



National Colloquium 2015-16: Birth Centenary of Dr. M. M. Thomas

The annual DTH National Colloquium 2015 was held at Union Biblical Seminary (UBS), Pune from 11th to 13th August 2015 based on the theme '*Re-reading M.M. Thomas in the Light of Indian Christian Theology*'. This year is celebrated as the Birth Centenary year of one of the leading Indian Christian Theologians, Dr. M. M. Thomas. Thirty one doctoral research scholars in their second and third year from seven doctoral centers and students directly under SATHRI actively participated in the colloquium. The colloquium was inaugurated by the Bishop Andrew B. Rathod (CNI, Pune). The following scholars presented papers in their wider areas of specialization:

- Dr. Sunil M. Caleb – *M. M. Thomas' Engagements with Social Theories and Ideologies*
- Dr. Y. Vinayaraj – *M. M. Thomas: Political Theology in India*
- Dr. Gabriele Dietrich – *Spirituality and Politics of M. M. Thomas'*

Socio-Political Interventions

- Dr. V. J. John – *Biblical Hermeneutics of M. M. Thomas*
- Dr. Wati Longchar – *M.M.Thomas' Contribution to Contextual Theologies in Asia*

- Dr. George Zachariah – *M. M. Thomas and Eco-Justice Theologies in India*
- Dr. Santanu K. Patro – *M. M. Thomas and Feminist Theology in India*

Research Scholars of Doctoral Centers were assigned themes on which they have presented papers and Scholars from another Doctoral Centre responded. This exercise gave an opportunity to participants to go through the writings of M.M. Thomas, which eventually made the discussions relevant and lively:

- Ecclesiology of M. M. Thomas – FFRRRC, Kottayam
- Theological Method of M. M. Thomas – UTC, Bangalore
- Inter religious Dialogue in the theology of M. M. Thomas – NIIPGTS, Kolkata
- Church and State in the theology of M. M. Thomas – UBS, Pune
- M. M. Thomas' Theology of Mission – GLTC, Chennai
- Social Movements as Secular Koinonia: Theological Reflection – TTS, Madurai
- Gospel and Culture in the theology of M. M. Thomas – ATC, Mizoram

The Dean, Department of Research/SATHRI, the Registrar of the Senate of Serampore College (University) and the Dean of Extension were available to listen to the concerns and struggles regarding their doctoral studies. Thus the national colloquium provided a good platform for research scholars to share their concerns with the officers of the Senate. This interaction was very beneficial in establishing strong rapport between the participants and SATHRI administration. The cultural night hosted by the student body of UBS was entertaining to the participants. The serene atmosphere of UBS Campus along with the warm hospitality of UBS Community kept the participants refreshed and active throughout the three days of intensive deliberations. Special thanks to the Rev Dr. Shekhar Singh, Principal, the Faculty especially Dr. Eliya Mohl, Dr. V. V Thomas and Dr. Mithra and the UBS community as whole for their courteous gestures and kind hospitality. Books and Bible Commentaries by Dr. M. M. Thomas and books on MMT were made available during the Colloquium.