ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, THUMBA
Thiruvananthapuram– 695 586
Affiliated to the University of Kerala
NAAC Re-Accredited with A grade of CGPA 3.22
Website: www.stxaviersthumba.ac.in, Email: principalthumba@yahoo.com
Ph: 0471-2705254

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, THUMBA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026

INTRODUCTION

The academic year 2025–2026 was a year of active academic engagement, institutional development, research, student achievement, community outreach and social responsibility at St. Xavier's College, Thumba. In keeping with its vision of building a knowledge society founded on compassion, equity and justice, the College continued to provide students with opportunities for intellectual, professional, social, cultural and personal growth.

The year witnessed sustained activity across the academic departments, clubs, associations, cells, student-support mechanisms and outreach initiatives of the College. Classroom teaching was complemented by seminars, conferences, research activities, field visits, international exposure, environmental programmes, career guidance, entrepreneurship initiatives, cultural engagements, community service and leadership development.

The transition to the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme continued to shape the academic environment. Departments monitored student performance, identified areas requiring support and created opportunities for experiential and interdisciplinary learning. At the same time, the College continued to strengthen research and scholarly engagement through publications, academic conferences, seminars and collaborations.

Student formation remained a central concern throughout the year. International cultural exchange, film festivals, scientific exhibitions, field studies, professional training, entrepreneurship programmes, NCC camps, AICUF activities and community outreach helped students develop confidence, leadership, teamwork and social awareness.

The College also continued to engage meaningfully with its coastal surroundings and neighbouring communities. Initiatives relating to sea erosion, fisherwomen, environmental conservation, biodiversity, cleanliness, anti-drug awareness, climate change and community welfare reflected the institution's commitment to social justice and responsible citizenship.

The following report presents the major academic, research, co-curricular, extension and institutional activities undertaken during the academic year 2025–2026.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry continued its focus on academic development, environmental awareness, alumni engagement and student progression during 2025–2026. The Department undertook a systematic analysis of student performance across the CBCSS and FYUGP programmes. The final-year CBCSS batch of 2023–2026 had 16 students in Semester V, of

whom 8 passed, recording a pass percentage of 50%. Among the second-year FYUGP students of 2024–2027, 7 out of 18 students passed Semester I, recording 38.8%; 5 out of 18 passed Semester II, recording 27.7%; and 11 out of 16 passed Semester III, recording 68.7%. The improvement in Semester III was encouraging. The first-year FYUGP batch of 2025–2028 comprised 22 students, of whom 14 passed Semester I, recording 63.6%. The results provide useful indicators for strengthening academic mentoring and targeted support.

Environmental awareness remained an important area of departmental activity. Environment Day was observed on 5 June 2025, while Ozone Day was also observed to promote awareness of environmental protection. In collaboration with Blue Green Coastal Resources, the Department undertook an extension initiative connected with the coastal environment, followed by sea-water sampling on 13 March 2026. These activities enabled students to apply scientific knowledge to practical environmental concerns.

The Chemistry Association was inaugurated during the year, providing students with opportunities for academic interaction and participation. Science Day was observed on 25 February 2026, promoting scientific curiosity and appreciation of scientific inquiry. The Department also maintained links with its alumni through the Akhil Memorial Scholarship held on 11 August 2025 and an alumni interaction conducted on 17 October 2025. A programme on Opportunities in Higher Education was organised in March 2026 to familiarise students with avenues for postgraduate studies and further academic development.

The Department's activities during the year reflected a balanced commitment to academic achievement, scientific awareness, environmental responsibility, alumni engagement and student progression.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MEDIA STUDIES

The Department of English and Media Studies had a vibrant and academically productive year, integrating literary and media studies with cultural engagement, international exposure, experiential learning, professional development and community outreach. The Department offered the FYUGP in English and Media Studies together with AECs, MDCs, VACs, SECs, DSEs and Minor 2 courses. During the year, the Department had eight faculty members and 118 students, comprising 45 first-year, 35 second-year and 38 third-year students.

The Department began the academic year with an Environment Day Celebration on 5 June 2025 in association with Sasthravedhi. The programme addressed plastic pollution and environmental responsibility and included a creative re-enactment of Indira Gandhi's Stockholm speech.

A major highlight was the International Cultural Exchange Programme 2025, held from 15 to 20 June 2025 in collaboration with Xavier Outreach Services and ITE College East, Singapore. Twenty students and two faculty members from Singapore participated in cultural and academic interactions. The programme included a beach clean-up at St Andrews, campus

activities, a visit to Santhwanam Destitute Centre and a farewell programme. The exchange significantly strengthened intercultural understanding and provided students with international exposure.

The Department released its magazine BeamSprings on 21 August 2025, creating opportunities for students to develop their literary, editorial and creative abilities. On the same day, CineX Film Club was inaugurated along with a World Classics Film Festival organised in collaboration with FILCA. The programme was inaugurated by renowned film critic Mr Vijayakrishnan. The screenings and discussions enabled students to engage critically with cinema and visual culture.

World Food Day was celebrated on 16 October 2025 with a Thanksgiving gathering at XOS Hall. The student e-magazine The Culinary Chronicle was released on the occasion. The publication emerged from the AEC course English – Food, Literature and Culture and demonstrated the interdisciplinary character of the Department.

The Department Association was inaugurated on 11 November 2025. The Department also conducted Be a Secret Santa 2.0 on 19 December 2025, encouraging students to practise sharing, empathy and social responsibility. Students further distinguished themselves by becoming Champions of EKATHRA 2025.

Professional development received particular attention. An orientation on the Importance of Communication Skills in Tourism and Hospitality was conducted on 19 February 2026, followed by a Resume Preparation Workshop on 2 March 2026. An Academic Colloquium was organised on 9 March 2026, providing a platform for intellectual interaction.

A major academic milestone was the launch of BEACON – Annual Conclave on Narratives. Its inaugural edition featured a two-day international seminar on "Women in Literature and Media: Representation, Resistance and Rewriting Narratives" on 17–18 March 2026, organised in collaboration with the Women's Study Centre. The seminar provided an interdisciplinary platform for examining gender, representation, resistance and narrative transformation.

On 18 March 2026, the Department organised an educational visit to the 6th Kochi-Muziris Biennale at Fort Kochi. Fifty-three first- and second-year students participated. The visit was connected with courses including The Art of Storytelling, Digital Media Dynamics and World Classics and strengthened students' aesthetic appreciation, media literacy and understanding of contemporary art.

The Department's activities demonstrated a comprehensive model of education that combines literature, media, culture, international exposure, professional preparation, social responsibility and experiential learning.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The Department of Physics continued to promote academic excellence, scientific awareness, research and experiential learning during 2025–2026. The Physics Association was inaugurated on 22 August 2025, followed by the observance of National Space Day on 23 August. A World Science Day Quiz Competition was conducted on 10 November 2025 for higher secondary students, promoting scientific curiosity among younger learners. An invited lecture on the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology was organised on 21 November 2025. The Department also conducted the monthly Scientia series, through which students presented the lives, contributions and innovations of scientists.

A major academic achievement was PADARTHA 2026, organised jointly with the Department of Botany and Biotechnology from 12 to 14 January 2026. The eleventh edition of PADARTHA provided a platform for research scholars, with more than 80 scholars presenting research papers.

The Department organised a visit to the Quantum Century Exhibition at Government College for Women on 20 February 2026. Twelve undergraduate and postgraduate students were selected as demonstrators at the exhibition held from 19 to 24 February 2026 and received internship certificates from CUSAT. National Science Day was observed on 26 February 2026.

The Department recorded varied academic results. The MSc Physics 2023 admission batch recorded 6 passes out of 8 students, or 75%, while the BSc Physics 2022 admission batch recorded 8 passes out of 17, or 47%. The FYUGP Physics 2024 admission batch recorded 73.33% in Semester I, 46.67% in Semester II and 53.33% in Semester III. The FYUGP Physics 2025 admission batch recorded 83.33% in Semester I. The BSc Physics 2023 admission batch recorded 52.38% in Semester I, 33.33% in Semester II, 23.8% in Semester III, 38.09% in Semester IV and 47.61% in Semester V. The Department recognised the need for sustained academic support in some undergraduate batches.

Research remained a major strength. Dr Renju R. Krishnan published two papers in Q1 journals and was selected as a Distinguished Speaker at the Advanced Materials World Congress 2026 in Rome. Dr Sheeja Mol G. P. published an international journal paper and a book chapter, while Mr Sujith N. S. published two papers in international journals. Pournami J. S., S2 MSc Physics, was selected for the NSP Central Sector Scholarship.

The Department also identified attendance and the balancing of extracurricular participation with academic requirements as areas requiring continued attention. Overall, the year was marked by scientific engagement, research achievement, student participation and academic development.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Department of Botany and Biotechnology had a productive year marked by academic achievement, research, experiential learning, environmental engagement and emerging industry linkages. An orientation on Organic Farming and Orchid Cultivation was organised for students, including a visit to a seaside orchid farm. The programme was facilitated by Sri Vinoo Karthikeyan, recipient of the Kerala Government's Best Horticulturist Award in 2013.

A seminar on "Recent Frontiers in Microbiome Research: From Dysbiosis to Pharma-biotics" was held on 12 September 2025, exposing students to emerging developments in microbiome research. Students also participated in field-based learning through visits to a farm, Pirappamankad Paddy Field and Ripple Tea Factory. Students taking the MDC course visited Karunasai De-addiction Centre on 14 August 2025, gaining exposure to social and public-health concerns.

Environmental awareness was strengthened through the Department's collaboration with the Nature Club in observing World Environment Day on 5 June 2025. The programme included sapling planting and a photography contest. World Food Day was observed on 16 October 2025 with a seminar on Food Safety and Public Health, supported by the Food Safety Department, Government of Kerala. The Water for All – Humans and Wings Alike initiative on 19 April 2026 promoted biodiversity awareness and care for birds.

The Department organised a seminar on Biotechnology Start-ups as Catalysts for a Sustainable Future on 21 January 2026 and a webinar on Medical Coding on 16 February 2026. It also co-organised PADARTHA 2026 with the Department of Physics.

Research was a significant strength. Faculty members published research in national and international journals in areas including nanotechnology, tumour biology, neuroprotection, oxidative stress, plant-based therapeutic compounds, cancer research and nephrotoxicity. The Department also contributed papers to conference proceedings in areas including tumour vasculature, antibiotic degradation, computational drug evaluation and human papillomavirus targets.

The student YouTube channel SCIO PLANTA provided a platform for students to communicate scientific ideas through digital media. The Department also strengthened institutional linkages through MoUs with Bioroot Exploration Pvt. Ltd. and Biovent.

Academic performance was encouraging. The Semester V CBCSS batch recorded 9 passes out of 14 students, or 64%; the First Year FYUGP Semester I batch recorded 18 passes out of 22, or 82%; and the Second Year FYUGP Semester III batch recorded 16 passes out of 17, or 94%.

The Department continued to demonstrate an integrated approach combining teaching, research, environmental responsibility, field learning, digital communication and industry interaction.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The academic and enrichment activities recorded during the year included a Reading Day programme on 20 June 2025, encouraging students to cultivate reading as an academic and personal habit. A field visit to Anchuthengu Fort and Attingal Palace on 14 August 2025 provided experiential exposure to Kerala's historical and cultural heritage. An Orientation-cum-Motivation Class was conducted on 3 November 2025 to encourage academic engagement.

The Department of Philosophy organised Yoga Practical Training on 17 February 2026 and a programme on Professional Ethics on 17 March 2026, highlighting physical well-being and ethical responsibility. The Department of Political Science observed Constitution Day on 26 November 2025 and organised a two-day national seminar on "Role of Judiciary and Media in Protecting Democracy and Constitution" on 28–29 January 2026.

The available result data indicates considerable variation across batches. For the First Semester FYUGP 2025 admission, 12 out of 40 students passed, recording 30%. For the Third Semester FYUGP 2024 admission, 13 out of 33 students passed, recording 39.39%, while another recorded result was 8 out of 29, or 27.58%. For the fifth-semester batch admitted in 2023, the recorded figures included 8/42, or 19.04%; 20/42, or 47.6%; 21/41, or 51.2%; and 23/40, or 57.5%.

The results highlight the importance of continued academic mentoring, remedial teaching, attendance monitoring and individual student support.

CLUBS, CELLS, UNITS AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

CAREER GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT UNIT

The Career Guidance and Placement Unit was formally constituted on 28 July 2025, with Dr Nisha Rani D as Coordinator/Placement Officer and Dr Siji Michael and Dr Elsa Elizabeth Jacob as Members/Joint Coordinators. The Unit worked to strengthen career awareness, employability and students' preparedness for higher education and employment.

The Unit established a dedicated WhatsApp communication group, prepared a College Promotional Video, supported the Civil Service Club and organised interview training, placement sessions and activities connected with a Mega Job Fair. Career awareness initiatives included Career Jwala and Unlocking Opportunities through DWMS.

An orientation on How to Crack the Campus Interview and a master class on Personal Branding for Freshers: Mastering Interview Etiquettes helped students develop confidence and professional skills. On 11 February 2026, Enbridge conducted its Talento aptitude test for

final-year students from all nine departments. A Resume Preparation Workshop was conducted for students of English and Media Studies.

Through these activities, the Unit established a more structured approach to career preparation by combining career awareness, aptitude assessment, interview training, personal branding, resume development and placement activities. Future priorities include strengthening employer linkages, expanding campus recruitment, systematic career counselling and comprehensive placement tracking.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB

The Entrepreneurship Club, coordinated by Dr Shijumon K. J. and Ms Sherine Fredy, worked to promote entrepreneurial thinking, innovation, initiative and practical business skills among students.

The Club conducted a Snacks Counter, Trade Fest, VISTA activities and a Snacks Fest. Trade Fest 2026, inaugurated by the Principal, gave students direct experience of business and marketing. Through VISTA – Visionary Initiative for Student Led Transformation and Action, members attended training and participated in an orientation programme. The Snacks Fest provided studentpreneurs with a platform to introduce their ventures to the campus community.

The Club had 40 student members and applied for formal registration with the Industries Department, Government of Kerala. A current account was also opened at SBI Pallithura.

The implementation of some planned activities was affected by examinations, tight academic schedules, registration delays and financial constraints. Nevertheless, the year marked important progress towards developing an institutional culture of entrepreneurship and student-led enterprise. Future efforts may focus on strengthening mentoring, external partnerships, funding and integration with the academic calendar.

AICUF

The All India Catholic University Federation Unit continued to promote leadership, social commitment, environmental responsibility, justice and community engagement.

On 30 June 2025, AICUF participated in a community service drive at Pallithura to respond to sea erosion. In collaboration with Xavier Outreach Services and student volunteers from NCC, NSS and other clubs, volunteers filled and placed sandbags along vulnerable sections of the shoreline.

On 4 November 2025, AICUF joined the observance of World Fisher Women's Day in collaboration with XOS, NCC Naval Wing, Women's Study Centre and NSS. The programme recognised the contribution of fisherwomen and created awareness about livelihood insecurity, occupational risks and social marginalisation.

A three-day residential Youth Leadership Workshop was organised from 5 to 7 December 2025, with 35 students participating. The programme included leadership training, group discussions, team-building activities and reflection on contemporary social issues.

On 14 March 2026, AICUF participated in an Anti-War Campaign and Silent Protest at Martyrs' Square in collaboration with AICUF Kerala. Around 25 students took part, expressing solidarity with victims of war and advocating peace and justice.

A two-day Environmental Sensitization Programme was conducted on 20–21 March 2026. The programme included awareness sessions and a panel discussion on youth engagement in climate action. Environmental activist E. P. Anil addressed the participants on climate crisis and disaster management. The second day included trekking to Ponmudi and a cleaning drive at the Meenmutty Eco Tourism Zone.

The activities of AICUF strengthened students' awareness of justice, peace, leadership, environmental responsibility and community service.

NCC NAVAL WING

The NCC Naval Wing continued to contribute significantly to student formation by promoting discipline, leadership, patriotism, adventure, social responsibility and service.

Seventeen NCC parades were conducted during the year. Training covered national integration, drill, personality development, leadership, disaster management, social service, health and hygiene, adventure, environmental conservation and general awareness, together with specialised naval training in navigation, seamanship, firefighting, damage control, search and rescue and swimming.

Cadets participated in several state and national-level camps, including Nau Sainik Camp, Inter Group Competitions, All India Nau Sainik Camp, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camp, ATC Camps and other competitions. They secured Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in boat pulling, boat rigging, semaphore, seamanship, firing, drill, shooting and other service subjects. Cadets also participated successfully in Wushu, Chess Boxing, Air Rifle Shooting and Inter-University Games. The achievements of LC Athira S. R., LC Madhur B., NC1 Jobith A. and LC Aravind S. M., among others, brought distinction to the College.

The Wing organised an Anti-Drug Awareness Cycle Rally on 2 June 2025 and an environmental awareness programme on 5 June 2025 involving posters, speeches, sapling planting and distribution of seeds. Twenty-six cadets participated in the International Yoga Day programme on 20 June 2025.

On 30 June 2025, 20 Naval cadets participated in the sandbagging initiative at Pallithura Beach in collaboration with XOS, supporting families affected by sea erosion.

On 15 July 2025, NCC and XOS organised Strings of Serenity: The Himalayan Sonata, a charitable musical programme supporting Gandhi Ashram School, Kalimpong. The cadets contributed to a fundraising campaign involving the PTA, students and staff.

The Har Ghar Tiranga Walkathon was organised on 11 August 2025, beginning at the College and culminating at St Andrews Beach. The cadets interacted with local residents and promoted the message of displaying the national flag.

The 79th Independence Day was celebrated on 15 August 2025 with the participation of NCC Naval and Army cadets, students and staff. The programme included flag hoisting, pledge, patriotic songs, messages, felicitation and an NCC parade.

A Swachh Bharat Cleaning Day was conducted on 22 October 2025, with around 45 cadets participating in cleaning classrooms, corridors, grounds and surrounding areas.

On 4 November 2025, NCC joined the Avakasha Samrakshana Rally organised by Theeradesha Mahila Vedi and expressed solidarity with the rights and concerns of fisherwomen.

A Children's Day programme was organised at Karuna Nivas, Vettuthura, on 15 November 2025. Cultural performances, games, lunch and distribution of sweets created a joyful occasion for the children. A gas stove was also donated to the institution.

NCC Naval and Army cadets jointly organised the Republic Day programme on 26 January 2026, highlighting constitutional values, unity, youth responsibility and national service.

On 19 March 2026, NCC cadets and students of Botany and Biotechnology installed a drinking-water pot at the College entrance and placed earthen pots of water for birds across the campus as part of biodiversity conservation. On the same day, a tree plantation programme was undertaken in collaboration with the Power Grid Corporation of India.

The Naval Wing's activities throughout the year reflected the core values of discipline, leadership, patriotism, environmental responsibility, service and community engagement.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

The academic year 2025–2026 stands as a significant chapter in the continuing development of St. Xavier's College, Thumba. The year demonstrated the College's commitment to an educational philosophy in which academic excellence is inseparable from social responsibility, environmental consciousness, ethical formation and service.

The academic departments continued to strengthen teaching and learning while responding to the changing requirements of FYUGP education. The Department of Botany and Biotechnology recorded particularly strong academic results, while Chemistry and Physics continued to monitor performance and identify areas requiring further support. English and Media Studies expanded the horizons of undergraduate education through international exchange, cultural engagement, media education and experiential learning.

Research and scholarship remained important institutional priorities. Faculty publications, Q1 research, book chapters, conference proceedings and major academic events such as PADARTHA and BEACON contributed to the intellectual profile of the College. These initiatives also created opportunities for students and researchers to engage with wider academic communities.

The College continued to recognise that education must extend beyond the classroom. Field visits, industrial exposure, scientific exhibitions, cultural programmes, film festivals, international exchange, career training and entrepreneurship activities enabled students to acquire practical knowledge and transferable skills.

The Career Guidance and Placement Unit strengthened institutional support for employability, while the Entrepreneurship Club encouraged students to explore self-employment and business initiatives. AICUF and NCC provided powerful platforms for leadership, service, justice, environmental responsibility and community engagement.

The College's relationship with its coastal community remained especially significant. The response to sea erosion at Pallithura, solidarity with fisherwomen, environmental awareness campaigns and community-service initiatives demonstrated that the institution seeks to place education at the service of society. These activities embody the College's commitment to compassion, equity and justice.

Environmental sustainability emerged as a recurring institutional concern. Tree planting, biodiversity conservation, water provision for birds, coastal protection, waste management, climate-awareness programmes, cleaning drives, environmental seminars and field activities demonstrated a growing ecological consciousness across the campus.

The year also highlighted areas for further development. Academic performance in some batches remains a concern, and attendance and student engagement require sustained attention. Strengthening mentoring, remedial support, career counselling, research collaboration, industry linkages, student internships and financial support for student initiatives will help the College build on its achievements.

As the College moves into the next academic year, it remains committed to creating an environment in which students are formed not merely as competent graduates but as critical thinkers, compassionate human beings, responsible citizens and committed agents of social transformation.

The achievements of 2025–2026 provide a strong foundation for the continued pursuit of the College's vision: " A knowledge society with compassion, equity and justice."

St. Xavier's College, Thumba looks forward to carrying this vision forward through academic excellence, research, innovation, environmental stewardship, community engagement and the holistic formation of young people for meaningful service to society.

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE ★ TRIVANDRUM- 695 586 ★

PRINCIPAL
ST.XAVIER'S COLLEGE, THUMBA
ST.XAVIER'S COLLEGE P.O.
TRIVANDRUM - 695 586