



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE, NAGPUR

Website Maintenance Committee



REPORT ON THE REDESIGNING AND TECHNICAL UPGRADATION OF THE COLLEGE WEBSITE

1. Background

The college website is an important institutional communication platform and is often the first point of contact for students, parents, prospective students, alumni, academic institutions, accreditation agencies and the general public.

The existing website has been developed on an older technical and design framework. In addition to its conventional appearance, the existing setup presents limitations related to software maintenance, responsiveness, security, hosting control, future scalability and ease of administration.

Accordingly, the website has been redesigned and technically modernized with the objective of establishing a **secure, responsive, maintainable and future-ready digital platform for the college**.

The proposed modernization should not be viewed merely as a change in colour, layout or appearance. It represents an improvement in the **website's technical infrastructure, software environment, administration, security, accessibility and long-term maintainability**.

2. Major Technical Comparison

Technical Area	Existing Website	Redesigned / Modernized Website	Institutional Benefit
WordPress Core	Older WordPress environment	Updated WordPress environment	Improved security, compatibility and access to current features
PHP Environment	Older PHP version/environment	Modern supported PHP environment	Better security, performance and compatibility
Theme	Older/legacy theme structure	Modern responsive theme framework	Better design flexibility and device compatibility
Plugins	Older/accumulated plugins	Reviewed and updated essential plugins	Reduced compatibility and security risks
Security Maintenance	Greater exposure associated with outdated software	Updated core, theme, plugins and server environment	Improved security posture
Mobile Responsiveness	Less optimized for current mobile devices	Responsive across mobile, tablet and desktop	Better accessibility and user experience



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Website Structure	Older page and menu structure	Cleaner and more systematic structure	Easier navigation and information discovery
Navigation	Conventional menu presentation	Modern hierarchical navigation and submenu structure	Faster access to information
Content Management	Less flexible legacy structure	Better organized CMS structure	Easier future updating
Browser Compatibility	Greater possibility of issues with newer browsers	Better compatibility with current browsers	More reliable access
Performance	Older components and structure	Modernized technical structure	Better scope for optimization and faster loading
Scalability	Limited by legacy setup	Designed for future expansion	Easier addition of departments, services and features
Maintenance	Increasing difficulty in maintaining legacy components	Modern and maintainable environment	Easier long-term administration
Technical Control	Limited administrative control	Greater control over hosting and website environment	Faster troubleshooting and maintenance
Hosting Administration	Dependence on external/hosting administrator for certain technical operations	Greater access to hosting and website administration	Better institutional control
cPanel / Hosting Access	Limited or dependent access	Access to hosting control panel, subject to hosting arrangement	Enables database, files, backups, SSL and server-level administration
Backup & Recovery	More dependent on hosting arrangements	Better ability to establish regular backup and recovery procedures	Improved business continuity
SSL / HTTPS	Dependent on existing hosting configuration	Can be centrally managed within the hosting environment	Secure communication between users and website



Future Development	Restricted by older platform	Compatible with future web services and improvements	More sustainable digital infrastructure
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3. Major Technical Improvements

3.1 WordPress Core Upgradation

The website has been brought into a modern WordPress environment instead of continuing to rely on an ageing installation.

Updating the WordPress core provides access to current security fixes, bug fixes, improved performance, modern features and better compatibility with current themes and plugins.

This is particularly important because an institution should avoid depending on an outdated content-management system for its primary public-facing website.

3.2 PHP Environment Upgradation

PHP is the server-side technology on which WordPress operates. An appropriately updated PHP environment provides significant advantages in terms of:

- security;
- performance;
- compatibility with current WordPress releases;
- compatibility with modern themes and plugins; and
- long-term server maintainability.

Therefore, modernization of the PHP environment is an important part of the technical upgrade and should be considered separately from the visual redesign.

3.3 Improved Security

Website security is a continuous process. The modernization allows the college to maintain a more controlled software stack consisting of the WordPress core, theme, plugins and hosting environment.

The major security advantages include:

Updated software: Current versions reduce exposure to vulnerabilities addressed by security updates.

Reduced dependence on obsolete components: Older themes and plugins are more likely to create compatibility and maintenance problems.

HTTPS/SSL support: Secure HTTPS communication protects data transmitted between users and the website.

Better administrative control: Greater access to hosting and website administration makes it easier to implement backups, updates, permissions and security measures.



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The new website should therefore be described as having an **improved security posture**, rather than claiming that any website is completely secure.

4. Hosting and cPanel Access – A Major Institutional Advantage

One of the most important improvements is not visible to ordinary website visitors: **greater control over the hosting environment**.

Where hosting administration is controlled entirely by an external party, the college can become dependent on that person or agency for technical activities such as:

- website file management;
- database administration;
- backups;
- SSL configuration;
- domain-related settings;
- email-related server settings;
- troubleshooting;
- software configuration; and
- restoration of the website in case of technical failure.

Access to the hosting control panel, such as **cPanel where provided by the hosting plan**, can significantly improve institutional control.

Benefits of cPanel / hosting access

1. File Manager Access

Authorized college administrators can manage website files without depending entirely on an external person.

2. Database Management

Database tools can be used for administration, backup and recovery.

3. Backup Management

The college can establish and verify regular website backups instead of relying solely on an external administrator.

4. SSL Management

HTTPS/SSL certificates can be monitored and maintained through the hosting environment.

5. PHP and Server Configuration

Where permitted by the hosting plan, appropriate PHP settings and server configurations can be managed.



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6. Email and Domain Management

Hosting panels may provide management facilities for institutional email accounts, DNS and other services depending on the plan.

7. Faster Troubleshooting

Authorized technical personnel can investigate hosting-related issues directly instead of waiting for an external service provider.

Institutional Importance

The key advantage is **administrative independence and continuity**.

The website should ultimately remain an institutional asset and should not become technically dependent on a particular individual or outside agency.

5. Hosting Plan and Infrastructure Advantages

The modernization also provides an opportunity to use a hosting plan appropriate for the college's present and future requirements.

A suitable hosting plan can provide facilities such as:

- adequate web storage;
- sufficient bandwidth;
- database support;
- SSL/HTTPS;
- regular or automated backups;
- cPanel or equivalent hosting control panel;
- PHP version management;
- email hosting, where included;
- security and server monitoring features;
- malware/security tools, where included;
- domain/DNS management facilities; and
- scope for future expansion.

The precise resources available depend on the hosting package purchased.

6. Modern User Experience

The redesigned website introduces a substantially improved front-end experience.

Responsive design

The website is structured to adapt to:



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Desktop computers → Tablets → Mobile phones

This is important because students and parents increasingly access institutional websites through smartphones.

Improved navigation

The redesigned navigation structure makes it easier to access:

- academic departments;
- courses and programmes;
- admissions;
- notices;
- examination information;
- committees and cells;
- facilities;
- activities and events;
- IQAC/NAAC-related information;
- contact information; and
- other institutional resources.

Improved visual hierarchy

Typography, headings, spacing, colours, menus and page structures are organized to make information easier to understand and locate.

7. Improved Institutional Presentation

The redesigned website gives the college a stronger and more contemporary digital identity.

It can present, in a systematic manner:

- institutional profile;
- vision and mission;
- academic programmes;
- faculty and departments;
- infrastructure;
- achievements;
- research activities;
- extension and outreach activities;



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- student support services;
- IQAC activities;
- accreditation-related information;
- notices and announcements;
- events;
- publications; and
- contact information.

This is particularly important because the website functions as a **public institutional record and communication medium**.

8. Advantages for Students and Parents

The new website provides a more convenient experience for users.

Students and parents can benefit from:

- mobile-friendly access;
- clearer navigation;
- easier identification of important information;
- better presentation of admission-related information;
- easier access to notices and announcements;
- improved readability; and
- a more professional and trustworthy institutional interface.

The redesigned website therefore contributes directly to the college's student-facing communication.

9. Advantages for Faculty and College Administration

The modernization also provides operational advantages.

Easier content updation

Departments and authorized administrators can update website content more systematically.

Reduced technical dependency

Greater hosting and administrative access can reduce dependence on a single external person for routine technical operations.

Better continuity

Institutional ownership of hosting credentials, domain information, backups and website administration reduces the possibility of disruption when personnel or vendors change.

Easier future development



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The modernized platform provides a foundation for adding:

- online forms;
- departmental pages;
- event registration;
- digital notices;
- student services;
- admission support;
- downloadable documents;
- online applications;
- integrations with other institutional services; and
- other future digital initiatives.

10. Advantages from the Perspective of Accreditation and Quality Assurance

A modern institutional website can support the college's quality-management and accreditation processes by providing an organized public-facing platform for institutional information.

The website can systematically present evidence and information relating to:

- IQAC activities;
- quality initiatives;
- academic programmes;
- student support;
- research and innovation;
- extension activities;
- achievements;
- committees and cells;
- institutional policies;
- statutory information;
- annual reports;
- events and activities; and
- other relevant documents.

A clear, current and well-structured website therefore strengthens **institutional transparency, accessibility and digital documentation.**



11. Long-Term Technical Advantages

The redesign should be viewed as a foundation for the next several years rather than as a one-time cosmetic exercise.

The principal long-term advantages are:

Modern software stack: Easier to keep WordPress, PHP, themes and plugins updated.

Maintainability: Reduced dependence on legacy components.

Scalability: Capacity to add new pages, departments, services and functionality.

Security: More practical implementation of routine updates, backups, SSL and access controls.

Institutional control: Greater ownership of hosting and website administration.

Business continuity: Better ability to restore the website following technical problems.

Future compatibility: Greater ability to adopt newer web technologies and services.

12. Overall Assessment

The redesigned website provides improvements at **three distinct levels**:

A. Technical Modernization

Updated WordPress, PHP, themes, plugins, security practices and hosting environment.

B. Functional Modernization

Improved responsiveness, navigation, content management, accessibility, maintainability and scope for future expansion.

C. Institutional Modernization

Improved public image, communication, transparency, stakeholder access and institutional control over the website infrastructure.

Thus, the project should not be evaluated merely by comparing screenshots of the old and new websites. The more significant achievement is the **modernization of the underlying digital infrastructure and the improvement in institutional control and sustainability**.

13. Conclusion and Recommendation

The redesigned website represents a significant improvement over the existing website in terms of **technology, security, usability, maintainability, hosting administration and institutional presentation**.

It provides the college with a modern digital platform that is better suited to current web usage and future institutional requirements.

The principal justification for adopting the redesigned website is therefore:



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The project is not simply a redesign of the college website. It is a technical and institutional modernization of the college's digital platform, providing a more secure, responsive, maintainable, scalable and administratively controllable environment for the future.

It is recommended that the college formally adopt the modernized website and ensure that **domain, hosting, cPanel (where applicable), WordPress administration, backups and related credentials remain under institutional control.**

This will enable the college to maintain the website as a long-term institutional asset, reduce unnecessary technical dependency, and provide students, parents and other stakeholders with a significantly improved digital experience.

Coordinator