



St. Michael's College, Cherthala



Strategic Vision 2033



College Profile and Educational Vision

The enlightened Diocesan community of Alleppey which had a noble vision and clear understanding about the importance of education in building up an enlightened society, made its resolute entry into the field of higher education. Endorsing this attitude was the auspicious start of a school in the suburbs of Fort Cochin in 1850, nearly a century before India's Independence. During the crucial decades that followed, several schools came up along the sea coast, spreading from Cochin to Ambalappuzha. Of this venture, twelve schools have already celebrated their centenary and a few amongst, their quasiquicentennial (125th) jubilee as well.

Subsequent to the establishment of the Diocese of Alleppey in 1952, efforts to spread the radiance of knowledge and higher education among the masses was taken up by Bishop Dr. Michael Arattukulam and the community leaders. The long-cherished aspirations of their efforts culminated in this citadel of knowledge which took its birth on the 19th of July 1967. The college is situated on the highway, 18 kms north of Alleppey town in a sprawling campus with serene ambience. In the launching phase, there were three streams of Pre-degree courses, in five batches. Bishop Dr. Michael Arattukulam himself was the Patron and first Manager of the institution and Rev. Fr. Jacob Kala yil adorned the chair as the first Principal.

The changing 21st century scenario made the diocese revamp their ideas into a fresh development plan that equipped the masses to tackle new situations and issues. For the timely materialization of this vision, the present diocesan head Bishop Dr. James Anaparambil envisioned and formed a body known as the Board of Education Alleppey Diocese (BEAD) in 2019. BEAD has been focusing on core values such as Selfless Service, Accountability and Collaborative Action, Option for the poor, Openness and Transparency. All the activities of BEAD are revolving around the fulcrum of St. Michael's College, the proclaimed 'Educational Hub' of the Diocese as well as the fast evolving, 'urban' community of Cherthala. The Diocese has, to its credit, fifteen Primary Schools, one Upper Primary School, eight High Schools, three Higher Secondary Schools, four CBSE schools, two ITIs, one Special School and a Self-Financing College. As a higher education institution, the College shoulders the duty of gearing up the progress of these sister concerns.

At present, St Michael's College has three PG courses, seven UG courses and two Vocational Courses, two Research Centres & and a fast-flourishing Community College that runs two greatly sought-after Diploma Courses. Remarkable annexure like the IGNOU Study Centre, MIMAT (Self-Financing Wing) and the Alappuzha District Rifle Club are functioning within the College campus. H.E. Rt. Rev. Dr. James Raphael Anaparambil (Bishop of Alleppey), Patron of the College and Manager Rev. Fr. Nelson Thaiparambil are at the helm of the Michael's fraternity. In the role of a higher education institution, Michael's aspires and strives to be a centre of excellence. However, transcending the set limits of pure academics, Michaelian vision is firmly founded on a loftier goal, the healthy progress and welfare of the society.



Visionary Goals 2033

Our vision, to be brought to fruition by the end of the decade, is to facilitate the profound evolution of St. Michael's College (SMC) into a premier learning hub in Kerala. Navigating the transforming realm of Higher Education in India is truly a challenge, yet, a prospect as well, to attain prestigious benchmarks of excellence. Guided by the progressive directives of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for transforming Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions, we must have long term strategic planning. The selfless service of committed and dedicated group of visionaries of the Diocese of Alleppey aims at grooming erudite citizens for the nation. St. Michael's College essentially epitomizes this lofty pedagogical mission by imparting value-based education. The key focal points to actualize our vision include:

- Empower the younger generation through the process of holistic development, to serve as catalysts for community upliftment.
- Play a pivotal role in shaping responsible citizens by providing quality education, fostering critical thinking, and instilling values, promoting civic engagement and cultivating global awareness.
- Instil a culture of both fundamental and application-oriented multidisciplinary research.
- Conceive and enhance collaborative partnerships between academia and industry.
- Integrate value-based education with a focus on scientific learning.
- Foster academic collaboration among institutions, forming Higher Education Institution Clusters in alignment with the New Education Policy guidelines of UGC.
- Fortify institutions by expanding departmental offerings in areas such as Music, Philosophy, Art, Dance, Theatre, Education, Mathematics, Statistics, Law, Pure and Applied Sciences, in accordance with the evolving educational landscape.
- Assuring employability and groom the young citizens to be successful entrepreneurs
- Imagineering new courses and designing syllabi for the wholesome development of individuals with civic sense and social commitment

Embracing these strategic initiatives, we aspire not only to cultivate a thriving community but also to nurture a cadre of educated youth equipped and poised to be dynamic contributors to the noble cause of nation-building.



Major Priorities to deliver our Strategic Vision

World-Transformers in the Making

To keep pace with the emerging technologies and dynamic changes in the world, the enduring vision of St. Michael's College extends beyond conventional education. Delivering quality education that guarantees job opportunities proves to be of paramount significance. This necessitates efficient and futuristic blending of innovative research with the teaching learning process. Our campus brims with distinguished researchers and excellent educators offering modern and best teaching methods in multidisciplinary programs. For successful deliverance of multidisciplinary programmes, HEIs are expected to conduct student-induction programmes to familiarise and create awareness among students about various learning pathways and career opportunities. This develops an insight into the socio-economic culture of the country enabling them to become responsible citizens. We have already integrated well-structured and fructifying Induction programmes into our academic fold, as the initial step in achieving the long-term vision of nurturing young talents for the greater good of the society.

Bonding with Blended Learning

The current educational landscape earmarks the departure of exclusively traditional modes of teaching - learning. We can decipher the seamless integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the effective rendering of knowledge-base. Notably, the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently declared that UG and PG degrees/diplomas obtained through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode, from recognized HEIs, will be considered equivalent to those conferred through conventional means. Inspired by this paradigm shift, we work towards strengthening our online learning platforms, equipped enough to start new degree/diploma courses in the online mode as well. The faculty of the institution has already initiated efforts by offering short term online courses through SWAYAM platform, which is an official platform launched by UGC.

Being a visionary educational institution, we analyse market demands to craft skill development programs that align with current needs. Anticipating a growing preference for double main or integrated courses, we are poised to meet this demand head-on. For instance,



our envisioned B.Sc. program coupled with B.Ed. not only offers a dual degree, B.Sc. B.Ed., but also provides students with a distinct advantage in shaping a rewarding career post-completion.

- Initiate annual talks and discussions on Nobel Prize-winning topics in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Economics, and Peace.
- Collaborate with the Kerala State Higher Education Council and other reputable universities in India for organizing erudite lectures.
- Expand course offerings in both online and offline modes through collaborations with esteemed universities in India and abroad.
- Create additional diploma and certificate programmes to enhance job prospects for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Introduce diploma programmes in Applied Optics, Electronics, Quality Control, and related fields to increase employment opportunities across diverse industries.

The Domain of Multidisciplinary Research

As a higher education institution, it is our responsibility to disseminate knowledge to the local society and to instil the sparks of quality education among the young minds. We believe that Research-enhanced learning will build a community of learners and research is what propels humanity forward. To promote this, research activities in various departments of our College must be strengthened and focus is to be placed on multidisciplinary research which leads to quality publications in internationally reputed journals. Additionally, SMC aspires to establish research partnerships with diverse institutions and industries, both domestically and internationally. Currently, the Departments of Chemistry and Commerce hold recognition as research centres under the University of Kerala. As responsible and committed HEI, the rudimentary objective is to accelerate the growth of the rest of the departments too, to the status of research centre.

Adhering to Michaelian vision, we aspire to develop ourselves into a vibrant hub, the long-cherished 'Karappuram Research and Cultural Centre'. Karappuram being the erstwhile term to refer to the locale, our noble endeavour to preserve the tradition gains paramount significance. More significantly, practices that are more in harmony with the Environment, Art, Language, Legacy, International Collaborations and Culture could contribute to sustainable living in all crucial domains.



Further, we look forward to:

Establish a Multidisciplinary Research Centre (MRC):

- Quality Education: Providing quality education opportunities for youth.
- Purpose: To enhance research capabilities and foster interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Objective: Keep abreast of emerging technologies and the evolving scientific landscape.
- Focal Point: The hub for cutting-edge research across various fields.
- Nexus for Research: Serving as a central point for research, innovation and development.
- Facilities: Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and resources.
- Collaboration Hub: Bringing together experts, educators, and students.
- Productively avail the service of an influential collegiums of retired luminaries as visiting professors.
- Job Opportunities: Creating job opportunities for the community.
- Building a firm foundation of research culture by endorsing projects that emerge to be beneficial to the society.
- Community Engagement to enhance the well-being of the local community.
- Promotion of Science: Actively contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge.
- Revamping the streams of art and humanities for the cultural refinement of the society.
- Manipulating language proficiency as a tool to converse with the world, for acquiring international exposure
- Karappuram populace as well as culture displays variety and diversity which shall be preserved for building up a tolerant, broad-minded and enlightened community.

Scientific Thrust on Alternative Renewable Energy resources.

- Specific and Futuristic Interest: Low-cost solar energy-based organic photovoltaic devices.
- E•ploring the potential and opportunities for harnessing wind and tidal energy as a befitting option for the coastal town.



- Design and synthesis of novel organic molecules.
- Organic Electronics: Fabrication of Organic Photovoltaics (OPVs), Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs), and Organic Field-Effect Transistors (OFETs)
- Delocalized π Electron System: Materials with this property are of interest.
- Properties: Unique optical and electronic properties.
- Application: Potential candidates for the fabrication of organic electronic devices.

Natural Resource Management

The need of the hour is the preservation of natural resources and fostering a carbon-neutral and pollution-free environment. Moreover, through curriculum development and outreach programs, HEIs can instil a sense of environmental responsibility in students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to address pressing environmental challenges. Besides merely serving as knowledge instilling units, we envision Michael's as a research unit on innovative technologies and methodologies for sustainable resource management including water conservation, soil preservation and air quality improvement. We function as an innovative hub where cutting-edge research, sustainable practices and environmental awareness converge and can contribute significantly for sustainable existence. By adopting eco-friendly campus practices, promoting renewable energy solutions and collaborating with local communities and industries, we earnestly look forward to catalyse positive change where the environment thrives in a state of equilibrium.

In the current context, water management stands as a critical issue, necessitating thorough purification and strategic handling due to its diverse applications across sectors. In India the issues of limited precipitation, dense population and adverse climatic conditions, worsens the situation. The escalating concerns about water quality, stemming from chemical and microbiological pollution, underscore the urgency of advanced water treatment facilities. St. Michael's College recognizes this urgency and is committed to raising public awareness about rainwater harvesting, recharging of wells and ponds.

The importance of agrarian culture also comes within the ambit and self-motivational vision of the institution. Attempts to treasure fertile soil and revive the great agrarian culture form another domain of our activities. The coastal backdrop further necessitates the commitment towards our feeder community of fisher-folk. Together, these aspirations refresh and rekindle our commitment to work towards achieving societal welfare and well-being.



Summing up, the primary goals for promoting multidisciplinary research include:

Fostering Interdisciplinary Research: The key aim is to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers and students, providing a platform to collectively address intricate scientific challenges and issues of sustainable development.

Enhancing Research Facilities: The MMRC will elevate our research infrastructure by acquiring cutting-edge equipment and resources, establishing well-equipped laboratories and improving library facilities.

Promoting Research Culture: Our objective is to cultivate a dynamic research culture by motivating faculty and students to actively participate in research endeavours and publish their findings.

Community Outreach: We shall establish partnerships with nearby schools and communities, aiming to popularize modern education in the region. As part of refurbishing the society, especially the promising populace of children, we envision the proactive venture of hosting awareness programmes for mothers, the literal home-makers who contribute considerably to the making of the society as a whole.

Multidisciplinary Approach: This will facilitate research across various focal areas, including organic electronics, alternate renewable energy, nanomaterials, materials science, commerce, economics, life sciences, physics, and oriental languages.

Collaborations & MoUs: A single, significant vision of St. Michael's College is to forge robust partnerships with institutions and industries both in India and abroad. This initiative is aimed at providing our students with exposure to diverse institutions and industries. Given the proximity of Coir Board and Kerala Minerals and Metals, establishing a strong relationship with these industries could greatly benefit our students. Currently, SMC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with King's College, London focusing on Tourism and Alternate Renewable Energy.

Through partnerships with top global universities, we can arrange international conferences and workshops, providing significant advantages to our students. Additionally, we have the opportunity to bring distinguished scientists and researchers to St. Michael's College as visiting faculty. Reciprocally, our faculty members can also serve as visiting faculty at renowned universities in India and abroad, leveraging various government-supported initiatives.



To establish collaborations, it is crucial to focus on the placement of our students. Hence, there is a need to enhance the effectiveness of our Career Guidance and Placement Cell. With great conviction, St. Michael's College renders active support to students by providing placement assistance, aiding them in future planning and streamlining processes to identify employment opportunities and start-ups. Additionally, efforts are made to foster interactions with potential employers.

NEP- Aligned Future

The introduction of New Education Policy 2020 by the Government of India aims to transform Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions. The institutions are required to undergo transformation either into autonomous entities or cluster institutions. This resulted in the issuance of guidelines by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the same. Consequently aligning with these directives, St. Michael's College may consider exploring enhanced possibilities and shaping its curriculum accordingly. This approach opens avenues to design courses more dynamically by working out potent collaborations with other academic/government institutions and industries. The institution can also restructure degree programmes by incorporating skill courses, internships, community service and other components.

Infrastructural Planning

The number of smart devices connecting to the Internet is exploding and studies bring out that the number of Internet-connected devices has quadrupled worldwide. By 2025, there will be an estimated 30 billion devices online - nearly three times the number of humans on earth. Colleges and universities are not isolated from this scenario and thereby our goal should be to establish infrastructure facilities conducive to digital learning.

Focus being on multidisciplinary research activities our strategy should aim at enhancement of infrastructure facilities. Therefore, we have set our sights on constructing various facilities in the near future, including a Science Park, Space Discovery Centre, Playhouse, and Amphitheatre for Art and Literature, a Venture Development Centre etc.



Green Campus

With a campus area of about 87817sq.mts and a built-up area of 4182 sq.mts, our College has large potential for high solar output with the installation of solar panels. We hope to take advantage of this large sunny area available to generate electricity form solar energy.

Presently, we have around 20 kW solar panel installed in the campus. In future we have to expand this and plan to have solar panel with a capacity 100 kW. The extra power generated in the campus could be spent for the welfare of the local society living in and around the campus. The possibility of a National Collaboration for this programme sparkles to be explored and it is truly an inspiring fact that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT) are promoting such remarkable initiatives.

As a visionary institution, St. Michael's College is passionately committed to implementing proactive measures for waste disposal, actively checking the use of plastics and other toxic materials and ensuring a robust and efficient recycling system. The college has not only established a comprehensive green protocol policy but is also unwaveringly dedicated to enhancing and fortifying it in the future. Our visionary goal is to transform the campus into a zero-carbon haven in the near future. By diligently championing sustainability initiatives, we aim to create an environmentally conscious and appealing educational environment for our community.



Short Term Plan

- **Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP):** Design a plan to implement the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme as envisaged in the NEP with effect from 2024-25 academic year. Develop a comprehensive plan for the smooth transition to the FYUGP, ensuring alignment with accreditation standards and academic quality. Communicate the benefits of the FYUGP to the student community especially the advantages like enhanced skill development and holistic education.
- **Advancement in Research:** Upgrade a few more undergraduate departments to a postgraduate level and elevate remaining postgraduate department to a research-focused unit. Encourage interdisciplinary research and secure funding and resources for these centers to engage in innovative major and minor research initiatives. Foster collaborations with industries and research institutions to amplify the significance and applicability of research endeavors.
- **Faculty Induction Program and Professional Development Programme:** Organize annual orientation program for new faculty members, covering NEP 2020, academic policies, teaching methodologies, and institutional values. Develop a comprehensive professional development program for faculty, with workshops, seminars, and conferences focusing on the latest pedagogical approaches, research methodologies, and technological advancements. Extend training programs to administrative and laboratory staff, emphasizing skills development and fostering a culture of continuous learning.
- **New Generation Courses:** Conduct a comprehensive review of existing courses and identify skill gaps and areas for improvement. Introduce new generation courses aligned with the latest industry trends, technological advancements, and global academic standards. Collaborate with industry experts to design and implement these courses, ensuring practical relevance and employability for students.
- **Attracting Students Globally:** Develop targeted marketing campaigns to attract students from outside the state and abroad. Highlight the institution's uniqueness and distinctiveness, such as specialized courses, research opportunities, and a vibrant campus culture. Establish international collaborations with universities and organizations to facilitate student exchange programs and joint research initiatives.
- **Renewable Energy:** Enhance the use of renewable energy sources. Implement more solar panels, or other sustainable energy solutions to reduce the institution's carbon footprint. Integrate renewable energy education into the curriculum, fostering awareness and knowledge among students.
- **Infrastructural Development:** Utilize the available space for further infrastructural development, including state-of-the-art laboratories, research facilities, and collaborative spaces. Seek funding through grants, partnerships, and fundraising initiatives to support infrastructural expansion including creation of a science park and research block.
- **Improvement in Sports Facility:** Upgrade existing sports facilities and create additional spaces for various sports and recreational activities. Promote a culture of physical well-being and sportsmanship among students through intercollegiate competitions and sports events.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish performance metrics for each initiative. Regularly assess progress through surveys, feedback mechanisms, and key performance indicators. Adapt and refine strategies based on ongoing evaluation to ensure successful implementation and continuous improvement.

This short-term plan aims to address immediate needs and enhance the overall quality assurance mechanisms within the institution.

St. Michael's College, Cherthala

Affiliated to University of Kerala and Re-Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade
Alappuzha, Kerala, India