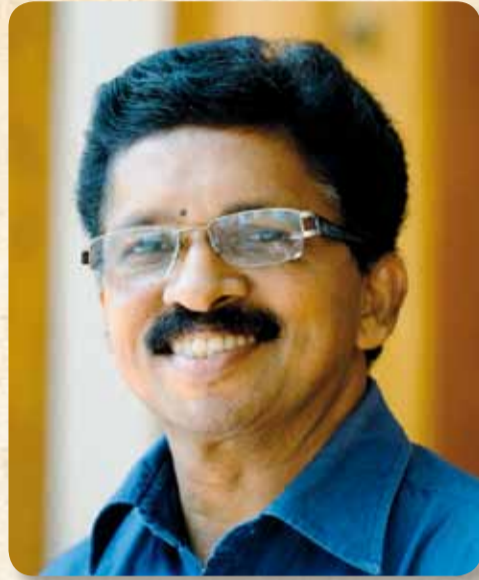


# REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Fellowship Programme

**2012-13 FELLOW : R SAMBAN**



**R Samban** is currently Chief Reporter in the Thiruvanthapuram Bureau at Deshabhmani, a Malayalam Daily in Kerala. His work focuses on environmental, health and rural development issues. Samban has won eight prestigious awards in the last year including the Press council award for rural reporting and the Cushrow Irani National Award instituted by The Statesman Daily for environmental reporting.

“...Kesava Dev’s ‘Odayil Ninnu ‘might be one of many novels in which ‘T.B‘ acted as the villain and thousands of readers wept when they read that the hero Pappu was a T.B patient. Pappu’s rickshaw hit a little girl named Lekshmi, and the girl then becomes his life. The disease that brought nightmare to people separated the hero and his ward..... reflecting the contemporary life then. Today, there aren’t any more characters who die of T.B in Malayalam literature or in films.... but the disease has made a steady comeback in recent years.... Despite advances in treatment, TB remains a major cause of illness and death worldwide.”

