

# 'CHRISTAAYAN' RELEASED

Over 2600 people got a chance to watch premier of 'Christaayan' - a Hindi film with Indian background, based on life of Jesus Christ on Sunday at 5.30 p.m. at St. Arnold's School, Lalaram Nagar, Indore. Health Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri. Mahendra Hardia, Hindi playback singer, Mrs. Minmini (of Roja fame), Indore Bishop, Most Rev. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD, INC Provincial, Fr. Nicholas Martis, Mr. Shravan Garg, Chief Editor Naidunia Media Ltd jointly released the film and several other dignitaries were present during the release of film.

In his address, Fr. Provincial Superior, Nicholas Martis SVD addressed the august gathering and welcomed the audience on behalf of the provinces and region. Mr. Sanjay Patel was the master of the ceremony.

The programme began with the prayer dance by students of St. Arnold's Higher Secondary School, Vijaynagar. Baby Disha Tiwari presented her views on 'No Smoking Mission'. Mr. Tapan Mukharji and Mrs. Janak Magligan expressed their views on 'Christaayan'. Mr. Shravan Garg, Chief Editor, Naidunia Media Ltd released the book of 'Christaayan'. Mrs. Minmini, playback





singer of Film Roja fame, and her family performed four songs after screening of the film.

The film is about 6.16. hours long but a abridged version of 53 minutes was screened during the release. Most of the artists are from Indore but the 11 songs in the film have been sung by well known playback singers like Mr. Udit Narayan, Mrs. Kavita Krishnamurthy Subramaniam, Mr. Bhupendra Singh, Ms. Sadhana Sargam, Mr. Roopakumar Rathod, Mrs. Minmini, Mr. Anoop Jalota, Ms. Pamela Jain, Mr. Ramesh Murli and Mr. Dilip Bose. Sound mixing was done by ace DTS Mixing engineer Ajit A George of Vismaya, Max Studios, Trivandrum.

Fr. George Kannayil SVD directed the film. It is filmed across the country in 11 states including Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu over a period of





seven years with 200 characters most appearing for the first time in front of arch-light. The main actors include Fr. Nicholas Martis, INC Provincial, Fr. Mohan, INC Provincial Treasurer, Fr. Prasad Kuzhively, Fr. Joemon, Fr. Arayathil, Fr. Ivan D'Silva, Sr. Tresa SSpS and some more Priests and Brothers of INC Province.

Our life is a constant search, a search for the True self and the supreme self. This film is also search. 'Christaayan' is a way of understanding the life of Jesus and other characters in the Holy Bible. Cinematic or artistic excellence is not the prima facie aim but a Spiritual Saadhana, a way to God whereby the viewer may personalize a little more of peace, hope and proactive energy within. The approach is only fictional and not theological as a pointer to the Truth.

The film asserts the equality and integrity of womanhood. Most social structures keep women unequal to men with various convenient justifications. In India, She is the embodiment of all human goodness, compassion, love, forgiveness, gentleness, event to the extent of calling her Devi/goddess. But she needs empowerment, she needs emancipation, she needs more participation in decision making. Mother of Jesus, Mother Mary is a model of womanhood, liberated. She is confident that God is with her and she with God, 'Woman Full of Grace'.

Fr. John Wakhla SVD proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of Christaayan family and sweets were distributed after the programme.

