

Annual Report for the last Academic Year, April 2023 - March 2024:

Malayalam Literary Society

Society Activity Report 2023-24

The Malayalam Literary Society, officially established in March 2013, is one of the most actively functioning literary societies of St. Stephen's College. This Society has always strived for and will continue to do so to preserve and showcase the culture and literature of Kerala. Here is a report of all the events we conducted for the academic year 2023-24.

Aarppo'23- Onam Celebration

The Society celebrated Onam on the college campus titled "*Aarppo'23*" on the 4th and 5th of September 2023, incorporating the virtues of the festival, which officially marked the beginning of the society's activities for the academic year. Around 400 junior and senior members came together in Kerala's traditional attire to be a part of the celebration. The cultural performances included *Thiruvathira* by more than 70 junior members and *Vanjipattu* (Boat Song) by more than 80 junior members. A beautiful flower carpet (*pookkalam*) was also prepared in the main portico, a *chendamelam* performance by an external team was arranged and a football shootout competition and tug of war were conducted. The Onam Sadhya was served in the mess hall after the cultural performances.

Orientation

The MLS offered a fabulous orientation session to first-year junior members on 3rd October, where we created an avenue for them to gain insights into the functioning of our society. We started the program in the SCR lawns, with a game of passing the ball as an icebreaking session, followed by the introduction of the council members and the events planned for the year 2023-24.

Thoolika- The mini-fest

Thoolika '23 was held on November 1st, the occasion of the Kerala Piravi. It was a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of Kerala, offering experiences of its literature, food, and traditions. We commenced the event with a range of intercollege literary competitions, which included Essay Writing in English, Malayalam Translation, Book Cover Design, and an online Photo Recreation competition. The mess lawns came alive with face-painting stalls in collaboration with the Fine Arts Society. The highlight of the day was the talk by Prof. Deepan Sivaraman, Theatre director and scenographer on the topic: Stage Adaptation of Literary Works. This was followed by a mesmerising evening of cultural performances, including adaptations based on Theyyam, Vattapattu, and Kalaripayattu. The MLS had set up a food stall that offered delicious snacks from Kerala, tempting the taste buds of the audience.

Kaliyattam - The annual fest

“*Kaliyattam*”, the annual fest of the Malayalam Literary Society, was a three-day event, starting on March 11th and continuing through the 18th and 19th, with each day offering captivating experiences for the minds, interests, and hearts of the audience. On March 11th, 2024, Kaliyattam kicked off its first day with various intercollege literary competitions, including Extempore Malayalam, Story Writing Malayalam, Versification English, and online Photographic Interpretation. This was followed by a talk in the evening by Sri Anish P Rajan IRS on the history and culture of the Malayalam language.

On March 16th, we witnessed the most vibrant and energetic publicity stunt: *Pulikali* (The Tiger Dance). Sixteen participants, painted in white, orange, yellow, and red, portrayed tigers, and roamed around the science block and cafe tree, roaring with enthusiasm and dancing to the beats of the *chenda* (Traditional Cylindrical Drum). March 18th saw the Medley Concert in collaboration with The Music Society. Medley was a fantastic platform, for the students to showcase their singing talents. From melodious songs to energetic songs, everything about Medley was outstanding. On the last day of Kaliyattam, March 19th, MLS offered an evening filled with mesmerising cultural performances. The performances showcased various Kerala art forms, including Mohiniyattam, Margamkali, Parichamuttu, and Oppana. This was followed by a mime skit about the 2018 floods that had affected Kerala. The MLS had set up a food stall that offered delicious Kerala snacks. The Kaliyattam 2024 concluded with a screening of the famous Malayalam movie "Ustad Hotel," directed by Anwar Rasheed, in the college hall, accompanied by nostalgic Kerala cuisine specialties.

Chai pe charcha

Chai Pe Charcha - an informal discussion and open mic initiative, held two successful events on 17th October 2023 and 19th March 2024. This served as a platform for fostering open dialogue and exchanging ideas among attendees. The first Chai Pe Charcha was centered around life away from home, while the second event delved into the evolution of the Malayalam Film Industry through the ages. Attendees engaged in conversations providing diverse perspectives and insights. Through shared experiences and lively interactions, they fostered a sense of intellectual exchange.

Blog- Samaantharangaal & Annual Journal- Vykhar

Samaantharangaal is the literary blog managed by the Literary Vertical of the Malayalam Literary Society. The blog focuses on Malayalam movies, books, culture, and festivals of Kerala as seen through the perspectives of our writers. The society published articles every week based on various themes. The monthly series' such as *The Stories of Resilience*, and *Her Story Unfolded* captivated the readers. The vertical also published the Society's Annual Journal- *Vykhar* (Thoughts rendered into words).