

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, PATHANAPURAM

LIST OF PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED (2025-2026)

Sl. No.	Date	Program / Activity Title	Target Group	Objectives
1.	05.06.2025	World environment Day	Faculty and students	Nature Conservation
2.	10.06.2025	Institution visit- Jayabharatham Ayurvedic industry, Punalur	Semester II and IV, M.Sc.	Exposure to Advanced Research Infrastructure
3.	20.06.2025	Institution visit- NIIST and CTCRI	Semester II M.Sc. Botany and Semester III FYUGP Botany	Exposure to Advanced Research Infrastructure
4.	25.06.2025	Institution visit- JNTBGRI	Semester II M.Sc. Botany	Exposure to Advanced Research Infrastructure
5.	19.07.2025	Alumni meet- B.Sc. 2001	B.Sc. 2001 Batch	Botany reunion
6.	21.07.2025	PTA MEET	Semester II M.Sc. Botany	Academic and support outcome
7.	26.08.2025	Farewell- M.Sc.	M.Sc. Semester IV	Curriculum feedback and alumni integration
8.	28.08.2025-30.08.2025	Nature Camp- Pampadumshola	Semester II M.Sc. Botany	Eco sensitization and conservation education
9.	10.11.2025	Botany association inauguration and Seminar	Students and Faculty	Academic and research
10.	01.12.2025	National seminar – Tissue Culture	Students and Faculty	Academic and research
11.	09.01.2026	Algal Collection trip	Semester I M.Sc. Botany	Habitat study, Specimen Collection and preservation
12.	03.02.2026	Workshop and Training on Mushroom cultivation	Kudumbasree Members, Students and Faculty	Technical Proficiency and Entrepreneurship
13.	16.02.2026 to 27.02.2026	M.Sc. Internship at Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam	Semester IV M.Sc. Botany	Core research and Technical skills

14.	13.03.2026	MoU: Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, Govt. of Kerala	Students and Faculty	Research, internship
15.	13.03.2026	PTA MEET	Semester VI B.Sc. Botany	Academic and support outcome
16.	13.03.2026	PTA MEET	Semester I M.Sc. Botany	Academic and support outcome
17.	18.03.2026	Farewell	B.Sc. Students and faculty	Curriculum feedback and alumni integration
18.	24.03.2026 to 27.03.2026	Study tour to Wayanad and Ooty	Semester VI B.Sc. Botany	Ecological Specialization and Taxonomic Proficiency

ACTIVITY REPORT

01: 05 JUNE 2025: World Environment Day celebrations

The Department of Botany, Department of English and Nature club jointly celebrated World Environment Day 2025. The theme for World Environment Day on 5 June 2025 focussed on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign Beat Plastic Pollution. The event aimed to engage students, faculty members, and the wider community in thought-provoking discussions, educational activities, and initiatives that promote sustainable practices. The event began with a welcome address by the Head of the Department Dr. Shibu P. Varghese, emphasizing the significance of World Environment Day and the role of students in understanding and preserving the environment. The importance of plant diversity and its impact on ecosystem health were highlighted. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Koshy PM, Principal (RTD), St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram. He delivered a Keynote address on the topic-Beat Plastic pollution. He pointed out the need for conserving the nature in sustenance of life.

Objectives

Raising Environmental awareness

Promoting sustainable practices

Encouraging active participation

Encourage adoption of sustainable practices



DEPT. OF BOTANY
DEPT. OF ENGLISH
NATURE CLUB

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE
PATHANAPURAM

PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
 DEPT. OF ENGLISH & NATURE CLUB

**ONE-DAY SEMINAR &
 INVITED LECTURE**
"BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION"

05 June 2025
 Time: 10.00 am
 Venue: Room No. 12



Key Note Address
Dr. Koshy P.M.
 Former Principal
 St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE
PATHANAPURAM

PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
 DEPT. OF ENGLISH & NATURE CLUB

ENVIRONMENT DAY
CELEBRATIONS
05 JUNE 2025

- One-Day Seminar and Invited Lecture
- Tree Planting and 'Green Selfies'
- Paper and Poster Presentations
- Online Photography Competition - "Mother Earth Weeps"
- Elocution Competition - "Sustainable Development while Beating Plastic Pollution"

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced community engagement
2. Reduction in Harmful practices.

02: 10.06.2025: Institution visit- Jayabharatham Ayurvedic industry, Punalur

A group of 19 students, comprising 10 M.Sc. Botany and 9 B.Sc. Botany students, conducted an academic visit to Jayabharatham Ayurveda Pharmacy on 5 June 2025. The visit was organized as part of their curriculum to gain practical exposure to the preparation and processing of Ayurvedic medicines and to understand the role of medicinal plants in traditional healthcare systems.

During the visit, students were introduced to various stages involved in drug formulation, including raw material selection, processing techniques, quality control measures, and storage practices. The facility provided insights into classical Ayurvedic formulations as well as modern adaptations in pharmaceutical practices.

The visit was guided and assisted by Fr. Dr. Roy John, and the session is highly informative, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical application in the field of pharmacognosy and herbal drug technology.

**03: 20.06.2025: Institution visit- NIIST and CTCRI**

A total of 19 students, comprising 10 M.Sc. Botany and 9 B.Sc. Botany students, carried out an academic visit to CTCRI and NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, on 20 June 2025. The visit was organized to enhance their understanding of advanced research methodologies and applied aspects of plant science and biotechnology.

At CTCRI (Central Tuber Crops Research Institute), students were introduced to research on tropical tuber crops, including crop improvement, breeding techniques, germplasm conservation, and value addition. They also observed laboratory and field-based practices related to cassava, sweet potato, and other tuber crops.



At NIIST (National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology), the students gained exposure to interdisciplinary research areas such as plant biotechnology, phytochemistry, natural product chemistry, and environmental science. They were familiarized with sophisticated analytical instruments and modern laboratory techniques used in scientific research.

The visit was guided and assisted by Dr. Shibu P. Varghese, Dr. Praveen Dhar T., Dr. Divya S. Pillai, and Mr. Paul Mathew, whose support ensured effective coordination and meaningful academic interaction throughout the program.

04: 25.06.2025: Institution visit- JNTBGRI

A group of 10 M.Sc. Botany students undertook an academic visit to JNTBGRI (Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute), Thiruvananthapuram, on 25 June 2025. The visit was organized to provide exposure to plant conservation strategies, biodiversity studies, and advanced research in plant sciences.

The programme was guided and assisted by Dr. Divya S. Pillai and Mr. Paul Mathew, who ensured effective coordination and facilitated academic interactions with the institute's scientific staff.

During the visit, students explored various sections of the institute, including conservatories, medicinal plant gardens, and research laboratories. They gained insights into ex situ conservation, tissue culture techniques, plant taxonomy, and the sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources. The visit also highlighted the role of JNTBGRI in conserving rare and endangered plant species of the Western Ghats.

05: 19.07.2025: Alumni meet- B.Sc. 2001 Batch

The alumni meet of the 2001 pass-out B.Sc. Botany batch of St. Stephen's College was held on 19 July 2025 in a warm and nostalgic atmosphere on the college campus. The gathering brought together former classmates after many years, providing an opportunity to reconnect, share experiences, and revisit cherished memories of their academic life. The event included informal interactions, reflections on personal and professional journeys, and



appreciation of the institution's role in shaping their careers. The alumni also expressed their willingness to strengthen ties with the college and contribute to its future academic and developmental initiatives.

06: PTA MEET

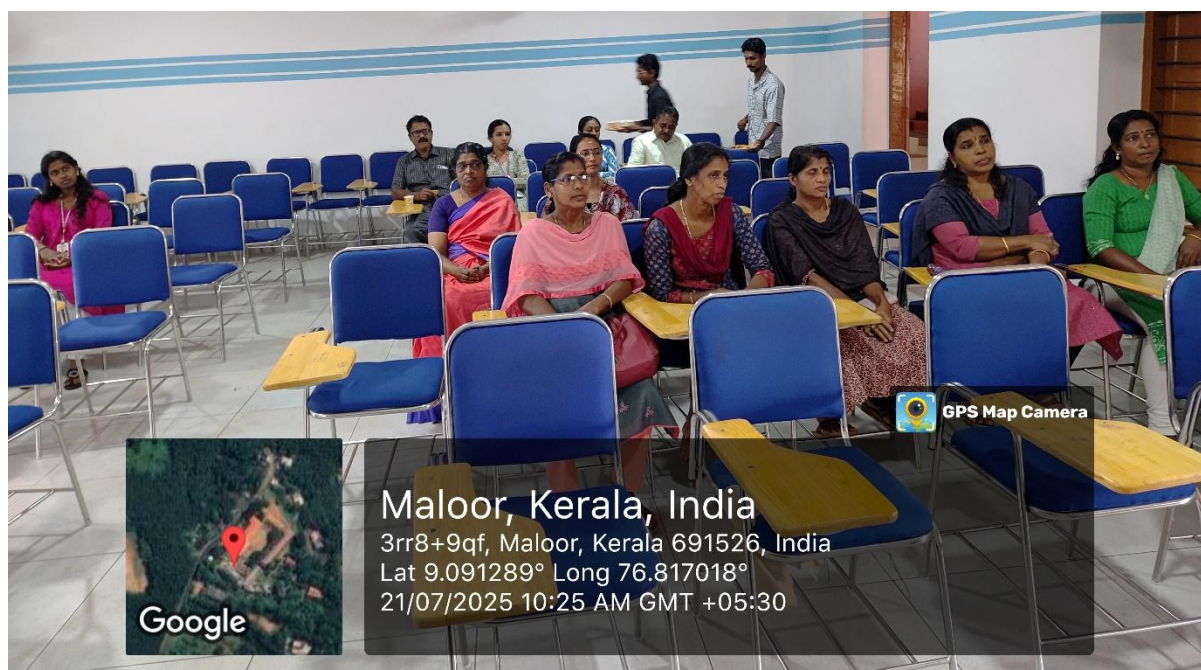
21.07.2025: Semester II M.Sc. Botany

13.03.2026: Semester VI B.Sc. Botany

13.03.2026: Semester I M.Sc. Botany

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings for the Department of Botany were conducted successfully for two batches during the academic year. The PTA meeting for Semester II M.Sc. Botany students was held on 21 July 2025, where parents were briefed about the academic progress, attendance, and overall performance of the students. Faculty members interacted with parents individually, addressing concerns and providing guidance for academic improvement.

Similarly, the PTA meeting for Semester VI B.Sc. Botany students was conducted on 13 March 2026. The session focused on final semester performance, examination preparedness, and future academic and career prospects. Parents were given detailed feedback on student progress, and constructive discussions were held to support students in achieving better outcomes.



07: 26.08.2025: Farewell- M.Sc.

The farewell programme for the 2023 admission M.Sc. Botany batch was आयोजित on 26 August 2025 in a warm and memorable atmosphere. The event marked the culmination of their academic journey in the department, celebrating their achievements and contributions over the course of the programme.

Faculty members and students came together to share experiences, express gratitude, and extend best wishes for the future. The programme included speeches, cultural interactions, and moments of reflection that highlighted the strong bond between the students and the department.



08: 28.08.2025-30.08.2025: Nature Camp- Pampadumshola

A three-day Nature Camp was organized for M.Sc. Botany students from 28 August 2025 to 30 August 2025 at Pampadumshola, in collaboration with the Kerala Forest Department, Thiruvananthapuram. A total of 10 students participated in the camp, accompanied by faculty members Fr. Dr. Roy John, Dr. Shibu P. Varghese, Dr. Divya S. Pillai, and Mr. Akshay T.S.

The camp aimed to provide hands-on exposure to forest ecology, biodiversity conservation, and field-based research methodologies. Students explored the unique shola forest ecosystem, observed endemic flora, and gained practical knowledge on plant identification, ecological interactions, and conservation strategies. Field sessions included guided treks, habitat analysis, and discussions on the significance of Western Ghats biodiversity.

The programme was effectively coordinated with the support of officials from the Kerala Forest Department, who provided expert guidance and ensured safety throughout the camp. The experience significantly enhanced the students' understanding of natural ecosystems and strengthened their field-oriented skills in botany.

09: 10.11.2025: Botany association inauguration and Seminar

The PG & Research Department of Botany, St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram, organized the Botany Association Inauguration and Seminar on 10 November 2025 at the Very Rev. Aphrem Ramban Seminar Hall. The programme commenced with the Induction and Fresher's Day session at 10:30 am, welcoming the new batch of students into the academic community. The formal inauguration and seminar session were held at 2:00 pm, featuring a keynote address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Bobby T. Edwin, Professor of Botany and Vice Principal of TKM College of Arts & Science, Kollam. His talk on 'Go back to nature' provided valuable insights into traditional practices in nature and contemporary trends and opportunities in the field of botany, inspiring students to pursue academic excellence and research.

The event was conducted under the leadership of Dr. Shibu P. Varghese, Assistant Professor and Head in-charge, with the support of the organizing committee comprising Fr. Dr. Roy John, Dr. Praveen Dhar T., Ms. Chinju Merin Abraham, Dr. Divya S. Pillai, Ms. Rajalekshmi S., and Ms. Merlyn P. Kuryan. The presence and guidance of the Principal, Dr. Biju A., added significance to the programme. The event successfully fostered academic interaction, motivated students, and marked a vibrant beginning to the activities of the Botany Association for the academic year.



**ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE
PATHANAPURAM**
Affiliated to University of Kerala

**PG & RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY**

**BOTANY ASSOCIATION
INAUGURATION & SEMINAR**





Chief Guest:
Dr. Bobby T. Edwin
Professor(Botany) & Vice Principal
TKM College of Arts & Science, Kollam

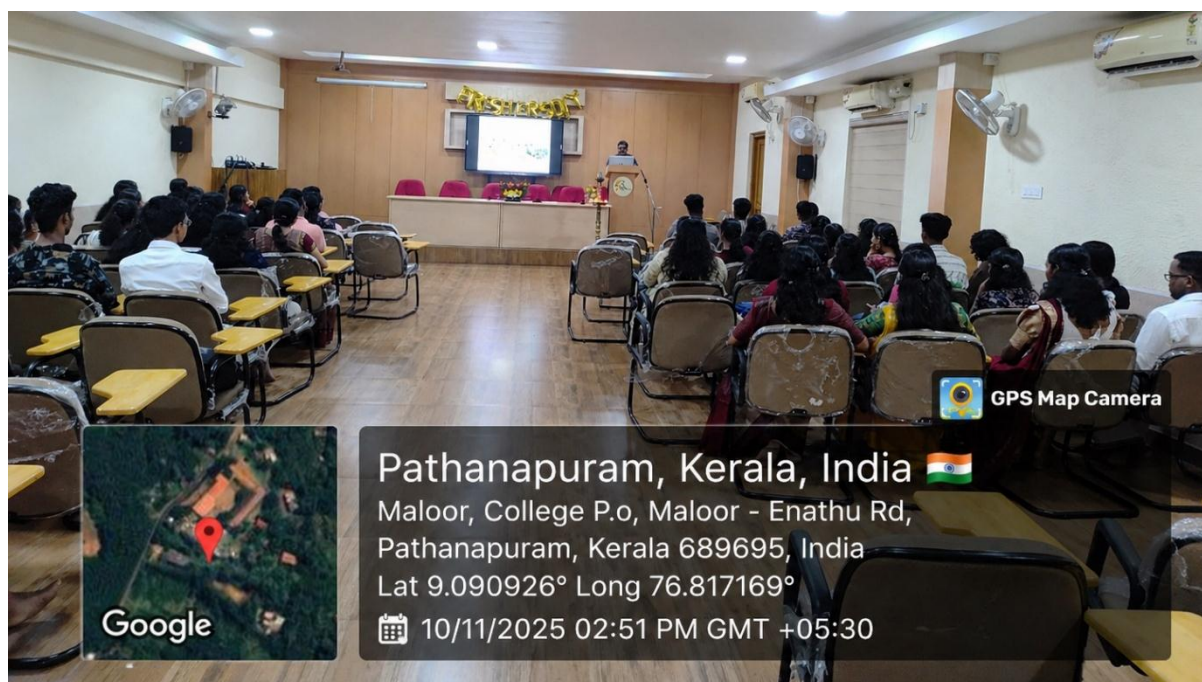
10 November 2025, 10.30 am
Very Rev. Aphrem Ramban Seminar Hall

Dr. Shibu P. Varghese
Asst. Professor -in-charge of Head

Dr. Biju A
Principal

Programme: 10.30 am – Induction & Fresher's Day Programme
02.00 pm - Inauguration & Seminar Session (Keynote Talk)

Organizing Committee: Fr. Dr. Roy John; Dr. Praveen Dhar T.; Ms. Chinju Merin Abraham (Asst. Professors)
Dr. Divya S. Pillai; Ms. Rajalekshmi S.; Ms. Merlyn P. Kuryan (Ad-hoc lecturers)



10: 01.12.2025: National seminar – Tissue Culture

The Post Graduate and Research Department of Botany, St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram, organized a seminar on "*In vitro Regeneration of Eruca sativa using Tissue Culture Methods*" on 1 December 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Aphrem Ramban Memorial Seminar Hall. The session was delivered by Dr. Minu Sherry, Lead Research Technician at the Elizabeth Creak Horticultural Technology Centre, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick, UK.

The seminar provided detailed insights into plant tissue culture techniques, with specific emphasis on regeneration protocols, explant selection, and applications in crop improvement and conservation. The

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, PATHANAPURAM
Post Graduate and Research Department of Botany

**SEMINAR ON
IN VITRO REGENERATION
OF ERUCA SATIVA USING
TISSUE CULTURE METHODS**

Resource Person

DR. MINU SHERRY
Lead Research Technician,
Elizabeth Creak Horticultural Technology Centre,
School of Life Sciences,
University of Warwick, UK

DATE: 01.12.2025
TIME: 10.00 AM
VENUE: APHREM RAMBAN MEMORIAL SEMINAR HALL

programme was highly informative, enhancing the students' understanding of modern biotechnological approaches in plant science and fostering interest in advanced research methodologies.



11: 09.01.2026: Algal Collection trip

An algal collection trip was organized on 09 January 2026 at Thirumullavaram, Kollam, for M.Sc. Botany students as part of their practical curriculum. A total of 10 students participated in the field visit, accompanied by faculty members Fr. Dr. Roy John and Dr. Shibu P. Varghese. The primary objective of the trip was to provide hands-on training in the collection, identification, and preservation of marine and coastal algal species.

During the fieldwork, students explored the coastal habitat and collected various algal specimens, including representatives of green, brown, and red algae.



12: 03.02.2026: Workshop and Training on Mushroom cultivation

A Workshop and Training Programme on Mushroom Cultivation was conducted on 03 February 2026 by the Department of Botany, St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram. The programme was organized for students, faculty members, and local Kudumbasree participants. The session was led by the subject expert Mr. Pradeep from Kripa Mushrooms, Kulakkada, who provided comprehensive hands-on training in mushroom cultivation techniques.

The programme covered both theoretical and practical aspects of mushroom production. The expert introduced participants to different commercially important mushroom species, substrate preparation methods, sterilization techniques, spawning, incubation, and crop management practices. Special emphasis was given to low-cost cultivation methods suitable for small-scale and household-level production. Participants were also trained in pest and disease management, harvesting techniques, and post-harvest handling to ensure quality and shelf life.

A major component of the training included live demonstrations, where participants actively engaged in bed preparation and spawning procedures. The

session also highlighted the economic potential of mushroom cultivation as an income-generating activity, particularly for Kudumbasree members and rural entrepreneurs.

The training further catered to students enrolled in the Mushroom Cultivation Certificate Course, enabling them to gain practical exposure aligned with their syllabus requirements.



13: 16.02.2026 to 27.02.2026: M.Sc. Internship at Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam

An internship programme was undertaken by 10 M.Sc. Botany students at the Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam, from 16 February 2026 to 27 February 2026. The internship was organized to provide students with practical exposure to plantation crop research, particularly focusing on *Hevea brasiliensis* and its scientific management.

During the internship, students were introduced to various aspects of rubber cultivation, including nursery management, clonal propagation, tapping techniques, disease identification, and latex processing. They also gained hands-on experience in laboratory procedures such as soil analysis, plant pathology studies, and quality assessment of latex. The programme included interactions with scientists and

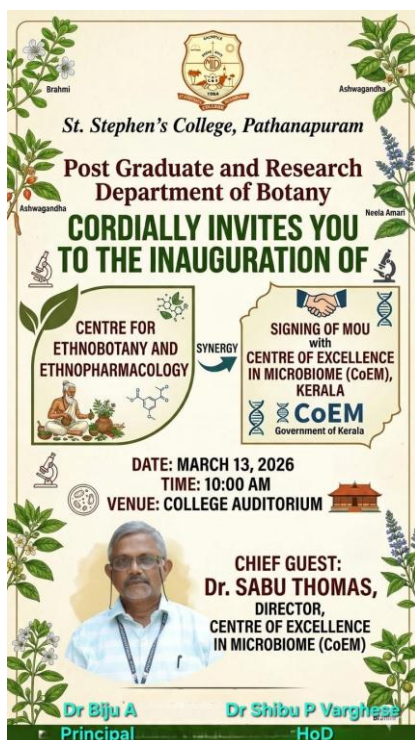
technical staff, enabling students to understand current research trends and technological advancements in rubber science.



14: 13.03.2026: MoU: Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, Govt. of Kerala

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 13 March 2026 between the PG and Research Department of Botany, St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram, and the Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, Government of Kerala. The MoU was established to promote academic collaboration, research development, and knowledge exchange in the emerging field of microbiome studies.

The partnership aims to facilitate student internships, joint research projects, faculty exchange, and hands-on training in advanced microbiological and molecular techniques. This collaboration is expected to enhance research capabilities, provide exposure to cutting-edge technologies, and create opportunities for students and faculty to engage in interdisciplinary scientific investigations.



15: 18.03.2026: Farewell to B.Sc. Students

A farewell programme for the outgoing B.Sc. Botany students was organized on 18 March 2026 by the first and second year Botany students at St. Stephen's College, Pathanapuram. The event was conducted in a warm and celebratory atmosphere, providing an opportunity for juniors to express their gratitude and best wishes to the graduating students.

The programme included informal interactions, sharing of memories, and cultural moments that highlighted the bond among students.

The outgoing students also shared their experiences and expressed their appreciation for the support received from their peers and faculty during their course of study. Lunch was arranged for all participants, adding to the spirit of togetherness and celebration.

16: 24.03.2026 to 27.03.2026: B.Sc. Botany Study Tour

The B.Sc. Botany study tour was conducted from 24 March to 27 March 2026, covering Kuttanad, Alappuzha, Wayanad, and Ooty, with the objective of providing field-based learning experiences to students. A total of 14 students participated in the tour, accompanied by faculty members Dr. Shibu P. Varghese and Dr. Divya S. Pillai.

During the tour, students explored diverse ecosystems including wetland agriculture systems in Kuttanad, backwater ecology of Alappuzha, forest and plantation biodiversity in Wayanad, and the montane ecosystem of Ooty. In addition to ecological observations, students actively engaged in plant collection and documentation as part of their practical training. Specimens representing different

plant groups were collected following standard field protocols, and preliminary identification was carried out with the help of field guides and faculty support.