



# MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH

MELPADOM ATTUMALIL  
GEORGEKUTTY

# MERIT AWARDS

*Presentation Ceremony*

SEPTEMBER **17** | WEDNESDAY  
2025 **5:00 PM**

MAR THOMA  
SABHA COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
S.C.S. CAMPUS, THIRUVALLA



**MERIT AWARD**

**DR. S. SOMANATH**

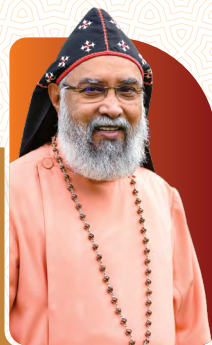
Former Chairman,  
Indian Space Research  
Organisation (ISRO)

INAUGURATION



H.G. the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius  
Mar Thoma Metropolitan

PRESIDED BY



Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos  
Episcopa



**MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH**  
**MELPADOM ATTUMALIL GEORGEKUTTY**  
**MERIT AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Presentation Ceremony*

With great pleasure we request your esteemed presence on the auspicious occasion of presenting the prestigious Awards of the Mar Thoma Church Melpadom Attumalil Georgekutty Merit Award to **Dr. S. Somanath** (Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation) and Melpadom Attumalil Georgekutty Young Scientist Merit Awards to **Dr. Bodhisatwa Hazra**, Assistant Professor, IIT Dhanbad, **Dr. Ritesh Kumar**, Assistant Professor, IIT Roorkee by **His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan**. The meeting will be presided by **Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa** at **5 PM on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**, at the Mar Thoma Sabha Council Chamber, S. C. S. Campus, Thiruvalla.

**Rev. Abey T. Mammen**  
*Sabha Secretary*

Thiruvalla  
04.09.2025



**Dr. Bodhisatwa Hazra**  
Assistant Professor,  
IIT Dhanbad



**Dr. Ritesh Kumar**  
Assistant Professor,  
IIT Roorkee

# PROGRAMME

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Opening Hymn

Prayer

: **Very Rev. Mathew John**, Senior Vicar General

Words of Welcome

: **Rev. Abey T. Mammen**, Sabha Secretary

Remembrance of Late A. V. Jones,  
Founder of the Endowment

: **Adv. Anzil Zachariah Komattu**, Lay Trustee and Treasurer

Presidential Address

: **Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa**  
Chairman of the Committee

Song

Inaugural Address,  
Distribution of Awards  
and Scholarships

: **Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan**  
Supreme Head of the Mar Thoma Church

Talk

: **Dr. S. Somanath**  
Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Discussion

Vote of Thanks

: **Lt. Col. Dr. John Jacob Attumalil**

Closing Prayer

: **Rev. David Daniel**, Clergy Trustee

Benediction

: **His Grace the Metropolitan**

*Coffee and Snacks will be served at 4.30 PM*



## DR. S. SOMANATH

Dr. S. Somanath, the 10th Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), achieved a significant milestone with Chandrayaan-3, making India the fourth Country to land on the Moon and the First Country in the World to perform a soft land on the South Pole of the Moon. Born in 1963 in Thuravoor, Kerala, Dr. Somanath holds a B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering from TKM College of Engineering, and Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering with a 'Gold Medal' from IISc, Bangalore and an Honorary Doctorate of Science from SRM Institute of Science and Technology in 2022. Before his role as ISRO Chairman, Dr. Somanath served as the Director of VSSC and the Director of the LPSC in Thiruvananthapuram. He specializes in system engineering and architecture of launch vehicles. He is a distinguished member of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), the Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI), the Astronautical Society of India (ASI), and serves as a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). His remarkable achievements include the 'Space Gold Medal' from the Astronautical Society of India, 'Merit Award,' and 'Performance Excellence Award' from ISRO, 'National Aeronautics Prize' from the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI) as well. Dr. S. Somanath, is currently the Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Professor at ISRO, Distinguished Visiting Professor, IISc, Bangalore and Advisor (Space Technology) Andhra Pradesh Government.



## MR. A. V. JONES

Mr. A. V. Jones alias Georgekutty who instituted the award was born in Melpadom, a village in Alapuzha District. After completing his school and college education, he migrated to Singapore in the year 1953 and worked there in different capacities till 1994. Mr. Jones was always interested in promoting scientific and technical studies and also helped bright children among the weaker sections of the society to continue their studies, particularly in the field of scientific research. He was a philanthropist and set apart a substantial portion of his savings towards these charitable purposes. He passed away after a successful life at the age of 96 on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH

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