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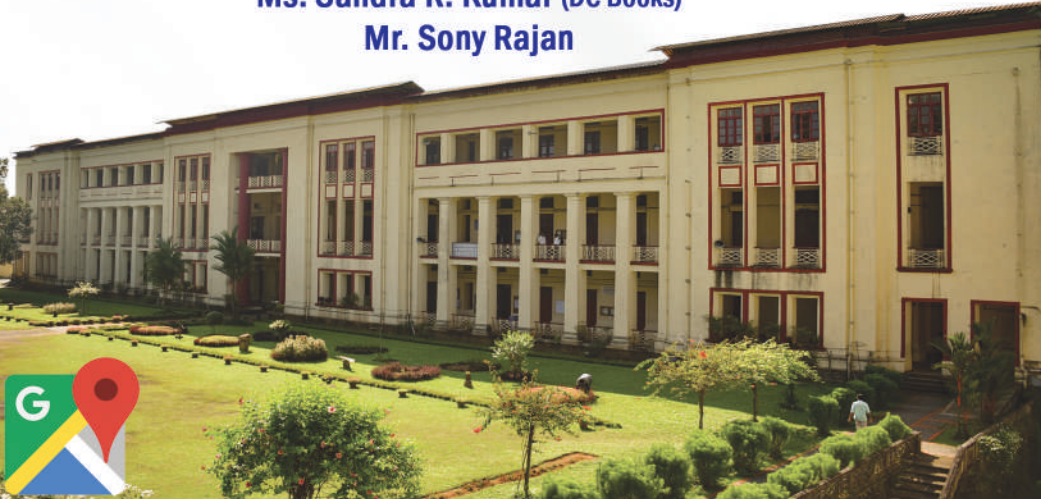
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CLICK FOR LOCATION

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ST THOMAS COLLEGE PALAI
AUTONOMOUS ESTD. 1950 RE-ACCREDITED WITH A** GRADE BY NAAC

GRAVITAS

PLATINUM JUBILEE LECTURE SERIES

INAUGURAL TALK

HOW ANCIENT INDIA TRANSFORMED THE WORLD



by

William Dalrymple
Scottish Historian and Art Critic

2 December 2024, @ 10: 30 AM
Bishop Vayalil Hall
ST. Thomas College Palai (Autonomous)
Kerala, India

Academics, Teachers, Professionals and Students are welcome to participate
Registration is free

SUPPORTED BY

KERALA LITERATURE FESTIVAL, UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN CELL & DC BOOKS

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Founded in 1950, St. Thomas College, Palai, has to its credit almost seventy five years of distinguished service in the field of higher education in the state of Kerala sending out many graduates maxima cum laude to carve out their destinies in diverse spheres. It is a college located in a semi-urban area catering to the needs of the students mainly coming from the rural background. The idea of establishing an Arts and Science College at Palai lay dormant for a long time in the minds of the Syrian Catholic community of the area. The year 1950 was remarkable in that, true to Taine's dictum, man, moment and milieu conspired to make history. The Diocese of Palai was born and Fr. Mani Sebastian Vayalikalapura, president of the college committee, was made the first Bishop of the Diocese and the Patron of the college. Veteran leaders like Mr. George Thomas Kottukapally, Mr. Cherian Kappen, Mr. R.V. Thomas, Mr. K. M. Chandy et.al. joined hands with the Bishop in founding the college for fulfilling the educational dreams of the hardworking agrarian people of Meenachil.

The sanction for starting the college had, in fact, been obtained from the erstwhile Travancore University two years earlier and a committee for the construction of the college building had been constituted. We were singularly fortunate in having Dr. P.J. Thomas, the renowned economist and advisor and representative of the Govt. of India to the U.N., as the first Principal of the college. Prof. V.J. Joseph, who was appointed Vice Principal, was also an academican endowed with a vision of the college growing like the mighty king of the forest, an evergreen oak with its branches reaching out far and wide. Between 1950 and 1960, apart from the intermediate course, Undergraduate courses in Mathematics, Botany, Economics, Chemistry, Zoology, Politics and Postgraduate courses in Hindi, Politics and Statistics were started. At present the college is situated in a lush green campus with a complex of ten multi-storeyed and over eight single storeyed buildings accommodating all Class Rooms, a Modern Library, University Study Centre, Modern Seminar Halls, Laboratories, Staff and Students' Hostels, Auditoriums, Indoor Stadium, Civil Service Training Institute, IGNOU Study centre, Entrance Coaching Centres, Bank Test Coaching Centre, Career Guidance Centre, Student Amenity Centre, Fitness Centre and having over 10 acres of fields exclusively earmarked for sports and games along with a swimming pool. Besides, the college also has land earmarked for agriculture. The green campus adorned with a variety of trees and plants also adds to the glory and legacy of St. Thomas.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William Dalrymple is a renowned Scottish historian, author, and broadcaster whose work has profoundly shaped how the world perceives Indian history and culture. Born on March 20, 1965, in Scotland, Dalrymple developed an early fascination with the East, which led him to explore South Asia extensively. His literary debut, *In Xanadu: A Quest*, recounts his journey tracing Marco Polo's route and established him as a gifted storyteller. However, it is his in-depth exploration of Indian history that has earned him global recognition. His works such as *White Mughals*, *The Last Mughal*, and *Return of a King* delve into the intersections of colonialism, culture, and power, combining rigorous research with evocative storytelling.

Dalrymple's narratives are rich with detail, illuminating complex relationships between East and West during pivotal historical moments. He is also a co-founder of the Jaipur Literature Festival, a cultural phenomenon that attracts literary icons and thousands of readers from across the globe each year. Beyond his books, Dalrymple is an eloquent speaker, frequently engaging audiences in discussions about South Asia's historical legacy and its contemporary implications. A passionate advocate for preserving the heritage of the subcontinent, he continues to captivate readers and audiences alike with his unique ability to make history accessible, vivid, and deeply human.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- * **Wolfson Prize for History** - For *White Mughals*.
- * **Duff Cooper Prize** - For *The Last Mughal*.
- * **Hemingway Prize** - For *Return of a King*.
- * **Kapuscinski Prize** - For *Return of a King*.
- * **BAFTA Award** - For broadcasting achievements.
- * **Grierson Award for Best Documentary Series** - For his work in documentaries.
- * **Thomas Cook Travel Book Award** - For outstanding travel writing.
- * **Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award** - Recognizing his early literary achievements.
- * **Foreign Correspondent of the Year** - At the FPA Media Awards.
- * **Five Honorary Doctorates** - Acknowledging his contributions to literature and history.
- * **President's Medal by the British Academy (2018)** - For literary excellence and co-founding the Jaipur Literature Festival.

Literature Festival.

