

NAMING OF THE COLLEGE LIBRARY as V S ANDREWS LIBRARY

The auspicious occasion of naming the library of St. Michael's College, Cherthala took place on 20.02.2024. The event 'NAMAKARANAM' was hosted in the reading section of the library. Rev. Fr. Nelson Thaiparambil, manager of the college, gave a brief introduction regarding the impetus behind the decision to name the library after V. S. Andrews.

V. S. Andrews renowned as Kerala Shakespeare, accomplished his first Tamil Musical Drama – Gnanamohini, at the age of 18. He pursued the life of a play-wright, to embellish the Malayalam Musical Drama, writing 47 plays. His life was dedicated to the stage. People in and around Alleppey cordially addressed him as 'Anthappanashan' and esteemely held him as 'Sarasa Gayaka Kavi'. His efforts brought to limelight, several outstanding figures like Sebastian Kunjukunju Bhagavathar and Augustine Joseph (Father of K. J. Yesudas). Unfortunately, he was not acclaimed for the milestone contributions he had made to the stage, relieving it from the superiority of Tamil language. Hence the initiative was taken, to turn the college library into a hub of study regarding the life and works of V. S. Andrews, so that his existence is never pushed into oblivion.

The naming ceremony was done by the prolific writer of Alleppey, Shri. P. J. J. Antony, and the unveiling of the inscription stone was done by Dr. George Andrews, son of V. S. Andrews. Dr. Sheena George, granddaughter of V. S. Andrews, reminisced her attempts to collect the available works of V. S. Andrews, and the initiatives taken to get the works printed.

The event also included the honouring of Ullala Babu, renowned writer, alumni of St. Michael's College, for achieving the award from Kerala Balasahithya Institute for his holistic contribution to Malayalam literature. He started off his literary life in 1976, and has written around 70 books in the genre of children's literature.

Shihymon C. A., the art teacher of Arthungal HSS, and students of the English Department, Gowri S., Akash I. G., Anoop E. N., Saniya Sabu and Dhanu S. Raj were honoured during the meeting, for their artistic expressions manifested as beautiful paintings on the walls of the library.

St. Michael's College Principal Dr. (Prof.) Sindhu S Nair, Associate Manager Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Celestine Puthenpurackal, Vice-Principal Dr. Antony Kuriakose, Librarian Dr. Patricia Robin, Office Supdt. Smt. Priya Antony, literarian Shri. Ullala Babu and Cherthala Municipality Vice-chairman Shri. T. S. Ajaykumar, addressed the gathering. The informal interactions after the meeting extended warmth and family feeling, leaving memories to be reminisced forever.