

## KERALA ROUNDUP

### Missing man is traced to Bahrain jail after 23 years

**By Ashraf Padanna**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** A Kerala worker, reportedly missing for 23 years, has been traced to a jail in Bahrain. He will soon return home, according to a TV channel that put out an international appeal for the missing man.

Govindan Gopalakrishnan from Kollam last saw his son when he was seven years.

His wife Jagathamma and the son, now 30 years old, presumed he was dead until they got a call from Kairali TV's Pravasalokam programme.

"We are now in the process of bringing him back. Friends and well-wishers have pooled in for his air ticket. Now we have to arrange money to pay the fine," Pravasalokam Director Rafeek Ravuther said adding the programme had succeeded in tracing many such missing workers. The programme last Thursday made the appeal with an old photograph of the man, a mason by profession.

"We used to get occasional calls from him to a neighbour's house. But it was just unbelievable that he lived there all these years without giving any hint and landed up in jail," Jagathamma said. According to the Kairali authorities, a Keralite who saw the programme identified Gopalakrishnan and informed Satheendran, the channel's representative in Bahrain, that he had seen him at West Riffa area in the Gulf country.

Satheendran's investigations found out Gopalakrishnan had been picked up by police six months ago and sent to an immigration jail.

Rafeek said Gopalakrishnan told Satheendran that he was eager to join his family. He could not keep in touch with his family due to financial problems. The programme, anchored by former legislator P T Kunhu Mohamed, himself a Gulf returnee, has come helped several hapless people and reunited many families.