



## GEORGE JOSEPH

At its annual banquet, the New York-based Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center honored seven people for their outstanding achievements and service to the society. The awardees were: Dr T V Paul (arts and letters), Dr Shaji Kumar (medicine), Sugarland, Texas Councilman At Large Thomas Abraham (political involvement), attorney Ram M Cheerath (public service), Dr George John (applied sciences), Dr Krishna Kishore (journalism), Sunil Kumar (entrepreneurship).

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, India's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, presented the awards. He said he was fascinated by the continued interest and involvement of the Indian community in India's political process.

Paul, the James McGill Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science and Director of Center for International Peace and Security Studies at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, said in his keynote address: 'Unlike what happened in Western society where countries became a world power by violent means since the 15th century, India has the potential to become a global power by peaceful means.'

Paul is the author or editor of 12 books published through major university presses and over 40 scholarly articles.

Kumar's laboratory at Mayo Clinic focuses on development of novel drugs for treatment of myeloma, a kind of cancer. He is associate professor of medicine and consultant at the division of hematology, department of internal medicine at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He has been focusing on understanding the mechanisms by which cancer cells use neighboring normal cells to grow and evade treatments.

Abraham is serving as a third term councilman at large in Sugar Land, credited to be one of the best cities in the US to live. He was recently elected as president of the Texas

## Kerala Center honors seven achievers



Kerala Center Award recipients with Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, India's deputy permanent representative at the United Nations, board members and trustees. From left, Varghese Thekkekara, who received the plaque on behalf of Sugarland, Texas Councilman Thomas Abraham; Attorney Ram Cheerath, Professor T V Paul, Dr Krishna Kishore, Professor George John, Dr Shaji Kumar and Sunil Kumar

Municipal League Region 14, which serves the needs of more than 1,100 cities and towns. An engineer and industrialist, he also serves as president of the Sugar Land Development Corporation, chairman of Sugar Land Reinvestment Zone No 3, and a board member on the Houston-Galveston Area Council. He assisted in raising funds during the Asian tsunami and the Gujarat earthquake.

New Jersey-based Cheerath, an immigration attorney, has been providing information on US immigration as a weekly free service for the past six years for mainstream television channels in Malayalam, English, Kanada, Telugu, and Tamil. He has been also providing *pro bono* legal services to organizations and individuals for the past 20 years. He has been raising funds and personally contributing to over 25 non-profit social, cultural and religious organizations for years.

John is an associate professor of chemistry, the City

College of the City University of New York. His research interests are in the broad area of organic and macromolecular materials chemistry. His research on bio-based materials has been widely acclaimed in journals and publications including *Nature*, *Newsweek*, *New Scientist* and *The New York Times*.

Kishore is noted for his accomplishments in broadcast and print journalism. He serves as the US correspondent and columnist for Asianet TV and the *Mathrubhumi* newspaper.

In his full-time profession, he serves as the US Leader for Knowledge Management for the technology, media and telecommunications practice at Deloitte and Touche LLP.

Virginia-based Kumar is chief executive officer of Advanced Software Systems, Inc, a CMMi level 3 global information technology services company, which he founded in 1993. The company employs over 500 people worldwide.