

**ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
RE-ACCREDITED WITH **A+** GRADE BY NAAC

# Annual Report

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# 2023-2024

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# College Day Report (2023-2024)

The 59th College Day celebrations of All Saints' College, Thiruvananthapuram, see us standing on the cusp of significant changes and challenges in the educational system. The coming academic year will implement the four-year undergraduate programme. There is a strong thrust on making education value-added by imparting skills to students—both life skills and professional skills. The ideas of *Viksit Bharat*, *Kaushal Bharat*, and the integration of AI (artificial intelligence) into traditional means of imparting knowledge have gained significant importance. The coming years will bring considerable changes to the ways we approach knowledge and education. This means that we, as an institution, have already started planning ways and means to stay ahead of the times.

The institution this year has focused on the following areas:

- Academic excellence
- Ability Enhancement through Skill enhancement, through Knowledge-based initiatives outside of and supplementing the curriculum
- Environmental sensitivity
- Values-based and culturally aware initiatives
- Collaborative ventures
- Entrepreneurship and innovation-based ventures
- Creating employment
- Contributing to the knowledge economy

The students of the college have performed exceedingly well in the university exams, with some departments securing multiple ranks. Efforts are underway to build on and exceed this performance.

We have focused on skill development initiatives by enrolling our students in the digital portals of Skill India, supported by the National Skills Development Council. The first-year students of the college have completed at least one course from the Skill India portal. Similarly, all departments have introduced certificate courses in collaboration with reputed agencies such as Skill India, IIT Bombay's Spoken Tutorials, Hedge School of Applied Economics, Indian Institute of Public

Administration, Naandi Foundation, Top Notch IAS Academy, and Manoj & Chitra International Legal Service. These certificate courses focus on skill development, life skills, soft skills development, knowledge enhancement, and training. Our students are currently doing a course in caregiving in association with Skill India and Steechetna, an NGO. We are also a local chapter for Swayam and enroll students for various courses. All these initiatives ensure that our students develop the essential skills for success, increasing their job prospects and preparing them for higher studies. The college has emphasized internships with this very intention.

Our students are engaged with NGOs such as Insight for Innovation and have become part of initiatives like Project Aksharam, a project dear to Mr. Geromic George, the honourable District Collector of Thiruvananthapuram. Our students teach in nearby schools, extending outreach and gaining valuable social capital. The PG students of the Department of English are undertaking a teaching internship at St. Mary's LP School Vettucaud, enhancing their degree in the process. Several departments also engage their students in industry internships. The Department of English offers summer school internships, while the Department of History facilitates legal internships. A number of departments are engaging their students in internships with industry as well. There are summer school internships being offered through the Department of English and internships in law are being offered through the department of History. The college is also an active centre for the Indira Gandhi Open University, with record enrollments this year. In order to provide students with firsthand expertise, the college routinely invites persons of eminence and experts in various fields for talks and interactive sessions. This helps students enhance their knowledge by learning about the latest developments in their fields. The college also emphasizes hosting poets and writers and conducting poetry meets to enhance students' creative talents.

The college has focused on environmental conservation and has undertaken excellent green initiatives within the campus and in the wider society. Students have been brought closer to society through environmentally conscious initiatives such as beach cleanups, tree planting, observances of environmentally relevant days, increasing plant diversity, and raising awareness about the state of the environment. Notably, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Member Secretary, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology, and Environment; the Registrar, Kerala Agricultural University; and the Department of Botany, All Saints' College, Thiruvananthapuram, for collaborative research work

on the “Conservation of wild orchids and establishment of orchids in the campus and urban areas.” This effort could significantly influence how urban spaces are perceived. The efforts of the Bhoomitra Sena Club and the Departments of Environmental Science, Botany, Zoology, and Chemistry are noteworthy in this regard.

The institution has used arts to create a joyous and harmonious atmosphere on campus. Celebrations such as Freshers' Day, Cultural Week, literary and debating competitions, departmental events promoting scientific temperament and cultural and human values, Teachers' Day, Onam, and Christmas have ensured the campus remains a dynamic and cheerful place. These celebrations also provide a welcome break from hectic academic schedules. The college was at the forefront of the Keralayeeyam programs, with students opening initiatives by the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation with a flash mob. Students performed Oppana and Margamkali at prestigious venues such as the Legislative Complex and captivated audiences with Wushu, martial arts, boxing, fencing, group dances, and a musical concert. The college received special mention from Ms. Bindu V.C., the director of the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation, at the closing ceremony.

Our students also participated in the Navakerala Sadas programs, with NSS volunteers performing flash mobs and serving as volunteers. NSS volunteers have contributed meaningfully to society by taking initiatives in palliative care activities, voice donation, campaigning against substance abuse, and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

Our students are committed to sporting excellence and have excelled in almost all sporting events organized by the University, winning medals at the inter-university levels. Special mention must be made of the training provided by the Department of Physical Education in fencing, boxing, archery, Wushu, and powerlifting—sports rarely offered in college training programs. There has also been a special emphasis on yoga and gymnastics, with students winning accolades in competitive categories. All Saints' College also organized the Kerala University Table Tennis competition for both male and female categories.

The college has fostered the spirit of national unity and responsibility through various initiatives, such as celebrating national festivals and creating a Freedom Wall. The Electoral Literacy Club of

the college has contributed significantly to electoral awareness through on- and off-campus initiatives, earning accolades for its efforts. The History and Political Science Association organized National Integration Programs as part of the Communal Harmony Campaign Week.

The spiritual well-being of the students is also prioritized. The Jesus Youth of the college works tirelessly to instill values of hard work, dedication, and respect for life. They organized an exhibition on the birth bicentennial of the Foundress of our Congregation and college, the Venerable Mother Mary Veronica, and conducted an exhibition on pro-life choices.

To provide holistic education that includes mental and physical conditioning, the college has conducted self-defense classes and a camp on mental well-being, stress management, and mindfulness. Counseling services are available for students in need of support. It is a matter of pride that our students are always ready to serve the community and the nation. This year, for the first time, the college has a full-fledged NCC unit, and the students have shown exceptional dedication and merit.

During the flash floods that affected the city, students extended classes to children housed in the college, whose homes had been submerged. By teaching poems and lessons and engaging in one-on-one interactive sessions, our volunteers ensured that the academic life of the children remained uninterrupted. I congratulate the volunteers for their exceptional efforts. Our students also received praise for their contributions as volunteers for the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters and the International Film Festival of Kerala.

The PTA of the college provides visible and invisible assistance for the smooth functioning of the institution. Valid suggestions and concerns raised at PTA general body meetings have been taken up, and the PTA shoulders significant financial responsibilities for the college while being deeply invested in students' well-being.

Our alumnae have been at the forefront of qualitative initiatives, with former students returning to conduct classes, provide guidance for further education, and create job opportunities.

Various academic collaborations have further strengthened the knowledge base of the students, driven by the efforts of the staff.

- Dr. Smitha Asok V., Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, is the Principal Investigator of a Core Research Grant (CRG) funded by the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, amounting to ₹25,19,240.
- Dr. Reshma J.K., Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, is the Indian Co-Principal Investigator for the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) funded by IIT Kharagpur, amounting to ₹55,02,941.
- Dr. Reshma J.K. is also leading a project on Skill Training and Assessment to empower women for science careers through innovative gender-responsive STEM pedagogy, funded by the Indian Council for Social Science Research, amounting to ₹13 lakhs.

These initiatives greatly benefit the student community.

The institution has been making concerted efforts to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in our students. Clubs such as IEDC, REDC, the Entrepreneurship Development Club, the Tourism Club, and the Financial Literacy Club are working towards developing business ideas and encouraging students to start and nurture new initiatives. Through interactive sessions with business development experts, the various clubs and associations are enabling students to find success in their ideas.

The college has reached out to various companies and industries to provide campus placements to students. I'm happy to report that, thanks to the efforts of the Career Guidance Cell, eminent companies such as Allianz and ICICI have conducted campus recruitment drives, with many more scheduled in the coming days. A number of our students have been offered employment, and the lists of other companies are yet to be published. We have also helped the students become employment-ready through a six-day certificate program in employability skills offered in association with the NAANDI Foundation. The course was provided to all final-year students.

Our teachers and research scholars have been publishing papers in various prestigious journals and presenting at numerous national and international seminars and conferences. They are also sought-after resource persons at universities and public forums and have even represented India at C20 meetings in Odisha and Thiruvananthapuram. They have attended numerous Faculty Development

Programs and undergone training in Ability Enhancement in areas such as the use of AI and the implications of Intellectual Property Rights. There is a constant push for self and community improvement.

It is no wonder they have won awards such as:

- **BEST FACULTY IN BOTANY Award 2023**, presented to Dr. Cinthya Christopher on the occasion of the 6th International Conference on "Multidisciplinary Approach on Conservation of Nature and AYUSH Medicine for Your Future."
- **Gold Medal** in the Masters National Hockey Championship, won by Dr. Margrette Leena V, held at Mapusa, Goa, from February 10–13, 2024.

As I mentioned at the beginning, the times ahead are challenging, but we are ready for them. What you heard and saw here is just a small cross-section of what we do on a daily basis amidst administrative obligations, examinations, and classes. As educators, our primary role is to ensure that education with a solid foundation is imparted to our students.

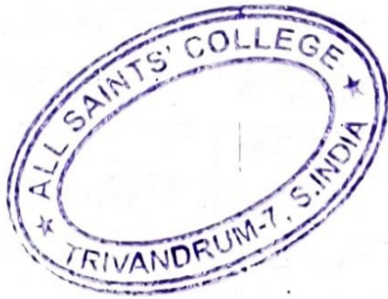
In the coming years, we will strengthen our commitment to community and country. I am sure that, with the joint contributions of our stakeholders, we will be able to make a positive impact on the world around us. We will focus on the Indian philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the world is our family—and work harder to connect to the world, create meaning and memories, and make education a way of life rather than an option. We hope that through our skilling initiatives, we will ensure that every student leaving the campus possesses a certified skill.

As a former president of the United States of America said, *Tell me, and I forget; teach me, and I may remember; involve me, and I learn*. Looking back at what we have achieved in a year, I realize that vision is what drives an educational institution forward.

In this bicentennial year of the birth of our dear foundress Mother Mary Veronica, I remind you of the tremendous work she accomplished, the odds she overcame, and the dedication she showed in setting up convents and training those with her to teach, creating a culture of learning and inclusivity. Let us also walk in her footsteps and create magic.

The All Saints' College of the coming years will be a hub of innovation, women-led skill and knowledge initiatives, and community collaborations.

Thank you.



*Reshmi*

**Principal**  
**All Saints' College**  
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