

Karoor Soman's short stories Kattukozhigil released



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM March 13: UK based novelist Karoor Soman's Kattukozhigal, a collection of 15 short stories, was published by Prabhath book house and was released at a function held at Trivandrum Secretariat recently.

The book was released by the Honourable Minister Sree Binoy Vishvam by presenting the first copy of the book to noted writer and journalist Sree P.T Chacko.

This is his 19th book and all his books are published and distributed by Kerala's main publishers like SPCS/NBS, Poorna, Bookmark, Vidhyarthimitram, Current books and Prabhath.

Prabhath book house General Manager Sree T. Chandran chaired the meeting. The chair person opined that in Malayalam literature Karoor Somans name is very familiar because he has moved through different fields in literature including drama, novel, story, poem, essay and travelogue. I believe these stories are an asset to Malayalam literature.

In the minister's speech, he said that there are good short stories in Malayalam literature, but Karoor Somans Kattukozhigal has a worldwide appeal. He also appreciated the fact that Keralites in foreign countries are promoting Malayalam literature which is a positive sign that the language is not dying in these countries. Pravasi writers and associations/councils/vedies/web sites are the contributing factors for this growth of Malayalam language.

Karoor Soman, who proposed the vote of thanks, said that "Britain became a well developed country because of their vast knowledge base which they have learned to utilize efficiently. Their reading culture has enabled them to prosper and be a developed country.

"Book reading has been in their culture for centuries. He criticized Indians on their lack of enthusiasm of reading and poor knowledge. Indian bureaucracy has enabled this to flourish even further.

"This results in narrow minded thinking and lack of prosperity to India. Kerala's main business TV channels have brought this goal of underdevelopment closer by teaching the public about cinema.

"These TV channels always telecast about actors and actresses. The younger generation won't benefit from cinema. If this is how the media and the politics of India continue in the coming years, the talk of India becoming a major force in the world stage will be always a dream.

"The solution to this problem can be solved by inculcating a good and healthy habit of

reading and the urge for innovation. If people are not improving their readings they could be considered as Kulathila Thavalakal, he said.