



VISION 2030

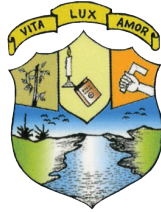


ST. THOMAS COLLEGE, PALAI

Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (CGPA - 3.30)
College with Potential for Excellence (UGC - CPE)
Affiliated to M.G. University Kottayam

ST. THOMAS COLLEGE, PALAI

UGC APPROVED COLLEGE WITH POTENTIAL FOR EXCELLENCE
RE-ACCREDITED WITH A GRADE BY NAAC
A MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION



VISION 2030

SOARING TO THE SUMMITS

**THE ENSEMBLE OF EXCELLENCE
A FUTURISTIC PERSPECTIVE FOR THE COLLEGE**

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MARCH 2020



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THE ENSEMBLE OF EXCELLENCE

INTRODUCTION

Excellence is the catchword in all walks of modern life, particularly in academics. Quality education calls for the highest standards in teaching, learning, evaluation, research and extension. The diverse challenges posed by the highly competitive contemporary scenario can be met effectively only with a holistic aspiration for ideal excellence and the éclat of perfection.

Founded in 1950, St. Thomas College, Palai has to its credit nearly seven decades of meritorious service in the field of higher education in Kerala. H.E. Mar Sebastian Vayalil, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Palai, founded the College with the noble mission of opening the portals of the world through the opportunities provided by education to the children of the farmers, workers and the other marginalized sections of the region. All the developmental activities of the college through the past decades were taken up with this mission in view. All the stakeholders of this great institution have rendered commendable service to the college and the society. The activities of the college have been duly recognized and appreciated by the UGC, NAAC and other ranking agencies like NIRF and the college has been rated as being at the peak of performance. Still, the college cannot rest complacently on the laurels already won. Greater summits beckon us and the third decade of the twenty-first century will indubitably witness this great centre of higher learning escalating to unprecedented accomplishments in academics, infrastructure, administration, alumni support and social commitment. This journey to scale newer heights will be done ensuring the active participation and involvement of all the stakeholders including the management, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, parents, alumni and the society. Cumulative endeavour and collective enterprise are certainly destined to reap glorious rewards.

ACADEMIC ASPIRATIONS

Affiliating system is fast becoming obsolete for colleges in India. To tide over this stigma of obsolescence, St. Thomas College is on the way to the attainment of autonomy. The ultimate yearning of the institution is to mature into a full-fledged Deemed-to-be-University in the near future. With proper academic and administrative autonomy, the college can fruitfully accomplish all the future-oriented projects envisioned for the present decade. The major plans and proposals envisaged for the academic growth of the college are inventoried here.



- Attaining the status of an autonomous college immediately and to earn the status of a Deemed-to-be-University without delay.
- To enter into MoUs, tie-ups, exchange programmes, potential sharing and so on with reputed research institutions and Universities abroad and within the country.
- To start new research centres to promote interdisciplinary research in the college. One such area of potential importance is the exploration of the medicinal plants of Kerala to develop new antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal medicines from the phytochemical lead systems extracted from these plants.
- To start postdoctoral research programmes in the frontier areas of research. Collaboration with other premier institutions can foster this.
- On attaining Deemed-to-be-University status, the college can initiate M.Phil programmes in all its research centres.
- New Undergraduate Honours programmes in areas like Sustainable Development, Energy Conservation, Artificial Intelligence and other latest realms of emerging knowledge.
- The Government has mooted a proposal to change college timings so that the students are free in the afternoon. This was a farsighted idea proposed by St. Thomas College in its vision document prepared in 2012. If this materializes, the college can cater to the laymen of the society in the form of a community college offering evening classes.
- Research in areas relating to indigenous knowledge like medicinal agriculture, endemic modes of sustainable living etc will be promoted. This will engender the patenting of native wisdom.
- Courses can be offered in Arts, Aesthetics, Folkloristics etc to ensure more rootedness for education. More specialization can be guaranteed in learning.
- A radical restructuring of curriculum is to be done. Student-centric learning and student-friendly evaluation are to be the order the day.
- More MOOC and online courses can be done by students. Change in college timing will enhance productivity and promote self-learning through programmes like “Earn While You Learn”.
- The college can raise funds by utilizing the space generated by the change in college timing by offering part-time programmes, training programmes etc. to the students and the public.



- Orientation programmes are to be organized for teachers, particularly for the new recruits, to familiarize them with the current trends in knowledge across the globe.
- Teachers and students are to be encouraged to use ICT enabled teaching and learning techniques extensively.
- Online classes are to be designed by the teachers in selected topics to upload in the college You Tube channel and website.
- Teachers are to be trained to video record their classes and a digital repository of such classes shall be maintained in the college.
- More diploma, certificate, add-on, value added and vocational training courses shall be introduced to improve the employability of the learners.
- Designing of syllabi and curriculum can be very efficiently done by our highly competent teachers. Many of our teachers are now in the University Boards of studies and Academic Council. They will get more freedom to employ their creativity.
- Library timing should be rescheduled to give learners more time for reference and reading.
- A very efficient career counseling and coaching centre will be of great advantage to the students.

INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

Human and material resources blend in perfect harmony to ensure quality in a higher education institution. For the intellectual capital of a learner to fructify an enabling infrastructural support is a sine qua non. Infrastructure is the sum total of the utility of space, structure, equipment, learning resources and aids, information stock and knowledge sharing devices. These may lie unutilized or underutilized if an effective and economic use of them is not made. This requires proper monitoring, purposeful management and timely maintenance of these resources. The current buildings and infrastructural facilities of the college bear testimony to the commitment and sacrifice of our predecessors. State-of-the art amenities like the Indoor Stadium, swimming pool, student amenity centre, walkers' lane. St. Joseph's Hall etc are recent additions to the infrastructural strength of the institution. On the anvil for the next decade are a number of innovative plans.

- The college has decided to construct a new research block. This is to facilitate quality research in all disciplines under one roof.
- The college office is to be fully digitalized. The IQAC will be paperless by 2021 and the college office will be fully automated by 2025. Everything from application for admission to Transfer



Certificate will come under automation. The concept of “computer of things” will be put into practice so that human intervention can be minimized in the operation of gadgets, equipments etc.

- To promote online classes and webinars, a recording studio with modern editing facilities will be started.
- To conduct online examinations, a digital examination centre will be established with at least 200 computers and other necessary facilities.
- Steps will be taken to foster sanitation, conserve material and energy, keep air, water and soil pure and to ensure the health and well-being of all.
- The campus will be made pedestrian friendly by restricting traffic. Parking areas can be converted into solar fields for energy generation. Self reliance in power generation is a goal to be attained.
- Planting of trees to increase the extent of the green canopy is to be prime item in our agenda.
- An Agro-shop managed by students can be functional on campus. Home grown agricultural products can be put for sale there.
- An open stage and an open theatre can be of great use in promoting the artistic talents of students.
- Interconnecting the main Blocks (A, B and G) can be greatly beneficial, especially during bad weather conditions. It will be helpful to people suffering from physical debilities.
- Water harvesting, waste recycling and garbage management are areas that demand utmost attention. The college will enhance facilities for all these.
- Updated language lab and media centre will be created. Electronic digital library will be part of this.
- Laboratories will be renovated and upgraded to meet the current needs and standards.
- An instrumentation wing will be created to monitor and maintain all the instruments and machines.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Students are the most important stakeholders of an academic institution. The focus of the administration of the institution must be on providing not only primary resources like good teachers, good class rooms, well-stocked library, spacious play grounds etc. but also secondary support of



services like welfare services, information services, registration and records services, tutorial and remedial services, counseling services, value addition services, institutional networking services, career guidance and placement services and community services. Providing all these with state-of-the-art quality requires appropriate investments in human and financial resources and perceptive administrative measures. This necessitates insightful policy decisions at the highest management level and a well-functioning implementation apparatus at the institution level.

- A separate Administrative Block is inevitable to fulfill the administrative requirement of an institution of the stature of St. Thomas College, Palai. This should house all cutting-edge facilities and amenities befitting a pioneer institution. The current office room can be used as spacious class rooms/seminar halls. This will solve the problem of the shortage of classrooms.
- A new Guest house with a well-furnished conference hall is indispensable in our era of the sharing of knowledge. Illustrious personnel from diverse fields can come and enrich our academic life.
- People involved in college activities can be inducted to form Advisory Bodies to assist the Managing Board.
- Beautification of the Campus
- A separate sports hostel can be constructed to attract students with talent from all parts of the state. A project has been submitted under “Khelo India” scheme.

INNOVATIVE/BEST PRACTICES

“The wellness of the individual is the wealth of the community”.

Long before endemic diseases, epidemic like Nipah and the very recent pandemic COVID-19 posed serious threats to humanity,

St. Thomas College had identified as its best practice the overall promotion of the psychosomatic wellness of its stakeholders. The college has been organizing a series of programmes to foster wellness, and its infrastructural fortification has this at its focal point. Best practices envision proactive changes in the community.

- Alumni involvement is a key measure chalked out for the implementation of the best practices. Alumni Doctors’ Forum, Alumni Lawyers’ Forum, Alumni Farmers’ Forum and so on can give valid assistance in ensuring the effective implementation of the best practices.



- A Day can be earmarked as Alumni Day. Students can be encouraged to conduct meetings one year after leaving the college. This will foster camaraderie and friendship among them and nurture love of the alma mater in them.
- An Extension Centre can be established to supervise the extension activities of the Departments. This will help in nurturing social commitment and inciting an urge for community-oriented activities.
- A Health Centre with adequate facilities and trained personnel will help in taking care of the primary medical needs of the students.
- Campus to community programmes are to be devised. Village adoption, schemes for old age people, environment protection, health education etc. will be highly beneficial to the society.
- “Lap to Land Projects” can be implemented. Model farms can be cultivated on campus to produce poison free organic agricultural produce. B.Voc. Sustainable Agriculture students will get training through this.
- Socio-economic survey and health index surveys can be conducted to study the backgrounds of the students, Marginalized and needy students can be given assistance in the form of free meals etc.
- A Human Resource Centre with an HRD Director may be formed. Project management, ICT training, student profile management, welfare programmes, website maintenance, coordination of extension activities, teacher support programmes, performance evaluation etc. can be conducted by the centre.
- An academy called St. Thomas Kala Academy can be instituted to help students in discovering and polishing their artistic talents.
- To promote scientific temper among school students, popular science magazines like “Sastrapatham” should be supported through editorship and articles.
- A publication wing with a Printing Press must be established for teachers and students. B.Voc Printing Technology students can be given training through this.
- National cultural exchange programmes like “Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat” must be actively supported. Students must be encouraged to utilize such opportunities.

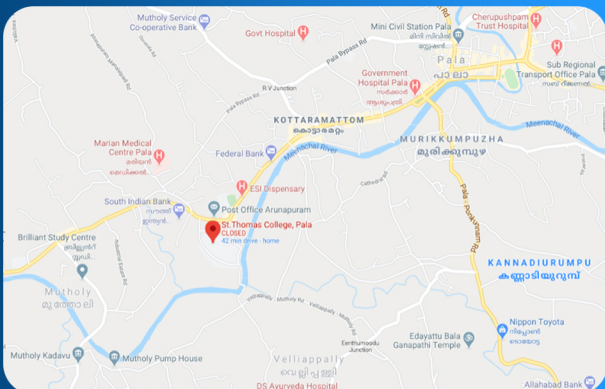


- The B Voc and NSS students can join hands to popularize agricultural cultivation in the area so that the region may be self-sufficient in food products
- Special Orientation classes for the Plus-two students will be conducted making use of the facilities in the college.
- Special platform for digital content transfer to students will be created.

CONCLUSION

The forte of St. Thomas College is its enormous commitment to the causes it has undertaken to fulfil. The college is enamoured by the opportunities ahead and is heading forward undaunted by the hurdles menacing its onward journey. The present perspective plan for the next ten years is a product of the infinite confidence the institution has regarding its resplendent future as a Deemed-to-be-University. Excellence can be achieved only through effectiveness which means the happy contentment of all the stakeholders. This demands a time bound approach with determination and commitment on the part of the management, staff and students. Producing a congenial environment for the attainment of all its goals is the primary concern of the college. Prime thrust is given to a mode of learning which can facilitate the overall cognitive, physical and ethical development of the students. In brief, we believe that “a quality ambience creates quality students”.





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