



SWARAM

"The song of our footprints"



Department of Botany

2020-2021

Editorial

*We reached beyond
the green. We
touched the hearts of
the trees. We
celebrated the
colours of our
campus and created
an affection through
trees. We listened to
the talk of plants.
Here we present
'SWARAM' "
The song of our
footprints".*

*Student
Editor*



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am extremely joyful to know that the students of Botany department have come up with their annual newsletter named 'SWARAM', for the academic year 2020-2021. It is an unadorned initiative to spread the value-based knowledge to one and all and also reflects the talent and extracurricular skills of students and the contributions of faculties in academic activities. I send my felicitations and best wishes for this innovative venture and also for future endeavors. I would like to sign off this note by the quote "By discovering nature, you discover yourselves".

-Dr. Sr Beena Jose



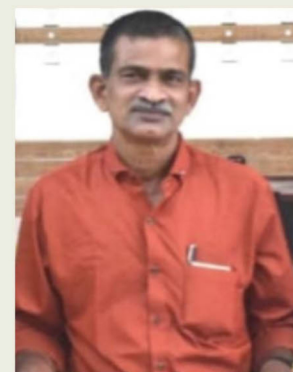
Head of the Department

A teacher is a person who imparts knowledge, values, virtues and a source of inspiration to her students. "Passion is the thing which gives responsibility". She projects her passion for teaching every single moment. She is the one who has motivated us by being a living example, by sharing her expertise and knowledge.

-Dr. Sheeja T Tharakan

Adieu!!! Adieu!!!

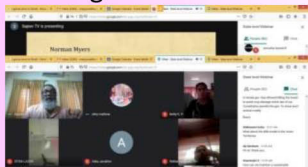
"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else". Retirement is not the end of life it's a new fresh start. After a service acknowledgement of about 43 years, our beloved non-teaching staff Lonappan E P retirement was held on 28/2/2021. He gives his valuable years to service our college. We wish you all happiness and as this chapter ends, may a new and exceptional one begin. Our prayers are always with you.



Webinars

World Environment Day

In connection with World Environment Day, Department of Botany, organized a State Level Webinar on June 5, from 10 am on the topic "Is this the best Environment Day ever? Takes on Nature During the pandemic and beyond". The resource person was Dr T V Sajeev, Senior principal Scientist, Department of Forest Entomology, Forest Health Division ,KFRI, Peechi. 88 participants were actively participated in the webinar and interacted with the the Resource person and exchanged their views



Role of Yoga during Covid-19

A National webinar on "Role of Yoga during Covid-19 pandemic was organized on 22nd July 2020 to escalate the relevance and necessity of 'Yoga' during this challenging situation. Dr. Nithin Patil, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Integrative Medicine (Yoga and Ayurveda) at Sri Devraj URS Academy of Higher Education, Kolar, Karnataka was the resource person. 200 participants comprising of faculty members, yoga therapists, research scholars and students from various institutions across Kerala as beneficiaries of this program.



Plant Taxonomy: An Easy Task On Me

The PG Department of Botany, Vimala College (Autonomous), conducted a student organized intercollegiate webinar on "Plant taxonomy: an easy task on me?" for students, scholars and teaching faculties. The webinar was conducted on 17th September, 2020, with three sessions, which was handled by two eminent taxonomists, Dr. C. Sathish Kumar and Dr. K. Murugan. There was a total participation of 170 students from different colleges. The first session get started by explaining the current theories and trends of angiosperm origin. The second session was centered on different classification systems. The third session focused easy identification of families started with a brief introduction to four taxonomic levels; alpha, beta, gamma and omega



AGBIOTECH advancements and crop improvement

An International webinar on "Agbiotech Advancements and Crop Improvement" conducted on 11/12/2020. The resource person was Dr. Balaji Vasudevan, Plant Pathology/Plant Biology Lead at GreenLight Biosciences, Inc located in RTP, NC, USA. He explained current scenario of global crop demand, acceptance and use Bt crops and gene editing technology that we are using these days. 85 participants were attended from different colleges across Kerala.



Scope & Future prospects of Botany

Dr. Felix Bast, Associate Professor cum scientist, Department of Botany, Central University Punjab was the resource person of this inter-collegiate webinar. More than 200 participants attended the programme and the session was informative, interactive and adorned with precious ideas on the prospects of Botany, for the captive audience. Salient topics on the emerging fields regarding global changes were discussed.

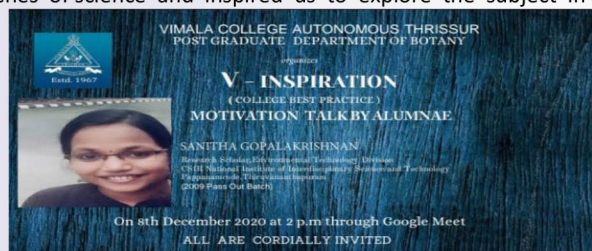
DBT Sponsored National Webinar

A national webinar on "Lifeless subverting the living" was organized by the Department of Botany, on June 30th 2020, under the financial assistance from DBT, STAR College Scheme (Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India). It was a virtual meeting through google meet. Resource person, Dr. Krishnan Harinivas Harshan (Principal Scientist, Centre of cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad), discussed about BSL, laboratories and he shared information about the common viruses, which include the main cause of the global pandemic, which is COVID-19. More than 75 students were participated. The second webinar by DBT sponsored is Potential and Prospects for the 21st Century on 3 January 2021. Fr. Jose John, Ph.D, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, SH College, Thevara. 65 students were participated. Next webinar was on Applications of Plant Tissue Culture on 9/9/2020 and the resource persons were Dr. E M Muralidharan Senior Principal Scientist, Forest Genetics and Biotechnology Division, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi. Botanicals as aid to fight Covid-19 was the another webinar by DBT sponsored on 3/2/2021. The resource person's were Fr. Dr. S. Ignacimuthu, Director, Xavier Research Foundation, St. Xaviers College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu. Another webinar conducted on 4/3/2021 on the topic Why Taxonomy..? 75 students participated in the webinar. This webinar is carried out by the resource person Dr. Mathew Dan Senior Scientist, JNTBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Two international webinars were conducted in coordination with zoology department.



V INSPIRATION

Postgraduate Department of Botany organized V INSPIRATION a motivational talk by alumna Ms Sanitha Gopalakrishnan (2009 pass out), research scholar at Environmental Technology Division CSIR National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Pappanamcode, Thiruvananthapuram), on 8th December 2020 at 2 pm through Google meet. She introduced about the hold of Botany in every branches of science and inspired us to explore the subject in deep.



Talks and Lectures

Motivational talks by Parents

Postgraduate Department of Botany conducted a motivational talk on 22-12-2020. P Narayanan Master (Grandfather of 3rd year student) winner of the 2017 Sarojini Damodaran Foundation State Level Special Award was the resource person. His interview was shared through Google platform. Students, Parents and all faculty attended the program. His experiences in Traditional Organic Farming shared through this program.

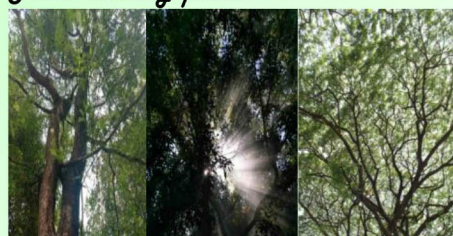


Competitions Conducted by Department of Botany

Tree Canopy

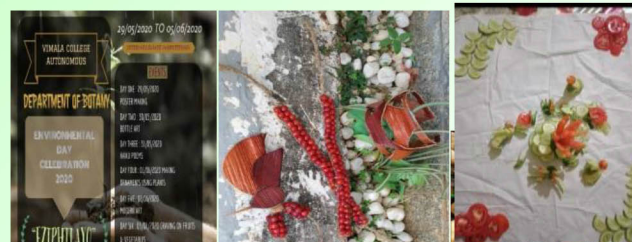
The Department of Botany, Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur is organized an Intercollegiate Photography Competition on Tree Canopy in connection with the World Biodiversity Day on 22nd May 2020. The theme of photography competition was 'Tree canopy'. The goal of the Competition was to create awareness about the rich biodiversity of our state. 41 students were sent photographs within the scheduled time.

Prize winning photos



EZIPHILAYO

Department of Botany, Vimala College (Autonomous) Thrissur organized 'EZIPHILAYO' - online intercollegiate competitions as a part of World Environment Day celebration from 29-05-2020 to 04-06-2020. Various competitions were conducted in which students from various colleges actively participated. Programs were conducted through online platform for the participants to explore their talents. 7 different competitions were conducted.



Video Making

The Post Graduate Department of Botany of Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur organized a video making competition in connection with World Wetland Day. The competition was held on 2nd-9th February 2021, where the participants had to make a video based on the theme 'Wetland and Water'. The competition was held with an aim to create awareness about the importance of Wetlands. Eleven participants had uploaded their video.

Prize winning videos

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/16r8yjo_aRpw6iql-fUHqgt3oqWUXBZsP/view?usp=drivesdk
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CmYvNBu3KEe8O6N55d7Wh6sO9F9LpddL/view?usp=drivesdk>

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Sheeja T Tharakan

- External expert for the academic audit 2019- 2020, conducted at Carmel college, Mala.
- Subject expert, nominated by VC, MG university in the committee for selecting Assistant Professors in the Corporate Educational Agency, Diocese of Kothamangalam.
- Papers published- International 3; Books authored- 2; Book chapter-3; Textbook- 2

Smitha P S

- Book chapter-1; Textbook-1

Dr Sr Silvy Mathew

- Recognized as research guide in Botany from Calicut University.
- Innovative researcher and Dedicated Academician Award by the society of innovative scientific research professional Chennai, India
- Papers published- International 4; Books authored- 2; Book chapter-1

Textbook

1. **Dr. Sheeja T Tharakan and Dr. Manju Madhavan** authored text book for S IV B Sc Botany Core -Methodology and perspectives in plant science
2. **Dr. Sheeja T Tharakan and Smitha P S** authored S IV B Sc Botany complementary – Plant physiology, Plant ecology and Genetics

Student Achievements

1. Ann Maria Jacob (S6 B Sc Botany)-Third prize in inter college power point presentation competition at St. Dominic's college, Kanjirappally ,Second prize in Business bioengineering presentation by Entrepreneurship development club, Vimala college, Thrissur.
2. K A Ashna (S6 B Sc Botany)-Won Bronze medal in National Quiz competition 2020, by Raman Science & Technology Foundation Aryabhata Science club, Ranka.
3. Thaskeena Thasneem (S4 B Sc Botany) -Won second prize in the gardening competition by Vrithika Nature Club,Vimala College Thrissur.
4. Kamala Samudra (S2 B Sc Botany)-Won first prize for Inter Collegiate Online Photography Competition conducted by Biodiversity club, Vimala College Thrissur.
5. Aneena Sibi (S2 B Sc Botany) -Prize in online quiz competition by Nutritikn club Vimala College Thrissur.
6. Sneha Shaju (S2 B Sc Botany)-Won first prize in Quizzich Cup-T20 organized by College Union, Vimala College.
7. Vaishnavi K.A (S2 B Sc Botany) -Won first prize in the online quiz competition by Vrithika Nature Club,Vimala College .

Toppers

B Sc Botany 2019-2020

Sigma Sivadas



M Sc Botany 2019-2020

Anagha E A



Divya Varghese



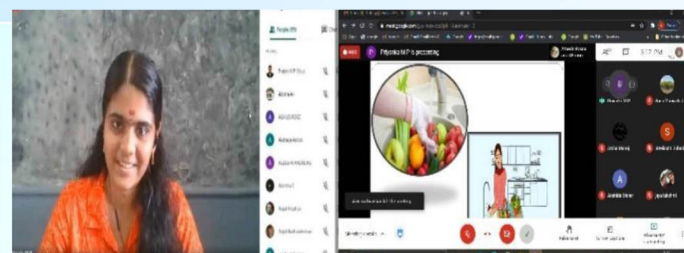
Organic farming at home- during lockdown

Video link - <https://youtu.be/90R-778pxbM>



PAITHRUKAM-STUDENT AS RESOURCE PERSON

Post-graduate department of Botany organized an extension activity- "Student as Resource person" on December 22nd, 2020. The event was conducted via google platform. Person. Ms. Priyanka MP, Student of S6-B Sc Botany,) handled the session for parents, especially mothers. About 58 people attended the program with immense enthusiasm. Resource person was able to inculcate her knowledge about "Kitchen garden @ Home" in a very efficient way with the help of a presentation.



Celebrations

Teacher's day celebration

Botany Department of Vimala College (Autonomous) celebrated Sept 5, Teachers Day with all our beloved teachers, staffs and students. Second year representative of Botany Department Akshaya A, delivered welcome speech and Sr. Smrithi, Anshida Thoombath and Alna Thomas delivered felicitation. We conducted some games to our dear teachers and they shared their memories and motivated us with their inspiring words. And last Josni C J delivered vote of thanks. We all were happy to have celebrated Teachers Day.



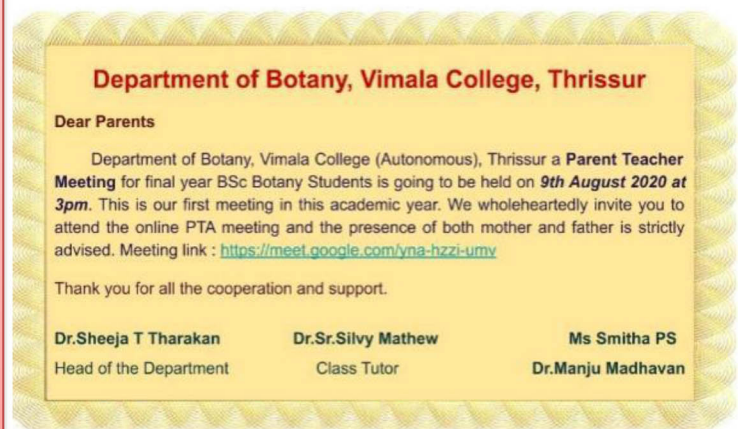
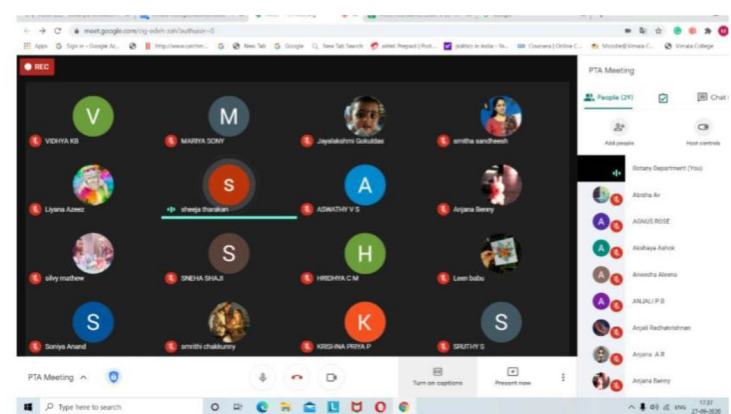
Onam celebration

Students of Botany Department were engaged in making our Onam Celebration video at our own home. By designing pookkalam, making onasthya and some games make our Onam celebration very well.

Please visit the link of the video: https://youtu.be/Mz7_Upv_XPQ

PTA Meeting

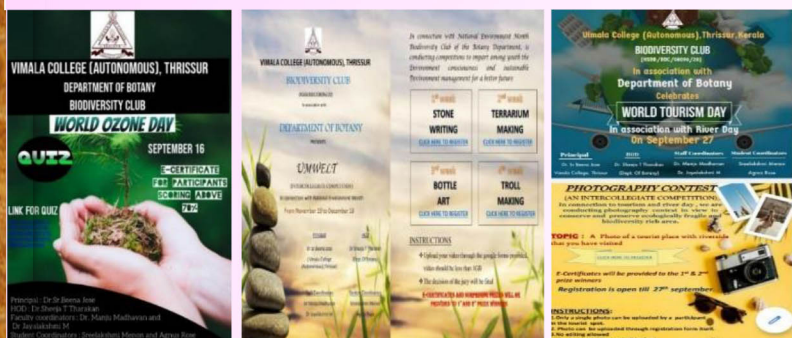
PTA meeting in the year 2020-2021 for B.Sc. Botany students through Google meet platform due to COVID-19 pandemic situation. And the III Sem students PTA meeting was held on 27th September 2020 at 4pm. The chief objectives of the meeting were to generate awareness about the ongoing online classes and to discuss marks of the first online internal examination. All staff and parents of students were invited and created parents WhatsApp group to share the information regarding the students. The audience was welcomed by the class tutor Dr. Sr. Silvy Mathew. Dr. Sheeja T. Tharakan, Head of the Department addressed the gathering and Staff members Ms. Smitha P. S. and Dr. Manju Madhavan were also present. Teachers and parents discussed about the academic status of the students especially regarding their results of first internal examinations. A feedback collected from parents .



Club Activities

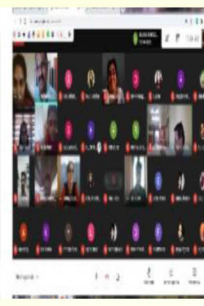
Biodiversity Club

Biodiversity club is a wing of Kerala State Biodiversity Board, which is run by Department of Botany. The club was guided by HOD Dr. Sheeja T Tharakan; spearheaded by Club faculty Coordinators Dr. Manju Madhavan, Dr. Jayalakshmi M and the student coordinators were Sreelakshmi Menon and Agnus Rose. The first organized competition was a virtual pookalam competition - 'CORONAM', which was held on 29th August 2020. Here the participants had to make pookalam with native flowers .On ozone day, the club organized a quiz competition which was attended by nearly 474 students. The next competition was organized on 27th September 2020 as an intercollegiate photography competition in connection with world river day and tourism day. In connection with Gandhi Jayanthi, club organized a distinct photography competition 'SEVANA VARAM', where the participants had to make a Document of common exotic weeds with a photograph and its short description. The final event conducted during this academic year was a series of competition viz. stone writing, terrarium making, bottle art and troll making, which was celebrated as part of National Environment Month (19th Nov – 18th Dec).



Enflammer, The Journal Club

The journal club was started during 2019-2020, under Department of Botany. The club is directed by Dr. Sheeja Tharakan, HOD, and guided by Dr. Manju Madhavan and Dr. Jayalakshmi M as faculty coordinators and Ms. Kaveri and Ms. Neethu Mohan as student coordinators. A collection of review papers done by 'Enflammer' students were published as a book named 'Recent Advances in Life science. The first competition conducted during 2020-21 academic year was an intercollegiate quiz competition on onam flowers named as "POOVILI 2020". The next program was a 'National Level Paper Presentation Competition', held on December 18th, in coordination with Kerala Academy of Science (KAS). The event started with an informative talk of Prof. Dr. G.M. Nair .Sessions were judged by excellent subject experts, such as Dr. K.B. Ramesh Kumar, Dr. R. Jayaraj, Dr. R. Rajkumar and Dr. Jaseela Beevi. As a continuation of this program, we had published seminar proceedings as a book, 'Recent Trends in Plant science.



Editorial team

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