

**English**  
**Literature**  
**Association (ELITA)**  
**Report (2015-16)**

English Literature Association (ELITA) team planned various programmes for the year 2015-16, which ensure the maximum participation of students and provide platforms where they could exhibit their varied talents off and onstage. The activities of team ELITA were under the guidance of Dr. Lata Marina Varghese, Head of the Department; Prof. Jithin John, Faculty-in-charge of ELITA and the ELITA secretaries- Abey Zacariahs and Rincy Mathew. One important decision taken at the beginning of the year was to go for a nature-friendly ride by avoiding the flex and plastic banners to the maximum, and we guess that we have almost succeeded in that. Except for two programmes, all the other programmes had either chart papers or cloth banners.

These are the programmes which we think could hone the student skills in different and varied ways. The detailed summary of various programmes are as follows:

### ***I. Discourse- The Discussion Forum***

*Discourse* set a platform for intellectual and creative discussions on different contemporary texts and issues. Being a literature department, the discussion of literary and film texts are very much part of the academics. On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Prof. Nithya Mariam Thomas, Department of English, B. C. M. College inaugurated the programme by introducing her own book. The second session was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August '15 by Sruthi Acca John, of III B.A. She introduced Dr. Biju Damodaran who fetched national and international recognition to Mollywood. *Jalam Kondu Murivettaval*, the documentary on the real life story of Moideen and Kanchanamala was screened in the third session which was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The fourth session was dealt by Kavitha Kuriakose, I M.A.. She introduced *Agony and Ecstasy* by Irving Stone, which was followed by an interactive session. In the fourth session which was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September'15, Ajaykrishnan G. explained his experiences while writing his story *Oduyankettu*, which was published in Mathrubhumi weekly.

### ***II. Official Inauguration of ELITA***

English Literature Association was officially inaugurated by Dr. Biju Damodaran, renowned cine director who brought many national and international laurels to Mollywood on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015. His creations as *Saira*, *Veetilekkulla Vazhi*, *Valya Chirakulla Pakshikal*, *Perariyaathavar Aakashathinte Niram* etc. brought recognition at national level to many cine artists like Suraj Venjaramood and Navya Nair. There was a slide show commemorating the victims of Hiroshima- Nagasaki disaster. The Head of the Department presided over the

function. The faculty in charge welcomed the gathering. The Principal expressed his views on the relevance of the co-curricular activities in the holistic development of an individual. Dr. Biju explained the power of art in moulding the psyche of a society. ELITA secretary thanked the gathering.

### ***III. X-Press- Mock Interview.***

X-Press was an inter department mock- interview competition. There were twelve participants and each student represented a department in the competition which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. Each of them selected a celebrity by taking lot. The contestants introduced themselves as the selected celebrities and faced the interview panel. Each participant could choose their celebrity just five minutes prior to their performance. Twelve of them stole the hearts of the audience as Vidya Balan, C. K. Janu, Abhilash Tomy, V. S. Achuthaanathan and so on. Ajai Krishnan G. (III B.A English) and Jayasree S. (II B.Sc Chemistry) were selected as the best performers.

### ***IV. Inter Class Competition***

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015, an interclass competition was held at the department library. The students of the U.G and P.G. tried their literary skills and creativity in Short Story Writing, Poetry Writing and Caption Writing. The first sentence was given to the students (As I stepped in the clock ticked nine) and they had to develop a story out of that. “Black” and “Coffee” were the themes of poetry writing and caption writing respectively.

### ***V. Workshop on Creative Writing***

For a layman literature is an area of academics which is a synonym of imagination and creativity. The ultra modern nature of the corporate and IT world has drained out the linguistic fluidity by bringing more rigidity to language. Prof. Anish K. Joseph, Assisitant Professor of English, St. Berchmans’ College, Changanacherry came on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with the intention of instilling a zeal for creative writing. It consisted of two sessions- one dealt with the theoretical aspects of Creative Writing. The second session was more like an active session where children danced and moved to the tunes. The feedback on the class was also collected.

## ***VI Namasthe English- The Extension Programme***

Whatever adjectives we add to English, for Indians it is our colonial and second language. The best way to learn a language is to introduce it to the tiny tots through light texts of stories, poems and songs. The usual practice of any association is to invite resource persons who have expertise in their respective fields to give a class on their areas. But here we attempted a novel venture where the students themselves turned out to be the resource persons to give an innovative session which instils an interest for the language of English. Language is to savoured and imbibed and not injected and thrust upon students.

The major challenge before the team was to grab the constant attention of the children and the syllabus was designed so as to meet the same. The school selected for the programme was Govt. L. P. School, Mudiyoorkkara, Kottayam and was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The thirty five students of the four classes of the school were the beneficiaries. The syllabus was designed by the students under the guidance of Prof. Vidya Merlin Varghese, Prof. Kavitha Gopalakrishnan and Prof. Jithin John. The whole workshop was divided into four sessions:

- **Session I- Namasthe English**

This was the introductory session dealt by Rohith Puthuran of III B.A and Tomjith Markose of II B.A and this did the effect of an icebreaking session. The two session co-ordinators introduced themselves saying *Namasthe* to create a familiar ambience and introduced themselves in English. The thirty five students introduced themselves in English who were benevolently supported by the co-ordinators. After introduction, they were asked to exhibit a talent of theirs and this talent round aroused confidence in them. Thus the hostile air of a foreign language teaching team melted and vanished without delay.

- **Session II- Words, Games and Fun.**

This session was effectively dealt by Arya M. (I M. A.), Nikhina Marium Alexander ( III B.A.), Nimy Tresa Chacko (III B. A.) and Vini Mary Koshy (III B. A.). They switched the verbal game mode on. The students were divided into five groups of seven members and were given papers on which they had sentences with missing words in it. For the next game, charts were given to the children which had twenty familiar images. The students were given five minutes to identify the objects and label them on

to the paper. Thus they learned things unknowingly and the team made the very vivid statement- Learning is not always hectic and it can be fun too.

- **Session III- Once upon a time...**

This was a session which introduced well known English stories, which was beautifully 'narrated' by Abiya George of I M.A, Divya Tresa Dominic (III B.A), Gokul Nair (I M. A.) and Sethulakshmi E. S.(II B. A.) . They unveiled the colours and flavours of the most celebrated stories. The nuances, turns, tensions and climax were emoted to the students with the help of a projector. Children were ecstatic when the 'lost' spring came in "The Big Giant"; curious when the crow in "The Crow and the Tumbler" tried to raise the water level in the tumbler ;

- **Session IV- Tunes and Moves**

This session acquainted the students with the history and vocabulary of the popular action songs. Tany Mariam Mathew of III B. A., John K. Thomas, Surumi Yoosaf and Aswin K. Benzeer of II B. A. were in music and action. Children stood in a circle and they moved to the action songs of "Wheels on The Bus", "Humpty Dumpty sat on a Wall", "Ba Ba Black Sheep" and "Hands on my Hips". They sang and danced with their vibrant gestures aping the the resource persons. The teachers of the school also joined the team in the session.

## **VII Proscenium-Musings on Theatre**

Team ELITA believes that there is nothing as strong as theatre that questions, criticises, comments and thus moulds a society. It is out of this belief the programme of *Proscenium* sprouted up. Proscenium is "metaphorical vertical plane of space in a theatre, usually surrounded by physical proscenium arch which serves as the frame into which the audience observes from a more or less unified angle".

On January 25<sup>th</sup> 2016, it was held as two sessions- a session which explicates the theories and first hand experiences of theatre and a one act play performance. The forenoon session was made as lively as possible by the well known script writer, theatre performer, cine artist and moreover a former faculty in Malayalam, Sri. P. Balachandran. The talk started at 10.15 am at A. P. Mani Media Centre and then, it was a roller coaster ride with his narration of memories and experiences at Pune Film

Institute. He talked about the various dramatic techniques which enable a professional actor to emote various expressions successfully so that a layman can enjoy and experience daily life. The audience were very active and his innate lucidity drained out the boredom which was expected out of a usual talk.

“The Marital Myth of Cleopatra”, the one act play staged that afternoon was a very strong response to a very socially relevant contemporary issue of Juvenile Justice Act in the much heatedly debated “Nirbhaya case”. As a group who believes that the gestures, dialogues and visual images on stage would be the best way to make imprints of that disaster, we chose expressing our strong resistance and response on stage, as a drama. Dr. B. Kerala Varma, Associate Professor, Govt. College, Nattakom was the chief guest of the evening. Yes, it was an amateurish attempt, but the highlight of the program is that, about sixty students of the department worked at the departments of script, direction, costume, choreography, set design etc. The students of various departments of the college, and the English students of C. M. S. College, B. C. M. College, G.I.A.L, St. Berchman’s College, Changanacherry and Govt. College, Nattakom constituted a very attentive group before the stage. After the staging of the drama, Dr. B. Kerala Varma and many teachers of various colleges talked on the drama and there was a drama review competition. In the spot review competition, Aneesa M. Thaha of B.C.M. college won the Best Reviewer title.

## VIII

### *Festivelita 2016*

The fest turned out to be a real fiesta which blended the flavours of knowledge, colours of creativity and rhythm of dance. As the name indicates, the general theme of the fest also was to create a kaleidoscopic variant ambience of a festival. The fest was held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February, aesthetically mixing competitive items, informative talk, scintillating film show and a spectacular dance performance. The changing shades and textures of the events were the highlight of the fest. The varied items which added cream to the cake are listed below:

**Day I** - three events- *Vachika*, *Vichinthana* and *Yavanika*.

***Vachika*- The All Kerala Elocution Competition:** All Kerala Extempore Elocution Competition set the platform for oratorical skills, took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10 a.m. There

were twelve participants for the event and the topic for the extempore elocution was “Youth and Social Media”.

### ***Vichinthana- Talk on “Literature and Dance”***

The resource person Prof. Sarath P.Nath, Department of Sanskrit, Baselius College, Kottayam deliberated that it was a challenging task to link the two realms of Literature and Dance.

### ***Yavanika***

*Lucia* is an Indian Kannada language psychological thriller written and directed by Pawan Kumar. It stars Sathish Ninasam and Sruthi Hariharan. The trailer of *Lucia* was released in February 2013, with the film releasing on 6 September 2013.<sup>1</sup> *Lucia* premiered at the London Indian Film Festival on 20 July 2013 and won the Best Film Audience Choice award at the festival. It was also among the films shortlisted by the FFI to become India's submission for Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for the year 2013.

The film was screened at A. P. Mani Hall at 2.00 pm that day. The hall was full and the spontaneous reactions of the audience testified the victory of the show. panel discussion was planned and the participants were ready, Anjali E.R., Arun Jose, Jeevan Sabu, Leya Sara Saji , Aparna Suresh etc.

The second day witnessed four items- Vidwan, Jathiswara, Vilambara and Utsav.

***Vidwan:*** The 35<sup>th</sup> edition of Quiz competition Vidwan was held at Mrs. Mammen Mappilai Hall with the selected four teams from the prelims held. The total teams which wrote prelims were.... The quiz master of the event was the exemplary quiz master Prof. Manoj Narayanan K.S. was efficiently assisted by Chandappillai Abraham and Ajay Abraham the M.Com students. The team of St. Thomas College, Pala won the event.

***Jathiswara:*** This was the Spot Choreography competition which demanded creativity and synchronisation of the dance members of team. There were --- registered teams and the dance team from T. M. Jacob Memorial Govt. College, Manimalakkunnu, Ernakulam grabbed the trophy for their excellent moves.

***Vilambara:*** “Vilambara” or advertisement making was a challenging item which called for creativity, literary and presentation skills. There were five registered teams and all of them put up scintillating performances. They were given a crown half an hour prior to the performance

and then they had to plan an Advertisement skit on the stage marketing the crown. They also had to select a tagline for the product....Shamna of Assumption College, Changanacherry was selected unanimously as the best performer in Vilambara who stole the hearts through her one-woman show.

**Utsav**: Utsav was the star event of Festivalita 2016. This was a complete “natya” session where different dance forms were celebrated. The choreographer of the super hit dance reality show, Sri. Bony Mathew and the title winner of the super hit D4Dance, Muhammed Ramzan retuned the heartbeats of the audience to their foot works. The first session was a Kathak performance where they stole the hearts through “thathkar” and “chakra”. They continued the show by their hip hop and Western movements. Mrinalini Susan George, Veena Sabu, H.Haritha, Meeralakshmi and Sreelakshmi S. S. of the department joined them in Utsav adding cream to the cake.

This was followed by a valedictory session where the prizes were distributed. Renowned cine artist and dancer, Smt. Krishnaprabha was the chief guest of the function. She, with Bony Mathew and Muhammed Ramzan gave away the prizes.

## ***IX***                      **Kottaykkakam - Documentary**

History and literature are two different horizons of civilization and society. Merging these contours, the students of English Department endeavoured the release of a mini documentary, *Kottaykkakam*. Four groups of students distinctively selected the various characteristic features that grant Kottayam its eminence as subtopics, Personalities of Reverence, Landmarks, Cuisines, and Mural Paintings. The writers themselves appear as anchors in the documentary. Unfortunately due to some technical issues all planned sessions of the script could not be shot.

## ***X***                      ***Interlude and Flavours***

A manuscript magazine and a printed magazine were released. *Interlude*, the printed magazine is a compilation of interviews of the well known persons who work at the various departments of Malayalam Theatre in Kerala. They include Sri. Artist Sujathan (Art Design), Smt. Muthumani (Theatre & Cine Actress), Roshan Mathew (Theatre & Cine Artist) and Sri.KumarDas (Theatre Student). Mebin Thomas and Riya Racheal Vinod (III B.A.) were the student editors of the magazine and Amal K. Lakshmanan (III B.A.) was the magazine designer.



*Flavours* is the manuscript magazine in which the students of the department shared their creative thoughts on the theme “flavour”. Dona Elsa Mathew and Vishnuraj (II M.A.), Jinu Jose and Jyothish Reghunathan (III B.A.) were the student editors of the magazine. The magazine was released in the valedictory function of the department fest, Festivalita '16.

### **Special Achievements**

- **Manoj George** (III B.A., English) won the National Award for the **Best N. S.S. volunteer** for the year and received the award from the Hon. President of India, Pranab Mukharjee on ....
- **Rincy Mathew** (III B.A. English) won **first** prize in English Poetry Writing in Saparya-The Mahatma Gandhi University Youth festival.
- **Sruthi Acca John** (III B.A. English) won **third** prize in Western Solo
- **AjaiKrishnan G.**'s short story *Odiyankettu* was published in Matrubhumi Weekly and his story *Binale* was published in the book published by Darshana Academy in association with Darshana Book Fest.
- **Sports Champions** of the College Sports, 2015-16.
- **Overall Trophy** for the fest in St. Berchmans' College, Changanacherry.

Sl. No.	Prize	Name of the Student	Class	Achievement Details
1.	First	Nevil Sam	II B.A. English	“Acting” in Melange Media Fest at St. Joseph’s College, Changanachery.
2.				“Radio Jockey Competition” in Melange Media Fest at St. Joseph’s College, Changanachery.
3.				“Shakesperean Soliloquy Competition” organised by Department of English, St. Aloysius College, Edathua.
4.				“Shakesperean Soliloquy Competition” in <i>Desafio 2K16</i> organised by Department of English, T. M. Jacob Memorial Government College, Manimalakkunnu.
5.				“Debate Competition” in <i>Zenith</i> , organised by Department of English, Assumption College, Changanacherry.

6.				“Shakesperean Soliloquy Competition” in <i>Xpressionz 2016</i> organised by Department of English, S.B.College, Changanacherry.
7.				<i>Dramatis Morphe</i> in Elaces, organised by Department of English, Kuriakose Elias College,Mannanam
8.				“Fame Frame Competition” in <i>Vanquish 4.0</i> organised by Naipunnya School of Management, Cherthala.
9.				“Mr.Asthra Competition” in <i>Asthra 2K16</i> organised by the Department of Economics, Marian College, Kuttikkanam.
10.				“BLF Persona competition” in BLF organised by the Department of English, C.M.S. College, Kottayam.
11.				“Best Actor” in <i>Swastika '16</i> organised by the MBC College of Engineering and Technology, Kuttikkanam.
12.		<b>Sruthi Acca John</b>	III B.A. English	“Western Solo (Female) competition” in <i>Xpressionz 2016</i> organised by the Department of English, S.B. College, Changanasery.
13.		<b>Ajaikrishnan G.</b>	III B.A. English	Kerala Sreeman held in association with the College Onam Celebrations.
14.		<b>Riya Racheal</b>	III B.A. English	Elocution competition organised by “Handloom Industry”heldin connection with the Onam celebrations.
1.	<b>Second</b>	<b>Nevil Sam</b>	II B.A. English	“Soliloquy Competition” in <i>Lit Fest 2016</i> ,organised by the Dept. of English, St. Stephen’sCollege, Uzhavoor.
2				“Film Review” in <i>Desafio</i> , organised by Department of English, T. M. Jacob Memorial Government College,Manimalakkunnu.
3				“Shakesperean Soliloquy Competition” in <i>Celebrazione 2016</i> organised by Department of English, B.C. M. College, Kottayam
4				“Second Best Debator” in <i>Zenith</i> , organised by Department of English, Assumption College,Changanacherry.

5				“Best Entertainer” in <i>Lumiere16</i> , conducted by College of Engineering, Kidangoor.
6				“Best Manager” in <i>Lumiere 16</i> , conducted by College of Engineering, Kidangoor.
7				“Live Reporting Competition” organised by De Paul School of Media and Communication.
8				“Radio Jockey Hunt” organised by De Paul School of Media and Communication.
9				“First Person (Anchoring) Competition” in <i>Montage’16</i> organised by the English Association of BPC College, Piravam.
10.		<b>Rincy Mathew</b>	III B.A. English	“Poetry writing competition” in <i>Celebrazione’16</i> organised by the Department of English, B.C.M. College, Kottayam.
11.		<b>Sujith Itty Mathew</b>	I B.A English	“Photography competition” conducted by B.C.M College, Kottayam.
1	<b>Third</b>	<b>Adithyan S.</b>	II B.A English	“Bishop Vayalil Memorial Intercollegiate Quiz Competition” organised by Alphonsa College, Pala.
2				“CerebrumSearchum” in <i>Mangalwar 2016</i> , organised by MC Varghese College of Arts and Science.
3.		<b>Nevil Sam</b>	II B.A English	“Extempore Speech” in <i>BLF’16</i> ORGANISED BY THE Department of English, C.M.S. College, Kottayam.
4		<b>Mrinalini Susan George</b>	III B.A. English	<i>Keralashalini</i> title held in connection with the college Onam celebrations.

## Group Events

1	First	Team Elita		Drama, Lumiere Fest at St. Thomas College, Pala
2	Second			Drama, OPUS, De Paul Institute of Science and Technology, Angamaly.
3.	First			Floral Design Competition, Onam Celebrations at the college.
4	Third			Bike Rally Fancy Dress Competition in association with Baselian Trophy.
5	First			March Past held in association with College Annual Sports.

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