



## *From the Coordinator's Desk....*



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the second issue of the IQAC newsletter, a reflection of our collective commitment to continuous improvement and excellence at St. Michael's College, Cherthala. In this issue, we highlight some of the significant milestones that have marked our academic and institutional journey.

One of the key developments has been the introduction of the new Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP). This new curriculum not only enhances the academic rigor but also equips our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of the future.

With this forward-thinking approach, we are committed to fostering a more holistic learning experience for all our students.

We are also proud of the strides we have made in strengthening our research activities. Through a variety of initiatives and collaborations, we continue to promote a vibrant research culture, encouraging both faculty and students to engage in meaningful research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge.

Another achievement to celebrate is the successful completion of the RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan) project, which has enabled us to enhance infrastructure and academic resources, further enriching the learning environment at our institution.

In addition to these academic and research accomplishments, I would like to take a moment to appreciate the departments, clubs, and associations for their dedication to organizing a wide range of diverse and engaging programmes. These initiatives not only promote the holistic development of our students but also foster a sense of community and collaboration across various disciplines.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the success of these efforts, and I look forward to more such milestones in the future.

**Dr. Manoj Parameswaran**





## Inauguration of Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP)

The inauguration of the four-year undergraduate program, *SMC Vijnanolsavam – 2K24*, took place on July 1, 2024, at the college auditorium. The state-level ceremony was inaugurated by the Honorable Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan, while the college-level event was launched by Justice Cyriac Joseph, Honorable Judge of the Supreme Court.

As part of this program, the college offers a wide range of courses, including BA Honours with Research in Economics (specializing in Data Science), BA Honours in English Language and Literature, BSc Honours with Research in Chemistry (specializing in Forensic Chemistry), BSc Honours in Zoology (focused on Fisheries Science), BSc Honours with Research in Physics (specializing in Electronics), BCom Honours with Research and Elective Finance, and BBA Honours with Specialisation in Logistics Management.

The program began with a welcome address by Dr. Antony Kuriakose, the Vice Principal of the college. The event was presided over by the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu S. Nair. Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Celestine Puthenpurakal, the College Manager, delivered the benedictory address, while Smt. Priya Antony extended her felicitations. The program concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Binil K. P, the Program Coordinator.

On the second day, July 2, 2024, Dr. Pratheesh P. provided an introduction to the FYUGP program, and Dr. Antony Kuriakose outlined the course registration process for the students. Additionally, each department made presentations about the courses they offer. The event wrapped up with an interactive session, allowing students to ask questions and engage in discussions.



## Entrepreneurial Skill Development Training Programme

The Women Cell, in collaboration with the Kerala State Women Development Corporation, conducted an Entrepreneurial Skill Development training program on October 23, 2024.

The session was led by Smt. Beena Shymon, a faculty member in Fashion Designing and Apparel Making at St. Michael's Community College. Sixty female students participated in the program, where they were trained in various activities, including crafting flowers and flower pots using materials such as art paper, shoe components, and reusable waste. The training also included demonstrations of fabric painting techniques on cloth and bottles.



The students were educated on the significance of self-entrepreneurship as a means of future financial sustainability. They learned how developing skills to create diverse products from different materials could serve as a source of income. Actively engaging in all activities, the participants created flowers and flower pots from plastic bottles and practiced fabric painting on glass bottles and handkerchiefs.

## SHILP- An Art n' CRAFT Exhibition

The Women Cell, in collaboration with the Kerala State Women Development Corporation, organized "SHILP" – an Art and Craft Exhibition on October 25, 2024. The event was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu S. Nair. A wide range of handcrafted items created by students were showcased, including flowers made from art paper and sock materials, flowerpots with indoor plants, fabric-painted bags, handkerchiefs, and hand-embroidered pillow covers. The room was beautifully adorned with artistic creations that students had learned during the training program. The displayed items were also available for sale, and the entire college enthusiastically participated in the exhibition, showing their support for the Women Cell's initiatives. Inspired by the success of the event, the Women Cell members were highly motivated and planned to organize similar exhibitions in the future.



## Documentary Screening and Meet the Director-Saving Walden's World

The Women Cell Uni, organized a program titled *Documentary Screening and Meet the Director – Saving Walden's World*. The event featured the screening of the documentary by its director, Gim Merklin, an American who transitioned from being an arms and communication dealer to an environmentalist. The program aimed to inspire students to envision a peaceful world. The documentary explored the concept of sustainable living through the lifestyles of women in various parts of the world, particularly in Kerala, Cuba, and Slovenia. Following the screening, the director engaged in a thought-provoking and interactive discussion with students and faculty, focusing on how adopting sustainable lifestyles can help preserve peace and harmony on Earth in the years to come.



## Induction Programme on “Building Research Foundations: From Problem Identification to Hypothesis Development”

An induction program on the topic “*Building Research Foundations: From Problem Identification to Hypothesis Development*” was organized as part of the inaugural session of the peer learning series by the Research Forum of the P.G. & Research Department of Commerce. The event commenced at



10:00 a.m. with a prayer led by Ms. Sherin Chacko, a research scholar at St. Michael's College. Ms. Arya Suresh extended a warm welcome to the gathering, followed by the Presidential Address delivered by Dr. Jyothi Mary Mathew. The session was conducted by Mr. Badusha Muhammed, who provided valuable insights into initiating research work and the essential steps involved. To conclude, a group activity was assigned to all participants, fostering engagement and collaborative learning. Both part-time and full-time research scholars participated in the program, finding the session highly enriching and informative.

## Two-Day Crash Course on UGC NET-JRF Exam

The P.G. & Research Department of Commerce, organized a comprehensive two-day orientation program for the National Eligibility Test (NET) in preparation for the December 2024 session. The program aimed to provide aspirants with detailed knowledge and effective strategies to succeed in the examination. The event commenced with an insightful introduction by Dr. Sreedhar P. Nair, Head of the

Department of Commerce, who highlighted the significance of the NET exam in advancing academic and research careers. He encouraged students to actively participate and maximize the benefits of the program. The sessions featured the contributions of 10 research scholars, each specializing in a distinct subject area, who delivered engaging and informative lectures. The program saw enthusiastic participation from approximately 30 postgraduate students, who gained valuable insights and guidance for their NET preparation.





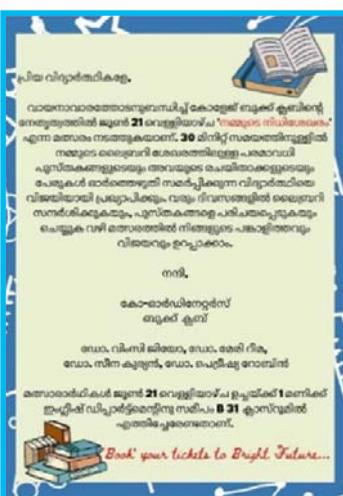
### Industrial Visit to KHDP Co. Pvt Ltd, Munnar

On December 13, 2025, the Second-Year B.Com (2023–26) students of the Department of Commerce, organized an industrial visit to KDHP Co. Pvt. Ltd., Munnar. A total of 47 students participated in the visit, accompanied by two faculty members, Ms. Soumya Mathew and Ms. Cindrella. The visit proved to be highly educational, as students gained valuable insights into tea processing methods. The staff at KDHP provided a detailed explanation of the entire process, from plucking tea leaves to packaging the final product.



### Nammude Nidhisekharam' Contest

Aspiring for a meaningful observance of the Reading Week, the Book Club, in association with the language departments, organised the contest 'Nammude Nidhisekharam' on the 21st of June 2024. The aspirants were directed to visit and familiarise the books that are part of the college library collection. The contest was proposed to be a memory test wherein the students were asked to recall and list the titles and authors of as many books as they could, within a brief span of 30 mins. Neeraja B. Chandran (II BSc Zoology), Bhavana Krishna P. (II BA English) and Donna Sonnet (II BSc Zoology) bagged the first, second and third positions respectively



### Leaves of Joy- Book Donation Drive

Joining hands with the Department of English, the members of the Book Club took part in the Book Donation drive 'Leaves of Joy' and initiated a noble venture of book collection in order to enrich the library which was set up last year in a nearby old age home.



The project got inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024, by the renowned Malayalam writer Sri. Akhil P. Dharmajan through the contribution of the author copy of his own masterpiece. The members in the following weeks continued with the collection and listing of books from generous benefactors including both students and faculty. The volunteers would be soon visiting the old age home to gift the books once the campaign crosses the figure of hundred Malayalam books in total.

### Prize Distribution for the Reading Day Contest and Interaction with the Author

The winners of the Reading Day Contest, 'Nammude Nidhisekharam', Neeraja B. Chandran (I Position),



Bhavana Krishna P. (II Position) and Donna Sonnet (III Position) were given books of their favourite authors as prizes. Popular Malayalam author and script-writer Sri. Akhil P. Dharmajan gave away the prizes within the interactive programme 'Being Alive' organized by the Department of English on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Followed by the ceremony the members initiated an interaction with the writer which proved to be an enriching and rewarding experience for the students.

## Overview of Securities Market and Career Growth

On January 16, 2025, the Department of Commerce, in partnership with APEX Academy, Kochi, hosted a session titled "Overview of Securities Market and Career Growth." The event was designed to offer students valuable insights into the workings, structure, and opportunities within the securities market. Mr. Manoj T. Neelakandan, the resource person, shared his extensive expertise with the attendees. With a background as a former Assistant General Manager at IDBI Bank and as a certified trainer for SEBI, Mr. Neelakandan, who is currently the managing partner of APEX Academy, Kochi, highlighted the ever-evolving nature of the securities market and its potential as a promising career path for commerce students.



## Standards Club- Exposure Visit

As part of the Standards Club activities, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Kochi Branch Office, organized an exposure visit for the club members of our college on December 4, 2024. The visit took place at Malabar Cements, Cherthala, an ISO 9001:2000 certified Cement Company fully owned by the Government of Kerala and the only major integrated cement plant in the state. During the visit, supervisors provided detailed explanations of the technical and manufacturing processes. Students also had the opportunity to explore the quality testing laboratory and control room. A total of 20 students benefited from this industry visit, which was coordinated by Dr. D.B. Dhvajam, the Standards Club coordinator.



## Financial Literacy

The Career Guidance and Placement Cell of St. Michael's College, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), organized an awareness session titled "Financial Literacy" on September 6, 2024, at



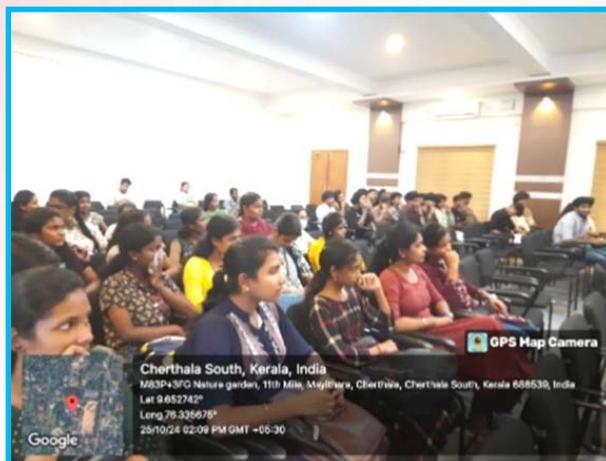
the Digital Seminar Hall. Dr. Beena James, Coordinator of the Career Guidance and Placement Cell, welcomed the gathering. The session saw active participation from students of B.Com, BBA, B.A, B.Sc, and B.Voc programs. Recognizing financial literacy as a vital life skill, the session aimed to enhance students' understanding of managing finances, investment basics, and broader economic concepts



such as inflation, taxes, and interest rates. Experienced resource persons from RBI led the session, emphasizing the importance of adopting a disciplined approach to investing and maintaining financial well-being. The interactive format allowed students to engage actively, ask questions, and clarify doubts about various financial topics. The session was well-received, with participants expressing appreciation for the insights gained. Ms. Lidiya Lawrence concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

### **Investors Awareness Class Organized by Career Guidance and Placement Cell in Association with National Stock Exchange**

On October 25, 2024, the Career Guidance and Placement Cell, in association with the National Stock Exchange (NSE), conducted an Investor Awareness Class to educate students and aspiring investors on investment fundamentals and financial literacy. The session was led by Mr. Jitheesh Kumar, an experienced trainer associated with the NSE. The primary goal of the class was to promote informed



investing by providing insights into the stock market, investment strategies, risk management, and financial planning. Mr. Jitheesh Kumar introduced participants to key stock market concepts, including various investment options, mutual funds, and the NSE's role in regulating and facilitating trading activities in India. He emphasized the importance of understanding personal risk tolerance and financial goals before investing. Mr. Kumar also explained the benefits of building a diversified portfolio to minimize risk and shared practical tips on avoiding common investment mistakes. Additionally, he encouraged participants to adopt a disciplined investment approach while underscoring the role of financial markets in the broader economy. The interactive session allowed students to engage actively, ask questions, and clarify their doubts. Participants found the session informative and appreciated the valuable insights shared. Dr. Beena James concluded the event with a vote of thanks. The Career Guidance and Placement Cell intends to organize similar sessions in the future to further enhance students' financial literacy and decision-making skills.



## Mastering Research Writing – Combining SLR and Bibliometrics with Innovative Review Protocols

The two-day workshop titled “Mastering Research Writing: Combining SLR and Bibliometrics with Innovative Review Protocols” was organized to improve research scholars’ expertise in systematic literature reviews (SLR) and bibliometric methods. The sessions provided valuable insights and practical applications of these techniques, essential for enhancing academic writing and research quality.

On January 17, 2025, the workshop began with participant registration, followed by a prayer led by Ms. Sherin Chacko. Dr. Jyothy Mary Mathew, Assistant Professor, welcomed the attendees and delivered the opening address, emphasizing the importance of research writing in improving scholarly communication. She also acknowledged the participants’ dedication to advancing their research skills. Mr. Hari Unnikrishnan, Assistant Professor from the PG & Research Department of Commerce, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the significant role of SLR and bibliometrics in modern research. The day’s sessions, led by Ms. Amruthambika P, a Research Scholar from Sanatana Dharma College, explored key techniques in systematic reviews and bibliometric analysis. Her engaging presentation involved interactive discussions and hands-on exercises, enhancing participants’ understanding of these methodologies.



The second day (January 18, 2025) began at 9:15 am with Ms. Amruthambika P continuing her sessions, focusing on advanced bibliometric techniques and integrating SLR with innovative review protocols. This session provided practical strategies to improve research output. Following a brief lunch break, participants engaged in additional discussions and group activities, which further strengthened their grasp of the topics covered. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks, where the organizers expressed gratitude to the resource persons, participants, and all contributors to the event’s success. Participants also shared their positive feedback on the sessions. As a token of appreciation, Dr. Jyothy Mathew presented a memento to Ms. Amruthambika P for her valuable contributions. The workshop successfully achieved its goal of equipping research scholars with essential skills in systematic literature reviews and bibliometric techniques. Participants left with enhanced knowledge, practical tools, and greater confidence to apply these methods in their academic research.

## Inauguration of the Research Forum and Peer Learning Series

The inaugural ceremony of the Research Forum and Peer Learning Series organized by the PG & Research Department of Commerce at St. Michael's College, Cherthala, took place on January 16, 2025. The program began with a prayer led by Ms. Sherin Chacko, a Full-Time Scholar and Scholar Coordinator, creating a reflective atmosphere for the event. Mr. Hari Unnikrishnan, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Research Forum, then delivered a warm welcome address, greeting all participants and dignitaries. The Presidential Address was given by Dr. Sreedhar P. Nair, Head of the Department, who highlighted the essential role of research in academic development and fostering critical thinking among scholars.

The event was officially inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Biju T, Professor and Head of the Department of Commerce at the School of Business Management and Legal Studies, University of Kerala. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of collaborative research platforms and unveiled the logos for both the Research Forum and the Peer Learning Series, designed by Mr. Badusha Muhammed, Secretary of the Research Forum. After the inauguration, Mr. Badusha Muhammed provided an overview of the Research Forum, sharing its objectives, planned activities, and vision for building a dynamic research community. Ms. Surumi C. M., Treasurer of the Research Forum, then introduced the Peer Learning Series, explaining its structure and the expected benefits for participating scholars. The ceremony also included felicitation from the department's Research Guides, Dr. Aashish Varghese and Dr. Deepa T.S, who offered their support

and encouragement for these initiatives, stressing the significance of mentorship in research.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sandra Noronha, Joint Secretary of the Research Forum, who expressed appreciation to the dignitaries, organizers, and participants for their contributions to the successful launch of both the Research Forum and Peer Learning Series. Following the formal program, Prof. Dr. Biju T chaired the biannual progress presentation for Full-Time and Part-Time Scholars,



where scholars presented their research progress and received constructive feedback from the chairperson and research guides, promoting academic growth. The successful organization of the event was credited to the dedicated efforts of the Program Coordinator, Dr. Jyothy, and Scholar Coordinators - Ms. Priyanka, Ms. Akhila, and Ms. Sherin. The inauguration set a positive tone for the upcoming activities of the Research Forum and Peer Learning Series, with attendees expressing excitement about the collaborative opportunities these platforms will provide to the academic community.

## Seminar on M T : Vaakkum Vaazhvm

Seminar on the topic M T : Vaakkum Vaazhvm, was organized by the Library of St. Michaels College Cherthala on 11.02.2025, at 10.30 am, the venue being the Feniccio Digital Seminar Hall. Prolific writer of Karappuram. Shri. Sebastian Pallithod was the chief guest of the event and rendered the Keynote address. Dr. Patricia Robin welcomed the gathering. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu S.Nair rendered the Presidential address, and Rahana Rafeek offered the Vote of thanks. Commemorating the legendary writer M T Vasudevan Nair, Shri Sebastian Pallithod spoke about the personal rapport he had maintained with him. The session was highly useful to the students, because it opened up a scenario of Malayalam writings to world classics.



## Economics Association Inauguration

The inauguration of the Economics Association marked the start of various academic and extracurricular activities for the year 2024. It was a



momentous occasion for the department. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students. The inaugural ceremony started with a prayer song

followed by welcome speech by Lt. Abin Albert and Presidential Address by Dr. Florence M.A., Head of the Department. The chief guest of the event, Dr. Mothi George's delivered the inaugural address which was deeply inspiring, encouraging the students to explore

economics beyond textbooks and recognize its practical implications in everyday life. He also highlighted the importance of critical thinking, innovation, and analytical skills in the field of economics, urging the students to think beyond conventional boundaries. The department also honoured achievements by its faculty and students. The mementos were handed over by Fr. Dr. Celestine

Puthenpurackal. The event provided an excellent platform for students to interact, share ideas, and engage in discussions, setting a positive tone for the activities to follow under the association.

## Interdepartmental Quiz Competition

The Interdepartmental Quiz Competition proved to be an exciting and competitive event, bringing together teams of two students from various departments. Participants tested their knowledge in diverse areas, including economic theories, global trends, and historical events. The event was structured into multiple rounds, with each team competing against others in a display of intellectual agility. Beyond the thrill of competition, the quiz fostered cross departmental collaboration, encouraging



students from different fields to come together and share their knowledge. It also nurtured a spirit of healthy competition, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.

## Invited Talk on “Overview of Securities Market and Career Growth

The department organized an insightful talk on the topic “Overview of Securities Market and Career Growth” in collaboration with BIAP Mumbai and Apex Academy, Kochi. The session, led by Sri Manoj T. Neelakantan, a BFSI Sector Skills Trainer and certified trainer of SEBI, provided valuable knowledge on the securities market. Sri Neelakantan shared practical insights into stock trading, market dynamics, and the various career opportunities within the finance and capital markets. The session was highly informative, equipping students with essential skills and know-how about trading and the broader financial sector, empowering them to explore future career growth in this dynamic field.

## Invited Talk on “Career Perspectives in Social Science”

A thought-provoking session was organized, focusing on career opportunities for social science graduates and postgraduate students of the department. The talk highlighted the significance of interdisciplinary skills and emphasized various career pathways in fields such as research, policymaking, and public service. The speaker provided valuable insights on how to shape a successful career in social science, stressing the importance of combining academic knowledge with practical skills. The session was both enlightening and beneficial,



leaving students with a deeper understanding of the diverse opportunities available and how to navigate their career journeys in the social sciences.

## Paper Presentation Competition

A paper presentation competition was held for both graduate and postgraduate students from the department, where participants presented their research on a range of economic issues. The competition encouraged students to explore innovative research ideas and provided a platform for them to showcase their analytical and critical thinking skills. It also offered an opportunity to hone their presentation and communication abilities, essential for academic and professional growth. The event played a pivotal role in fostering intellectual engagement and enhancing students' overall academic development, while also promoting a spirit of healthy competition.



## Intercollegiate Seminar on “Understanding Kerala’s Fiscal Crisis: A Perspective from Federal Governance”

The Department of Economics, St. Michael’s College, Cherthala, successfully organized an intercollegiate seminar on 31st January 2025, focusing on the critical topic, “Understanding Kerala’s Fiscal Crisis: A Perspective from Federal Governance.” The seminar was part of the SMEAD memorial lecture, held in remembrance of the esteemed Prof. A.C. Joseph, former Head of the Department of Economics and Principal of St. Michael’s College, Cherthala. Dr. Vinil

K.V, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, was the distinguished resource person for the seminar. With his expertise, Dr. Vinil provided valuable insights into Kerala’s fiscal challenges within the broader framework of federal governance. His presentation explored the structural and policy constraints affecting Kerala’s financial health, the impact of central-state fiscal relations, and potential strategies for sustainable economic management.

The event commenced with an inaugural session, where the Principal of St. Michael’s College, Cherthala, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of understanding fiscal governance in the context of Kerala’s economy. Dr. Vinil K.V delivered an engaging and insightful lecture, covering aspects such as Kerala’s revenue constraints, fiscal deficit trends, and the role of fiscal devolution in economic development. The session was followed by an interactive discussion, where participants from various colleges actively engaged with the resource person, raising pertinent questions and sharing perspectives on Kerala’s fiscal scenario. The seminar provided a platform for students, research scholars,



and faculty members to deliberate on the challenges and potential solutions to Kerala's fiscal crisis. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members from nearby colleges. The event facilitated academic discourse on contemporary economic issues, reinforcing the significance of fiscal responsibility and governance in Kerala's economic development. The discussions provided attendees with a deeper understanding of

the complexities of federal fiscal relations and their implications for state-level economic policies.

The intercollegiate seminar on "Understanding Kerala's Fiscal Crisis: A Perspective from Federal Governance" was a resounding success. It honoured the legacy of Prof. A.C. Joseph by fostering meaningful discussions on economic policy and governance.

## Two-Day National Workshop on 'Data Mining & Statistical Analysis with R'

The Postgraduate Department of Economics, St. Michael's College, Cherthala, successfully organized a two-day national workshop on *Data Mining and Statistical Analysis with R*. The workshop came out in flying colours from participants from various colleges in Kerala. It aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge on inferential and descriptive statistics for economics and statistical analysis using the R programming language.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session, graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Principal of St. Michael's College, faculty members, and guest speaker Dr. P. Arunachalam, Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. Dr. Binil K.P., Teacher Coordinator of SMEAD delivered the welcome address followed by the presidential address by Dr. M.A Florence, HoD, Department of Economics. The keynote address was delivered by Principal, Prof. Dr. Sindhu S. Nair. Dr. P. Arunachalam inaugurated the gathering by highlighting the significance of data-driven decision-making in economics and research.



The first and second technical session was handled by Smt. Krithi M.R., Research Scholar, Department of Econometrics, University of Madras. She introduced participants to the fundamentals of data mining, covering key concepts such as data processing, data analysis, and career opportunities in data science field for economics students. The afternoon technical session provided hands-on training for the participants to

familiarize themselves with R programming, focusing on data handling, visualization, and basic statistical functions.

The second day focused on advanced statistical techniques and real-world applications of data mining in economic research. The resource person for the second day was Dr. Muhammed Suhail M.U, Assistant professor on contract, Department of Economics, MES College, Nedumkandam. The Sessions included:

- Hypothesis testing and data analysis
- Time series analysis and forecasting models
- Clustering and classification techniques using R
- Case studies demonstrating the use of R in economic data analysis knowledge to datasets, enhancing their analytical proficiency.

The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A session and a feedback session where participants shared

their learning experiences. The two-day workshop was highly successful in providing participants with a strong foundation in data mining and statistical analysis using R. The event fostered a deeper understanding of quantitative research methods and equipped attendees with valuable skills for academic and professional growth. The Postgraduate Department of Economics, St. Michael's College, Cherthala, expressed gratitude to all resource persons, participants, and organizers for their efforts in making the workshop a fruitful learning experience during the valedictory function. The Postgraduate



Department of Economics at St. Michael's College, Cherthala, had a highly productive academic year 2024-25, marked by a series of enriching and intellectually stimulating activities. The department successfully organized the Economic Association Inauguration, quiz competition, budget discussions, invited talks, paper presentation competition, a prestigious memorial lecture, a national seminar, and a workshop. These events provided students with a platform to develop their analytical skills, enhance their academic engagement, and gain exposure to contemporary economic discussions. The department remains committed to fostering academic excellence, research aptitude, and holistic student development, and looks forward to organizing more impactful programs in the future.

## Inauguration of Completed Projects under RUSA 2.0

On August 22, 2024, the completed projects under RUSA 2.0 were formally inaugurated by Dr. R. Bindu, the

Honourable Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Kerala. The

event commenced with a warm welcome address by the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu S. Nair.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Shri. P. Prasad, the

Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Kerala. In his speech, the

College Manager, Fr. (Dr.) Celestine Puthenpurakal, addressed the gathering, reflecting on the significance of the occasion. Prominent figures who participated in the event included Sri. K. Sudhir IAS, DCE & State Project Coordinator for RUSA; Smt. Sinimol Samson, President of Cherthala South Grama Panchayat; Sri. V. Uthaman, Member of Alappuzha District Panchayat; Smt. Rajani Dasappan, Member of Kanjikuzhi Block Panchayat; Sri. Nibu S. Padmam, Vice-President of Cherthala South Grama Panchayat; and Sri. P. I. Haris, Vice-President of the College PTA. All these dignitaries contributed to the occasion with their facilitation.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Antony Kuriakose, the Vice-Principal and RUSA Coordinator of the college, who expressed gratitude to all those involved in making the event a success.

Under the RUSA 2.0 project, recognizing the need to enhance teaching-learning resources and physical infrastructure, the college initiated the construction and renovation of various facilities, including labs, the library, and the purchase of sports equipment, starting in 2019 with an allocation of Rs. 2 crore. One of the key



achievements of this project was the completion of a 7,000 sq. ft. Examination Hall cum Coaching Centre, built with an investment of Rs. 90.95 lakhs, significantly boosting the college's physical infrastructure.

Additionally, the renovation of the roofing for the Physics Wing, Zoology Lab, and Museum was completed, along with the installation of tiles from the portico extending across the entire floor of the central block, ensuring a comfortable walking experience. The long-standing demand of the female students, who constitute two-thirds of the student body, for a Toilet Block and Amenity Centre was addressed with an allocation of Rs. 82.30 lakhs from the RUSA funds. The renovated toilet block now includes 18 toilets, 2 bathrooms, a dress changing room, and 8 wash basins, all equipped with proper lighting and water supply.

Furthermore, modern equipment for various laboratories and a Health and Fitness Gym with 5 stations have been purchased. Efforts are underway to further digitize the library, including the installation of Smart Screens, with a budget of Rs. 20 lakhs set aside for this purpose.

Through these extensive construction and renovation efforts under RUSA 2.0, the college aims to achieve significant advancements in the quality of higher education, aligning with its goals for development and improvement.

### **A Milestone in Research: First Ph.D. Graduate from Department of Chemistry**

The year 2024 marks a significant milestone in the research history of St. Michael's College. Dr. Gayathri Mohan M. became the first Ph.D. graduate from St. Michael's College, Cherthala, earning her Ph.D. in Chemistry. She conducted her research in the Department of Chemistry under the guidance of Dr. Manoj Parameswaran. Her Ph.D. open defense took place on December 6, 2024. Her research focused on the topic "Investigations into Efficient Donor Molecules for Organic Solar Cells: Experimental and DFT Studies of Pyrene and Fused Aromatic Heterocyclic Structures." Congratulation Gayathri!!!





### Faculty Gathering: Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry hosted a gathering of all faculty members on January 22, 2025, to celebrate a significant milestone for the department – the achievement of our first Ph.D. scholar. Both retired and current faculty members attended the event. During the celebration, the senior-most faculty member, Prof. M. A. Mathew, presented a memento to Dr. Gayathri Mohan M. The event concluded with a lunch.



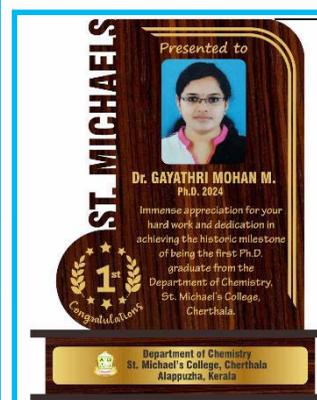
**രേഷ്മ കൃഷ്ണൻ മേരി കുറ്റി ഫെലോഷിപ്പ്**

നൂറുവർഷം • ശാസ്ത്ര ഗവേഷണത്തിനു യുറോപ്യൻ കമ്മീഷൻ നൽകുന്ന മേരി സ്കോഡോവ്സ്ക-കുറ്റി അക്ഷൻസ്

ഫെലോഷിപ്പ് (ഏകദേശം 1.90 കോടി രൂപ) മലപ്പുറം മരഞ്ചേരി സമുദായി രേഷ്മ കൃഷ്ണൻ മാതാളിനു ലഭിച്ചു.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഐസറിൽ പോസ്റ്റ് ഡോക്ടറൽ ഫെലോയാണ്. സ്മാർട്ട്നീൽഡിങ്ങുമാ യി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട തെർമോ ഇലക്ട്രിക് സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യ വികസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു സ്പെയിനിലെ നവാര യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിൽ 2 വർഷത്തെ ഗവേഷണത്തിനാണ് അവസരം.

ചേർത്തല സെന്റ് മൈക്കിൾസ് കോളജിൽനിന്ന് എഐസ്സി കെമിസ്ട്രിയും കുസാറ്റിൽനിന്നു എടൈക്കും പൂർത്തിയാക്കിയ രേഷ്മ നോർവേയിലെ യൂണി



### Research Award: ASPIRE

This academic year, two students, Ms. Nandana K. and Ms. Ranjima K. from the Department of Chemistry, Maharajas College, Ernakulam, received the Research Award (ASPIRE) under the guidance of Dr. Manoj Parameswaran from the Department of Chemistry, St. Michael's College, Chertthala.

### Marie Curie Fellowship

Our alumnus, Dr. Reshma Krishnan, has been awarded the prestigious Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship by the European Commission in 2025. Dr. Reshma completed her M.Sc. at the Department of Chemistry, St. Michael's College, Chertthala, and will now be joining the University of Navarra, Spain, under

this esteemed programme. Following her M.Sc., she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oslo, Norway, and is currently serving as a postdoctoral fellow at IISER, Thiruvananthapuram. Congratulations, Reshma!

### Workshop for Upper Primary and High School teachers on "Creative paths in Teaching Mathematics"

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), in collaboration with the Board of Education Alleppey Diocese (BEAD), organized a workshop for Upper Primary and High School teachers on the topic "Creative Paths in Teaching Mathematics" on January 7, 2025. Rev. Fr. Nelson Thaiparambil, Chairman of BEAD, presided over the session. The welcome

address was delivered by the college principal, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu S. Nair. The programme was inaugurated by Adv. George Arakal, former Director of Digital India Corporation, Government of India, former Director & Head of Corporate HRD at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Government of India, and former Registrar & CAO at the National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), Government of India. The college manager, Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Celestine Puthapurakal, gave the benedictory address. Prof. (Dr.) K. Satheesh Kumar, Visiting Professor, Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovations and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, was the resource person. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Manoj Parameswaran, IQAC coordinator. Around 40 teachers from various schools participated in the event.



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Printed & Published by:  
IQAC, St. Michael's College, Cherthala