

St. Thomas College Palai


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Institutional Distinctiveness




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Institutional Distinctiveness

When the college was established in 1950 on the banks of the River Meenachil with the collective effort of the agrarian population of central Kerala, its visionary founders had great expectations of making it a cultural centre of learning and holistic living. Being the first centre of higher education among the neighbouring taluks and by virtue of its geographical advantage, the college opened its doors of erudition to knowledge seekers in the developed vicinity as well as those from the academically under privileged especially of the high ranges of Idukki district. True to its foundational vision of equipping the students to venture out into the competitive world, the college through seven decades of uncompromising journey has grown into a pioneering institution offering 18 under graduate programmes, 15 post graduate programmes and 10 doctoral degree programmes.

What we envisioned and executed was later emulated by the other institutions that sprang up in the neighbourhood in the course of time. The infrastructural might of St. Thomas with its well- stocked and regularly updating library and an adjoining University Study Centre, state-of-the-art laboratories, integrated sports complex, Olympic standard swimming pool and building blocks with cutting-edge amenities is absolutely unmatched. The number of our alumni functioning as technocrats, scientists, administrators, Vice- Chancellors, Chief Secretaries, Bhatnagar Awardees, Ministers, Members of Legislative Assemblies and so on in different parts of the world testifies to our academic loftiness. Dignitaries like Supreme Court Former Chief Justice Mr. K. G. Balakrishnan and Former Governor Mr. K.M. Chandy were moulded by this institution. That our college was visited by national leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam proclaims its cultural heritage.

No other college under the Mahatma Gandhi University Kottayam matches the number of ranks secured by our students in different streams (both UG and PG) during the last five years. The number of students qualifying exams like NET/ JRF/ GATE is ample proof of the academic excellence of its dedicated teaching staff. We are proud of our alumni who constitute the major share of the teaching faculty in most of the neighbouring educational institutions. Our research centres are blessed with resourceful guides who act as resource persons

in seminars and conferences, consultants, and visiting scientists are also members in many of the national and international academic bodies. Our research centres are matchless in consistently producing quality PhDs. Our younger generation of teachers who fulfil the guideship criteria replace the retiring research guides. An inventory of our achievements in the field of sports prove our uncompromising extra-curricular merit too. We frequently contribute Volley ball players to University and National teams. The college hosts many national level meets and sport events, Bishop Vayalil Volley ball Tournament constituted to commemorate the founding father is a prestigious sports fiesta conducted annually.

Members of the faculty play vital roles as chairman and members of various Boards of Studies, Expert Committees, panels of question paper setters, examination boards, syllabus revision and restructuring committees. We also host syllabus revision workshops and University officials come here to conduct them. That our college provides Subject Experts for the appointment of Assistant Professors in various colleges heightens our pioneership and it also functions as a token of University acknowledgement. Most senior members of our faculty are experts for the screening committee for the promotion of Assistant Professors.

St. Thomas was the first college to initiate legal procedures to bring an end to aggressive campus politics. This ensured a peaceful atmosphere on campus and later other colleges also followed suit. The college is proud of having produced many leaders of the association of managers, principals, teachers and ministerial staff. We provide service as a mentoring institution for helping NAAC non-accredited under the scheme "Paramarsh". We undertake five colleges in the neighbourhood, supporting them with training and consultancy to enable them to undergo NAAC accreditation process. Having a Civil Service Institute on the campus is an unparalleled feature of St. Thomas which attracts desirous students across Kerala who can simultaneously pursue their graduation and UPSC training.

St. Thomas College Palai through seventy years of its pledged commitment to the society in general and the academic world in particular has rendered valuable services to all its generations without diluting its primary vision.