

## Best Practices of the Department of English

### a) ELITE Entrance Test

The Department of English conducts the ELITE Entrance Test for the incoming batch of students for every academic year to assess their English proficiency and comprehension levels. The test aimed to gauge students' grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing skills, identify slow learners, and recommend tailored strategies to improve their abilities. The evaluation revealed diverse proficiency levels, with some students demonstrating high command of English, others showing moderate proficiency, and a few identified as slow learners needing extra support. Based on the results, the department recommends additional tutorials, reading programs, writing workshops, peer mentoring, and regular assessments to enhance learning. This comprehensive approach aims to ensure all students have the opportunity to improve and succeed, creating an inclusive and effective learning environment.

**Department of English**  
St. Michael's College  
English Language and Intelligence Testing Examination 2018  
(ELITE 2018)

Time: 1 Hr Marks: 25

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Aurora, often called Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) and Southern Lights (Aurora Australis), are spectacular light displays most commonly viewed in the Polar Regions. Auroras occur because of interactions between Earth's magnetic field and solar winds. The solar wind is a stream of charged particles emitted from the sun's corona that travels the solar space at speeds of up to 400 miles per second. Charged particles within the solar wind collide with atmospheric atoms and molecules when they reach Earth's magnetic field. The collisions cause electrons to move, which causes the kinetic energy within the electrons of the particles are converted to light. The collisions of different particles result in different coloured lights. Aurora comes produces red and green lights, auroras produce pink, blue, or violet light, halos produce purple lights and more produce curled orange lights. Aurora comes in a vast array of shapes and forms such as arcs, veils, "curtains" and almost always. They often appear to be auroras.

Aurora often occur as a result of a geomagnetic storm. A geomagnetic storm is the temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field as a result of an event in space such as a solar flare or coronal mass ejection (the ejection of charged particles from the sun's corona). In some very rare cases, Auroras can be seen well south (or north) of where they usually occur. The famous Great Geomagnetic Storm of 1859 produced what witnesses call the most spectacular auroras ever seen. Such auroras were seen throughout the United States, Japan, and Australia. The event lasted for almost a week.

2. Match the following words in column A with their meanings in column B (Join the words with a line)

<b>Column A</b>	<b>Column B</b>
Border	Survey
Credit	Clarity
Antward	Callar
Excuses	Broadway
Vault	Waves


(Total 4 marks)

3. Match the following SYNONYMS (Join the words with a line)

<b>Column A</b>	<b>Column B</b>
Aloud	Coastguard
Merch	Old
Boat	Lawn
Account	Tail
	Observe

(Total 2 marks)

4. Write 5 sentences on the picture given below.



(5 marks)

5. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

a) This book \_\_\_\_\_ ten chapters. (connecting/continues)  
b) I \_\_\_\_\_ staying here for five years. (see/have been)  
c) Gillian is a \_\_\_\_\_ a fine artist. (be)  
d) We saw the \_\_\_\_\_ the station. (left/leaving)  
e) He is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_ shirt. (dark/dying)

(Total 5 marks)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
GUARDIAN/PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NUMBER OF GUARDIAN/PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
INTERESTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_ AMBITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
MODE OF ADMISSION: MENT/COMMUNITY/MANAGEMENT/RESERVATION/SPORTS/SPORTS (Tick whichever applicable)

Question Paper 2018-2019

### b) Observation of Days

#### 1. Hindi Day Celebration

14 September 2018 was celebrated as Hindi Day. The event was organized by the Department of Hindi. As per Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi was recognized as the official language of India in 14 September 1949. Therefore, every year 14 September is celebrated as Hindi Day to remind us the importance of Hindi.

This year, Hindi day celebration was organized specially to bring awareness about the importance of Hindi among students. The event was presided over by Principal in charge Dr. Antony Kuriakose and retired Hindi professor Dr. P. C. Chacko was invited as chief guest. Head of the department of Hindi Dr. Seena Kurian graced the occasion. Guest lecturers Mini G Nair and Biji PB were present in the function. In his inaugural address, Dr. PC Chacko

elaborated about the importance of Hindi. Variety cultural programme was part of the function and students actively participated in cultural activities. The celebration came to an end with vote of thanks and a promise to continue the celebration every year.



Brochure of the event



Dr. P. C. Chacko inaugurating the event

## 2. National Reading Day

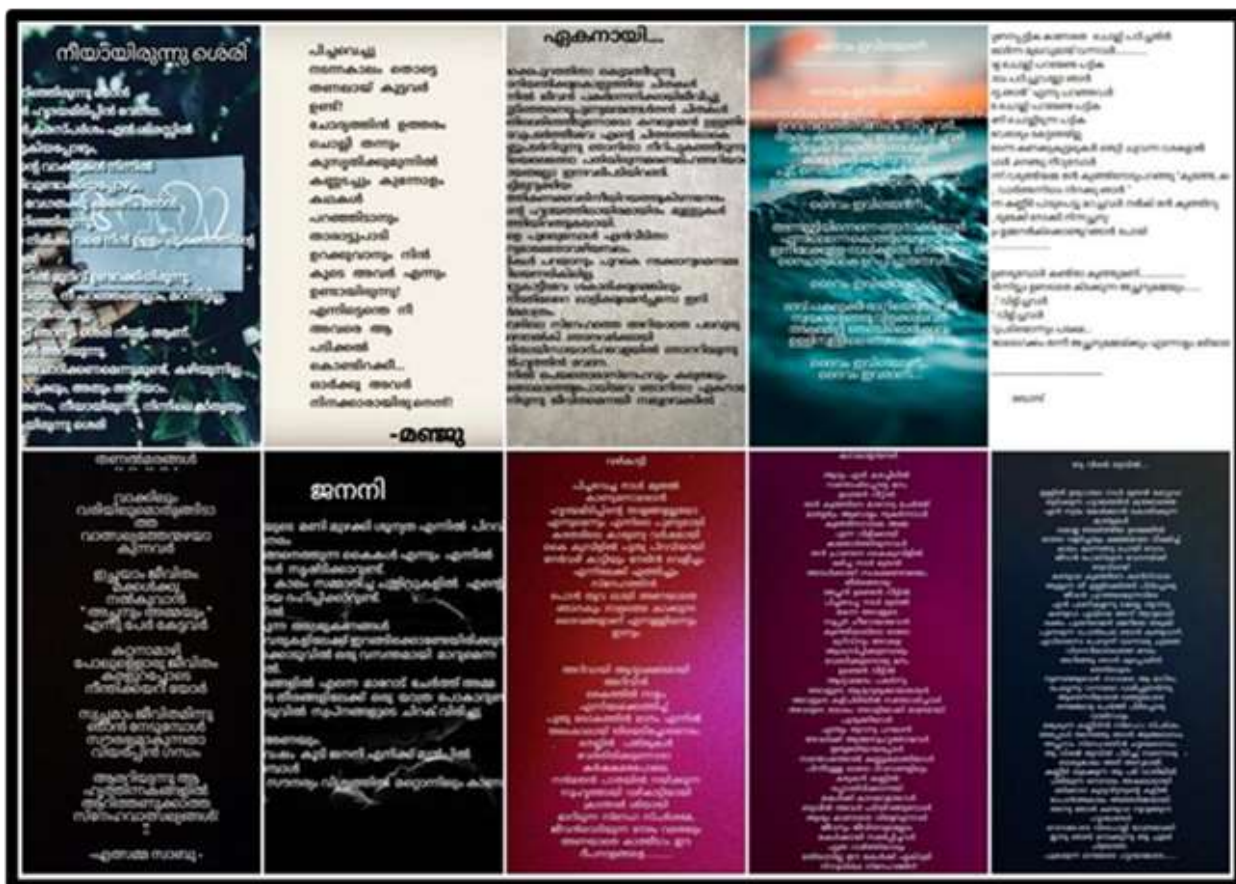
National Reading Day is observed every year on 19<sup>th</sup> June in memory of Dr. P. N. Panicker, the father of the library movement in Kerala. The day aims to promote the habit of reading and encourage people to appreciate the value of books. In line with this objective, the Department of English at St. Michael's College, Cherthala along with the NSS unit of the college, organized an online programme on National Reading Day. The programme was held on 19th June 2020 via Google meet and started with a brief introduction about Dr. P. N. Panicker and his contribution to the library movement in Kerala. Mr. Sam Johnson, Assistant Professor of English then spoke about the importance of reading and the impact it has on an individual's personal and professional growth. He also highlighted the significance of National Reading Day and the need to promote a reading culture in society. The event was a fitting tribute to Dr. P. N. Panicker and his contribution to the library movement in Kerala. It highlighted the role that books play in shaping our lives and inspired the participants to explore the world of literature.



Participants taking oath to promote the habit of reading

### 3. Observance of Parents Day

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the Department of English and the NSS unit of St. Michael's College, Cherthala, organized Parents' Day celebration in honour of the contributions of parents in shaping the lives of their children. The event was conducted online due to covid-19 restrictions and was marked by a poetry writing competition named 'Thoolikayil' organized by the Department of English. The programme started with a welcome address by the Head of the Department of English, who spoke about the significance of the event and thanked the parents for their continuous support in the academic pursuits of their wards. The NSS unit volunteers then presented a short video of their parents. The highlight of the event was the poetry competition 'Thoolikayil,' which witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students of the English department. The competition was designed to encourage the students to explore their creative abilities and showcase their poetic talents. The topic for the competition was 'Parents,' and the students had to compose original poems. The poems were judged by a panel of experts, who evaluated the entries based on their creativity, originality, and literary merit. The programme ended with a vote of thanks from the NSS unit coordinator Dr. Seena Kurian, who expressed gratitude to the parents for their presence and participation. The event was a huge success, and it left a lasting impression on the students and faculty members of St. Michael's College, Cherthala. It was a fitting tribute to the parents, who play an instrumental role in shaping the future of their children.



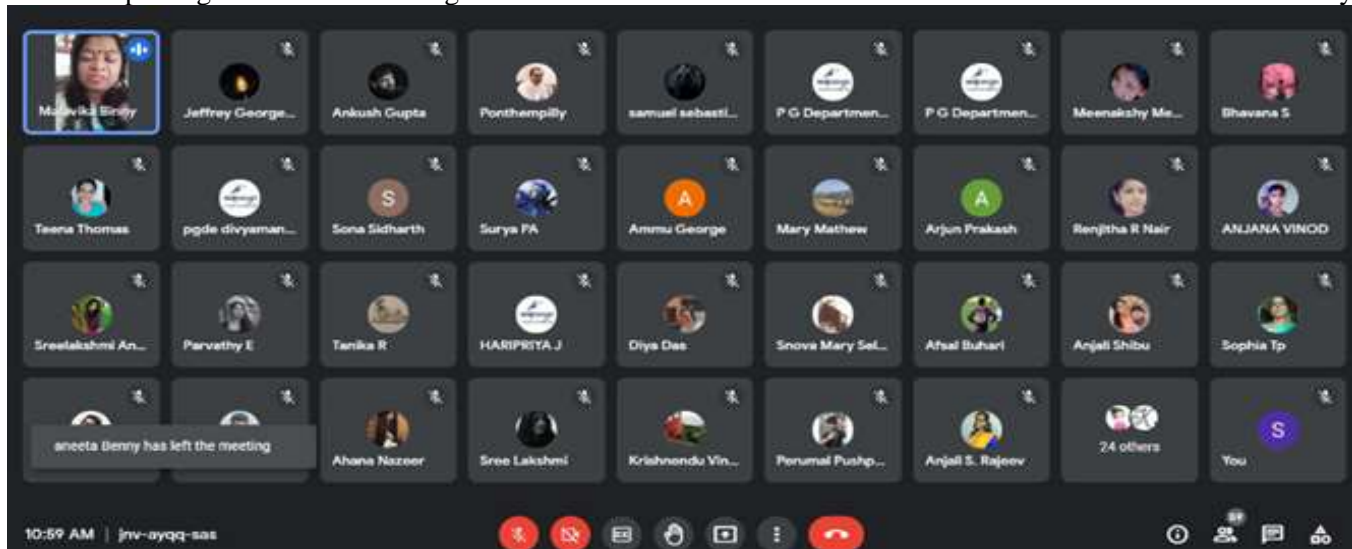
Snippets from the poetry writing competition

### 4. World Senior Citizens Day

On 21 August 2020, the Department of English and the NSS unit of St. Michael's College, Cherthala, observed World Senior Citizens Day. The event aimed to honour and celebrate the contributions of senior citizens in society and promote their well-being. To mark the occasion, the department organized a letter writing competition on the topic 'To My Dear Grandparents.' The competition was open to all students of the college, and it received an



overwhelming response. The students were asked to write a letter to their grandparents, expressing their love, gratitude, and appreciation for their guidance and support. The competition was judged by a panel of experts, including the Head of the Department of English and a senior faculty member. The judges evaluated the letters based on their content, language, and overall impact. The event was attended by students, faculty members, and senior citizens from the local community in online platform at 10 am. The event aimed at providing an opportunity for the younger generation to express their love and appreciation for their elders and create awareness about the importance of respecting and valuing the contributions of senior citizens in society.



Participants of the online event reading out the letters

## 5. Observation of International Mother Language Day

The Department of English, St. Michael's College, Cherthala celebrated International Mother Language Day in association with the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of the college on 21 February 2021. The main aim of this celebration was to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism, which are crucial for the preservation and development of different cultures. The department conducted a poetry writing competition in which students from different departments of the college participated. The competition was open to all students and was held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The participants were asked to write a poem in their mother tongue or any other language they were comfortable with. The poems were judged based on their content, language proficiency, creativity, and adherence to the theme of the competition. The winner was later felicitated by the NSS and the Department.



The winner of the competition being felicitated after the college reopening

## 6. World Book Day Competition for Students

Malayalam department conducted a Competition for students on the occasion of World Book Day, which falls on April 23. Students participated in Book Review, Drawing, Poster making, Cartoon. competitions held with the aim of encouraging book reading among students. Prizes were given to the winners.



Entries



Brochure

## 7. Basheer Remembrance Day

A commemoration programme was organized by the Malayalam Department students on June 5, celebrated regionally as Basheer's Memorial Day. Lecture on Basheer's works was Conducted by Dr. Mary Reema. Basheer's famous short stories have been prepared and presented as audio books. Yadukrishnan, Sona C. Thomas and Jasila edited videos. Anjana Binu, Jayalakshmi K J and Ruksana CS prepared the audio.

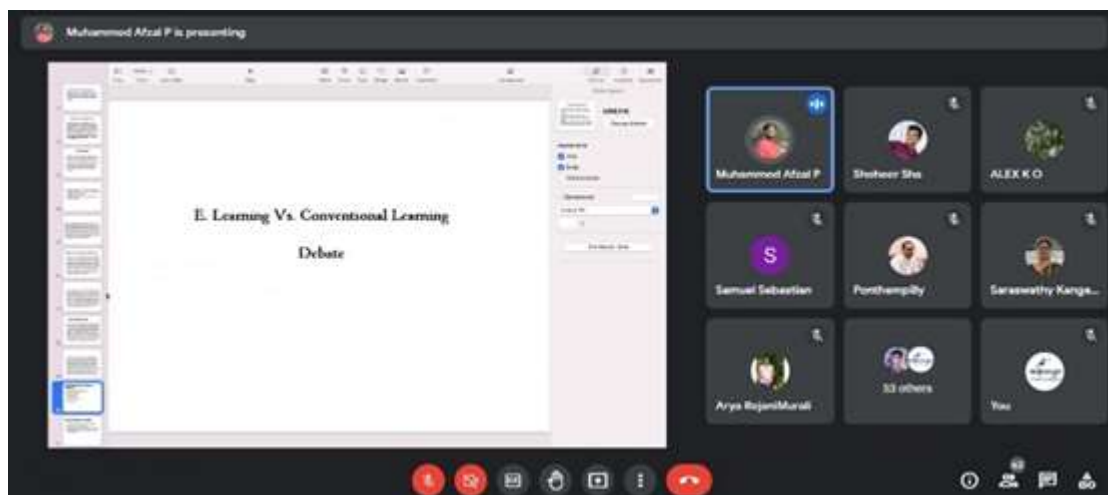


Audio Books and Video Thumbnail from YouTube

## 8. National Reading Day

National Reading Day was celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of P. N Panicker, an erudite scholar and social reformer who played a pivotal role in promoting literacy and education. The Department of English organized various programmes which aimed to encourage students to develop reading habits and create a culture of

reading. A debate on the topic E-learning Vs Conventional learning was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. Sona Thomas and Janvy John of II BA English moderated the debate. Two students from each department participated in the programme. Dr. Seena Kurian, Faculty Department of Hindi and NSS programme officer delivered a talk on Arivinte Vakku (The Word of Knowledge) via Google Meet. She highlighted the relevance of reading in everyday life.



Screenshot of the Webinar

## 9. Vachan Divas

Reading Day was started on June 19, 1996, by the Kerala Government along with the PN Panicker Foundation. Over the years, the National Reading Day became a movement to celebrate and promote reading and literacy. The day also marks the beginning of the Digital Reading Celebrations, which goes on for a month. Department of Hindi St. Michael's College, Cherthala also observed Reading Day on June 19, 2021 by organising a reading competition. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, we organised a competition through an online platform. The Programme started at 10:00 a.m. with a Hindi recitation Ms. Anaswara Lal. Several other students also took part in the reading competition. Revathi Mol of Zoology department won the first prize.



Google Meet Session



## 10. Hindi Day

National Hindi Day is celebrated in India every year on 14 September to mark the adaptation of Hindi as the official language by the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949. Department of Hindi organized different programmes to commemorate the day. The department conducted a webinar on 14th September 2022. The famous writer and Hindi translator, Dr. K Vanaja led the webinar. The Head of the Department, Dr. Seena Kurian gave a brief introduction about the resource person and welcomed her to the programme. Leo John of second year BCom. delivered the vote of thanks. Through the webinar, the students realized the importance of Hindi language.



Brochure of the Programme

## 11. Reading Week Observation

To observe this year's Reading Day, the Department of English arranged a slew of programmes. The objective of the programmes were not only to improve the reading skills of the students but also to generate interest for reading in them. A book donation campaign was initially conducted in the department in which the teachers and students actively participated. More than 500 pre-owned readable books were collected as part of this drive. With this collection a Mini Library was also installed in the department. The library was inaugurated by the renowned writer P. J. J. Antony on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2022. An essay writing competition titled "Inked Thoughts" was also conducted in association with Hindi and Malayalam departments. 19 students from different disciplines participated in the competition held on 21/06/2022. Besides all these, the department also took initiative to encourage a class to subscribe to The Hindu newspaper. The 2021-24 batch took up this initiative and have currently subscribed to the national daily.



P J J Antony inaugurating the Library



Students taking part in essay writing



Brochures of the Event

## 12. World Malala Day Observation

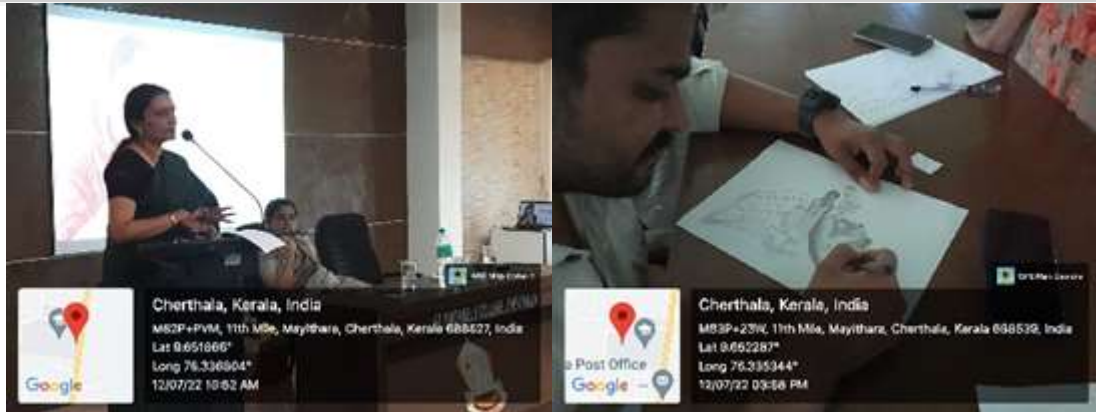
The Department of English observed World Malala Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022. This day was celebrated to salute the Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who works for women's right to education. A One Day Seminar was organized as part of the day's observance. Dr. Harsha Viswanath, Asst. Prof. of English, M. S. M. College, Kayamkulam, was the resource person for the seminar and she spoke on "Wounds and Words: Exploring Trauma Through Literature". She spoke about numerous other victims, along with Malala, who had to confront similar trauma in their lives and who chose words as a media to convey the mental trauma they experienced.

The day also witnessed two other important events. One is the screening of the world popular documentary *He Named Me Malala* and a drawing competition on the theme 'Education for All'. The department also distributed certificate and cash prize to the winner of the Essay Writing Competition that was held in association with the Language Departments in connection with National Reading Day. The day's programmes turned out to be an eye-opener for the students. They were enlightened on various issues that women confront in the global scenario and how education can resolve many of them to an extent.



Brochure of the Event





Snippets from the Programme

### 13. Hindi Divas

'Hindi Divas' or National Hindi Day is celebrated in India every year on 14 September to mark the adaptation of Hindi as the official language by the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949. Department of Hindi organized different programmes to commemorate the day. The department conducted a webinar titled 'Hindi ke kadam' on 14th September 2022. The famous writer and Hindi translator, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra led the webinar. The Head of the Department, Dr. Seena Kurian gave a brief introduction about the resource person and welcomed him to the programme. Navaneeth Krishnan of second year Chemistry delivered the vote of thanks. Through the webinar, the students realized the importance of Hindi language.



Brochure of the Programme

### 14. Kerala Day Observation

Department of Malayalam organized different programs on Keralapiravi in the collaboration with the department of History. Speech competition and quiz for the students of the college was organized on 1-1-2022 at 2.30 PM. The judging was done by Dr. Petricia Robin, Dhwanan DB, and Aparna. Second year Economics student Nandana S. Won first place in speech competition. First year Economics student Athul Sony won the quiz. Winners were given books as prizes.

Organized a seminar on 2.11.2022 at 1.30 pm, coordinated by Dr. Mary Reema. Malayalam Professor of Kalady Sanskrit University Dr. Bichu X Malayil delivered a lecture on 'Samskarika Navodhanam Bhashayiloodeyum

charithrathiloodenyum 'and inauguratedbharanabhashavaracharanam. In this even, Dr. Mary Reema and Mr. Pratish P. spoke. More than 80 students Participated in this event.



Newspaper Report



Brochure

## 15. Official Language Week Observation

Bharana Bhashavaracharanam programs started from November 1 with several skill development programs among students like Malayalam Election and Quiz. The observation was inaugurated officially by Dr. Bichu X. Malayil on 02.11.2022. Department of Malayalam organized different programs on the closing day of language week (bharana bhasha varacharanam November 1- 7). The students created videos using Michael's Malayalam YouTube channel to promote the official language, Malayalam. It was inaugurated by Principal Dr. Sindhu S. Nair. Various competitions were organized to assess how effectively the students use the Malayalam language.



Dr. Sindhu S Nair inaugurating the Programme



Brochure of the event

## 16. World Hindi Day

World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas is observed on January 10 every year to mark the importance and legacy of the Hindi language across the globe. It is celebrated to rejoice in the day when Hindi was first spoken on the National platform of the United Nations General Assembly. On this day we organized a poster exhibition at our college portico. All the students were asked to bring posters on Hindi Day. Our college Principal Dr. Sindhu. S. Nair inaugurated the exhibition. Dr. Seena Kurian delivered a speech on Hindi day and the importance of observing this day. The posters were exhibited among all the students of our college.



Snippets from Poster Presentation

## 17. Mathrubhashavaracharanam

A four-day long seminar was organized from February 21 to 24 in connection with Mother Language Week. Renowned poet and retired professor of Maharajas College S. Joseph spoke at the seminar at on 21, World mother language day. Chimizh, a digital magazine prepared by the students, was released by Manager Father Nelson Thaipparambil. Principal Dr. Sindu S Nair delivered the keynote address. Dr. Mary Reema gave the welcome and Shijila T. gave the vote of thanks. S. Joseph addressed the students about Malayalam and Malayalee society, Many students like Ashiq, Nandana, Revathi etc. interacted with the topic. About 100 people including teachers and students participated. The magazine was aimed at developing the artistic and technical skills of the students.



On the second day on 22-2-2023 literary writing competitions for students were conducted. A large number of students participated in the story writing and poetry writing competitions. Anagha Dinesh, a first-year student of Commerce, won first prize in poetry and Aparna Ajith of English won first prize in short story.

On the third day, 23-2-2023, Dr. S. Girish Kumar, a famous novelist and assistant professor of Thrissur Kerala Varma College, gave a lecture on the topic of pluralism of Malayalam novel. About 100 students participated in it.

On the fourth day 24 - 2-2023, a lecture was given on the topic of Historical Paths of Drama by famous playwright and former teacher of Cherthala St. Michael's College, Dominic Pazampassery. About eighty students participated in it. Students actively participated in the discussions and debates.



Brochure of the Event



Dr. S Gireesh Kumar Addressing the gathering



Sri. Dominic Addressing the gathering

## c) Gender Equality Activities

### 1. Gender Sensitization Drama

To raise awareness among students about the evolving views on gender and its societal implications, the Department of English, in collaboration with Mary Immaculate English Medium School in Pathirapally, Alappuzha, organised a Gender Sensitization Drama featuring students from the school. This drama was performed on December 18, 2018. Both students and staff from the college and Mary Immaculate School took part in the event. The drama emphasised that inequality and inequity are obstacles to the development of a progressive society. It was highly appreciated and praised by the audience, who lauded it as an outstanding initiative by the college and the school.



Students from Mary Immaculate English Medium School in their drama costumes

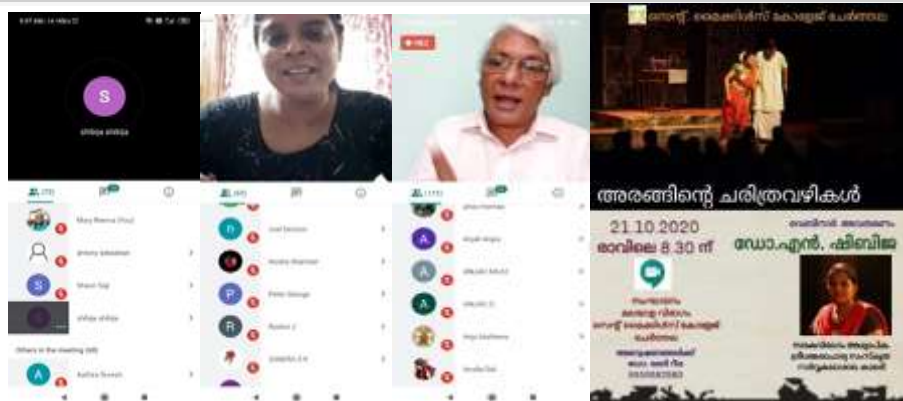


The drama being staged in the seminar hall

## 2. 'Aranginde Charithravazhikal'- Webinar on Women in Drama

On October 21, 2020, the Malayalam Department organised an insightful webinar focusing on the theme of drama, specifically titled "Aranginde Charithravazhikal." The resource person for this event was Dr. N. Shibija, Assistant Professor from the Department of Theatre at Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady. The lecture was delivered through the Google Meet platform and saw the participation of approximately 75 students.

Dr. N. Shibija's presentation provided a comprehensive exploration of drama as a genre, tracing its historical evolution and significance in society. A key highlight of her lecture was the role of women in drama, both as characters within theatrical works and as contributors to the development of the genre. Throughout history, women have played crucial roles in drama, often serving as powerful symbols and driving the narratives forward. Dr. Shibija emphasized how female characters in traditional and contemporary dramas reflect the changing societal attitudes towards gender and the ongoing struggle for equality and representation. Moreover, Dr. Shibija shed light on the contributions of women playwrights, directors, and actors in the field of theatre. She highlighted the pioneering efforts of female dramatists who have broken barriers and carved out spaces for women within the dramatic arts. The webinar was a resounding success, with students actively engaging in the discussion and expressing their appreciation for the depth of knowledge shared by Dr. Shibija. It was an enriching experience that underscored the importance of gender inclusivity in the arts, resonating deeply with all participants.



Screenshots of the Google Meet session

Brochure of the webinar

### 3. World Malala Day Observation

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Brochure of the event

Snippets from the Programme



**d) ARK**

A Random Act of Kindness abbreviated as ARK was implemented in the department in 2014, the same year as the inception of the department, to undertake activities that will not only be beneficial to the public and the community that houses the college but also to instill in the students an awareness, understanding and responsibility towards their fellow beings. The scheme intended to extend necessary help as and when occasion arises. Ten years into the inception of this programme, the department has been able to do a commendable number of activities under it. The first and foremost activity held under this banner was the visit to Santhwan, a school for the differently abled, on 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014. A team of 38 students and 2 teachers visited the school and spent a day with the inmates of the institution. Cultural programmes were staged and gifts were also given to the inmates. The programme ended with a lunch arranged by the department for all the participants of the programme.

The second initiative taken under the ARK scheme was assisting late Emmanuel K. Thomas' parents in getting the insurance amount released from the University of Kerala. Emmanuel K Thomas was a student of the department who met with an accident and passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2015. To honour his memory the department began offering a scholarship in his name and also assisted his family in completing the necessary official procedures to release the insurance amount from the university. The next major activity done under the ARK scheme was Flood Relief works undertaken during the major flood crisis that the state of Kerala faced in 2018. A team of students and faculty from the department served as Flood Relief volunteers in the relief camp that functioned on the campus and also contributed Rs. 3000 worth essential goods to the camp. The team also collected clothes that could be used by the inmates of the camp.

Financial Aids to four different people were also done under this scheme in the years 2017, 2023 and 2024. The students and staff of the department along with the other members of the Michaellean family came forward and contributed generously to help Ammu Sathyan, a student of 2015-2018 batch, who met with a major accident on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 and was in dire need of financial assistance to pay for the hospital expenses. An amount of Rs. 15,500 was collected from the teaching and non-teaching staff and an amount of Rs. 6,500 was collected from the students of the department to help her. Kanoza Jackson, a patient with pulmonary embolism who was admitted to Kottayam Medical College was also given financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 under this scheme. A part of the amount received by the department through NOVE, the book recycling venture of the department was used for this purpose. Two students, one from the Department of English, Ms. Nikhi Dhanas, who lost her father recently and other from the BBA department, Akshay Raj K R, who has to undergo kidney transplantation surgery soon, also benefitted from this scheme. An amount of Rs. 10,500 was given to Nikhi's family and Rs. 6,000 was donated towards Akshay's surgery. An Old Age Home visit is the most recent programme conducted under this scheme. The visit was conducted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 2024. Cultural programmes were held as part of the event and the department also took the initiative of beginning a library in the establishment and 70 books were donated to it as the first step towards materialising the purpose.



Snippets from Visit to Santhwan



Emmanuel Memorial Scholarship Inception & Insurance Application Submission



Flood Relief Activities



Old Age Home Visit & Books for Library Donation