

Report on

INSTITUTION OF AN ENDOWMENT

IN HONOUR OF

PROF. D.P. VENUGOPALAN

On 27th April 2022, the official institution of an endowment was conducted in honour of Prof. D.P. Venugopalan. At this event, many alumni of the Department of History, former Heads of the department, former faculties, Rev. Dr Thomas. A - Principal, Deputy Principal, students of Prof. Venugopalan, and PG II year students graced this occasion with their presence.

Late Prof. D.P. Venugopalan (1947-2021), one of the finest and most amazing souls, was the former HOD - History Department, former Vice Principal, and former Controller of Examination of Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai-34. During the online homage organised by the History Department in memory of Prof. Venugopalan, respected Rev. Dr A. Thomas S.J, Principal mentioned, "Teachers affect eternity and we can never tell where their influence ends" and Prof. Venugopalan stood testament to this statement with his influence on students in a positive way. He was a dedicated professor with a passion for history, and his students caught on his passion, because of his friendly demeanour. Thus, with great respect and honour the history department wanted to institute an endowment lecture in his name. With the generous contribution by DGP A.K. Viswanathan, a

well-known alumnus of the History department and a proud student of Prof. Venugopalan, we realised our wish.

We started the event with a prayer song, followed by the welcome address by Dr D Anuradha, Head of the Department. Prof. Munuswamy, Department's senior-most faculty, who served as a professor in the History department and an important personality with a long affiliation with Loyola College (Autonomous), shared his memories with Prof. Venugopalan. With his sense of humour, he had the attention of the audience. Dr A.K. Viswanathan then handed the cheque to Prof. Munuswamy, who in turn, handed it over to Fr. Principal.

After handing over the cheque, many alumni, and former faculty shared their memories with Prof. Venugopalan. Firstly, Dr Bernard D' Sami, Coordinator, Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR), shared his experiences with Prof. Venugopalan, recalling how Prof. Venugopalan was a down-to-earth person, kind, and compassionate. He mentioned that he expressed interest in History, theatre, plays, and acting. After Dr Bernard D' Sami's speech, Dr A.K. Visawanathan, and Dr G.J.Sudhakar - former Head of the History department, shared their working experiences, with Prof. Venugopalan, especially about his ability to remember his students with whom he came across in his life. Dr Selvanathan and Dr Gowtham, Head of the Sociology department, also a student of Prof. Venugopalan, shared their working experiences, while Dr Gowtham recalled his memories as a student.

It was an emotional journey down memory lane for those who shared a bond with Dr Venugopal. The programme came to a close with vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Ranganathan, Coordinator of IInd shift History Department.