopla and media attention.

The 22-year-old Kolkata-based model told NDTV channel Friday: "Rahul beat me up early Thursday morning after waking me up to know the contents of a message that had beeped on my phone. When I asked him to go back to sleep, he flew into a rage and began hitting me. He punched, kicked and dragged me by the hair."

Dimpy told reporters in Mumbai that she needs time to recover and wants to be left alone. "Rahul and I just had a conversation and he sincerely regrets what happened," she said.

"We are both very upset and I am extremely hurt. I need time to think about this and recover from whatever has happened. Till that time, I want to be left alone," she added.

This is the second time Rahul has been accused of domestic violence. Earlier, his first wife and childhood friend Shweta Singh had accused him of physically abusing her. They separated in 2008. In 2006, Rahul was arrested on charges of drug abuse.

In New Delhi, Women and Child Development Minister Krishna Tirath responded by saying a panel would investigate the allegations if Dimpy complained.

"I will ask the National Commission for Women (NCW) to look into the matter if she (Dimpy) lodges a formal complaint with us," Tirath told reporters here.