

Karoor Soman's debut English novel 'Malabar Aflame' launched

Noted Malayalam Novelist Karoor Soman has released a novel in English. His debut English novel 'Malabar Aflame' was released by popular novelist Jaishree Misra, grand niece of Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, at a function organised by the Centre for Cultural studies at University of Kerala. Jaishree told a group of students at the institute of English attending the seminar on 'Post modern riddles before Indo-Anglian writers to take new challenges and embrace the digital technology.

(Indo-Anglian literature refers to writers in India who write in the English language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous languages of India. It is also associated with the works of members of the Indian diaspora, such as V. S. Naipaul, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Agha Shahid Ali, Rohinton Mistry and Salman Rushdie, who are of Indian descent.)

Releasing the book Ms Misra, who is now settled down in Trivandrum said

"The Number 12 London Double Decker shown on the cover of the book is also very familiar as I used to travel by it while studying in the University of London."

Dr. Jancy James, former two-times vice chancellor of MG University, Kottayam and the first vice chancellor of the Central University of Kerala, Kasargod, who moderated the seminar, said that if she didn't have the accidental foray into the world of administration, she would have remained a teacher and a writer (something that she still cherishes).

It is not all lost because her son, who is a technocrat, has become a writer (with his second book on its way out) and her daughter, a PhD in Law, is a voracious reader.



"Think aloud to find if you have anything to say. If you find that you have, then only take up the pen," advised C. Balagopal, an IAS-turned businessman who has lately become a successful writer. His first book 'On a Clear Day, You can see India', published by Harper Collins is a anecdotic recall of his days as a young IAS trainee in Manipur. His second book on his experiences as Sub Collector in Kollam is coming out soon.

Dr. Suja Kurup, Associate professor and Director, Centre for Australian Studies, initiated the discussions with a welcome address. Kurian Pampadi, introduced Karoor Soman and the book. Doctoral researcher Sucheta Sankar proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. Maya Dutt, Dean of Arts, Dr. B. Hariharan, Professor of English, writer Rakesh Varma and Dr. Mini Nair were among those who participated. The Centre for Cultural Studies has Dr. Meena T. Pillai, Associate Professor, as its director. Karoor's novel is brought out by Media House, New Delhi.

Theatre Workshop

KCWA's joint venture with VBEATS UK, a London based Art Company to provide a series of creative and acting workshops; the first workshop took place on Saturday at 14 Cavendish Road, Croydon, CR0 3LB at 13.30.

Manoj Shiva briefly talked about the Malayalam musical play titled "Kanthi - A parable of love and beauty through the heroine ways in Malayalam cinema", which is conceived and directed by himself

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