

## **A Report on Sensitization of Students and Employees of the Institution to the Constitutional Obligations, Values, Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens for the Period 2014-2019:**

St. Thomas College, Pala undertakes different initiatives by organizing various activities to sensitize students and employees to the constitutional obligation, values, rights, duties and responsibilities of the citizens. The Research and Postgraduate Department of Political Science of the college is entrusted to undertake and coordinate all the activities for all stakeholders of the college for these activities. A report on the activities on sensitization of students and employees on constitutional values during the period 2014-2019 is given below:

### **Academic Year 2014-2015**

The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Unity in Diversity” by Dr.Cyriac Thomas (Former Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University,Kottayam). The programme was conducted on 19-06-2014. Dr.Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of the Department of Political Science welcomed the gathering. Dr.Cyriac Thomas narrated the constitutional values and responsibilities of citizens as stated in Constitution of India. He appealed to all to remember the struggle of freedom and respect the National Flag and National Anthem. He spoke at length on human dignity, equality, social justice and human rights in India. Students and teachers of various departments participated in the programme.



## Academic Year 2015-16

The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Sustainable Development and Politics” by Dr. T V Murali Vallabhan, former Principal, SVR NSS College, Vazhoor, Kottayam. The programme was conducted on 05-06-2015. Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. In his speech Dr. T V Murali Vallabhan emphasised that the goal of sustainable development is to meet the needs of today, without compromising the needs of tomorrow. According to him we cannot continue using current levels of resources as this will not leave enough for future generations. Stabilising and reducing carbon emissions is key to living within environmental limits. Students and staff of various departments of the college participated in the programme.



The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Peace Studies” by Prof. T V Paul James McGill Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science, McGill University, Canada on 05-01-2016. Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. The undergraduate and postgraduate students of departments such as Economics, History, English, Malayalam, Hindi also have participated in the programme. According to the speaker, conflict is everywhere and occurs at all levels -- from the global to the interpersonal. Peace and conflict studies explore a broad range of topics, such as conflict theory, the history of nonviolent protest, and human rights. This area of study also promotes the development of transferable “soft skills,” including critical thinking, self-awareness, and communication. To him

the lessons learned during peace and conflict studies are applicable to world wars; they also apply to everything from workplace conflicts to domestic disputes.



### **Academic Year 2016-17**

The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Critical Reflections on Recent Concerns in Indian Nationalism: A Dalit Perspective” by Shri. Sunny M Kapikad, Dalit scholar and writer. He sensitised the students and employees of the institution to the constitutional implications of Dalit identity. Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. According to the speaker Postcolonial India has seen a continuous reinvention of upper caste hegemony through ideological forms masquerading as emancipatory politics. The rhetoric for dismantling privilege has often managed to perpetuate and reproduce privilege in various guises of upper caste consensus. The programme was conducted on 30-09-2016. Students and staff of various departments of the college participated in the programme.



The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Contemporary Politics and Questions of Ethical Citizenship” by Dr. Sanal Mohan, Professor, School of Social Science M.G. University & Dr. Anish R (Research Scholar J.N.U, New Delhi) in order to sensitise the students and employees of the institution to the constitutional obligations, values, rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens. The programme was conducted on 12-08-2016. The undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff of the department of Political Science and students and teachers of other departments were participated in the programme. . Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. According to the speaker ethical citizen is described as someone who “sees beyond self-interests to the needs of the community. This means that achieving success now and in the future requires students to see beyond themselves to the needs of others, take responsibility for the environment and demonstrate respect, empathy and compassion.



The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Migration and Malayali Diaspora” by Bennyamin (Writer) & Saji Markose (Independent Thinker, Muscat). The programme was an eye opener into the issues faced by Malayali diaspora. The programme was conducted on 27-0-2016. Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. According to them, over the decades, the role of Kerala’s diaspora in the economic, social, and cultural development of the State has been crucial. The Malayali diaspora is able to adapt to technically sophisticated and changing work environment, they have shown themselves capable of mastering new skills and technologies with ease. Worldwide, especially in the Middle East, the contributions of Malayali migrants are distinct and identifiable.





The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Forth Estate and Human Rights” by Dr.Ligimol P. Jacob, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, M.G. University in order to sensitise the students and employees of the institution to the human values, rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens and the role of press in society. The programme was conducted on 02-11-2016. Dr.Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. All the students and staff of department of Political Science and students from various departments were participated in the programme. Dr.Ligimol emphasised that the press, on the whole, helped in mobilising and consolidating countrywide opinion on major issues of national importance as well as social and cultural significance. In independent India, the press has continued to serve as a watchdog over governmental policies. At the basic level, it continues to play a sterling role in simple dissemination of information about local and foreign affairs.



The Department of Political Science organized an interaction with Irom Chanu Sharmila (crusader against Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and civil rights activist). The programme was conducted on 23-03-2017. Dr. Sunny Joseph, Principal of the College was present on the occasion. All the students and staff of department of Political Science and students and teachers of other departments and the public were participated in the programme. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces in disturbed areas. Irom Chanu Sharmila also known as the "Iron Lady of Manipur" is a civil rights activist, political activist, and poet from the state of Manipur. On 2 November 2000, she began a hunger strike which ended on 9 August 2016 after 16 years.



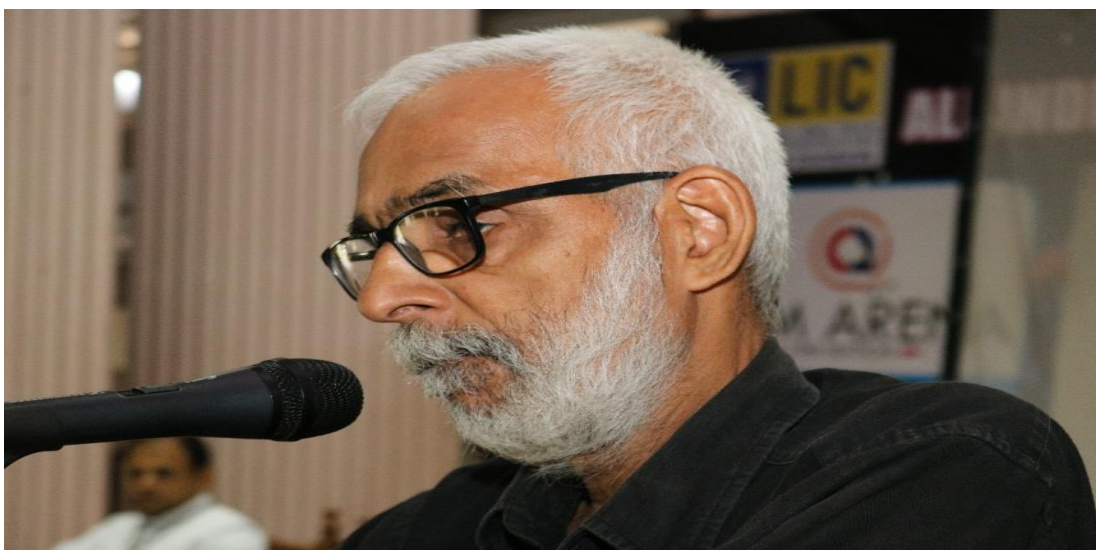
The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on "Redefining Gender Notions of Sexuality, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity." Sheetal Syam (LGBT Activist) & Dr. Jijo Kuriakose (Queer) participated in the programme. The programme was conducted on 31-01-2017. Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. There was a discussion on discrimination to LGBT. According to them experiences of violence and victimization are frequent for LGBT individuals, and have long-lasting effects on the individual and the community.





### **Academic Year 2017-18**

The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Politics of Environment” by C R Neelakandan, who is an Indian environmental activist, politician and writer. A regular contributor to Malayalam periodicals on environmental issues, Neelakandan is the State Convener of AamAadmi Party Kerala since 3 January 2016. The programme was conducted on 15-03-2018. Dr. Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. Mr. Neelakandan elaborated on environmental rights and issues and its constitutional and legal implications. He shared his experiences on environmental issues such as public protest against waste dumping at various places across the state and struggles like Silent Valley, Chengara, Plachimada, Endosulfan in Kasargode, Aranmula Airport etc.



The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Cultural Decline in the Contemporary Society” by Dr.Cyriac Thomas (Former Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam) in order to educate the students and employees of the institution on the cultural implications of contemporary India. The programme was conducted on 15-03-2018.



### **Academic Year 2018-19**

The Department of Political Science organized an invited talk on “Beat Plastic Pollution”, this year’s United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) theme. Dr.Jomy Augustine, HoD, Department of Botany delivered the lecture in connection with the World Environment Day celebrations. The programme was conducted on 05-06-2018. Dr.Shajimon K Mathews, HoD of Political Science welcomed the gathering. Fr. Mathew Kavanadimalayil delivered a felicitation and Jobin Sebastian, I MA Political Science, expressed the vote of thanks. During the afternoon session, the students conducted a campus cleaning programme. At the end of the programme, the department distributed tree saplings to the students and staff of St. Thomas College, Palai.





The Department of Political Science organized a reception to Mr.Siby George IFS, Ambassador to Switzerland and Vatican and former student of the Department. The programme was conducted on 23-07-2018. H. E. Mar Jacob Muricken, Auxiliary Bishop of Pala and manager of St. Thomas College Palai presided over the function.Ambassador George joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1993 and began his diplomatic career in Cairo, serving in the Mission as Political Officer.He pointed out that Indians worldwide are known for their hard work. Any country with a sizeable Indian population will acknowledge the immense contributions of Indians. At the same time, India is an open and democratic society where everyone has an opinion and the right to express it. Principal Dr. James John welcomed the gathering and Vice PrincipalDr. Sunny Kuriakose proposed the vote of thanks

