

**CENTRE FOR GANDHIAN STUDIES**  
**ALPHONSA COLLEGE**  
**PALA, KERALA**



*Report*  
*2022-2023*

**CENTRE FOR GANDHIAN STUDIES**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

The Centre for Gandhian Studies of Alphonsa College, established in July 2008, continued its efforts to promote an understanding of Mahatma Gandhi and inculcate the values and ideals that he stood for during the year 2022-23. The Centre was able to organise several programmes based on different aspects of Gandhian thought and values.

### **GANDHI FORUM**

Gandhi Forum, an organisation of students functioning under the auspices of the Centre for Gandhian Studies, strives to promote an understanding of the values and ideals upheld by Mahatma Gandhi, and spearheads all the activities of the Centre. It provides an avenue for the all-round development of members, with their active participation in all the activities of the Centre. Members of the forum are also encouraged and deputed to participate in programmes organised by other institutions that promote an understanding of Mahatma Gandhi. During the academic year 2022-23, 76 students joined the Gandhi Forum. The Executive Committee of the Forum was reconstituted and the following office bearers were elected for the academic year 2022-23:

President: Bhagya M. Nair, III DC English

Vice President: Annette B. III DC English

Janet Shan Joy, II DC Clinical Nutrition and Dietetic

Secretary: Ann Maria Jose Keelath, III DC English

### **LIBRARY AND READING ROOM**

The Centre also maintains a Library and Reading Room with over 1300 books. This collection covers diverse themes that are relevant to the ideas and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. Besides books written on and by Gandhi the collection includes books on Indian history, polity and society, international peace and security, women's studies, environmental studies, human rights, etc.

## INVITED LECTURE

Commemorating 75 years of the theme 'Reflections on 75 Years of Independence' programme was Dr. John S. Moolakkattu, Professor of International Relations and Political Science, on the notions of freedom and the views of Tagore and Gandhi.



## INVITED LECTURE ON 'GANDHI AND POSTCOLONIAL THOUGHT'



An invited lecture on 'Gandhi and Postcolonial Thought' was organised by the Centre on 5 January 2023. The resource person for the programme was Dr. Mathew Joseph C. Professor, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi. In the overall framework of the theoretical notions of postcolonialism and Eurocentrism, Dr. Joseph put forth his arguments as to why Mahatma Gandhi needs to be taken into account as one of the first postcolonial thinkers and how he differed from

other early postcolonial thinkers.





**INVITED LECTURE ON ‘GANDHI: A CONTEMPORARY READING’**

An invited lecture on the theme ‘Gandhi: A Contemporary Reading’ was organised by on 14 January 2023. Dr. Sunil P. Elayidom, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, the Kerala Lalithkala Akademi Kesari two time recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Award, was the resource person and the chaired by Dr. K.M.Seethi, ICSSR Senior Mahatma Gandhi University. The was organised to honour Dr. Teresa Joseph, the Centre for Gandhian Studies on the her retirement. Dr.Sunil P. Elayidom gave a Gandhian principles as he spoke on Gandhi's views on modern civilization (which shifted focus from nature to natural resources, from human beings to citizens, from people to population, from knowledge to expertise); Gandhi's views on nationalism, and on religion. Providing a detailed account of the intricacies of Gandhi's last days, he emphasised the importance that Gandhi gave to the discovery of truth, even if it was at the cost of being inconsistent.



the Centre Professor, recipient of Award and Akademi session was Fellow, programme Director of occasion of fresh life to





## SEMINAR ON 'GANDHI'S WAY: THE HOPE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY'

The Centre for Gandhian Studies organised a 'Gandhi's Way: The Hope for Development in the 21st Century' seminar in collaboration with Meenachil Taluk Library Council on 5 July 2022 at the Pala Municipal Library Hall. Dr. (Professor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad) was the key speaker at the seminar. The programme was inaugurated by Sri Anto Jose Padinjarakara, Pala Municipal Library Council; Sri Babu K. George, Kottayam District Library Council; Sri Roy Secretary, Meenachil Taluk Library Council; Sri Thomas Peter, Standing Committee for Education, Pala Municipality; and Sri C.K.Unnikrishnan, Joint Secretary, Meenachil Taluk Library Council.



seminar on 'Gandhi's Way: The Hope for Development in the 21st Century' was the key inaugurated Chairman. Meenachil President, Francis,

Booklets published by CGS on the Right to Information Act, Waste Management, Living with Nature, Hazards of Plastic and the Problems of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse were given to all the participants of the programme. The programme was organised as part of the CGS objective of promoting an understanding and awareness of the message of Mahatma Gandhi among the public.



## **DONATION OF BOOKS TO MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, PALA**

The Centre gifted a collection of 46 books written on and by Mahatma Gandhi to the Municipal Library, Pala. The books were handed over by the Principal of Alphonsa College – Dr. Sr. Regeenamma Joseph to Sri Babu K. George, President of the Kottayam District Library Council and Sri Roy Francis, Secretary of the Meenachil Taluk Library Council at the Pala Municipal Library Hall on 5 July 2022.



## **TALK AND DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKLETS AGAINST ALCOHOLISM IN PALA SUB JAIL**

CGS Coordinators Rosmy Kattoor and Ashley Thomas spoke at the valedictory function of the anti alcoholism drive in the Pala Sub-Jail. Copies of the booklet on the Problems of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse published by the Centre were distributed among the inmates of the jail.



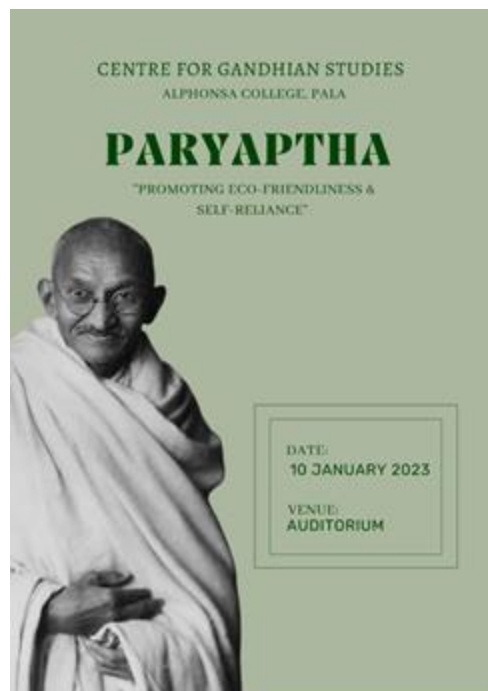
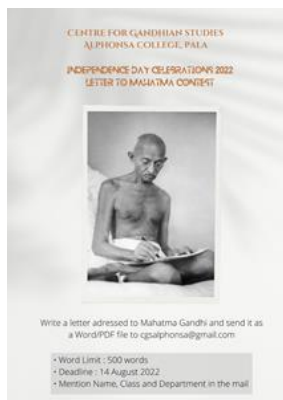


## **“PARYAPTHA 2023” PROMOTING ECO- FRIENDLY SELF RELIANCE**

The Centre organized *Paryaptha*

2023, an exhibition cum sale of handmade items by students and teachers on 10 January 2023 with the objective of inculcating the ideals of self-reliance, women empowerment and sustainable development among students. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Sr. Regeenamma Joseph, Principal, Alphonsa College. Traditional food items, handicrafts, bags, jewellery, clothing, towels, organic fruits and vegetables, recycled art items, homemade detergents, etc. were on sale. As in the previous year, the focus on organizing an exhibition with ‘zero waste’ was a

prime objective. Items like plastic bags, disposable plates, cups and spoons, tissue papers and paper posters were prohibited. Our students proved that it is possible to think beyond plastics and disposable packing material yet conduct a grand sale cum exhibition. Numerous innovative ideas for carrying forward the message of ‘zero waste’ were major attractions. Another highlight of the programme was a stall by teachers, exhibiting items they had made themselves, which provided motivation to the students. The programme was the possibility of organizing such events in an manner. The Department of Botany won the Department that best embodied the spirit of Devika Ajayakumar of III DC Economics won student with the most innovative idea.



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eco-friendly  
prize for the  
*Paryaptha* and  
the prize for the



## **PHOTO EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING MARTYRS DAY**

A photo exhibition of Mahatma Gandhi as well as posters depicting his philosophy was held on 30 January to commemorate 75 years of his martyrdom.



## **PRAYANA 2K22: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE LIFE OF MAHATMA**

A quiz competition series – Prayana 2K22 based on Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography was organised by the Centre for the students of the college. Anna Dominic of III DC History was the overall winner of the series. This journey through the life of the Mahatma was organised by the office bearers of C

Ann Maria Jose Keelath, Annette B. and Bhagya M. Nair.

## **LETTER WRITING COMPETITION**

A letter to Mahatma Contest was organised by the Centre in connection with Independence Day. The prize winners were Anna Dominic of III DC History, Vani Pradeep of II DC History, and Delna Martin of III DC History.



## CAPTION WRITING COMPETITION

A caption writing Contest was organised by the Centre in connection with Gandhi Jayanthi. The prize winners were Taniya Augustine of II MA English, Jomol Varkey of II MA English and Ruhama Oommen of III DC CND.

## CAMPUS CLEANING PROGRAMME

A campus cleaning programme was organised by the Centre as part of Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations.



## GANDHI FORUM: ALUMNAE MEETING

An alumnae meeting of Gandhi Forum members and a farewell meeting in honour of Dr. Teresa Joseph, Director, Centre for Gandhian Studies, was held on 17 January. The alumnae spoke of their experiences with the Gandhi Forum and the impact that it had on their lives. The programme also served as a motivation for the current members of the Gandhi Forum.





