

## **ALPHONSA COLLEGE, PALA**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2024–25**

#### **Introduction**

The academic year 2024–25 was marked by significant achievements, institutional growth, and continued progress in academics, research, infrastructure development, student engagement, and community outreach. The year reflected Alphonsa College's sustained commitment to excellence, innovation, and holistic education. Through a wide range of academic, co-curricular, and extension activities, the institution continued to strengthen its legacy of nurturing responsible citizens and future leaders.

#### **KEY EVENTS**

##### **Academic Excellence: Nurturing Minds, Inspiring Achievement**

Academic excellence remained a hallmark of the institution during the academic year 2024–25. Toppers' Day, held on 6 June 2024, recognized outstanding academic achievers who set new benchmarks of excellence. Alphonsa College secured 42 university ranks, the highest among all affiliated institutions. This remarkable achievement included 3 students who earned the prestigious S Grade and 65 students who secured A+ Grade distinctions.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of the students and the committed mentorship provided by the faculty. The institution's leading position in university rankings further underscores its academic distinction.

##### **Pioneering Educational Innovation: First Batch of FYUGP**

The academic year witnessed the admission of the first batch of students under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), introduced in alignment with the National Education Policy to promote flexible and multidisciplinary learning. A week-long orientation programme, inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Babu Michael, familiarized students with the programme structure, career opportunities, and skill-development components.

##### **Revised College Timings and Career Development Initiatives**

The college revised its working hours to 9:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. to accommodate the evolving needs of students. The revised schedule enabled students to pursue part-time employment opportunities and participate in coaching programmes for PSC, SSC, and banking examinations.

### **Infrastructure Developments**

Several infrastructure enhancement projects were completed during the year. These included the installation of a statue of St. Alphonsa in the front courtyard, renovation of the library and auditorium, establishment of a multimedia hall and VIP lounge, and extensive campus beautification initiatives. These developments contributed to the creation of a more enriching academic environment and were realized through the support of the management and the leadership of Bursar Fr. Kuriakose Vellachalil.

### **Alphonsian Week: Commemorating the Patron Saint**

Alphonsian Week, celebrated from 22–25 July 2024, commemorated St. Alphonsa through a series of academic, cultural, spiritual, and humanitarian activities. The programme included an inaugural ceremony, intercollegiate competitions, cultural performances, community outreach initiatives, and a special prayer service.

### **Diamond Jubilee Valedictory Function**

The valedictory function of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations was held on 9 October 2024. The event was attended by Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Tourism, as Chief Guest. The programme was presided over by His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, and the keynote address was delivered by Monsignor Dr. Joseph Thadathil. The occasion highlighted the institution's rich legacy and future aspirations.

### **Alphonsian Flea Market: A Platform for Student Entrepreneurs**

The Alphonsian Flea Market was introduced as a weekly initiative held every Monday to promote entrepreneurship among students. The platform enabled students to market handmade

crafts, books, food products, and other innovative creations, fostering creativity, self-reliance, and business skills.

### **New College Union**

The College Union election was conducted on 17 October 2024. The elected office bearers were:

- Chairperson – Fayiza Rasheed
- Vice Chairperson – Nayana Babu
- General Secretary – Parvathy Krishna
- Arts Club Secretary – Ann Mariya Mol Sojan
- University Union Councillors – Bisna James and Anna Shaji
- Magazine Editor – Bhagyalekshmi P.
- PG Representatives – Bhagya M. Nair and Nikitha S.
- III DC Representative – Alphiya Francis
- II DC Representative – Anley Roy
- I DC Representative – Sruthymol S.

The College Union was officially inaugurated on 12 December 2024.

### **Diamond Jubilee Memorial All Kerala Elocution Competition**

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, an All Kerala Elocution Competition was conducted for higher secondary students in English and Malayalam. The final round was held on January 11, 2025, on the topic “Artificial Intelligence: Scopes and Challenges.” Cash prizes worth ₹50,000 were awarded to the winners, encouraging intellectual engagement and the development of public speaking skills among young scholars.

### **Alumni Meet and Literary Fest**

The Alumni Meet Alstagia 2K25 and the Intercollegiate Dance Fest were successfully conducted. A special highlight of the event was the release of a poetry collection authored by

Prof. Rebecca Susan Margaret, former faculty member of the Department of English, on January 25, 2025.

### **College Youth Festival – Kalaivani 2025**

The College Youth Festival, Kalaivani 2025, was held on January 16, 17, and 18, 2025. The festival provided a platform for students to showcase their artistic and cultural talents, strengthening the institution's commitment to holistic education.

### **38th Bishop Vayalil Memorial All Kerala Intercollegiate Quiz Competition**

The 38th Bishop Vayalil Memorial All Kerala Intercollegiate Quiz Competition was held on January 20, 2025, with enthusiastic participation from colleges across Kerala.

### **PTA General Body Meeting**

The PTA General Body Meeting was held on February 21, 2025. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Siby Joseph, Principal of St. George's College, Aruvithura, and the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Mini Sebastian, Assistant Professor, Devamatha College, Kuravilangad.

### **Annual Sports Day**

The 60th Annual Sports Day was conducted on February 25, 2025, with the participation of students, teachers, and administrative staff in 12 events.

### **Learning and Earning Recognition Award**

The Learning and Earning Recognition Award ceremony was conducted on March 6, 2025. Students were honoured during the programme, with Dr. Pramila Devi serving as the Chief Guest.

### **Arts Club Inauguration and Miss Alphonsa Pageant**

The Arts Club Inauguration was held on March 7, 2025. Renowned playback singer Libin Zachariah was the Chief Guest. The programme also featured the Miss Alphonsia Pageant Competition.

### **College Merit Day**

The College Merit Day was scheduled for March 10, 2025, with Shri Thomas Peter, Chairperson of Pala Municipality, as the Chief Guest.

## **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **NAAC 5th Cycle: A Crowning Achievement**

A significant milestone of the academic year was the NAAC 5th Cycle Accreditation Visit conducted on October 30–31, 2024. The NAAC Peer Team comprising Prof. Arindam Gupta, Prof. Vijayalakshmi Dega, and Dr. Mary Angeline Santhosam conducted a comprehensive assessment of the institution.

Alphonsa College, Pala was reaccredited with an A+ grade, securing a CGPA of 3.33. The achievement reflects strategic planning, institutional commitment, and collaborative efforts of the college community. The accreditation acknowledges the institution's educational vision and academic practices.

### **DST-FIST Grant Achievement**

Alphonsa College, Pala received the DST-FIST grant of ₹85 lakhs to enhance research infrastructure through laboratory upgradation with advanced equipment and to promote scientific innovation. The grant supports faculty and student research, interdisciplinary collaborations, and industry linkages. Improved facilities and specialised training programmes contribute towards strengthening the institution as a centre for scientific research and innovation.

### **DST CURIE**

Alphonsa College was selected for the DST CURIE Project 2024 and received a grant worth ₹64 lakhs. The project aims to strengthen research infrastructure and enhance opportunities for women in STEM fields.

### **Professorship**

Dr. Sr. Minimol Mathew (Malayalam), Dr. Minu Joy (Physics), and Dr. Jesty Emmanuel (Hindi) were awarded professorships in recognition of their academic contributions to their respective disciplines.

## **KIRF Ranking**

Alphonsa College secured the 49th position in the college category in the latest KIRF rankings, reflecting its continued commitment to academic and institutional excellence.

## **NSS Activities and Achievements**

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of Alphonsa College made significant contributions to social service and community engagement during the academic year. NSS volunteers constructed 35 houses for underprivileged families, demonstrating their commitment to social welfare initiatives. The college received the prestigious Moses Award at the university level in recognition of outstanding NSS activities.

Rev. Dr. Shaji John was awarded the Best NSS-Friendly Principal award, while Dr. Simimole Sebastian was recognised as the Best Programme Officer for exemplary leadership and coordination. Ms. Asha V. Martin received the Best NSS Volunteer award, highlighting the dedication and service-oriented spirit of the students.

## **Achievements in Sports**

### **College Achievements**

- Alphonsa College secured MG University Championships in Athletics and achieved top positions in various sports disciplines, including Basketball, Kho-Kho, and Swimming.
- The college successfully organised major sporting events, including the 42nd MG University Athletics Championship and the MG University 3x3 Basketball Championship.
- College teams performed exceptionally well in intercollegiate and state-level competitions, securing several championships.

### **Student Achievements**

- Several students represented Kerala and Mahatma Gandhi University at All India Inter-University and National Championships, winning medals in Athletics, Basketball, Volleyball, and Cross Country.

- Krishnapriya S secured second place in the Senior National Basketball Championship. Other students secured silver and bronze medals in relay and individual track events.
- Athletes from the college achieved notable positions in state and national championships in events including discus throw, high jump, and marathon.
- The Department of Physical Education played an important role in training and mentoring students for national-level competitions.

### **Student Achievements in Extra Curricular Realm**

#### **Speech and Elocution Competitions – Leenu K Jose (Second DC English)**

Leenu K Jose secured recognition in various prestigious speech and elocution competitions:

- ORMA International Speech Competition 2024 – First Place.
- Inter-University Elocution Competition (Chavara Cultural Centre) – Third Place.
- Dr. Sukumar Azhikode Memorial All Kerala Elocution Competition – Second Place.
- Prof. P. A. Alikunju Endowment Speech Competition (Al-Ameen College, Edathala) – First Place.
- C. M. Stephen Memorial Elocution Competition (St. Joseph's College, Alappuzha) – Second Place.
- Physica Scientific Extempore (St. Thomas College, Pala) – First Place.
- Co-operative Week Elocution Competition (Meenachil Circle Co-operative Union) – First Place.
- Co-operative Week Essay Writing Competition (Meenachil Circle Co-operative Union) – Second Place.

Additional student achievements include:

- Nehmat Ann (Second DC English) authored and published a poetry collection titled *Untethered*.

- Aparna Viswam, Anna Carolin George, and Milla Liz Tom (Second DC English) won the prestigious ever-rolling trophy at the All Kerala Literary Fest held at KE College, Mannanam.

## **ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENTS**

### **Department of Botany**

The Department of Botany conducted various academic and extension activities including field visits, tree diversity audits, organic farming initiatives on campus, workshops, invited talks, quiz competitions, and alumni lectures.

### **Department of Chemistry**

The Department of Chemistry organised community extension activities, workshops, invited talks, field visits, observance of important days, and training programmes for students.

### **Department of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics**

The department conducted a range of programmes including recipe competitions, nutritional assessment of students within the college and other schools, diet counselling for the public, faculty-led community talks, sessions on mental and physical well-being, awareness programmes supported through flashmob and skit presentations, and community nutrition projects.

### **Department of Commerce**

The Department of Commerce introduced innovative programmes such as product development workshops, international webinars, seminars, career guidance programmes, training classes, soft skill development sessions, and interdepartmental competitions.

### **Department of Economics**

The Department of Economics organised activities aimed at academic enrichment, community engagement, and social awareness. The initiatives included budget analysis, competitions, women empowerment sessions, entrepreneurship programmes, Young Economist Quiz Series,

educational visits, used book collection drives, financial literacy surveys, and household-level financial literacy campaigns.

### **Postgraduate Department of English**

The Postgraduate Department of English organised various academic and extracurricular activities including the “Gift in Green” campaign on Environment Day, a face painting competition for Independence Day, and literary and speech competitions.

Major academic events included the inauguration of the Rev. Dr. Jose Joseph Pulavelil Memorial Lecture Series, the first lecture delivered by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, a session by poet S. Joseph, an ICSSR-sponsored national seminar, and the release of poetry collections by faculty members and students.

The department also recorded academic achievements, with students securing top positions in examinations, winning prestigious competitions, and qualifying for NET and PhD programmes.

### **PG Department of English (Self-Financing)**

The department conducted academic and extracurricular activities including a tree-planting drive on World Environment Day, alumni meet, workshops, and invited lectures.

### **B.Voc Fashion Technology Department**

The department organised programmes including a 3D embroidery training session, National Handloom Day quiz, embroidery sewing machine demonstration, grooming and model selection workshop, seminar on Silk Mark, skill training programme for school students, and a Christmas Flea Market.

### **Department of Hindi**

The Department of Hindi conducted academic and literary activities including an intercollegiate elocution competition and an invited talk by Dr. Jesty Emmanuel. Dr. Jesty Emmanuel also published a book and presented a research paper at an international seminar.

National Hindi Week was celebrated with competitions in reading, essay writing, poetry writing, handwriting, and film review.

### **Department of History**

The Department of History conducted academic, cultural, and outreach activities including competitions, awareness sessions, heritage visits, book exhibitions, health and hygiene awareness programmes, paper pen-making workshops, invited talks, and film screenings.

### **Department of Malayalam**

The Department of Malayalam organised various literary, cultural, and academic activities including competitions, workshops, seminars, and celebrations, promoting student creativity, linguistic awareness, and cultural engagement.

### **Department of Mathematics**

The Department of Mathematics achieved a 100% pass rate and conducted various seminars, workshops, and competitions. The department also organised outreach programmes, skill-based training initiatives, and celebrations of significant events such as National Mathematics Day.

### **Department of Physics**

The Department of Physics conducted various academic, research, and outreach activities during 2024–25, including talk series, exhibitions, workshops, and industrial visits. Major initiatives such as Innovanza-2025, Sparkz Exhibition, and community-oriented programmes promoted scientific curiosity, sustainability, and skill development among students.

### **Political Science Association**

The Political Science Association conducted academic and co-curricular activities including workshops, lectures, study tours, and alumni meetings, contributing to student engagement, knowledge enhancement, and academic development.

### **B.Voc Sports Nutrition and Physiotherapy**

The department observed Environment Day through a sapling plantation programme and conducted a Christmas Flea Market as part of student engagement activities.

### **PG and Research Department of Zoology**

The PG and Research Department of Zoology organised diverse academic, research, and outreach programmes including the establishment of a Butterfly Garden, career guidance programmes, and medical coding courses.

Students participated in field visits, workshops, national seminars, and sustainability-focused initiatives while also achieving success in intercollegiate activities. The academic year concluded with study tours, wellness programmes, and the release of the manuscript magazine *ZOONIVERSE*.

### **ACTIVITIES OF CLUBS**

#### **NSS Unit**

The NSS Unit of Alphonsa College made significant contributions to social service initiatives by constructing 35 houses for underprivileged families and receiving the prestigious Moses Award. Faculty members and students received recognition for their contributions, including the Best NSS-Friendly Principal award, Best Programme Officer award, and Best NSS Volunteer award.

#### **NCC**

NCC cadets of Alphonsa College participated in various national camps, including EBSB Camps in Maharashtra and Kerala, Army Attachment Camp with the Garhwal Regiment, Basic Mountaineering Camp at Manali, Pre-RDC Camp, and All India Trekking Expedition. These programmes enhanced leadership skills, discipline, and training among cadets.

#### **Forum for Democracy and Social Justice (FDSJ)**

The Forum for Democracy and Social Justice conducted competitions and awareness programmes on Gandhi Jayanti, Constitution Day, and Human Rights Day. These initiatives encouraged students to engage with themes related to democratic values, constitutional rights, governance, and human rights awareness.

#### **Centre for Gandhian Studies**

The Centre for Gandhian Studies organised various programmes including World Environment Day celebrations, Independence Day programmes, a quiz series based on Gandhi's autobiography, and a lecture by Shri Tushar Gandhi.

The programme *Paryaptha 2025* showcased handmade products promoting self-reliance, creativity, and sustainability.

### **EBSB Club**

The EBSB Club released a digital magazine and conducted cultural activities. The Electoral Literacy Club organised a Voter Enrolment Drive, through which 74 students were registered, securing the 11th position among participating colleges.

### **IEDC**

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Cell (IEDC) of Alphonsa College, Pala organised initiatives including an Idea Competition on waste management, the Alphonsian Flea Market, and an Idea Hackathon focusing on sustainable alternatives to plastics. These programmes encouraged innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship among students.

### **Career and Placement Cell**

The Career and Placement Cell conducted workshops, skill development programmes, career orientation sessions, and internship opportunities to enhance students' employability and career readiness.

### **SC/ST Monitoring Cell**

The SC/ST Monitoring Cell conducted an awareness session on scholarships, financial assistance, and free coaching opportunities for 41 students on February 17, 2025.

### **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**

The initiatives under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan included awareness programmes on nutrition, health, hygiene, emotional intelligence, and preventive healthcare in various schools.

Financial literacy campaigns and skill development workshops on embroidery, flower making, and fabric painting were also conducted, strengthening community engagement and promoting holistic development.

### **Women's Cell**

The Women's Cell organised various programmes focusing on empowerment, gender awareness, legal literacy, and cultural expression. Major initiatives included the Orange the World Campaign, International Women's Day celebrations, and the release of the annual manuscript *Avarniya*.

These activities promoted creativity, leadership qualities, and social awareness among students.

### **OBITUARIES**

The institution remembers with deep respect the members of the college community who passed away during the year:

- Vidyalekshmi (M.A English Student)
- Treesa James (II DC History Student)
- Prof. Thresiamma Paul (Former Head of the Department of Botany)
- Sr. Henry Suso FCC (Former Teacher, Department of English)
- Dr. Thankamma Varkey (Former Head of the Department of Chemistry)
- Sr. Lioba (Former Teacher, Department of Chemistry)

Their valuable contributions to the institution and the wider community remain significant and will continue to be remembered.

### **RETIRING STAFF**

The academic year marked the retirement of distinguished members of the teaching and administrative staff who rendered years of dedicated service to Alphonsa College.

Rev. Dr. Shaji John, Principal of the institution, retired after providing effective leadership and contributing significantly to the progress and development of the college.

Dr. Jesty Emmanuel, Professor, Department of Hindi, retired after making notable academic contributions in the field of Hindi studies.

The institution also acknowledged the contributions of Ms. Bijimol Joseph, Librarian, and Mr. Boscochan Thomas, administrative staff member, for their valuable service and commitment.

### **New Appointments**

The institution welcomed the newly appointed faculty members:

- Dr. Fr. Jobin Sebastian – Department of Political Science
- Sandra James – Department of Economics
- Dr. Sr. Elsin SH – Department of Chemistry

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **Looking Ahead: A Future of Promise and Growth**

The academic year reflected significant achievements, academic progress, research developments, student accomplishments, and community-oriented initiatives. The institution continues to focus on opportunities for growth, innovation, excellence, and inclusive education. With continued commitment towards academic advancement, leadership development, and social responsibility, Alphonsa College remains dedicated to its vision of providing meaningful educational experiences aligned with the college motto, "Lighted for Life."