



St. Thomas College of Arts and Science

Affiliated to the University of Madras | 2(f) Status Under UGC Act
Accredited by NAAC with 'A+' Grade | An ISO 21001 : 2018 Certified Institution
Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107.



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1. BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT ARCHITECT POLICY:

"DISABLED FRIENDLY" BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Institution has Differently abled (Divyangjan), barrier free environment

All the authorities of the institute are striving to extend a helping hand towards the differently abled. These guidelines apply to all the Faculty and Staff of the institution. The Government of India has formulated the national policy for persons with disabilities in February 2006. Therefore, in view of this, the institution has implemented these policies along with the teaching and learning process. The college recognizes that people with disabilities are valuable human resources for the institution and seeks to create an environment that provides equal opportunities, protection of their rights, and full participation in the academic environment. The right to education focuses on the need to have an inclusive education, which means that educating students with learning difficulties and identified disabilities has the right to fulfillment of their educational needs.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that students with disabilities get equal opportunities to explore their educational potential.
- To provide a nurturing and motivating environment for students with learning disabilities to accommodate their pedagogic needs.

POLICY MAKING

- To ensure that the building's design, such as ramps and lifts are accessible to people with disabilities.
- To ensure accessible, gender-sensitive, safe, usable, and functional washroom facilities for disabled people .



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- To ensure the proper sign boards such as tactile paths, lights, display boards and signposts in a visible and touchable location.
- The use of male and female symbols in accordance with local customs and standards, with raised outlines of bright colour and contrast which will help for people with visual impairments.
- Providing adequate support in and out of the classroom with the right resources and assistive technology along with human assistance.
- To ensure the accessibility of software tools and technology for people with disabilities.
- To create an inclusive culture to avoid discrimination, exploitation and exclusion of disabled students and staff from all spheres of work and education.
- To ensure that all legislation pertaining to people with disabilities is followed.

RESPONSIBILITY

- To provide accessible textbooks and study materials to all students with disabilities.
- To ensure awareness programmes for all the teachers and non-teaching staff regarding the issues of accessibility.
- The institute's administration and faculty members should ensure appropriate and reasonable accommodations for each person with a disability and be willing to resolve access problems.

EXAM POLICY

St. Thomas College of Arts and Science will make reasonable changes to the educational plan and assessment framework to meet the particular needs of students with disabilities. Sensible convenience will be made to meet the needs of the considerable number of students with disabilities. The guidelines and regulations have been issued by the examination department for use in exams.



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ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESS

- Facilities are available for employees and students.
- Ramps and toilets.
- Facilities are provided from time to time as per government rules.
- Disability sensitization sessions are part of the student and employee induction programme.
- Faculty members are trained to assist people with disabilities, including people with learning disabilities.
- The institution has a disabled-friendly, barrier-free environment.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

RAMP

Ramp-rails, an inclined plane, are available in addition to staircases in all the blocks. The ramps are carefully designed as per specifications to be used by differently abled.

LIFT

College buildings have provision for lifts to ensure barrier-free access for students, staff, visitors, and differently abled people.

DIFFERENTLY ABLED FRIENDLY RESTROOM

There are differently abled-friendly restrooms in all the blocks. These accessible restrooms carry the fixtures and fittings that are comfortable and convenient for differently abled people. Accesses for people with disabilities are made easier by a nonslip floor, sliding door, and grab bars.



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SIGN BOARDS

Sign Boards ensure visually impaired people are able to familiarize themselves with the road and path. Tactile sign on handrails at the ends of a staircase guide the visually impaired.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

The Reception Counter provides the differently-abled and human assistance with all necessary information.

SCREENREADER

A screen reader is an assistive software programme that helps the visually impaired or blind work with a computer. Non- Visual Desktop Access (NVDA) is free, open-source software installed in the computers at the computer lab to help the visually challenged students learn.

2. GEO-TAGGED VISUAL DOCUMENTATION OF ACCESSIBILITY RAMP

St. Thomas College of Arts and Science is committed to providing a barrier-free and inclusive campus environment. The institution ensures that persons with disabilities can move safely, independently, and with dignity, and have equitable access to all facilities within the built environment. Campus infrastructure, including academic buildings, administrative blocks, pathways, and transportation facilities, is designed and maintained in accordance with accessibility and barrier-free norms.



Barrier-free pathways and entrances

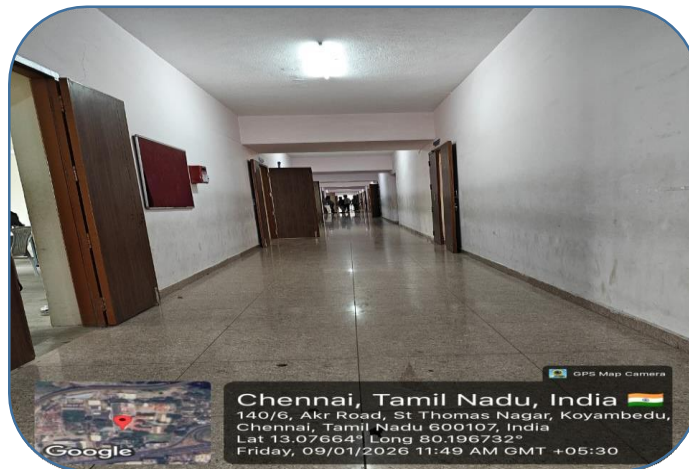
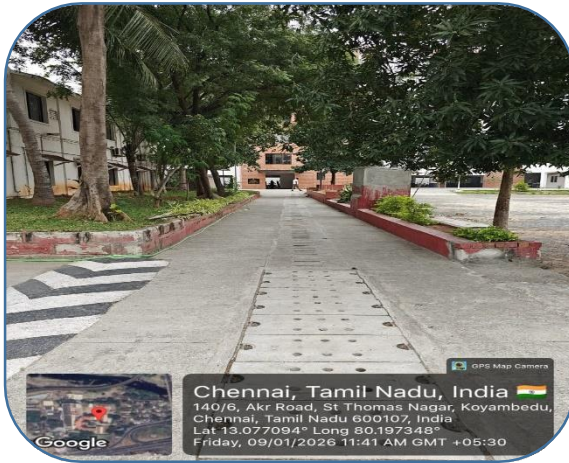


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Disability-Inclusive Infrastructure



Supportive Access Facilities



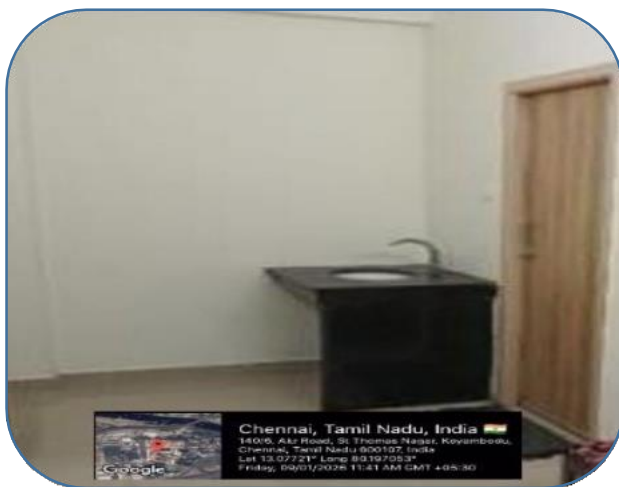
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3. GEO-TAGGED PHOTOS FOR BARRIER-FREE WASHROOM

St. Thomas College of Arts and Science is committed to creating a barrier-free and inclusive campus for persons with disabilities. As part of this commitment, all accessible washrooms have been constructed and maintained in accordance with accessibility norms. To ensure transparency and proper documentation, geo-tagged photographs of these washrooms are regularly captured and maintained.



Inclusive Design Standards for Washrooms



Assistive mobility device



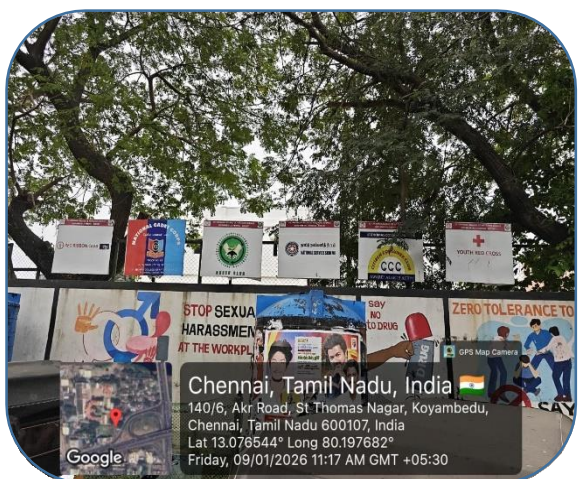
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4. GEO-TAGGED PHOTOS FOR DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE SYSTEM AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

Geo-tagged photographs are provided to demonstrate the presence of a clear directional signage system and well-marked pedestrian routes across the campus. These signages facilitate easy navigation and ensure safe, smooth, and accessible movement for students, staff, visitors, and emergency services.

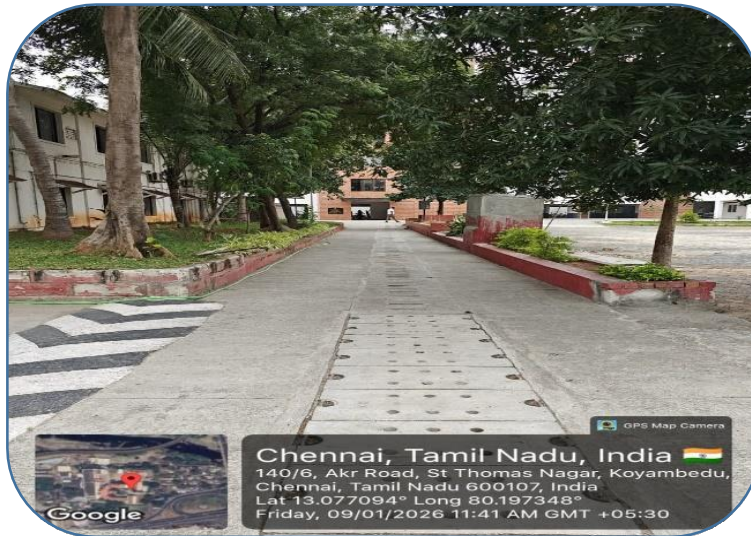


Campus signage system supporting accessibility and navigation



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Accessible pedestrian pathways



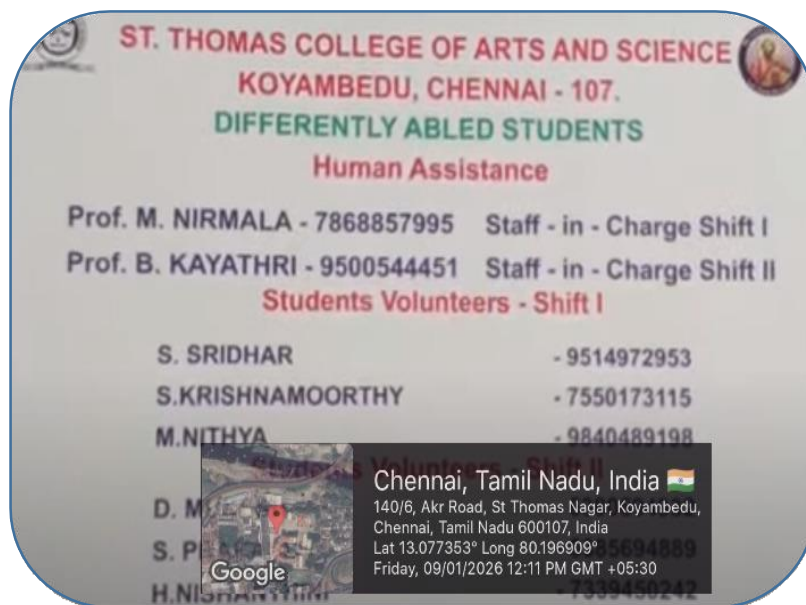
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5. GEO TAGGED PHOTOS FOR ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Geo-tagged photographs highlight the availability of assistive equipment and support systems for students with disabilities. The campus provides necessary mobility aids and designated human assistance to ensure inclusive access, safety, and equal participation in academic activities.



Assistive Equipment and support facilities for students with Disabilities



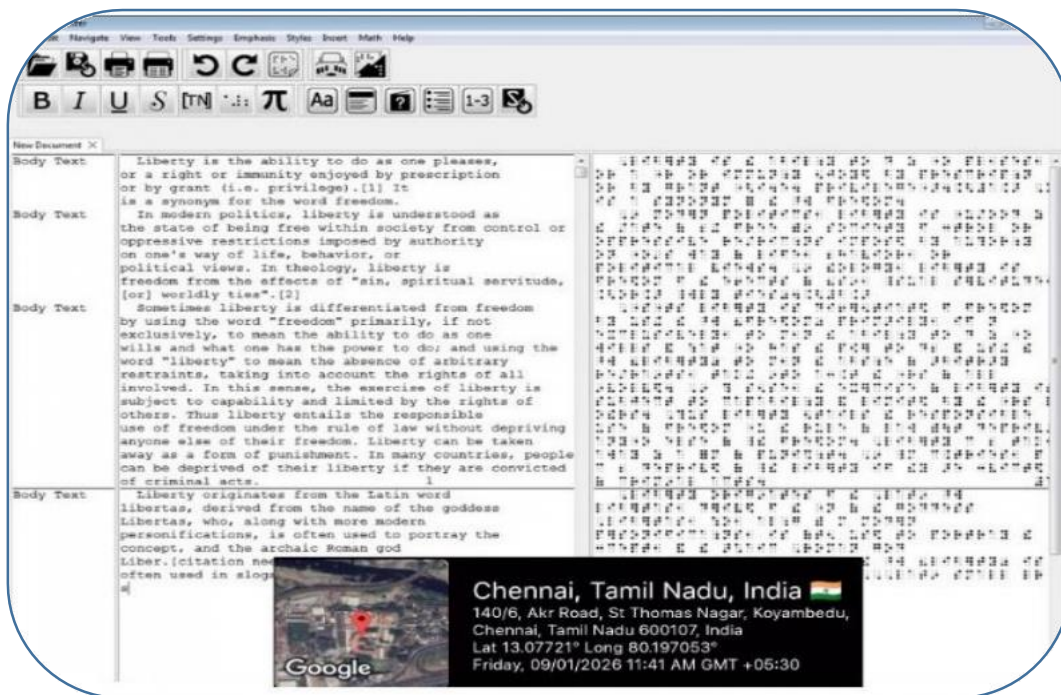
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6. GEO-TAGGED PHOTOS FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

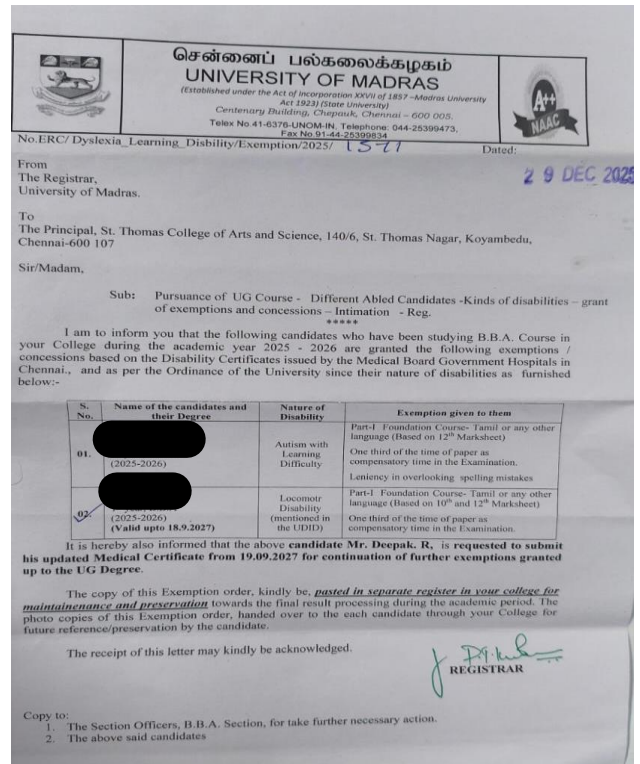
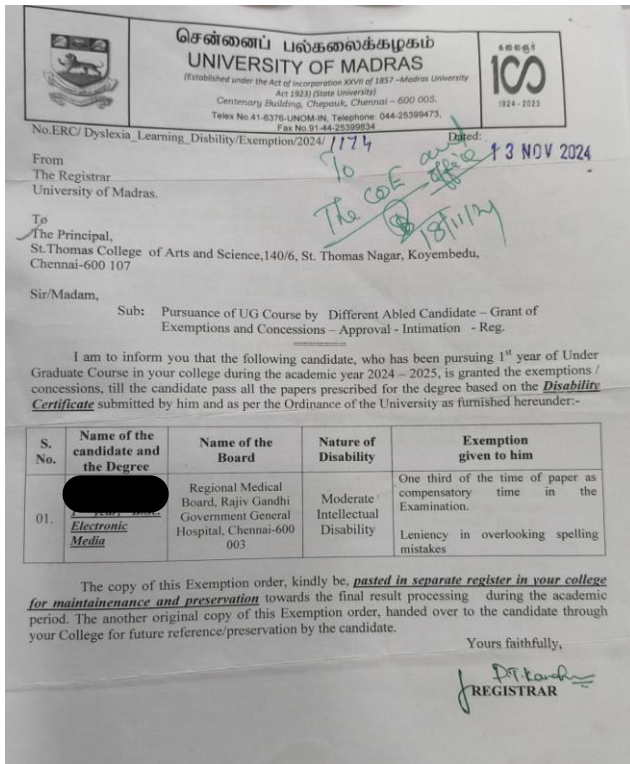
Geo-tagged photograph showing the availability of assistive digital software to support students with visual impairments. The institution provides screen-reading and accessibility tools to ensure inclusive learning and equal academic access for differently abled students.



Assistive Digital Software for students with Visual Impairments

7. GEO-TAGGED PHOTOS FOR SCRIBE - DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANT

Our college provides scribe support to students with disabilities and to students with temporary injuries who are unable to write examinations, ensuring equal opportunity and inclusive assessment practices.



Scribe Support provided for students with Disabilities and Temporary Injuries