

## **Celebrating Onam with the Less Privileged:**

St. Alberts College (Autonomous) celebrated Onam differently this year. Amid the havoc wreaked by the floods during the previous month, they used the festive season to brighten the lives of the unfortunate victims by spreading a bit of warmth and joy. A part of the money collected in connection with the Onam celebration was used to support the unfortunate flood victims. Another highlight of the program was that the Albertians celebrated Onam with a few patients undergoing palliative care at General Hospital, Ernakulam, and a group of differently-abled students from the BUDS Rehabilitation Centre, Mulavukad. The students, teachers and non-teaching staff joined together as a family to prepare for the College Onam celebrations from 5th September afternoon onwards. The preparations went on throughout the night for decoration as well as to prepare the Onam sadhya by the Albertians themselves. It was a coming together of around 2800 students, and over 200 staff in solidarity to create a new record in participatory governance.

The staff and student Exam coordinators were in charge of the decoration and they looked into the finest detail for the smooth execution of the same. IEDC Coordinators took care of the preparation for the Onam Sadhya Programme Coordinators were entrusted with Cultural Programmes, Department Secretaries were assigned the responsibility of publicity and mobilization, Department Treasurers with Finance, DQAC Coordinators were in charge of documentation and publicity, Placement Coordinators were given the responsibility of the conduct of various competitions,

Social Outreach Coordinators took care of Volunteering, E-governance Coordinators were in charge of serving the Food, Sports Coordinators were delegated with the responsibility of taking care of Cleaning the premises after the function while the Media Coordinators handled media and Public Relations. Placement Coordinators were given the responsibility of the conduct of various competitions, and Social Outreach Coordinators took care of Volunteering, E-governance Coordinators were in charge of Website and Registration, Sports Coordinators were delegated with the responsibility of taking care of Reception while The Media Coordinators handled media and Public Relations. The whole process involved permanent and interconnected spaces of participation and had a strong focus on citizen participation through the ecosystem of participatory processes.





**Campus jamboree**

# SENSITIVE, STYLISH

It's groupie time for students of St Albert's College, Ernakulam

**ELIZABETH THOMAS**  
DECCAN CHRONICLE

**I**t is that time of the year again when women clad in traditional saris and men in mundu, sing, dance and prepare colourful pookkalam (floral carpet) on campuses. One of the best times of college life, every year, young people try to be innovative in terms of fashion and celebration mode. This year is no different. Besides the regular programmes like Onam games, competitions, pookkalam and, of course, the selfies, a few colleges in Kerala have used this as an opportunity to show their love to the world and reflect the influence of popular culture. Let's take a look at some of the best moments from a few colleges.

Upholding the value of oneness and sharing, students and teachers of St Albert's College, Ernakulam, celebrated their Onam with patients of Palliative Care and differently abled students. "They were brought to the campus to be a part of the festivities, and were with us throughout the day. It was an unforgettable day," says M.L. Joseph, principal of the college. What is even more interesting is that the students prepared their sadya by themselves!

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On the day before the celebration, 3000 students and 280 staff gathered at the auditorium to peel off and cut vegetables. "It was like a festival," says Joseph. "Every year, each department organises celebrations by themselves. The lay *pookkalam*, conduct games and order food from outside. This time, we thought of changing it. When informed the students' representative in each class, they were more than happy to execute it. Tasks were divided and entrusted to teams that include students and teachers. They worked hard to pull it off — from collecting money to decorating the hall and purchasing essentials," says Joseph.

They amassed ₹4 lakh. But, they didn't require such massive amount for a celebration. The surplus amount, they have decided to donate for the welfare of flood-affected families that find it difficult to celebrate Onam. The college was one of the camps during the 2018 floods. "We are planning to give an Onam kit worth ₹1000 to 200 flood-affected families in the Ernakulam area on Saturday."

The Sacred Heart College, Thevara, the first age-friendly campus in Kerala, witnessed the young and old coming together for celebration. For the day,



Director Girish A.D. shared this Th



Age-friendly Onam at S

part in all programmes forgetting their age-related issues. They, dressed in traditional attire, danced, sang and played musical chair and tug of war in the company of young ones. "There were 70 aged students (mostly above 55 years) and 230 young ones. While uncles performed *vanchipattu*, aunties did *thiruvathira*, cheered by their young counterparts."

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