

○ FOR MORE MASS PARTICIPATION

# Village museum opened at Mannanam

## The first of the proposed chain of 1,000 village museums is being rolled out by National Museum Institute in collaboration with Austrian Cultural Forum

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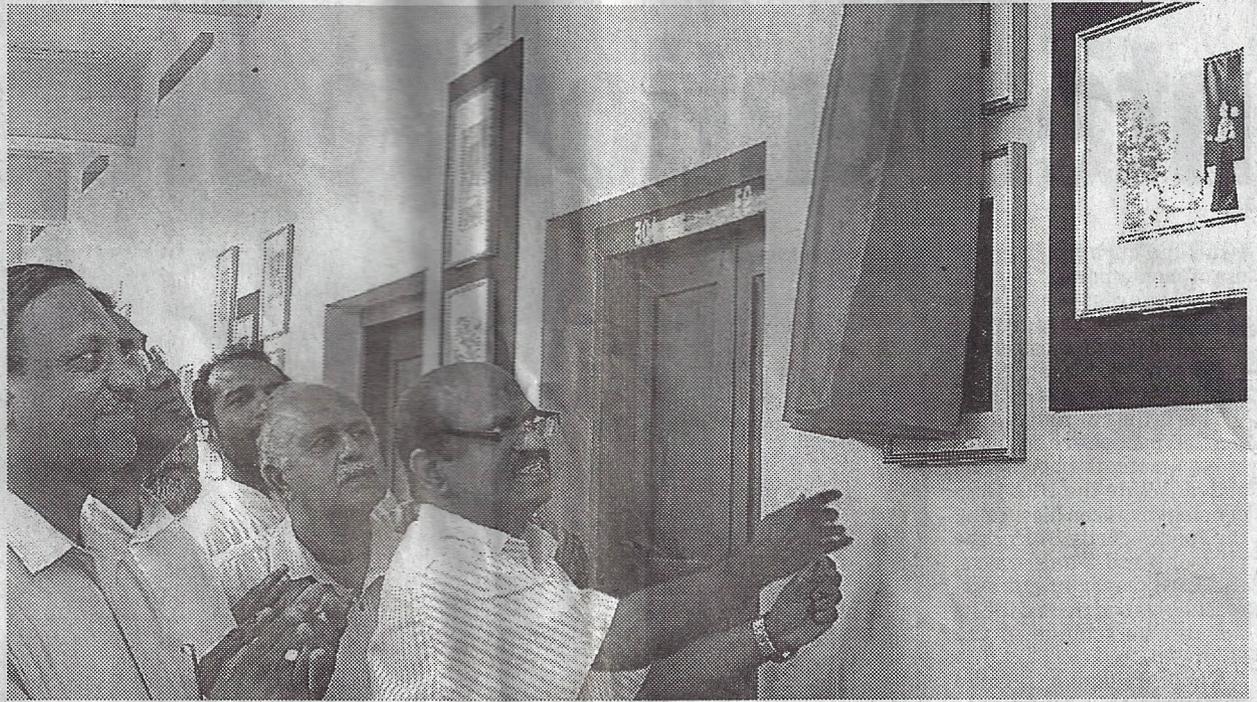
THE first of a proposed chain of 1,000 village museums aimed at greater participation of the masses in the preservation and appreciation of cultural heritage was declared open to the public at St Ephrem Higher Secondary School, Mannanam, near here, on Wednesday.

The museum being rolled out by the National Museum Institute (NMI) in collaboration with Austrian Cultural Forum, was inaugurated by National Museum administrator and Vice-Chancellor of National Museum Institute, C V Ananda Bose.

"This movement involving the chain of village/school museums is being launched in accordance with the call by the International Council of Museums to take the museums out of the conventional four walls. A host of foreign countries and their experts will collaborate with this venture," Bose said.

"Our goal is to turn these museums into cultural hubs. There is no relevance for such institutions if they are not connected to the present generation," he said.

"But with these village museums, the otherwise unnoticed artefacts are going to be catalysts for a cultural re-



C V Ananda Bose, National Museum administrator and Vice-Chancellor of the National Museum Institute, unveils a plaque and declares the village museum open at St Ephrem Higher Secondary School, Mannanam, near Kottayam, on Wednesday

surgence," he said.

The centres will provide opportunities for studies and research in museology and offer a platform to hold seminars, workshops and training sessions.

It will also have documentation of traditional knowledge. Plans are also afoot to

connect the village museums through satellite.

The National Museum in Delhi has a collection of over two lakh artefacts drawn from different places and eras. Of these, 3,500 are classified as rare. The replicas of these rare pieces of art and culture will be put on display

at the village museums.

Over 100 such replicas have been put on display at the museum at Mannanam.

In the second phase, the museum will add the cultural contributions, practices, artefacts and handicraft items of the village to its repository.

It is being developed on the model of a similar museum in Nako village of the Western Himalayas.

Fr Thomas Choolaparambil presided over the launching ceremony. Fr Luka Antony and museology experts V M Nair and V K Mathur spoke.