



KITES

Newsletter

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From Directorate

Although we are still in the grip of the pandemic, it is gratifying and reassuring to note that in the last two years we were able to overcome the challenges and create a better social environment. We planned and implemented a number of meaningful initiatives within a short span of time.

While Summer Pots and Punarjjani brought us closer to nature, by virtue of Umeed, we reached out to about 1500 children with critical academic support helping them return to school. Pathfinder enabled students to pick up their own niche areas. Voice of young India resonated to the nooks and corners of our nation through 'Voice of India'. We forged a spring of imagination and creativity through Rang - the cultural fiesta by delivering compelling stories, soulful singing, artistic painting, fearless speech, and graceful dance. We were able to provide confidence and comfort to over 300 small buddies who are wheelchair-bound, thanks to My Santa. We gave the notion of sustainable tourism a realistic expression through Munnar VIBGYOR Tourism. As part of the Book Farm initiative, we rebuilt 14 libraries. The Kalam Social Volunteer Award was instituted to celebrate and encourage volunteering in the country by recognizing exemplary efforts made by aspirational youngsters in the social service sector.

We have yet again proven through our unique ventures that little efforts may bring fresh hope to many people's lives. Each of you enriches KITES by taking on challenges and energetic activities. Your presence and cooperation as the greatest driving force of Kites are quintessential in our journey ahead. We still have a long way to go but we can get there together!

Claire C John
Managing Director
Kites





“BEST
UPCOMING
NGO IN KERALA
FOR EDUCATION
AND SKILL”

CEGR Awards 2021

KITES HONoured WITH CEGR AWARDS

Each award is a catalyst for actions bringing positive changes to the society we live in. Kites foundation has been honoured with the Best upcoming NGO in Kerala for education and skill 2021, by the Centre for Education Growth and Research. The award was received by Kites foundation Managing Director Claire C John, CEO Ajmal Chakkarapadam, and CAO Cyril Syriac from Prof. K K Agarwal, Chairman of National Board of Accreditation.

Centre for Education Growth and Research (CEGR) is the leading and only education think tank in India, credited with four innovations. The award aims to recognize and honour distinguished individuals and institutions which have provided guidance and inspired students to take up careers in education and research.

CEGR has honoured the Kites foundation with two more awards. The Founder and Managing Director of Kites, Ms. Claire C John was selected for the Young visionary leader of the year 2021 and our Founder and CEO Mr Ajmal Chakkarapadam was awarded the Young changemaker of the year 2021 award, presented by CEGR. The awards were presented during the 16th Rashtriya Shiksha Gaurav Puraskar ceremony held on 30th December 2021 at New Delhi.





SPREADING SMILES AND STEPPING INTO INCLUSIVENESS

Pandemic and its consequent lockdown, showed us how difficult it is to stay in our home with restricted mobility and mostly cut off from the outside world. This experience combined with an idea from one of our volunteers from the disabled community paved the way for the initiation of 'My Santa'.

'My Santa', is a Happiness Project pouring out joy on the Eve of Christmas and a small feat towards inclusivity. It is a special venture taken up by the Livelihood Department. This year it has brought joy to 553 children with disabilities across Kerala by gifting them and being with them for Christmas as their personal Santa. An amount of ₹468,775.00 was raised for this cause through crowdfunding.

Kites' volunteers visited each beneficiary as a team and spent the day with the children. Gifts were brought with suggestions from their family members or friends to surprise the children. To the volunteers, it's a unique experience of spending their Christmas. To the children, it's gaining new friends. Such small acts of inclusion could bring a huge difference to the lives of many.





PERUNTHODU GETS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Canals have been an integral part of livelihood in many of the states in India. But due to human intervention, it has now become a mammoth task to clean and restore such canals. Perunthodu, a large stream that covers the five panchayats of Kaipamangalam, is a major water resource in the area. But in the past few decades, the quality of the river has deteriorated due to different human activities.



venture initiated by the KITES foundation, with an aim of the revival of the dying Perunthodu River and its tributaries. Under this project, technical expertise and innovative ideas were provided in a bid to restore the ravaged river and salvage its ecology. Turning a Regional Solution into a Model for the Future. KITES Foundation, along with the local self-government aims to find ways to sustainably revive Perunthodu back into a clean freshwater resource, employing integrated physical, chemical, biological, and socio-economic analysis of the river.

The project involved two phases; the first was scientific scrutiny to ensure technical preciseness, which included a scientific study using methods like drone mapping and watershed mapping, which was conducted by the students of the College of Climate Change and Environmental Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Kerala. The second phase holds a five-year action plan based on the data collected



Achievements

Perunthodu-Valiathodu project has won the 'Care la-Eco-restoration Contest', which was conducted by Sustera Foundation. This was a milestone for the project which aims at reviving the ecological, social, and economic aspects of the canal.



in the initial phase. The methodology of the study was digital mapping using GPS and taking a survey based on a questionnaire reflecting the past, present, and future aspirations of local people regarding the canal. The project also ensured community participation and empowerment by carefully integrating the concerns of the local community. As observed, it was a complete evidence-based study where the scientific study proceeding with the project ensured accuracy of the plan and informed nature of the suggested solution.

Working hand in hand with the Local Government. The project acquired full-on support from the local community and self-government. “The vision of the project is to revive the once-prosperous canal, Perunthodu which made the lifeline of the region and make it beneficial for the people in its locality again,” said ET Taison master, MLA of Kaipamangalam constituency while inaugurating the project.

The inauguration was presided over by C K Girija, president of Mathilakam block panchayat while felicitation was delivered by Vineetha Mohandas, president of Perinjanam panchayat, and Suja, who is the ward member. Kites foundation Director Board member Aboohashim PS, Kites Environment Director Anagha K H, Kites environment Executive Directors Chinchu Jayakumar and Varghese K P are the leaders of the much looked forward project.





RANG 2.0

Rang 2.0 – the virtual cultural fiesta was launched yet again to reimagine art in a time of crisis. Rang, Kerala's largest virtual youth festival saw a 15-day long cultural fiesta with 150+ events and around 1000 participants from all over Kerala.

Rang 2.0 is the second and more zealous edition of rang; with age, group categories extended from 3 to 4 by introducing family as a new category. The number of events was also increased from 150+ to 200+. Rang 2.0 is successful in accomplishing 1200+ participants this time. Rang was conceptualized with a vision of using creative spaces for healing us during these tough times.

Rang 2.0 was officially inaugurated on 14th February 2022, through a virtual meet by Sri. Antony Raju, Hon' Transport Minister of Kerala. Famous cine artist Ms Aiswarya Lekshmi was the chief guest and renowned journalist Dr Arun Kumar and Malayalam writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Mr Arun Ezhuthachan were the guests of honour for the ceremony.

Various competitions were held for 20 days from 15th February to 5th March 2022. The results were finalized by the expert judges and results posters were updated regularly. The closing ceremony was held virtually on 13th March 2022. It was inaugurated by cine actor Vishnu Unnikrishnan.

He announced the Individual champions from each category as well. Thrissur district topped the point chart with 926.5 points, followed by Malappuram with 817.5 points and Ernakulam with 670 points. Apart from certificates and trophies, candidates will be awarded cash prizes for first and second places.

Rang potentially aims in building an art community that celebrates art and creativity that makes our planet a better place to live. Rang will be publishing a digital magazine that displays the finest products from the fest.





RANG 2.0 INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS



SCHOOL
CATEGORY

SREELAKSHMI S SUNIL
MALAPPURAM



CAMPUS
CATEGORY

MANAL ABDUL HAMEED MANNIL
MALAPPURAM



SENIOR
CATEGORY

AISWARYA LAKSHMI S
PATHANATHITTA

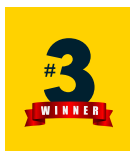
RANG 2.0 DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



THRISSUR
(926.5 Points)



MALAPPURAM
(817.5 Points)



ERNAKULAM
(670 Points)



ANYBODY CAN NOW PUBLISH!

As Sylvia Plath rightly quoted "Nothing stinks like a pile of unpublished writing". By bringing into reality the Zero-Cost publishing technique, we have now created an ecosystem favouring the creative pursuits of individuals. Financial constraints are the worst hurdle for new authors. This is where Kites Books is opening a door to revolution in the field publishing. Not even a single rupee is to be spent by the author for publishing. Copies of the book will be printed on demand. Royalties will duly be received by the author.

The first book published by Kites Book is 'Qithaab', the first professional quiz book written solely by students with the support of Prajna Quiz Club. The book that comes with the forward of Major Chandrakanth Nair, a household name for any enthusiastic quizzers carries with itself a range of unconventional topics that is a treat to amateurs and quiz veterans.

You can grab a copy of it from <https://readbookspress.com/qithaab>.

The launch of 'Qithaab' was done by Sri. TN Prathapan MP, Thrissur Constituency at Sahitya Academy Thrissur. Qithaab is a professional quizzing book, making history. The book is authored by 9 young quizzers, all under the age of 20. Its the first time in the history of Kerala, that a quizzing book is written entirely by students. Dealing with unconventional topics in the quizzing world like mythology and legends, nature and wildlife, pop culture and even etymology. Thee book is setting a nuanced approach in the world of quizzing.

The book includes 25 topic wise sections of 25 questions each. It is useful for professional quizzers and beginners.






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