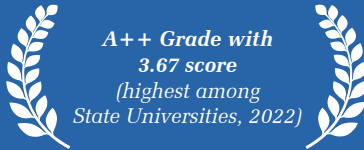


## Scaling New Heights...



**H**eights 2023: KU Researchers' Fest was conducted from 19th to 22nd June 2023 at Karyavattom Campus. Various programmes were organized by the 44 departments at different venues in the campus. Dr. Tessy Thomas, the Missile Woman of India and Director General of Aeronautical Systems, DRDO, Government of India, inaugurated the Researchers' festival. She commented that the Researchers' Fest would be a platform to discover and share knowledge. She also added that the ongoing research fest will strengthen the university's journey to scale better heights. Eminent scientist Dr. P. Balram, former IISC Director, delivered the keynote address. He said that science and technology studies can create sudden changes in society. Dr. Gopinath Ravindran, eminent historian and Vice Chancellor, Kannur University commented on the potential of social science studies and its relevance today. Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal, Vice-Chancellor, Kerala University presided over the function. Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC introduced the theme of the fest. Members of the Syndicate Dr. S Nazeeb, Prof. Gopchandran K.G., Mr. B. P. Murali, Adv. G. Muralidharan Pillai G., Mr. Bijukumar G, Prof. Radhamany P.M., Campus Director, Dr. R.B. Binoj Kumar, Research Director and Mr. Naveen P. M., Chairman, Researchers' Union were also present. (19.06.2023)

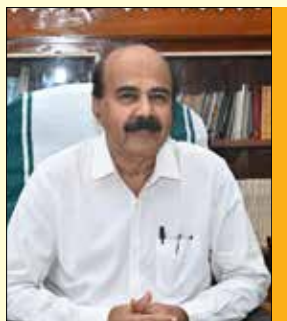




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[www.keralauniversity.ac.in](http://www.keralauniversity.ac.in)

## From the Vice Chancellor's Desk



University of Kerala is currently at the helm of glory with excellent outcomes in academics, research, arts and related areas of knowledge creation. The NAAC A++ Grade with a score of 3.67 and the 24<sup>th</sup> Rank among Universities in India in the NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) has set a model and opened up new paradigms of excellence for the higher education sector in the State. The unprecedented success of the University has given fresh impetus to attain global visibility. The innovative academic practices, the interdisciplinary programmes envisaged by the University and the increasing presence of foreign students vouch for this accolades received by the University. The educational vision of the University follows a sensitive blend of knowledge production and skill identification and development. Keeping these in view, the University

has begun new interdisciplinary programmes, initiated start-ups, ICT enabled infrastructure in all the Departments, MoUs with nationally and internationally reputed institutes, set up eco-friendly campus and organic methods of biodiversity preservation and sustainable modes of developmental vision. These unique approaches to the idea and practice of education and knowledge creation lead to the holistic development of the students as well as the society. It is essential to take note of the global visibility the University has currently gained through its innovative approach towards higher education

The European Union Project, US Patent, Collaboration with Russian University, Latin American Study Centre, Direct Aid Programme Grant by Australian Government, Tie up with Universities in Dominican Republic, Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the initiation of the G20 University Connect Lecture Series confirm the big strides the University has taken towards excellence in knowledge building., Universities as sources of knowledge generation need to contribute to the formation of a knowledge society that would address the local needs of sustainable development.

The curriculum that caters to the global needs as well as regional requirement are designed and imparted focusing on qualitative as well as quantitative outcomes.

The strides towards excellence in resource generation and effective use without any social or gender bias is the hallmark the University aims at. As a towering presence in the realm of nation building the University aims to maximise its output towards knowledge creation and social welfare.

**Prof. (Dr.) Mohanan Kunnummal**





# UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

## Paths of Glory

### *Citius, Altius, Fortius*

*Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Kerala felicitating the University of Kerala for the unique achievement of NAAC A++ on 05 July 2022*



*Prof.(Dr.)Mohanann Kunnumal, Vice Chancellor, receiving the Higher Education Minister's Award from Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, Chairman, NAAC on 10.02.23 at Kochi in the presence of Dr. R. Bindu, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Kerala. Prof.(Dr.) K.G. Gopchandran and Mr. J. Jayaraj, Members of the Syndicate, Prof.(Dr.) K.S.Anilkumar, Registrar and Prof. (Dr.) Gabriel Simon Thattil and Dr. Shaji E., IQAC are also present.*



# Academics to Industry

## Industry Academic Colloquium



An industry - academic colloquium was organised as part of Heights 2023: Researchers' Fest. The meeting was inaugurated by Adv. P. Rajeev, Minister for Law, Industry and Coir, Govt. of Kerala. The meeting was organised to develop a pro-active give and take relationship between academics and industry. The minister opined that industrial parks will be set up along with campuses to transfer academic expertise to Industrial efficiency. The University has already been selected as a Translational Research Centre by the Government of Kerala. The industrial experts shared their practical knowledge and experiences along with their expectations. Sr. Prof. Dr. P. P. Ajayakumar, Director, UGC-HRDC, Syndicate Members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Naseeb, and Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Dr. Mini Dejo Kappen, Director, Planning and Development, were present with industrial experts and academics.

## An Introspection on Higher Education



An interactive session with Dr. Shashi Tharoor on "The Future of Higher Education" was organized as part of the Researchers' Fest. The session, which was held at the C. V. Raman Hall at CLIF, was jam-packed with an enthusiastic crowd. Dr. Tharoor emphasized the need to improve the quality of research produced by Indian universities. By tracing the ancient cultural history of India as a land of intellectual discourse, Dr. Tharoor pointed out the dismal after-effects of the colonial era, which plundered India to a status of illiteracy. By focusing on the necessity of ensuring a vibrant research ecosystem, he pointed out the need for creating links among colleges, universities and the private sector, which could foster a mutually beneficial approach to education. Addressing the incidents of the "digital divide" and flaws of educational output during the pandemic, Dr. Tharoor advocated a 'utilitarian' approach to education. The session was also attended by Syndicate Members Dr.

S. Naseeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Head, Department of Aquatic Biology Dr. A. Bijukumar, and Political Science Professor Dr. Sajad Ibrahim.

## Greater Advancements in Social Science Needed: Mullakkara Rathnakaran



"In an era marked by the exponential advancement of the sciences, which often seem beyond our full comprehension, social sciences should influence the human spirit" said Mullakkara Rathnakaran, the former Minister for Agriculture, emphasizing the imperative for the growth of social sciences. These remarks were made during his address to researchers as part of the expert lectures organized within the framework of the 'Heights 2023: Researchers' Fest.' Rathnakaran's talk revolved around the theme of 'Knowledge and Social Order,' highlighting the potential repercussions on our humanity stemming from any alterations to our minds and bodies. He stressed the intrinsic value of all branches of science when integrated into society, underscoring the crucial role that families play in fostering social understanding within individuals. Rathnakaran also noted that the democratization of knowledge remains an unmet goal in our society and pointed to Europe's development as a testament to the power of knowledge. He concluded by defining research as the dedicated pursuit of ideas aimed at addressing the challenges of human suffering. The session was attended by Syndicate Members Dr. S. Naseeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Dr. A. Bijukumar, Head of the Department of Aquatic Biology, and Dr. Sajad Ibrahim, Professor of Political Science.

## Researching on the Horthus



A host of expert talks on new frontiers in research were conducted along with Heights 2023: Researchers' Fest. Dr. B. Ekbal, former VC, University of Kerala introduced



new ideas on the Latin plant encyclopaedia on Kerala's native flora and fauna of the 18th century prepared by the Dutch governor Van Reid. He detailed on his study of the Horthus. He also remembered about the publication of the translation of the Horthus by the University. Dr. Ekbal had also published an Introduction to Horthus. He encouraged the audience to do more research on the same. Syndicate member Dr. S. Naseeb, Adv. A. Ajikumaar Dr. A. Biju Kumar, Head, Department of Aquatic Biology, Dr. Sajad Ibrahim, Dean, Social Sciences were also present.

## Oppam: Holding Hands with the Under Privileged



Tvm: Oppam, an innovative skill development and social upliftment initiative for the Kaani settlement at Manittooki by the Department of Sociology, University of Kerala, was inaugurated by Shri. K. Radhakrishnan, Minister for Dewaswam and Social Welfare. The inauguration was followed by an exhibition cum sales of the products from the Manittooki settlement.



Syndicate Members Dr. S. Naseeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Mrs. Renju Suresh along with Dr. Sandhya R. S., Head of Department and Director of the Project were present on the occasion.

## Research and Development for a better Tomorrow for the Common Man



A Research and Development Exhibition was organised as part of Heights 2023: Researchers' Expo. Adv. A. A. Rahim MP, inaugurated the exhibition. He congratulated the University being a beacon of hope in the present times when science has lost its rationale. Various stalls by the Start up Mission, Placement Cell, Defence Forces, Fire and Rescue, Police, Chalachithra Academy, Handicraft Development Corporation, Archeology Department, CMFRI, Toonz Academy, Orisys Academy, VSSC and CET had attracted mass attention of the visitors, especially students from the various schools in and around Thiruvananthapuram. Syndicate Members Dr. S. Naseeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Dr. K.B.Manoj, Shri. R.Arunkumar, Registrar Prof. K.S.Anil kumar spoke on the occasion.

## Research Gallery: The Prowess of Research at the University



The "Heights of Expertise" from Science, Humanities and Commerce departments could be seen evidently at the Research gallery. Curated by Dr Viji Vijayan, Siddique Rabiyyath & Dr Shaji E., the gallery gave a glimpse of the multi-disciplinary scientific explorations of the leading departments of the University.



Unlike regular plastic posters, the research strength of the University stood up as 6x3 backlit display boards in the gallery to stimulate the target audience with the innovative ideas of researchers of the University. Through this approach, efforts were made to not only display various research activities but also kindle curiosity and trace the plausible origins of various scientific discoveries. To site an example, the palm leaf manuscripts on 'Jyosnika' at the Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library gave a glimpse of the age old manuscripts while the subsequent

posters from departments of Publications, Botany and Bioinformatics provided scientific evidence to the various claims about toxicology and antidotes in the palm manuscript. Put together the display boards scientifically proved age old stories of how plant extracts can be used as antidotes. Interestingly, the posters also spoke about cyber security and Vizhinjam port as well as the role of historians in a bank sector. From cost effective LEDS, diagnostic kits to alternative economics, nudging and water contamination risks, a tour through the gallery impressed Dr. P.Balram (Padmabhushan awardee & Former Director, IISc. Bangalore), Dr Shasi Tharoor (Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha) and many other dignitaries who visited the place.

Research gallery was therefore a star segment of the festival and focused at creating awareness about the activities being undertaken in the university and stimulate more school and college going students into the world of research. The gallery also enabled an opportunity to investigators for collaborations with other R&D institutions as well as for funding.

The gallery was inaugurated by Smt. Ishita Roy IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education. The function was presided by Dr Mohanan Kunnummal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala. Dr .S. Nazeeb, Member Syndicate, Prof. K.S. Anil Kumar, Registrar and Prof. Binoj Kumar, Research Director felicitated the function.

## Conclave of R&D institutions



A conclave of R&D institutions was organised as part of Heights 2023 Researchers' Festival at Karyavattom campus. Executive heads of more than 30 scientific and cultural institutions participated in the conclave and shared their opinions on Industry - Academy relations. The conclave chalked out strategies for collaborations involving the university teaching departments and research centres with Industrial institutions.



The pioneering initiative is expected to pave way for better collaboration and transfer of research and resources of both institutions. Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal, VC, elaborated

on the upcoming initiatives of the University including the Science Park and Translational Research Centres and emphasised the need to embrace proactive change to enhance quality in research and education. Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC moderated the session. Syndicate members Dr. S. Naseeb, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Sr. Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Institute of Management in Kerala, and Dr. P. Sreejith, Assistant Professor Department of Zoology also spoke on the occasion.

## Book Fest Becomes a Star Attraction



A Book Festival, featuring 32 prominent publishers across India, was organised as part of Heights 2023. The fare was inaugurated by Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal, VC, UoK. Syndicate Members Adv. B. Balachandran, Dr. S. Naseeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Dr. K.B.Manoj, Shri. R.Arunkumar, Dr. R. Jayachandran, Vice Chairman, CSS, Dr. T. K. Santosh Kumar, Director, Department of Publications spoke on the occasion.

## Renowned Scientist Dr. P. Balram speaks on Chemical Communication in Biology



Padmabhushan Prof. (Dr.) P. Balram, Former Director, IISc Bangalore conducted a talk in the C V Raman hall of CLIF on the topic 'Chemical Communication in Biology'. Various topics linking biology and chemistry were briefly covered in the session. Topics including Fungus farming termites, Bioprospecting chemical ecology, X Ray crystallography, venom apparatus of snails and Red queen hypothesis were discussed.



## The Challenge of Constitutional and Democratic Derailment in the Country



As part of the Kerala University, Research Fest 2023, former Education Minister of Kerala and Politburo member of CPI(M), Shri. M.A. Baby graced the occasion with his presence and engaged in an interactive session with the students and the scholars. He talked vehemently against the complex political scenario prevailing in the country today. In a tumultuous phase, in which even the Constitution and its basic principles upholding the democracy in India are threatened and the agents entrusted with upholding the rights of citizens like the Judiciary and Parliament are being constantly undermined, the discussion went on to hold immense relevance. Students posed various relevant questions, making the session interactive and insightful that were timely to meet the challenges faced by the country.

## Cultural Studies Colloquium: A Platform for Intellectual Sharing



As part of KU Researchers' Fest 2023, the Institute of English organized a colloquium on the topic "Is there a Keralam in our English Literature Classrooms? Doing Cultural Studies and Kerala Studies in Our Departments of English". Academic and Critic Dr. Sunil P. Ilayidom deliberated on the topic. Dr. Ilayidom pointed out that the barriers to various disciplines should be removed and better readings of the same can improve an inclusive platform for cultural studies. Syndicate Members Dr. S. Naseeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Dr. Shaji E, Head, Department of Geology, Dr. C.R.Prasad, Department of Kerala Studies spoke on the occasion.

## My tryst....or Quarrels with the Discipline of Economics" – Prof. M. A. Oommen

Prof. M. A. Oommen, renowned economist and the 2023 Kairali Lifetime Achievement Award winner, recollected his teaching experience and his 'tryst' with the discipline



of Economics at the Department of Economics during the Research Fest. Beginning with a multifaceted perspective on 'neoclassical economics', the session dwelled deep into the ideas of social economy and researchers' involvement in widening the horizon of social development via economic action. Prof. Oommen questioned the idea of research becoming a festival, which opened up a large spectrum of reasoning primarily focused on the importance of ensuring intellectual discussions and debates. His vision of research focuses on a welfare society rather than mathematical formulas. Prof. Oommen also remarked that it is essential not only to have a "tryst" with the subject but also to "quarrel" with the established theories of the subject.

## Meeting Butterfingers: A tête-à-tête with Khyrunnisa A.



The Institute of English, University of Kerala, as part of Heights 2023, organised an interactive session with the renowned Children's fiction writer and teacher, Khyrunnisa A. Her talk focused on the importance of students developing a "reading brain". Discussing her journey as a writer, she attributed her introduction to Tinkle as a "turning point" in her career as a writer. She also explained the choice of the name "Butterfingers" for her beloved character. She concluded her speech with the message, "Children should read comics for the right reasons".

## Music, Wisdom and Humour: An Interaction with M. Jayachandran

An interactive session with the renowned playback singer, musician and composer, Mr. M. Jayachandran was hosted by the Department of Music on the third day of Heights





2023. Mr. Jayachandran answered questions regarding his journey as a musician., stating at one point that “imperfection is the path to perfection”. Mr. Jayachandran also told the audience that many of his popular songs contained minor errors, showing us that even after a long journey of perfecting his art, it is still prone to mistakes. He advised the students not to be disillusioned by mistakes or imperfections as it is only human to err. He also gave the audience a mantra to succeed in any discipline in general, especially in music - “practice, practice, and practice again”. He stated that what is most required of a music student is exposure to all kinds of music. Even as an engineering graduate, he had kept his profound interest in music, so much so that he preferred to be called a “musical engineer”. He stated that engineering is all about problem-solving, and the course is about developing an analytical mind while remarking on how the analytical approach he learned in engineering classes helped his career significantly.

### Maintain Public Institutions to Preserve Equity: Gopal Guru



A distinguished lecture by the eminent academician Prof. Gopal Guru, editor of Economic and Political Weekly and former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, on “Higher Education in India, Emerging Trends” was organised as a part of Heights: KU Researchers’ Fest 2023. Prof. Guru’s keynote address focussed on educational discourse, addressing issues like the contagious effects of technology

on the analytical side of education, inequality in education and lack of competition between public and private universities. Prof. Guru praised the University of Kerala for achieving astonishing results in the quality of research outputs and a high percentage of women’s enrolment. “I was informed that 80% of students on this campus are girls. It is a great common good and a wonderful achievement. It needs to be appreciated,” Prof. Guru commented. Citing the success of Heights 2023, Prof. Guru emphasized education as a common good where such academic festivals could destroy the stereotypical public conception and develop multiple reasoning perspectives. Focusing on the Private v/s. Public university debate, he drew the audience’s attention to the lack of competition public universities put forward to display their academic prowess. Particularly mentioning the disparities in fund allocation and marketisation of education sprouting from the collective negligence of state policymakers, he highlighted the sudden shift of the educational hotspot from Public to Private Universities. Prof. Guru’s session delved deep into the effects of inequality and lack of accountability from responsible authorities by pointing out the increased number of SC/ST students dropping out from IITs and IIMs. Prof. K. Lalitha, Member Syndicate, chaired the session. Prof. V. Biju, Head, Department of Physics, and Prof. Meena T. Pillai, Head, Institute of English, spoke at the session. Syndicate members Prof. Gopchandran K.G. and Prof K. Lalitha were also present.

### Marketisation of Public Education: Dr. V. Sivadasan MP



As part of Heights 2023: Researchers’ Fest a session on Higher Education was conducted. The session was inaugurated by Dr. V. Sivadasan MP. He spoke about the presence of fake universities, the marketisation of education and the slashing of scholarships by State Universities due to economic funding disparity. This inturn is the nefarious design to destroy public education and promote privatisation of education. Syndicate members Dr. S. Naseeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Adv. G.Muraleedharan Pillai and Dr. Meena T. Pillai, Dean and Head, Institute of English and Dr. V. Biju, Head, Department of Physics was also present.

## HEIGHTS 2023 : The Artistic Talents in Action



*Gazal by Shahabas Aman*



*Folk song by Praseetha Chalakkudy*



*Drama: Randu Nakshathrangal*



*Margamkali: Students of campus*



*A solo performance of a student artist*

## Curtains Down at 'HEIGHTS' 2023



Dr. R Bindu, hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Kerala, and Padma Shri Cheruvayal Raman were the chief guests at the valedictory function that marked the conclusion of Heights 2023. Highlighting the achievements made in academic excellence and research quality under the "Nava Kerala" Plan, Dr. Bindu lauded the success of Heights 2023: KU Researchers' Fest. "Taking inspiration from Heights 2023, the Government will take necessary steps to speed up construction of Research Parks in state universities", the minister remarked. In addition to the measures needed to achieve ease of doing research, she also stressed the necessity of promoting knowledge translation. She informed the audience that budget allocation for establishing translation research centres had been made using KIIFB funds. Padma Shri Cheruvayal Raman enlightened the audience with his witty yet cautionary words on the current agricultural conditions across the globe.



He advocated the need to keep aside pesticides and fertilisers from farming to ensure good air, good water and healthy food. To protect the next generation from starvation, he stressed the need to provide social security benefits to farmers. Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala, presided over the session. Prof. Rajan Gurukul, Vice Chairman of Kerala State Higher Education Council, delivered the special address. Prof V.P. Mahadevan Pillai, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala, Adv. K.H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Dr. K.G. Gopchandran, Shri. R. Arunkumar Members of Syndicate, Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director IQAC, Prof. P.P. Ajayakumar, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, and Prof. K.S. Anil Kumar, Registrar, also addressed the audience. (22.06.2023)



## NIRF 24<sup>th</sup> Rank: A++ graded-KU adds another feather to its cap



The University of Kerala brought cheer to the State and public at large as it jumped 16 positions to be ranked 24<sup>th</sup> among universities in the country in the India Rankings 2023 under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The 86-year-old University also wrested the honour of being the top-ranked university in the State.

National-level accreditation and ranking are two processes that are conducted to check the quality of higher education institutions in the country. Each year's performance is tested through the NIRF ranking, while National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) evaluates five years of performance. The National Institutional Ranking Framework of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which examines the academic performance of higher education institutions, started the merit-based ranking system in 2016 with the following criteria:

### 1. Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)

Student Strength including Doctoral Students (SS)  
Faculty-student ratio with emphasis on permanent faculty (FSR)  
Combined metric for Faculty with PhD (or equivalent) and Experience (FQE)  
Financial Resources and their Utilisation (FRU)

### 2. Research and Professional Practice (RP)

Combined metric for Publications (PU)  
Combined metric for Quality of Publications (QP)  
IPR and Patents: Published and Granted (IPR)  
Footprint of Projects and Professional Practice (FPPP)

### 3. Graduation Outcomes (GO)

Metric for University Examinations (GUE)

Metric for Number of Ph.D. Students Graduated (GPHD)

### 4. Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)

Percentage of Students from Other States/Countries (Region Diversity RD)

Percentage of Women (Women Diversity WD)

Economically and Socially Challenged Students (ESCS)

Facilities for Physically Challenged Students (PCS)

Perception (PR) Ranking

### 5. Peer Perception

Academic Peers and Employers (PR)

During the 2023 ranking, the University of Kerala also managed to rise to 47<sup>th</sup> position in the category of best higher education institutions in the country. It is noteworthy that the university of Kerala had sufficient academic research achievements to achieve a resounding success in the fierce competition at the national level this time. In the academic fields, the students' centric approach, adherence to the academic calendar, facility profile, new projects, and proactive role of governing bodies have helped to increase the excellence of the university. There are major changes in the university in recent times in the field of research and infrastructure development. Agricultural fellowship, palliative care projects, Harithalayam project, and innovative new programs were highly benefitted for the ranking.

## Four new Projects Inaugurated at the Kariyavattom Campus



As part of the 100 day Action plan of the Government of Kerala four new initiatives have been inaugurated at the Kariyavattom Campus, University of Kerala. Dr. R. Bindu, Minister for Higher Education, Govt of Kerala, inaugurated Bio Diversity Park of the Department of Botany, E-content development Lab at CLIF, Documentation and Research Centre on Decentralisation along with 14 start-ups and initiatives for NABL accreditation. Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal, VC presided over the session. Syndicate Members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Naseeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Adv. B. Balachandran and Dr. K.S. Anilkumar, Registrar were also present.

## Remembering Bharat Murali



Mr. Ramesh Chennithala, former leader of the Opposition, Govt. of Kerala speaking on the occasion of the Bharat Murali memorial Drama Festival organised by the University of Kerala. Syndicate members Mr. R. Anun Kumar, Mr. G. Biju Kumar and P. Rajendrakumar are seen along with HoD Kerala Studies Dr. C. R. Prasad

## Kerala University 2023-24 Budget focusses on attaining global standards in education

The University of Kerala has set a lofty goal of attaining global standards through various reforms such as fostering industry linkages and ensuring the optimal utilisation of translational research centres and laboratories in its annual Budget for 2023-24. Convener of the sub-committee of the Syndicate on finance Adv. K.H. Babujan presented a balanced Budget that anticipates a revenue and expenditure of ₹810.13 crore at a Senate meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor in-charge Mohanan Kunnummal. The Budget has announced plans to constitute a governing body to spearhead efforts for pioneering research work in various fields that would yield patents and publications. Research will also be encouraged in areas that attract consultancy and sample analytical works from external agencies. Besides enhancing facilities at the university's Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF) on the Karyavattom campus, each study department and centre will be encouraged to collaborate with various institutions for at least one project every year. A separate department and a single-window system will be instituted for the purpose. An amount of ₹50 lakh has been earmarked for such purposes.

The university will establish A.R. Raja Raja Varma

Memorial Translation Study Centre at an outlay of ₹50 lakh to spearhead efforts to translate acclaimed literary works from across the world. The Budget has allocated ₹1 crore to introduce tools for augmented reality and virtual reality development at the CLIF. A further allocation of ₹30 lakh has been made for strengthening the activities of the laboratory.

A reading hall that will function round-the-clock will be established on the Karyavattom campus at a cost of ₹1 crore. Rose gardens will be created at various locations across the campus with a wide variety of roses at a cost of ₹30 lakh.

An aquatic complex, including a swimming pool, will be established near the Hymavathy pond in Karyavattom. An allocation of ₹50 lakh has been made for its preliminary activities. A sports complex will also be constructed on the University Stadium premises with support from the Kerala State Sports Council and the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs. An amount of ₹1 crore has been earmarked for the purpose.

The university hopes to improve the academic standards of the University College of Engineering through collaborations with Technopark firms for various projects. An amount of ₹10 lakh has been kept aside for the purpose.



## A++ to KU has strengthened Higher Education: CM

The A++ grading awarded to the University of Kerala by NAAC, UGC has strengthened the Higher Education scenario, said Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala CM. He was speaking at the congratulatory meeting organized by the Ministry of Higher Education. This achievement has energized the state in its attempts to make Kerala a hub of higher learning. The lessons learned in the accreditation process will be used to improve the quality of education. The Government moves forward with a clear vision to use the socio-technological capital attained by the University to push forth towards International levels. The University has received A++ grading by the effective improvement of the

academic and non academic resources. There are only very few institutions which got a higher score than the University. The Kerala Higher educational scenario should proactively work to change the state into an educational destination that even foreign students would look up to, he added. The number of students attending foreign universities is on the increase. This is because of the lack of modern faculties here. The schools of Kerala have attained international standards and now it's the turn of the Higher Education to be effective and international. The meeting was presided by Dr. R. Bindu, Minister for Higher Education.



**The felicitation ceremony :** Chief Minister Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan, Ministers Mr. K. N. Balagopal, Adv. Antony Raju and Mr. G. R. Anil were present along with the MLAs Mr. V. K. Prasanth and Mr. Kadakampalli Surendran, Mayor Ms. Arya Rajendran, Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, KSHEC Vice Chairman Dr. Rajan Gurukkal, Principal Secretary HE Ms. Ishita Roy, Syndicate Member Adv. K. H. Babujan on 05<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## Inauguration of KIIFB funded development projects



Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan , Chief Minister inaugurating KIIFB Funded Development Projects at the University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus on 18th October 2022 in the presence of the Finance Minister Mr.K.N.Balagopal, Higher Education Minister Dr.R.Bindu, Vice Chancellor Prof. V.P.Mahadevan Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. P.P.Ajayakumar, Syndicate Members Adv. K.H.Babujan, Dr. S.Naseeb, Prof. K.G. Gopchandran, Registrar Dr. K.S.Anilkumar are also present. The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), Government of Kerala has allotted a sum of Rupees One Hundred and Fifty crores to the University of Kerala as the

first phase of development. Infrastructure development works under these projects have already started with an estimated amount of Rupees Fifty Seven crores. This includes a new Research and Development block, amphitheater, hostels, open classrooms and a new floor on the Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF) complex. An amount of Rupees forty eight crores is in the sanctioning phase for purchase of advanced instruments for scientific research. Twenty instruments are listed in this project, including a 30 crore worth HRTEM instrument. This will be a great leap for research in science, applied science and technology.

### Honoring Prof. V.P. Mahadevan Pillai for his services as the Vice Chancellor



Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala **honors Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai for his services as the Vice Chancellor** of the University of Kerala 18. 10.2022. The minister of Finance Mr. K. N. Balagopal, Minister of Higher Education Dr. R. Bindu , Mr. Kadakampally Surendran MLA, Syndicate Members Adv. K.H. Babujan, Dr. S. Naseeb, Mr. M. S. Arunkumar MLA, and the Registrar Prof. K.S. Anilkumar are present.

### Honoring Prof. P.P. Ajayakumar for his services as the Pro-Vice Chancellor



Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala **honors Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar for his services as the Pro-Vice Chancellor** of the University of Kerala 18. 10.2022. The minister of Finance Mr. K. N. Balagopal, Minister of Higher Education Dr. R. Bindu, Mr. Kadakampally Surendran MLA , Syndicate Members Adv. K.H. Babujan, Dr. S. Naseeb, Mr. M. S. Arunkumar MLA and the Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar are present.

### New Lab Complex at the Department of Bio-chemistry



The Higher Education Minister Dr. R. Bindu inaugurating **the new Lab Complex at the Department of Bio-chemistry** on 18.10.2022 in the presence of the Finance Minister Mr. K.N. Balagopal, Senate Member Dr. A. Helan and others.

### New Floor in the Computer Sciences Building



The Finance Minister Mr. K. N. Balagopal inaugurating **the third floor of the Computer Sciences Building** on 18.10.2022 in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai and Syndicate Members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Mr. B. P. Murali and the Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar.

### Marxian Study Center Opened



The Finance Minister Mr. K.N. Balagopal inaugurating **the Marxian Study Center** on 18.10.2022 in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof. V.P. Mahadevan Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate Members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Mr. B. P. Murali, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Dr. K. B. Manoj and the Registrar Dr. K.S. Anilkumar



## Department of Kerala Studies Inaugurated



The Higher Education Minister Dr. R. Bindu inaugurates **the Department of Kerala Studies** in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate Members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S.Nazeeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Dr. M. Vijayan Pillai, Mr. P. Rajendrakumar, the Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar and the HoD Prof. C. R. Prasad on 09.06.2022.

## New Block for the Department of Bio-technology



The Minister of Local Self Governance and Excise Mr. M. V. Govindan inaugurates **the new block for the Department of Biotechnology** in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate Members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Mr. B. P. Murali, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran and the HoD Prof. A. Gangaprasad on 09.06.2022.

## Members of the Syndicate along with VC, PVC & Registrar during NAAC visit 2022



**Members of the Syndicate:** Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai (Vice Chancellor), Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar (Pro-Vice Chancellor), Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Mr. B. P. Murali, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Mr. M. S. Arunkumar, Adv. B. Balachandran, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Mr. P. Rajendrakumar, Prof. K. Lalitha, Prof. M. Vijayan Pillai, Ms. Renju Suresh, Mr. R. Arunkumar, Mr. G. Bijukumar, Dr. K. B. Manoj, Prof. K. S. Anilkumar (Registrar).

## UoK goes International....



*European Union Project on Marine Conservation for the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries*

The Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala has signed an MoU with the University of Cyprus, nodal agency for the implementation of the European Union funded project ECOMARINE (Building a Comprehensive Mechanism for Preserving Marine Ecosystems and Life from the negative consequences of Climate Change and the disposal of Plastic Debris). UoK received a project support of € 110,427 under the Erasmus + scheme. The main goal of the project is to improve the management and operation of marine conservation monitoring labs of the Asian Higher Education Institutions

(HEIs) of Malaysia and India with the utmost target to upgrade the university services offered to students, staff, and society of the targeted areas. Through this networked project involving nine institutions from six countries across the globe the University will establish a marine monitoring lab and conduct research and training in biodiversity monitoring, microplastic pollution and blue carbon. The first phase of the international training at the University of Oviedo, Spain was attended by Prof A Biju Kumar, the Project Leader. The University will also be part in the development of E-learning platforms in the field of Ocean Education.



## UoK becomes the Venue for G20 University Connect Lecture Series



The first set of Lecture Series as part of the “G20 University Connect” programme organised by Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries, under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India was

held at the University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, on 9 January 2023. The welcome remarks of Prof. Mohanan Kunnungal, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kerala opened the deliberations. The VC's remarks were followed by a talk by Prof. Priyadarshi Dash, RIS. He discussed the context for India's G20 Presidency. Prof. Girish Kumar R., the Head of the Department of Political Sciences responded to the session, which was followed by remarks by Prof. T. C. James, Visiting Professor, RIS. Prof. Subramanyam Raju, Dean of the School of International Relations, Pondicherry University, discussed the possibilities of India and how it could work out as the G20 President in the wake of problems like supply chain crisis, slowdown, and war. Mr. Ali Syed, Consultant, RIS moderated the session. Prof. Josukutty C. A, Teacher Convenor of the programme proposed the vote of thanks. The University was selected by the Ministry of External Affairs under G20 University Connect to organize and host various activities for 2023-24 .



## Developing University for the Developing World

COVID-19 pandemic has done little to lessen the interest among foreign students for the courses offered by the University of Kerala. As many as 1042 students from 35 countries, including 555 from Afghanistan, have applied through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for various UG, PG, MPhil and PhD programmes for the academic year 2021-2022. The university is now a preferred destination for higher education among students from developing countries. The University hopes to enhance its global image by absorbing as many international students as possible. Besides Afghanistan, applications were also from Bangladesh, Nepal, Syria, Iraq, Uganda, Botswana, and Kenya. There were 611 applications for various PG programmes, including 170 for Business Administration alone. Foreign students have also shown interest in pursuing masters in Computer Science, Political Science, Public

Administration, Economics, English, Sociology, Commerce, Computer Applications, Mathematics and Environmental Science. As many as 283 applications have been received for UG courses. There were also 148 applications submitted for PhD in 25 subjects such as Management Studies, Political Science, Computer Science, Chemistry, Sociology, English and Education. The university has recommended admitting 70 applicants among the Ph.D. aspirants. The Centre for Global Academics (CGA) handles international student affairs and the number of applications is by far the highest in the university's history. Last year, the university had approved admissions for 105 students. This year's applications were processed and about 403 applications were recommended to the ICCR for the consideration of ICCR scholarship. So far this year, 49 candidates were awarded an ICCR scholarship covering 13 PhD, 26 PG and 10 UG. The foundation stone was recently laid for the proposed international hostel for foreign students.

## US Patent on the Discovery leading to Alzheimer's Cure



Dr. Viji Vijayan, Asst. Professor, Department of Bio-Chemistry and Dr. Sarika Gupta, Staff Scientist, National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, has received a U.S. patent for peptide complex with immunomodulatory and anti-inflammatory function. Dr. Viji Vijayan and Dr. Sarika Gupta, had collaborated on the discovery as principal investigator and scientist-mentor respectively. The patent was provided for the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease in order to enable its treatment. Further research and funding has to be directed into this field to evolve cures for such neuro-degenerative disorders. A neurobiology laboratory has been established at the University's Bio-chemistry department to focus on understanding not just Alzheimer's disease, but also the pathogenesis of schizophrenia.

## UoK to collaborate with NovSu



University of Kerala will collaborate with the Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University (NovSU) in various disciplines and provide scholarships for students of both universities. The areas of the academic tie-up were formalized during a meeting held at Kerala University on 7 December 2022. A delegation, led by Yuri Borovikov, Acting Rector of NovSU, decided on the contours of the proposed agreement with Kerala University Registrar Dr. K.S. Anilkumar and other senior officials. The universities will collaborate for a one-semester-long training programme for Master's degree programmes in the areas of cybersecurity, theoretical physics and polymer modeling. NovSU will also

admit two or three undergraduates from Kerala University on a scholarship scheme. Two post doctoral researchers will also be granted admission in the same areas of study. NovSU will assist the Department of Russian of Kerala University by deploying a Russian language teacher for one or two months to improve the quality of teaching. Kerala University will also provide scholarship for one person from Veliky Novgorod city for undergoing training in Malayalam or Hindi. The universities have agreed to sign a MoU after obtaining approval from the authorities concerned in both the countries. The Russian delegation also comprised the Deputy Governor of Novgorod region Ilya Malenko, Mayor of Veliky Novgorod city Aleksandr Rozbaum, Deputy Head of the Administration of the Governor of the Novgorod region Shestakov Nikolai, Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation and the Director of the Russian House in Thiruvananthapuram Mr. Ratheesh C. Nair and Deputy Director Kavitha Nair. Kerala University Syndicate members Dr. S. Nazeeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) director Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil and the heads of various departments also participated in the meeting.



## Direct Aid Program (DAP) from the Australian Government

An official delegation led by His Excellency the Honorable Barry O'Farrell A O, The Australian High Commissioner to India visited the University of Kerala campus, Palayam. The team included Ms. Sarah Kirlew, Consul General for South India, Mr. Samuel Myers, Vice Consul, Mr. Karthikeyan Vaitheeswaran, program manager and Ms. Janaki Sreeram. The High Commissioner announced the DAP funding to Prof. Salom Gnana Thanga, Professor and Head, The Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala. She was awarded with the DAP grant for her project on sustainable management of Marine plastic debris in the South coast of Kerala. The Ambassador and his team also visited the Australian Study Centre at the Institute of English in the Administrative Campus at Palayam.



## Association with Universities of the Dominican Republic



University of Kerala is forging institutional ties with Universities in Dominican Republic to promote academic collaboration in the fields of student/faculty exchange, twinning programmes, and promotion of joint research projects with faculty members. The major themes of research will include trade, agriculture, culture, political systems, translational studies and tropical medicine. The common geography between Kerala and the Dominican Republic and the sizeable Indian diaspora there offers promising

possibilities for the academic communities of both Kerala and Dominican Republic to engage in fruitful dialogue and research. Pharmaceuticals, information technology, tourism, mining and renewable energy, film and culture are the areas where the University of Kerala and universities in Dominican Republic seek to make considerable advances through collaborations. The Dominican delegation was headed by the Ambassador David Mr. Puig Republic and other officials.

### University to get National funding worth 3.25 crores

The Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has approved a financial grant of Rs. 3.25 crores to KU to enhance research and development activities. The grant was awarded based on the various projects submitted by the Departments of Botany and Geology under the FIST scheme. The departments are to receive Rupees two crore and Rupees one crore respectively for the purchase of cutting edge instruments for enhanced research activities.

## A study of Water contamination and Health



An MoU is executed on 27th February 2023 between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology and the Department Geology, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Both parties would like to develop academic and educational cooperation, establish collaborative projects and to cooperate in their mutual interest for a range of higher education and research activities. There is great scope for collaborating and working together in research areas of common interest such disease epidemiology, environmental health, geospatial tagging. Both parties agree to submit joint project for funding and one of the

proposed project is Exploring the geo-spatial distribution and geographical influences of Moyamoya angiopathy” and “An investigation into the role of Environmental agents in the pathogenesis of Moyamoya angiopathy” The MOU was signed by Dr. K. S. Anil Kumar, Registrar, University of Kerala and Dr. Sanjay Behari, Director, SCTIMST in the presence of Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala. The project will be handled by Dr B Jayanand Sudhir (Additional Professor, Neurosurgery), from SCTIMST and Dr E. Shaji, Head, Department of Geology, University of Kerala.

# Major Projects and their Funding During 2022



## New Centres being developed:

1. **Dr. Thanu Padmanabhan Inter University Centre for Astrophysics** (Proposed amount: 88.25 Crore) – Preliminary works
2. **Centre for Latin American Studies:** The Govt. vide G.O. (Rt) No. 1247/2022/HEDN dated 18.08.2022 has accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of the Project “Comparative Studies & Research for Utilizing the potential of Kerala and Latin America” under the aegis of Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Kerala, for an outlay of Rs. 2 Crore.
3. Setting up of Translational Research Centre in University of Kerala through KIIFFB funding (20 Crore)

## Major Projects currently undertaking in the University, under State Plan Grant :

- Bioprospecting of Microflora for Bioactive Compounds, Enzymes and Validating Bioresource Efficiency for Druggable Candidate Molecules - Department of Botany (25,00,000/-)
- Establishment of Translational Research Facility in Plant Cell Culture Technology – V Phase - Department of Botany (30,00,000/-)
- Setting up of Research and Documentation Centre on Decentralisation (RDCE) - Department of Economics (7,50,000/-)
- Augmenting Infrastructure facility of CLIF for NABL accreditation and ISO Certification - CLIF (2,00,00,000/-)
- Developing Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (KUBIIC) of University of Kerala into a state of the art incubation centre (First Year) (50,00,000/-)
- Development of highly efficient four terminal crystalline Silicon heterojunction/Perovskite multijunction solar cell - Department of Physics (48,00,000)
- Setting up of ‘Model Biodiversity Park’ - Department of Botany (65,00,000/-)
- Multidisciplinary Approach to Understand Land-use Strategies and Cultural Landscape of Kachchh, Gujarat during Indus Age – Department of Archaeology (25,00,000/-)
- Setting up a Neurobiology Lab - Department of Biochemistry (30,00,000/-)
- Survey, Collection, Digitalization and Scientific Preservation of Journal of Indian History from the First Volume to Centenary Volume - Department of History (30,00,000/-)
- Productisation of Eco Friendly Diabetic Biosensor - Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (7,50,000/-)
- Integration of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology with the existing Library Management Software (Koha) in the Campus Library networks - University Campus Library
- Pravasi Charithram - Department of Kerala Studies (10,00,000/-)
- Valorization of Agro-Food Processor waste as Polyphenol emulsion formulations for applications in food and pharmaceuticals -Department of Botany (10,00,000/-)



## Projects currently undertaking in the University, under PLEASE Scheme:

1. 'Establishing the Advanced Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research in Cutaneous Biology' (Rs. 4,44,00,000/-)
2. 'A Study on Generalized Spectrum of Matrices, Operators and Hypermatrices' [Department of Mathematics] (Rs. 10,94,590/-)

## Projects Implemented through KIIFB Assistance :

1. Project 'Upgrading Kerala University into Centre of Excellence in Academics & Research through KIIFB Funding' (KIIFB Project) (Sanctioned Rs. 75 Crore in two phases) –

The First phase comprises of two components

- Infrastructure [Construction of R&D Complex, Girls Dormitory, Boys Dormitory, Vertical Extension of CLIF Building, Amphitheatre and Open Classrooms]]
  - Laboratory Equipment
- (The approved outlay of 'Infrastructure' portion of the Project is Rs. 54,56,77,242/- and the 'Laboratory Equipment' is Rs. 48,51,81,764/-.)
2. Setting up of Translational Research Centre in University of Kerala through KIIFB funding (20 Crore)
  3. Construction of New Men's Hostel, Women's Hostel & International Hostel through KIIFB funding (20 Crore)
  4. Starting of modern new short term courses and P.G Courses in project mode at University of Kerala

## Sponsored Research Project Details (2021-2022)

Sl. No.	Name of Department/ Centre	Name of Project	Name of Funding Agency	Total number of Funding Agencies	Total amount received	Amount received in words
1.	Economics	"Collaborative Study on Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure in Kerala"	NABARD	1	Rs.4,73,000/-.	Rupees Four lakh seventy three thousand only
2.	Statistics	"Bayesian density estimation using ranked set sampling"	SERB sponsored-MATRICES Scheme	1	Rs.2,20,000/-.	Rupees Two lakh twenty thousand only
3.	Economics	National Food Security Act (NFSA)in the state of Karnataka, TamilNadu and Lakswadweep (Phase II)	The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India	1	Rs.6,69,200/-	Rupees Six lakh sixty nine thousand and two hundred only
4.	Physics	"Documentary Film on the Travancore Observatory"	KSCSTE	1	Rs.1,45,000/-	Rupees One lakh forty five thousand only
5.	Futures Studies	"Axiomatics ofBetweenness in Discrete Structures"	SERB sponsored-MATRICES Scheme-	1	Rs.1,70,000/-	Rupees One lakh seventy thousand only
6.	Aquatic Biology & Fisheries	"The deep -sea Decapod Crustaceans of Indian Seas: Taxonomy and Biogeography"	LKCNHM, National University of Singapore	1	Rs.2,95,624/-	Rupees Two lakh ninety five thousand six hundred and twenty four only
7.	Geology	"Identification and source characterisation of Arsenic contamination in groundwater resources of Kasaragod, Wayanad and Trivandrum Districts, Kerala, India"	KSCSTEsponsored project under the Environment and Ecology Programmes	1	Rs.4,85,582/-	Rupees Four lakh eighty five thousand five hundred and eighty two only
8.	Zoology	"Identification and Validation of Potential MicroRNA Biomarkers in Primary Cicatricial Alopecia"	KSCSTE- KBC - Sponsored YIPB project	1	Rs.1,20,070/-	Rupees One lakh twenty thousand and seventy only

Sl. No.	Name of Department/ Centre	Name of Project	Name of Funding Agency	Total number of Funding Agencies	Total amount received	Amount received in words
9.	Economics	"Next food -Educating the next generation of professionals in the Agrifood System"	The European Union	1	Rs.6,60,726/-	Rupees Six lakh sixty thousand seven hundred and twenty six only
10.	Philosophy	"The Philosophical Contribution of Swami Agamananda in the Cultural Renaissance of Kerala"	ICPR	1	Rs.1,20,000/-	Rupees One lakh twenty thousand only
11.	Education	"Educational Technology implementation in Teaching and Learning"	Intel Technology India Pvt Ltd via, Centre for Environment Development (CED)	1	Rs.2,63,010/-	Rupees Two lakh sixty three thousand and ten only
12.	Centre for Biodiversity Conservation	"Establishment of RET Medicinal plant Seed Centre at Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus"	SMPB	1	Rs. 25,00,000/-	Rupees Twenty five lakhs only
13.	Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF) .	"Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE)- Phase II-	DST	1	Rs.68,28,409/-	Rupees Sixty eight lakh twenty eight thousand four hundred and nine only
14.	Physics	"Clean and Green Technology for water purification"	Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC)	1	Rs.4,02,000/-	Rupees Four lakh and two thousand only
15.	Education	"Decisive Factors of College Success in the Midst of Quality Intervention of RUSA"	ICSSR- IMPRESS	1	Rs.2,00,000/-.	Rupees Two lakh only
16.	Geology	"Unravelling Submarine Groundwater Discharge (SGD) zones along the Indian subcontinent and its islands (Mission-SGD)-Pilot Study"	The National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS)	1	Rs.3,03,578/-	Rupees Three lakh three thousand five hundred and seventy eight only
17.	Zoology	'Elucidating the effectiveness of CurD skin in the skin cancer induced Animal models'	The Akay Natural ingredients Private Ltd, Ernakulam	1	Rs.2,72,000/-	Rupees Two lakh seventy two thousand only
18.	Geology	"Petrogenesis of mafic and Ultramafic rocks of Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod districts Kerala: Implications of archaic crustal evolution and metallogeny"	KSCSTE sponsored Environment & Ecology Programmes-project	1	Rs.7,59,330/-	Rupees Seven Lakh fifty nine thousand three hundred and thirty only
19.	Physics	"Fabrication and Characterization of Perovskite Solar Cells"	KSCSTE	1	Rs.4,05,016/-	Rupees Four lakh five thousand and sixteen only



Sl. No.	Name of Department/ Centre	Name of Project	Name of Funding Agency	Total number of Funding Agencies	Total amount received	Amount received in words
20.	Physics	“Functional magneto-dielectric materials for microwave applications”	KSCSTE- SRS	1	Rs.4,24,126/-	Rupees Four lakh twenty four thousand one hundred and twenty six only
21.	Physics	“Development of cold sintered dielectrics for electronic applications”	DST sponsored Women Scientist Scheme A (WOS-A	1	Rs.7,50,000/-	Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty thousand only
22.	Botany	“Collection, Characterization and Propagation of Garcinia gummi - gutta(L.) Robs”	KSCSTE	1	Rs.4,59,308/-	Rupees Four lakh fifty nine thousand three hundred and eight only
23.	Economics	“Linkages between STEM Education and STEM Employment: An Inquiry into Identifying Skill Gaps and Policy Distortions ”	ICSSR- IMPRESS	1	Rs.1,80,000/-	Rupees One lakh eighty thousand only
24.	Statistics	“A Study on Geometric Vitality Function of Ordered Random Variables”	SERB sponsored MATRICS Scheme	1	Rs.2,20,000/-.	Rupees Two lakh twenty thousand only
25.	Statistics	“Bayesian density estimation using ranked set sampling”	SERB sponsored MATRICS Scheme	1	Rs.1,30,000/-	Rupees One lakh thirty thousand only
26.	Botany	“Setting up of Nursery for Economically important Medicinal plants: conservation and Sustainable Utilization”	State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB)	1	Rs.10,00,000/	Rupees Tenlakh only
27.	Biochemistry	“Targeted Delivery of Robinin encapsulated Nano Drug delivery system to Infarcted Heart for treatment of myocardial infarction (MI)”	SERB	1	Rs.21,47,000/	Rupees Twenty one lakh forty seven thousand only
28.	Mathematics	“A Study on Generalized Spectra of Tensors or Hypermatrices”	SERB	1	Rs.2,20,000/-.	Rupees Two lakh twenty thousand only

**Total amount received amounts to Rs.2,08,22,979/-**  
*(Rupees Two crore eight lakh twenty two thousand nine hundred and seventy nine only)*

# Why University of Kerala ?

- The first University in Kerala to be accredited with NAAC 'A++' grade
- Ranked among the first 24 universities in India by MHRD, (Govt. of India) under NIRF
- High demand ratio of around 16, with an annual intake of over 1100 students, for a vast spectrum of 64 PG programmes with 1580 courses in 44 departments.
- A series of new generation courses M.Sc. (Climate Change and Disaster Management), M.Sc. Chemistry (Renewable Energy), M.Sc. Botany (specialisation in Biodiversity Conservation; M.Sc. Physics programmes with specializations in Applied Electronics, Space Physics, Renewable Energy and Nanoscience, M.Sc. Electronics (Optoelectronics), M.Sc. Electronics (Artificial Intelligence), M.Sc. Applied Aquaculture; M.Sc. Computational Biology with Specialization in Machine Learning, Computer Aided Drug Design and NGS Data Analytics; M.Sc. Computer Science with Specialization in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science; M.Sc. Demography & Biostatistics; M.Sc. Mathematics with specialization in Finance and Computation; M.A. Politics International Relations and Diplomacy; M.Com Global Business Operations, M. Com. Rural Management and M. Com. Blue Economy and Maritime Law
- Moderate fee structure and hostel facilities for students.
- A dedicated team of highly qualified, experienced teachers with proven track records.
- A stronger mentor-mentee system, anti-ragging policy, and transparent grievance redressal mechanism.
- The Credit and Semester System offering Basket of Credits to promote interdisciplinary learning.
- A state-of-the-art infrastructure including Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF) with highly sophisticated instruments to promote cutting edge research and central computing facility, Astronomical Observatory, Modern Hostels for men and women, Student's Amenity Centre, Computer Centre.
- Full wi-fi campus and networked and automated Library System with a total holding of over 9.5 lakh print books, with a dedicated Electronic Resource Centre
- Central library with mammoth collection of physical as well as digital resources, available for students; campus library working up to 10.00 pm.
- One of India's leading Center in Indology, Oriental Research Institute & Manuscripts Library
- Separate research laboratory for Media Studies, Language Laboratories
- 100% Research fellowships, student endowment support, students' services, participative democracy, transparent and ethical governance.
- Collaborations with over 200 premier national and international institutions.
- Kerala University Business, Innovation and Incubation Centre (KUBIIC), with 83 start-ups; special focus on student start-ups and ideas.
- Need based support for students for industry readiness and employability.
- Unprecedented developmental activities launched with the support of KIIFB.
- State-of-the-art facility for sports including stadium with synthetic track.
- Students support services in the form of Finishing School, Placement Cell, Career Guidance Bureau, Student Services Department
- Green campus with in-house commuting facility like buggy's and bicycles
- Harithalayam Project for Agro sustainability





# Nine Advanced Research Departments Established

In line with the progress in Science and Technology, the University Senate in its meeting held on 12 November approved the opening of nine new Advanced Study Centres at the University for conducting studies and further research. The newly introduced departments with PG and PhD programs are in the fields of Communication Sciences and Electronics, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Data Sciences, Functional Organic Materials, Oceanography and Blue Economy, Renewable Energy, Integrative Biology, Atmospheric Sciences and Design. Teaching posts in the departments would be as one Professor, one Associate Professor and four Assistant Professors. Initially, some departments will have the services of teachers from other departments. The departments will also collaborate with elite national and international research facilities.

## The Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF)



The Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF) at Kariavattom campus is a new and exciting initiative with a wide range of state-of-the-art analytical instruments purchased under government schemes and various other sources. The center represents one of the largest commitments for research in the history of the university and will carry advance research into new realms of application and discovery. The three halls in the seminar



## Kerala Univ labs set to get ₹150-cr boost



SOVI VIDYADHARAN

HIGH-END research facilities in the University of Kerala are set to get a shot in the arm with the implementation of a ₹150-crore development project funded by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).

In the first phase, the university will procure a high-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM) worth ₹24 crore for nanotechnology research. It also plans to procure latest scientific equipment worth ₹43 crore. These will become the key additions to the varsity's Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF).

The laboratory was established in 2016 as SIC (Sophisticated Instrumentation and Computation Centre). It receives support from Department of Science & Technology (DST) under the Central government. Several high-end and sophisticated instruments were added to the facility in the past with the support of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), state government and KIIFB.

It is the largest facilitation centres in the state and supports research activities of various departments under the University of Kerala and research institutions in the state.

In the second phase, the university will acquire more sophisticated equipment worth ₹14 crore. "The procurement of the latest HRTEM with the highest resolution will promote internal research in the university and is very useful for other scientific and research organisations that utilise the facility," said Subodh G, Joint Director, CLIF.

The development project is being planned under the supervision of university Syndicate members K H Babujan, who is the convener of the Finance Committee, and S Nazeeb, the convener of the Academic and Research Committee. Faculty members K S Chandrasekhar and Sam Solomon will coordinate the development work.

Key research equipment to be procured

### Phase 1

- High resolution transmission electron microscope (300 KV): **₹24.09 cr**
- Scanning tunneling microscope: **₹7.50 cr**
- X-Ray diffractometer: **₹2.62 cr**
- Circular dichroism spectrometer: **₹2.19 cr**
- Bench top in-vivo animal imaging system: **₹2.01 cr**

### Phase 2

- Artificial intelligence lab: **₹3 cr**
- Flow cytometer: **₹2.10 cr**
- Gene chip command console software: **₹1.3 cr**

### Infrastructure development

As part of development of infrastructure facilities in the university, ₹52 crore has been earmarked in the first phase. The works include construction of a two-storey scientific research centre of international standards on the Kariavattom campus. The Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL) is coordinating between KIIFB and the university to execute various works under the project. Two hostels with modern facilities will also come up as part of the project. The hostels can accommodate 130 boys and 168 girls. A Greek-model amphitheatre that can seat around 1,000 spectators will be built as part of the project, a university official said. Also in the pipeline are a four-storey academic block for the proposed Kerala Studies Department and new generation courses. This will be completed in the second phase along with addition of more storeys to the men's and women's hostels.

hall complex are named C. V. Raman Hall, Sreenivasa Ramanujan Conference Hall, and Janaki Ammal Seminar Hall respectively in remembrance of the contributions of the modern Indian scientists. The cost estimate of seminar hall with state-of-art modern facilities and related building complex construction was around 4.25 crores. The University took special care to improve the infrastructural and other basic facilities within the campus. A total infrastructural development of 310 lakh square feet was executed during the last five years.

## Astronomical Observatory



The Astronomical Observatory is open to the public on all weekdays from 06:00 pm to 08:30 pm for skywatching. The opposition of Jupiter which occurred on 26 September 2022 was recorded from the Observatory. Public enthusiasts observed the opposition on the newly installed 14 inch GOTO telescope. The partial solar eclipse that occurred on 26 October 2022 was also recorded at the observatory. A remembrance program on John Allan Brown was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 on the occasion of his 143<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary. On the occasion of the 173<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary of the founding director John Caldcott an open house was conducted in the Observatory. The ability to see the comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) which arrives once in 50,000 years was confirmed on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 03:30 am from the observatory. The comet will be the brightest on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 and may be visible with naked eyes if the sky is not overcast with fog and clouds from 07:00 pm to early morning the next day. Arrangements for public viewing of the same are being planned from the Observatory. The first research paper with affiliation to the Astronomical Observatory entitled “History of the Observatory on the Agasthiyar hill top” was recently published in the Indian Journal of History of Science peer reviewed by Indian National Science Academy and published by Springer Nature. The research paper focuses on science done at the Agasthiyar observatory and recognizes the need to locate its physical remains on the Agsthiyar.

## Report of the Expert Committee on University Education: Covid-19 Period and After

The report on the academic reforms in the University of Kerala was an attempt to develop concrete proposals for the revamping of the academic administration and management of the University in the context of the pandemic, COVID-19. The report concentrated on teaching, learning,



research and examination at the University level. While the pandemic has added a new layer of complexity and confusion to the higher education sector, to those who work in the sector, and to those who seek to study in colleges and universities, the virus has also presented higher education with opportunities which can continue to be productive even after the pandemic situation passes by and normalcy returns. Some of the significant recommendations have already been implemented by the University such as the introduction of theatre classrooms, KU Padasala, Student Life Cycle Management System, Research Portal, Library integration, Starting of new Departments in emerging areas like Renewable energy, Design, Space Physics, Material Sciences, Blue Economy and a centre for academic and professional training C-APT. The report functioned as a guideline for crossing the challenges offered by the pandemic and helped in providing proper directions for future development. Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar (Chairman), Syndicate Members Prof. K. G. Gopchandran (Convenor), Adv. K. H. Babujan, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Scholars like Prof. S.K. Satheesh, Prof. Sunoj R. B., Prof. Jameela Begum A., Prof. G.M. Nair, Prof. Unnikrishnan Nair, Sri. K. Anvar Sadath and Sri. Damodar Prasad were part of the Expert Committee that prepared the report.

## KU Padasala: The Video Repository of the University



KU Padasala has emerged as a major e-learning endeavor of the University of Kerala. It features video recordings of several talks by national and international experts on an



array of subjects, and edited sessions from conferences, seminars and invited talks organised by various departments.

Currently 1,150 videos have been made available to the public by KU Padasala, including around 200 videos produced exclusively using funds made available by the University. This unique collection also provides opportunities for research scholars and senior students to demonstrate their knowledge in their respective fields.

The videos are hosted in a YouTube channel (youtube.com/c/KUPadasala) so that they can be located through searches from any part of the globe. This channel has 11400 subscribers and there are views and comments from scholars across the nation and abroad. The videos are arranged category-wise on a special page on the University website and made accessible through a link on the homepage, <https://www.keralauniversity.ac.in/ku-padasala/home>.

### Start-ups @ Incubation Centre (KUBIIC)

Kerala University Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (KUBIIC) is actively incubating new student start-ups since 2006. The first round of call for applications was initiated in June, 2016. Four student start-ups applied and were approved by the executive committee. The second round of call for applications was done during July 2017. Nine student start-ups in a diverse number of fields applied and were evaluated and approved by the executive committee. The University's incubation centre and Kerala State Startup Mission (KSUM) jointly called for proposals for idea contest exclusively for students of Kariyavattom campus during January, 2019. Nineteen idea proposals received from students, and the expert panel recommended four promising ideas for further processing and possible financial support to KSUM. A review meeting for assessing the startups was held on 26th March 2021, and the review committee recommended all the startups to continue for three years. In 2021, Seven more start-ups were selected after a strict selection process.



Idea hackathon named as "From Lab to Society (FLY 2021)" was launched in June 2021, the students of the University Departments and Affiliated colleges of the University of Kerala. 106 applications were received and 52 ideas were for idea grants. The second edition of FLY 2021 was conducted during September 2021, selected 26 ideas for idea grants. The idea grants were distributed to 78 start-ups by

the Hon Minister for Industries Sri. P.Rajeev on 12 th November, 2021. The Start-up Bootcamp was a 4 days intensive workshop intended to capacitate the student start-ups. The Boot Camp was inaugurated by the Hon Minister for Industries Sri. P.Rajeev on 16 th March. The boot camp selected 7 startups for the pre-accelerator programs. During the pre-accelerator programs, these startups will be connected to potential investors. Two of the startups ( Mandelbrot Systems PVT. LTD. & Wellspread Technologies PVT. LTD.) have already received business orders. Wellspread Technologies received an order for 60 Lakhs and Mandelbrot Systems PVT. LTD. Received 35 lakhs. The third edition of FLY was conducted during June 2022 and selected 11 ideas for idea grants. At present a total of Ninety Two start-ups were signed MoU with the University till September 2022 and are functioning well. KUBIIC conducted boot camp for student start-ups for three days from January 09-11, 2023 and a one day program for faculty mentors on 9 th January, 2023. Workshop on Innovation Superclusters. University of Kerala organized a workshop on Innovation Superclusters at the Kariavattom Campus on 10 th January, 2023. The workshop consisted in the form of three lectures followed by group discussion. Mr. Anoop Ambika, CEO, Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) inaugurated the workshop. The speakers were Mr. Shine Gopal, founder, MarketNext foundation, Cochin, Dr.Ujwal Kumar Choudhary, Advisor & Professor, Daffodils International University and Mr. Chistian Rangen, Engage-Innovate, Norway.

### Centre for Academic and Industrial Collaboration (CAIC)

CAIC was established in the University for conducting joint ventures with industries especially for promoting academic and research activities of the University. CAIC is in the forefront in conducting all activities which are incidental and conducive for functioning of academic industrial collaboration. The centre also designs new programs/courses in tune with the requirements of industries and manages entrepreneurship development programs. Today, alongside KUBIIC, the centre promotes startup culture and translator yresearch activities. Efforts to conduct joint Ph.D. programs and postdoctoral programs in collaboration with industries are underway. A major activity during 2020-21 was the initiation of MoU with Gtech (an industry association of technology companies in India) for student training to enable them to meet the industry needs and to be recognized globally.

### Translational Research Centre

In continuation with the Budget Speech of the Government of Kerala (2022-23), a proposal to establish a Translational Research Center in the University of Kerala was forwarded to KIIFB. The proposed name of the research center is Translational Research and Innovation Center - Kerala University (TRIC-KU). The aim of the TRIC-KU is to bridge the gap that exists between academic research and industry to reach the society through process and product development of contemporary relevance. TRIC-KU would

foster developing a conducive ecosystem for entrepreneurs, mentors, investors, and academicians to deliver the fruits of research to the society in a well-articulated and synchronized mechanism. TRIC-KU envisions to create and nurture a niche within the University for Inter-departmental collaborations, to advance in various domains such as: Health Care and New Biology, Material Sciences and Chemistry, Translational Bioinformatics, Machine Learning, Robotics and 3D printing, Disaster Management and Public Health, Translational Mechanisms in Business Model Design. TRIC-KU would function in close conjunction with the three existing arms of the university: KUBIIC (Kerala University Business and Innovation Incubation Center), CLIF (Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation), CAIC (Center for Academic and Industrial Collaboration).



Proposed model of TRIC-KU by PEMS, Thiruvananthapuram

TRIC-KU would comprise of (i) Innovation Building of 30,000 sq ft; (ii) Animal Research Facility of 5000 sq ft; (iii) Translational Research Laboratory of 9000 sq ft and (iv) Industrial area of 15,000 sq ft. Co-ordinators: Dr. Manoj Changat (Dept of Future Studies ) & Dr. Viji Vijayan (Dept of Biochemistry).

## Thanu Padmanabhan Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics

The Centre of Excellence envisaged through the Thanu Padmanabhan Centre of Excellence in Astronomy and Astrophysics, provides an opportunity to link the Universities with a specialized Research Centre focused on advanced research in the area of Astronomy and Astrophysics. The conceived Centre of excellence is proposed to be built at once with the necessary infrastructure, economic resources, institutional network and academic capacity to leapfrog into research at the cutting edge in the area of Astrophysics and Astronomy. The detailed scientific project proposal for setting up of the “Thanu Padmanabhan Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics” which was submitted by the University of Kerala to the Higher Education Commission has been forwarded to the Government for consideration after being vetted by the Higher Education Commission. A draft regulation regarding Centres of Excellence is expected to be tabled in the legislative assembly in order to provide administrative sanction for commencement of operation. The Government of Kerala has appointed KSITIL as the special project vehicle for preparation of the detailed project report for identifying the space and building plans in regard to the establishment of the centre.

## Research Directorate

The University established a Research Directorate, an administration system to support all research processes of the University. The well-coordinated Research Directorate functions under a Research Director, offering a high quality and fulfilling environment for cutting edge research. All the PhD Registration and thesis submission sections are currently functioning under a single roof in the first floor of Dr. K. R. Narayanan Student Amenity centre at the Administrative Campus at Palayam. A most modern solution Research Portal has been introduced for all stakeholders associated with research, seamlessly integrating structured software solutions, beginning from registration to the award of a Provisional Certificate to the research scholar.



*Research Directorate inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai in the presence of the Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate members Dr. S. Nazeem, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran, Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar, Research Director Prof. R. B. Binojkumar, IQAC Director Prof. Simon Thattil on 12.06.2022.*

A well-defined Research Policy helps to create a congenial ecosystem that promotes knowledge creation that is fair and just, and can be meaningfully blended with societal concerns. The overall philosophy of the Policy is to strengthen the available resources like (i) Human Capital (Faculty, Researchers, Students, Administrators, etc); (ii) Governance Capital (Rules, Norms, Policies and bringing governance under a single-window system); (iii) Physical Capital (Facilities, Equipment and other infrastructures); (iv) Intellectual Capital (Knowledge, Information, Ideas, contributing to knowledge society and economy); and (v) Financial Capital (Research Grant, Funding etc.). University of Kerala is the only university in the state that provides research fellowship to research scholars from all the research centres under the university.

## Research Publications

In the last five years the University has to its credit about 3,000 research papers in peer-reviewed journals. There are over 936 books/book chapters, 2,231 publications in Scopus, 13,567 citations, and h-index 40. The highest



impact factor recorded during the assessment period: 54.56. The University has Collaborations with over 200 premier national and international institutions with an extramural funding of Rs. 154.53 lakhs for Research (Non-government sources). During the assessment period the University obtained research projects worth Rs. 5825.02 lakhs sponsored by government agencies and Rs 358.75 lakhs seed money for faculty to initiate research. 907 PhDs were awarded from teaching departments and 40 PhDs to foreign research scholars. Three DSc awards, 24 published patents, 4 patents granted and 3 technology transfers are noteworthy. 30 species and five genera were discovered. Number of collaborative activities with other institutions/research establishments/industries for research and academic development of faculty and students in the past 5 years come to 457 and Number of functional MoUs with institutions/industries in India and abroad for internship, on-the-job training, project work, student/faculty exchange and collaborative research in the past 5 years number 176. A total of 120 publications have an impact factor greater

than 6. During the assessment period there has been a significant increase in research papers in Scopus and Web of Science with a remarkable jump in h index.

### Student Life Cycle Management System (SLCM)

The project envisages a comprehensive software solution for managing the academic life cycle of a student, right from the starting of the admission procedure, to the issuance of final certificates and the scope covers all the cycles viz. Student Registration, Admission, student services like Matriculation and Migration, Eligibility and SDC, Exam Registration, Verification, CA Mark, Attendance, Teachers Index card, Online Question papers, Hall Tickets, False Numbering, Online Examinations, Camp Management, Online Evaluation and QR Code Systems, Tabulation, Results Publication, Revaluation, Consolidated mark list, issuing of Degree Certificates and all other relevant Certificates.

## Innovative IT enabled services in the Library

### RFID (Radio-frequency identification detection) Technology Enabled Library Management System

RFID-enabled library services for the efficient circulation of library documents to the members. All the bibliographical and circulation records were migrated to an open-source web-enabled Library Management System, Koha. Most of the books were tagged with RFID tags. Installed RFID Reader/Writer for activating the RFID tags and installed handheld reader for faster inventory to scan all books without taking from the shelves and it helps to locate misplaced books quickly without wasting time. Also, established Security Gate System; Touch Screen Information Kiosks for Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC); Self Check-In/Out Stations (Book Drop Box) at the entrance of the Library.



**Dr. R Bindu, Minister for Higher Education inaugurates the library modernisation activities in the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai and the Syndicate members.**

### Smart Cards



RFID chip-based Smart cards were issued to all Institutional members and Eminent Scholar members and will be issued to all Library members in future. It facilitates speedy and efficient charging (issuing) and discharging (returning) process and gets more comfort to the users to avail various library services. These cards can be used at self-check in/ check-out stations to issue books independent of any human intervention. It can also be used for access control and payments.

### Kerala University knowledge Repository

The library has a digital archives of 20 lakh full text searchable digital pages of very rare and old books, periodicals and grey literature hosted in DSpace, an open source digital library platform and is made available in the Local Area Network (<http://10.20.20.83:8080/jspui/>).

## Library and Information Services to the visually challenged users

Resource Centre for Visually challenged users is a fully air-conditioned centre with all modern equipment and infrastructure such as modern desktop computers, smart phones, Kibo reprographic Scanner, digital Braille devices and multimedia with assistive technologies to access various electronic and print resources. The Centre has access to bookshare through which more than 10 lakhs audio books in different languages for the exclusive use of print disabled users.

## One University One Library- Integrated Library Networking

It is a union catalog of all the 56 libraries viz. Kerala University Library, Campus Library Libraries of 44 teaching

departments, seven Inter University Centres, three Study centres of the University of Kerala under one umbrella. The bibliographic details of the books in all the independent libraries under the University of Kerala are now at the fingertips of the readers through the open source library management software, KOHA. This vast network also makes it possible to search and find information on required books from anywhere in the world. Through this system, comprehensive information such as what books are available in various libraries, how many books in each library, circulation status, publishers and year of publication details are available to the readers digitally. After making sure that the books are available, users can go to the respective libraries. Also they can easily reserve and renew books from remote locations. The details can be accessed at <http://campuslib.keralauniversity.ac.in/cgi-bin/koha/opac-tags.pl>

## Details of MoUs signed by UoK with various Institutions



MoU signed between VSSC and Department of Physics, University of Kerala - 30 March 2022

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Name of the Department	Purpose of MoU	Year of Signing
1	BRICS Policy Centre, Rio-de-janeiro, Brazil	Department of Political Science	Exchange of students of undergraduate and graduate levels, collaboration between teachers and researchers regarding the development of research, exchange of bibliographic material	2015
2	British Council	University of Kerala	Generation UK- India Programme	2015
3	Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore	Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, Kariavattom	To establish a general frame work of co-operation among the parties to develop, scientifically review the content of, continuously improve and maintain an aquatic biodiversity information system, to be used by the signatory party and others	2017
4	Michigan Technological University, USA	Department of Geology, Kariavattom	To exchange academic and research staff, exchange students, special projects	2017
5	Georgian Technical University, Georgia	Department of Statistics, Kariavattom	Exchange of Faculty and other research and technical specialists for short term and long term funding, design of collaborative research projects, including the development of formal proposals for funding of such research, design of student exchange programmes to be implemented as external funding for partial or full support of such exchanges	2017



Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Name of the Department	Purpose of MoU	Year of Signing
6	Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical college, Louisiana, USA	Dept. of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, Dept. of Futures Studies, Dept. of Geology and Dept. of Environmental Sciences.	Research collaboration and faculty/students exchanges	2018
7	National Centre for Earth Science Studies(NCESS)	Dept of Geology	The processing of Landsat8 or similar satellite based thermal infrared images to identify anomalies in ground water movement along coastal zone and compilation of general aquifer characteristics of the respective project area,like lithology,single or multi layered aquifer systems, aquifer heterogeneity.	2019
8	Cognub Decision Solutions, Pvt Ltd	Department of Statistics	To develop academic and industry cooperation, promote research interactions between subject experts and industry experts and to cooperate in their mutual interest	2019
9	University of Hartford, USA	Department of Environmental Sciences	To engage the University of Kerala in the research project "Experiential Learning with Indian Educators: collecting local data to share with politicians and scientists" funded by National Geographic (Grant Number NGS-55326E-19). This project brings teachers from across India, with emphasis on the Ganges and Indus river regions, to a five-day workshop to develop research skills in marine plastic pollution data collection.	2019,
10	University of Warsaw	Dept. of Political Science	To establish a formal understanding on co-operation and friendship which is intended to further the academic objectives of each institution and to promote better understanding between the faculty and students of both universities.	2019
11	University of Shandong, China	Dept. of Political Science	To promote faculty exchange between two institutions along with research and academic exchange	2019
12	Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum(LKCNHM), National University of Singapore	Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries, University of Kerala	Establish research collaboration for joint project titled "The Deep – Sea Decapod Crustaceans of Indian Seas: Taxonomy and Biography"	2019
13	CSIR-NIIST, Pappanamcode	Dept of Biochemistry	To develop academic and educational cooperation, establish a collaborative program (in vivo studies) between the two institutions and to cooperate in their mutual interest for a range of higher educational activities including joint research and development projects.	2019
14	SCMS Group of educational institutions, Kochi	Centre of Diaspora Studies	Cooperation in the field of education and in other academic activities	2019
15	Center of Excellence for the Oceans, National Taiwan Ocean University	Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries, University of Kerala	Establish research collaboration on aquatic taxonomy, marine biodiversity documentation and integrate taxonomic database into an information system that can be utilized by signatory parties, governments and the public.	2019
16	Idukki Collectorate	Sri.Sanal Kumar S P Senior System Analyst(C-Graf) Dept of Futures Studies, University of Kerala	Sand Auditing of Flood affected Pamba river	2019
17.	Korea Institute for Ceramic Engineering and Technology (KICET), Republic of Korea	Department of Optoelectronics and Department of Physics, University of Kerala	Collaboration on the " Research on the Nano – materials, High frequency dielectrics and EMI shielding materials	2019

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Name of the Department	Purpose of MoU	Year of Signing
18.	Sequoia Applied Technologies, Technopark, Trivandrum	Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala	To develop collaborative teaching, research, and development.	2020
19.	ICRAF Innovations Pvt Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram	Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala	To develop collaborative teaching, research, and development.	2020
20	ASAP, Dept of Higher Education	University of Kerala	Impart life skills to students	2020
21	Bioroot Exploration India (P)Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram-	Department of Bio Chemistry, University of Kerala	To explore and develop academic and research cooperation	2020
22	Department of Material Engineering, Indian Institute of Bangalore	Department of Physics, University of Kerala	To develop academic and educational co operation, establish a collaborative program in photovoltaics between University of Kerala and Indian Institute of Bangalore(IISc) and to co operate in mutual interest for a range of higher educational and research activities	2020
23	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore,	University of Kerala	To develop academic and educational cooperation, establish a collaborative program between two universities	2020
24	Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Bremen, Germany	Dept of Environmental Sciences	To promote a general scientific co operation between both institutions, covering research, education and training in the fields of tropical marine ecology, coastal management and biogeochemistry, and other related fields of oceanography	2021
25	Academy of Magical Sciences, Poojappura	Centre for Adult Continuing Education and Extension	Renewal of Mou signed on 2010	2021
26	State Agency Spanish Council for Scientific Research M.P. through National Museum of Natural Sciences of Madrid, Spain	Department of Geology	Collaboration on exchange of academic and research staff, exchange of students, special projects	2021
27	University of Lisbon, Portugal	Dept. of Physics, University of Kerala	To develop academic and educational cooperation, establish a collaborative program in research between the two universities and to cooperate in their mutual interest for a range of higher educational activities.	2021
28	University of Colorado, USA	Dept. of Bio-Chemistry	To explore and develop academic and research co-operation and conduct advanced research by mutual collaboration in the field of biochemical mechanisms in diabetes and age associated diseases in order to achieve mutual interest in academic and advanced research activity.	2021
29	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow	Dept of Chemistry	Collaborative Research Programs in specific fields of interests	2021
30	Alliance Francaise De Trivandrum, Thiruvananthapuram	Department of Political Science	Launch training programmes on French Language and culture for MA Programmes for Department of Political Science, University of Kerala students in areas where the institute has expertise.	2021
31	DFM Softech Solutions (Design Alpha) Pvt. Ltd, Jyothirmaya, Infopark Phase II. Kakkanad, Kochi	Department of Optoelectronics	Cooperation in academic and industrial relation, such interaction shall be of mutual benefit for their respective organizations.	2021



Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Name of the Department	Purpose of MoU	Year of Signing
32	Pratiksha Trust, Mr. Senapathy Gopalakrishnan and Mrs. Sudha Gopalakrishnan	Department of Integrative Biology, University of Kerala	For funding an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) as donation, with an objective to attract young faculty, Post Doctoral Students and Doctoral Students to work and to conduct research in the Department of Integrative Biology	2021
33	Ural Federal University, Russia	Centre for Renewable Energy and Materials	To develop academic and educational cooperation, establish a collaborative program in material science between the two universities and to cooperate in their mutual interest	2021
34	PRAN Fertility and Well Woman Centre, Kumaramparam	Department of Zoology, University of Kerala	Collaborative programs in Embryology Training Course between the two institutions and to co operate in their mutual interest	2021
35	SAMAD IVF Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram	Department of Zoology, University of Kerala	Collaborative programs in Embryology Training Course between the two institutions and to co operate in their mutual interest	2021
36	SBM IVF, SBM Hospital, Karunagappally	Department of Zoology, University of Kerala	Collaborative programs in Embryology Training Course between the two institutions and to co operate in their mutual interest	2021
37	Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University)	University of Kerala	To collaborate with various departments in Kerala University	2021 signed UO .No. Ac.D/2/304/2021 dated 20.11.2021
39	Kerala Prisons & Correctional Services, Poojappura	CACEE	Certificate course in Correctional Psychology and counselling Skills.	2021
40	Govt. Ayurveda College, TVM	Biochemistry	Academic & Educational cooperation	2021
41	Govt. Ayurveda College, TVM	Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	Academic & Educational cooperation	2021
42	Group of Technology Companies in Kerala (G Tech)	Centre for Academic and Industrial Collaboration	To enhance the quality of the educational experience of students under University of Kerala	2021
43	Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Ltd (ODEPC), Dept of Labour and Skills, Govt of Kerala	Department of German, University of Kerala	For starting corporate training of German A1, A2, B1 & B2 courses for the students of ODEPC at Dept of German on existing fee structure of the courses.	Mou signed on 10.05.2022 UO NO. AcD/2/19/2022 dt 11.07.2022
44	HLL Management Academy	IMK	MBA Online Admission (2020-21)	UO NO. 11.06.22
45	Louisiana State University, USA	Dept. of Sociology	To develop academic and educational cooperation, establish a collaborative program in research between the two universities and to cooperate in their mutual interest for range of higher educational activities	MoU signed on 13.07.2022 U.O. No. Ac.D /1/ 27909/ 2019 dated 13.07.2022
46	HLL Life Care Ltd. Thiruvananthapuram	Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala	To develop academic, educational and industrial cooperation, establish a industrial and collaborative programme in industrial processes and waste management between HLL Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala	MoU signed on 24.12.2022 U.O.No. Ac.D/4/186/2021 dated 31.12.2022

## International Archives & Heritage Centre

*A joint venture by Kerala State Archives Department & University of Kerala*



The Kerala State Archives Department in its possession the world's largest collection of palm-leaf Manuscripts. The Department has grown into a premier institution of India housing such records of immeasurable value. The Department which is the custodian of millions of records is our nation's premier conservator of history and heritage. The primary functions of the International Archives and Heritage Centre Building comprise of preservation and management of these Palm Leaf manuscripts. The International Archives and Heritage Centre is planned within the University of Kerala Campus, between Oriental Research Institute and the Department of Distance Education, spread over an acre. The project will have a multi-storeyed building having three floors with an area of 21,832 sq. ft. in the first phase. The facilities include in the building will be a Repository, designed specifically to accommodate the storage of sensitive Palm leaf manuscripts, copper plates, Grandhas, and others with the most modern climate controlled systems that would ensure that the invaluable relics stored there would be preserved impeccably in the centuries to come along with a Research Hall, for research and exchange of information on palm-leaf manuscripts and also to learn, understand and enjoy the historical significance and heritage of our land. A Conservation Lab for the preservation of the sensitive Palm-leaf manuscripts along with Administrative Facilities and a lobby and so are also proposed.

## Heritage Museum



The Heritage Museum functions in the heritage building located near the finance building of the Administrative Campus at Palayam was established on 2022. Dr. Rajesh S. V. and Dr. Abhayam G. S., Assistant Professors and the students of the Department of Archaeology under the guidance of the Pro Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar and a committee comprising of members of the Syndicate, Engineering wing. The museum was inaugurated by the honorable Vice Chancellor of the University of Kerala, Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, in the presence of the stakeholders on 21.10.2022. The museum offers a window to the history of the University of Kerala from its inception to the present in the form of photographs of significant events, various buildings, distinguished alumni and faculty. The eminent leaders of the University are also displayed in the museum. The different scientific instruments and artifacts used at the University are also on display. An audio-visual show on the history of education in Kerala and role of the University is also arranged at the museum. Adjacent to the museum, a small open-air theater and lawn is set up to conduct programs. The museum functions on all working days from 10 am to 5 pm and is open to the public, and entry for visitors to the museum is free.

## Laboratory Wing to the Department of Archaeology



Inauguration of **Laboratory Block in Department of Archaeology** by Dr. R. Bindu, Minister for Higher Education in the presence of Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Adv. K. H. Babujan, Syndicate Member and Dr. Preeta Nayar, HoD.

## Archaeological Excavations at Pre-Urban Harappan cemetery at Juna Khatiya

The Department of Archaeology, University of Kerala, conducted archaeological excavations at a Pre-Urban Harappan (circa 3200 – 2600 BCE) cemetery at Juna Khatiya, in Lakhpat taluka of Kachchh district, Gujarat, during August and September 2022. This is collaborative research with the cooperation of Indian and Foreign institutions. The site was discovered by the University of Kerala in 2016. The three seasons of excavations in 2019, 2020 and 2022 unearthed more than 125 burials having varying features. This is the largest cemetery site belonging





to the Pre-Urban Harappan period so far discovered and excavated in India. Most burials were found in stone-made burial structures of various sizes and shapes. Although the human and animal skeletons found within the burials are fragmentary, the burial structures yielded various burial goods such as pottery, stone tools, lithic debitage, stone beads, terracotta beads, shell beads, and shell bangles. Scientific investigations on ancient DNA, isotopes, lipid residue, physical anthropology, palaeopathology, archaeobotany, provenance analysis and GIS and Remote Sensing are ongoing on excavated materials for a detailed understanding of the Pre-Urban Harappans.

### Digitization of Manuscripts at the ORI & MSS Library



Oriental Research Institute & Manuscripts Library is one of the largest Manuscripts Libraries in India containing more than 65,000 Manuscripts. Among them 80% are Palm-Leaf Manuscripts and the rest is in handmade paper. As part of the modern way of conservation of palm leaf manuscripts, the University of Kerala started a project for the Digitization of Manuscripts at the ORI & MSS Library using state plan funds 2018 onwards. This project is designed as a five year project, MoU with M/S.C-DIT. The II year, Phase III of the project is now going on in the department and it is started from 22.08.2022.

### Sree Narayana Guru International Study Centre: Sreenarayanavinjaneeyam Project Inaugurated

Sree Narayana Vijneeyam; a unique Innovative research project on the life and the oure of the social reformer Sree Narayana Guru, organized by Sree Narayana Guru International Study Centre, UoK was inaugurated by Swami



Sachidananda, President, Shivagiri Matt Dharma Sangham on 30.01.23. The project is aimed at understanding Guru as the most natural icon of our society. The project aims at collecting the entirety of works by and on Guru and organizing them as a cultural glossary and bibliography. The project also aims at understanding the disciples of Guru, understanding the socio cultural relevance and representation of his works. An introductory programme on the same was held on 30.1.23 at Ayyankali Memorial Hall at Palayam. The program was aimed at presenting the methodology of the programme along with talks, book exhibition, discourses and a dramatic representation of Guru's life. Dr. M.A. Siddique, Professor, Department of Malayalam is the Honorary Director of Sree Narayana Guru International Study Centre.

### Manonmaniam Sundaranar International Centre for Dravidian Cultural Studies

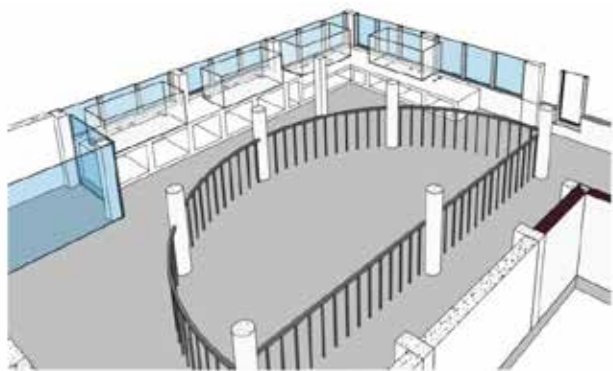


Manonmaniam Sundaranar International Centre for Dravidian Cultural Studies was established in 2018 under the Department of Tamil, University of Kerala. The Center is mainly intended to survey and study the 5000 years old Culture in its totality. The focus will be on the comparative study of Dravidian Languages and Literatures but will also include the areas of history, ethnography, archaeology, epigraphy, art history, manuscriptology, folklore, sociology and other relevant areas. In addition, Translation and propagation of ideas and also documentation, showcasing the same in the form of archives, museum etc.will also be attempted. At present the Centre concentrates on all aspects of the Dravidian language in general emphasising the study of Tamil, Malayalam, Literature and Culture, which are relevant for the regional, national and international needs. The centre offers two courses: Certificate Course in Tamil and Certificate Course in Malayalam.

## Marine Museum



The Government of Kerala provided financial support of one crore rupees to establish a Marine Museum to the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries to set up a marine museum. The University Engineering Department has completed the building construction close to the Department building. The Department has proposed interior installation work, which will be completed as soon as permissions are got from the authorities. The museum will showcase the marine biodiversity profile of the Kerala coast, including whale skeletons, install interactive screens, and serve as the centre for oceanic studies in the state.



Marine museum: Inner design

## Inter University Centre for Evolutionary and Integrative Biology: iCEIB



Inter University Centre for Evolutionary and Integrative Biology (iCEIB) of the University of Kerala is at the Academic campus and was established in 2013. The Centre explores Biological Sciences in an innovative way utilizing trans-

disciplinary approaches to pursue teaching and research in various areas of modern Biology. As an ambitious centre, iCEIB started a Master's Programme in Integrative Biology. Students are provided with research and training programs with a curriculum ranging from studies on the evolution of structure and function of life-forms to advanced studies on molecular technologies. This Centre intends to provide opportunities for students to interact with leading scientists and academicians of our country and abroad. The centre frequently organizes National and International seminars, workshops and conferences and encourages educational activities including Nature camps and visits to fields and National Institutes. Interactive sessions regularly organized where students present and discuss common scientific topics and thus promote their scientific communication and management skills. The centre also serves as a platform for students to perform well in competitive exams and also equip them to pursue their scientific dreams in India and abroad. Inter University Centre for Evolutionary and Integrative Biology conducted an International Conference on Recent Advances in Biological Sciences 2023 from 17-19 February 2023. The conference was inaugurated by Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal, University of Kerala. The conference dealt with scopes like Advances in Genomics and Proteomics, Structural and Functional Biology, Natural Bioactive Compounds, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Bio-diversity and Environmental Biology, Plant and Animal Science.

## Centre for Agro-ecology and Public Health

The Centre for Agro-ecology and Public Health, Department of Economics, University of Kerala has a mission to facilitate studies in agroecology and public health through action learning and research models in collaboration with national and international agencies to provide inputs for policy action. The Centre is initiating a remarkable change towards sustainability simultaneously through interventions, documentation and knowledge creation. Certificate Course on Agro-ecology and Action Research run by the Centre in collaboration with eighteen international universities under the H2020 European Union project is a pioneer attempt in the state of Kerala for experiential learning in Agroecology. The Centre is entrusted with the duty of Concurrent Evaluation of National Food Security Act in the state of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep to provide policy inputs for the Government of India. The Centre has been selected for the conduct of Social Audit of Public Distribution System by the Government of Kerala for the year 2022-24. Collaborating with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development the Centre is undertaking Impact evaluation of WADI – Integrated Tribal Development Project implemented in Aralam Tribal Resettlement Area, Kannur and Poothady, Wayanad. Agroecological Transition in Kerala during the Covid period, Decentralised Governance Literacy, Pain and Palliative Care Policy Evaluation, Understanding the best Grama, Block, District Panchayats in Kerala etc are other works pursued by the Centre. The Centre acts as a platform



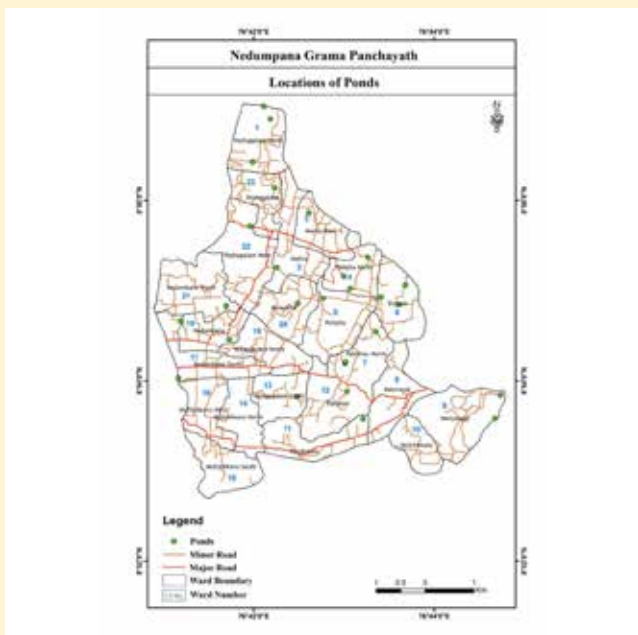
for knowledge sharing for diverse stakeholders including academicians, policy makers, researchers, students and the general public.

### Advanced Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research in Cutaneous Biology (AcREM- Stem)



The centre aims at creating a unique and sustainable multidisciplinary center of excellence on Regenerative and Precision Medicine that can, in the long term, have a strong structuring effect in the Indian science landscape, high international visibility, a clear scientific and economic impact, and a global effect on the quality of life of patients that suffer from burns, chronic wounds, hair loss, cancer, cardiovascular, neurodegenerative and musculoskeletal diseases. The centre performs world leading research in regenerative & precision medicine by anchoring research activities of the best research groups in India and abroad, promoting excellence, advanced training, increasing performance, translational research outputs, and commercialization strategies that can, in the long-run generate a significant economic impact, besides impacting the quality of life of aging affected with severe degenerative conditions.

### Inter University Centre for Geospatial Information Science and Technology



The Inter University Centre for Geospatial Information Science and Technology (IUCGIST), a centre of excellence established in the University of Kerala and jointly supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Kerala with the aim to create infrastructure to manage digital geospatial data to meet the scientific, socio-economic and operational requirements of the state. To cater the need of trained people in the geoinformation science and technology, the center also started a PG diploma course in Geo-Information Science and Technology (PGDGIST) under the UGC innovative programme. The centre is well equipped with state-of-the art GIS, image processing and photogrammetric softwares; DGPS and different types of spatial data sets including satellite images and SoI toposheets.

### International and Inter University Center for Natural Resources Management



The International and Inter University Centre for Natural Resources Management (IIUCNRM) is visualized as an inter-institutional, interdisciplinary Centre, which envisages capacity building for effective and sustainable management of natural resources like water resources, biodiversity, etc. A total of sixteen institutions including four university departments and twelve college departments from different regions of the state are collaborating with the centre on research and training activities. The Centre has Signed a MoU with Mukhathala Block Panchayat for the augmentation of groundwater resources.

### Harithalayam

The Harithalayam initiative of the University aims to introduce practical knowledge and experience of agriculture among students and the University community. This would also lead to research initiatives that would further boost productivity. The practice is a holistic development of the students. As reported by the daily, *The Hindu* on June 5, 2020, "Through the Harithalayam project, the



University aimed at commencing farming in fallow land. While 20 acres of the campus would be utilized for paddy farming, 5 acres would be used for vegetable and tuber crop cultivation. Besides 5,000 fruit saplings and 1,000 coconut saplings will also be planted. A plot of 5 acres has been earmarked to create a garden to cultivate rare plant species indigenous to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.” This innovative step reflects the University’s endeavor to combat global warming, and ensure healthy living and food security. *Thulaseevanam*, an abode for medicinal plants, is also a unique feature of the eco-friendly awareness programmes initiated by the university.

### Andaman and Nicobar Plant Conservation and Miyawaki forest



The Andaman Tropical evergreens is a multi-storied and closed canopy forest with lesser height, density and luxuriance. There were two major reasons for the introduction of Andaman tropical evergreens and indigenous medicinal plants. These species have use in silviculture programmes, cottage industry, rattan industry, timber industry, plant breeding and pharmaceuticals.

Some of these are used by the insular aborigines for their ailments and various livelihoods are another promising sector for bioprospecting. The second more important reason is protection of the gene pool. The insular species are characterized by small gene pools and reduced out breeding owing to geographical isolation. In places like Andaman-Nico- bar Islands which are frequently susceptible to cata- strophic events like cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, conservation of the germplasm insular species the island is very essential from a conserva- tion point of view. The conservatory established viz. a Centre for Biodiversity under the Department of Botany serves as ademo-garden in the campus of the University of Kerala.



*Unlimited Greenery in Limited Spaces: Mr. M. V. Govindan, Minister for Excise and Local Self Government inaugurated the Miyawaki forest at the University of Kerala.*

Miyawaki Forest based on the Miyawaki theory put forth by Akira Miyawaki. After sound soil enrichment, 800 plants were cultivated in 5 cents of land in 2021, and these plants have now grown straight upwards. In three years, these trees are expected to grow more than 20 feet, and in 20 years, they will have the tone and tenor of a 100-year-old forest.

### Minister Mr. M.V. Govindan plants a sapling at CLIF ground



*The Minister for Local Self Governance and Excise Mr. M.V. Govindan sapling at CLIF ground along with The Minister for Higher Education Dr.R.Bindu, Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate Members Adv. K.H.Babujan, Dr.S.Nazeeb, Adv. G.Muralidharan and others.*



## Digital Garden



Digital Garden is a concept of digitization of floristic diversity of an area for the easy access of plant data using our mobile phones. The concept of digital garden and creation of India's first digital garden was done by Shri Akhilesh S. V. Nair, Research Scholar, Department of Botany, University of Kerala, and Dr. A. Gangaprasad, Professor, Hon. Director, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, Department of Botany, University of Kerala, at Kanakakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram. After the success of establishing the digital garden at Kanakakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram, the authors also established a digital garden at Kerala Raj Bhavan, Kerala Niyamasabha (Kerala Legislative Assembly), University of Kerala, Kerala Public Service Commission and Maharaja's College Ernakulam. Documented data were digitized through website creation and QR (Quick Response) code linking. Specific URLs were used to create QR codes for each species. In order to create a digital garden, the QR code is placed along with the plant label. By scanning the QR code with a QR code scanner in the mobile phone, the code translates the URL and open to the website, where the person can access the complete data of each plant species.

## M. Kamarudeenkunju Memorial Systematic Garden



One of the main goals of Department Botany is to develop local expertise in the areas of biodiversity and taxonomy. This systematic garden is built mainly based on the undergraduate and postgraduate syllabus. In the systematic

garden, plants are arranged according to Bentham and Hooker Classification (George Bentham & Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, 1862-1883). It is one of the most widely developed and widely accepted classification and it describes 97,205 species of flowering plants belonging to 7,569 genera of 202 plant families ranging from Ranunculaceae to Poaceae. The Bentham and Hooker classification is the most natural classification system that is closest to modern concepts of evolution. This systematic garden was built in the memory of Dr. M. Kamarudeenkunju, former teacher in the Department of Botany, Karyavattam who has worked tirelessly for the conservation of biodiversity. M. Kamarudeenkunju Memorial Systematic Garden will be very useful and helpful for the next generation to understand and learn more about our invaluable plant diversity.

## Carbon-Free Campus



University of Kerala inaugurated the first phase of Carbon-free campus programme. The project is initiated as part of the 'Haritha Jeevanam scheme'. The mission is to make the university campus completely carbon free. For transportation within the campus electric buggy cars, electric scooters and bicycles are available within the campus. Presently, there is two electric buggy car, two electric scooters and 75 bicycles. The electric buggy car can accommodate 11 passengers at a time.

## Student Palliative Clubs



University of Kerala has started student Palliative Clubs in the affiliated colleges as part of its institutional social responsibility and outreach programme. The club's functions under the National Service Scheme

and Department of Student Services. The palliative volunteers are working along with palliative club's by caring for the patients and providing medicines, wheel chairs, airbeds, dialysis kits, food kits and counseling. The programme have received wide acclaim from the society. The programme was started in 2019 and continues and is continuing. Awards were given for the best palliative units and volunteers in a meeting arranged in which the Hon'ble Minister for Health, Smt. Veena George and Minister for Higher Education Dr. R. Bindu participated.

## Vimukti Anti Drug Campaign

University of Kerala has started vimukti club's in the affiliated colleges and it functions with National Service Scheme as nodal agency. In association with Kerala excise department the Vimukti clubs are organizing various awareness programmes among the students. These include awareness rallies, poster exhibitions, debate competitions, short film competitions, essay writing competitions etc. University also involved in the massive awareness programmes initiated by the Govt. of Kerala.

## University of Kerala Bags State NSS Award



University of Kerala bagged the Best NSS Award in the state in 2019-20 announced by the Kerala State NSS Cell. This achievement was made through the concerted efforts at institutional and community level interventions. Since 2017 onwards innovative initiatives were taken by the National Service Scheme of the University. The major initiatives of the NSS Cell of the university include the flood related relief and rehabilitation activities in 2018 and 2019, river protection scheme entitled Yuvatha Nadiyodoppam, novel initiatives of "Vimukthi"- Anti-drug & Alcohol programme, Massive Voluntary Blood Donation Programmes, implementation of Palliative Care by starting Student Palliative Care units in Colleges, Harithalayam project, construction of 86 homes for the poor people as part of the Home for Homeless Programmes, organization of National Integration Camp in 2018, District and State Level Youth Parliament in 2019, National Level Workshop on Women Capacity Building in 2018 in association with Kerala Women's Commission, residential training



programme on Disaster management, First Aid and Basic Life Skills, setting up of Biodiversity Parks in colleges in association with Social Forestry wing of Kerala forest Department, organic farming and cultivation in college campuses and community, planting of tree saplings in the houses of volunteers, college campuses and adopted villages.

## Student Insurance Scheme

Insurance schemes for students have been introduced for medical reimbursement and death claims. Student Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (up to 2016 Admission), Student Welfare Scheme (2017-19 Admission) and Student Care Scheme (2019 Admission onwards) were implemented by the University.

## The International Students Hostel



The foundation stone for the International students' hostel which is being constructed at the Karyavattom campus, University of Kerala, for accommodating the foreign students was laid on 2022. Rupees 3.18 crore is the cost estimate for the phase I of the hostel construction.

## ONV Literary Prize

A literary prize instituted by the University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram to honor the Malayalam literary legends. The prize consists of a sculpture designed by Karakkamandapam Vijayakumar along with a prize money worth Rs. 1,00,000/-. Eminent writers Sugathakumaari, Mr. T. Padmanaabhan and Dr. K. Sachidandan were honored with this prize. The 2022 prize was presented to Dr. Sachidandan at Chavara, the birthplace of ONV.





## Bhashaykkoru Dollar



Bhashaykkoru Dollar prize is established together by Federation of Kerala Association in North America (FOKANA) and University of Kerala. PhD dissertations in Malayalam under any University in Kerala may be submitted for the same. A commendation plaque with a prize money of Rs. 50,000/- is presented to the winner along with a prize money of Rs. 5,000/- for the research supervisor of the same. The award winning thesis will be published by the Department of Publication, University of Kerala.

## Travelling Theatre



The Travelling Theatre under the Centre for Performing and Visual Arts is the Repertory Theatre of Kerala University, established in 2018. In 2019 a scheme called Wagon Theatre was introduced with the idea of bringing drama to the people. The Travelling Theatre has mostly presented dramas focussing on Renaissance Heroes who played a prominent role in the development of Kerala. The purpose of these theater productions is to convey value based messages to the public and the University

students. The major productions of Travelling Theatre were "Vivekodayam" based on the life of Sree Narayana Guru in 2019, "Mahathma Ayyankali - Navodhana Porali" on the life of Ayyankali in 2021 and "Samoothyapadam" exposing the dangers of dowry. Dr. Raja Varier, Director, Centre for Performing and Visual Arts has directed these dramas. Kerala University through the Travelling Theatre has extended University education to the public to enlighten the students and the general public.

## UGC HRDC Retains the First Place in the National Level



University of Kerala UGC HRDC retained the first place in the National level for including most number of teachers, and displaying satisfactory progress and quality in its activities. University of Kerala UGC HRDC came to the top position attaining 4.52 points in the standing committee assessment of activities of 66 UGC HRDC all over India between 2015 and 2019. Kerala University has been retaining the position for the past fifteen years.

## Hi-tech Facilities for School of Communication and Information Sciences



The foundation for the new building for the School of Communication and Information Sciences was laid on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The building will be constructed in the area between the Environmental Sciences block and the ONV Mandiram. The three-storey building will cover an area of 17000 sq. ft. The building will have a high-tech media lab along with other improved facilities. The upcoming building will be the centre for all publications of the University in the future. The construction is to be done by the Housing Board of Kerala.

## Multimedia Classrooms & Multimedia Theatre Classrooms



Inauguration of Multimedia Classrooms & Multimedia Theatre Classrooms in University Teaching Departments at Aquatic Biology Hall, Kariavattom Campus was held on 08<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 by Honorable Minister for Higher Education Dr. R. Bindu. The Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai presided over the function. It is one of the largest projects to introduce the world of boundless knowledge to research and development and to make university education international. Multimedia theaters and classrooms equipped with information technology and other innovative media technologies are sure to be a

new experience in the academic process of the Teaching, Learning and Research processes of the Departments.

## Water Conservation to Surplus Water



UoK, Karyavattom campus was ill-famed for its water shortage. With the inauguration of the 6-lakh liter water tank on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 by Mr. G. R. Anil, Minister for Civil Supplies. The scarcity of water in the campus has become a memory of the past. Water is now sourced from the KWA and the four traditional wells found in the campus. The tank was built by KWA with the help of the Jalasamridhi project.

## Meet the Scholar

### 52 Enlightening Talks for Transformational Learning



Learning from eminent scholars and great men with experience and vision has always been the tradition of University of Kerala. With this motive we have launched an ambitious program entitled MEET THE SCHOLAR. We would invite eminent scholars, researchers, social reformers and leaders of repute to the campus to interact with our teachers and scholars on topics of contemporary interest and enriching academic value. Drawing inspiration from them, the learning ecosystem of the campus would transform itself in to a truly mature and robust academic environment.

### The Department of Student Services

The Department of Student Services actively promotes social and cultural activities among the students. It fosters the presence of the students nationally as well as internationally. Our students have made their mark in international events like SAUFEST (South Asian

Universities Youth Festival). We have a consistent record of participation and success in the Inter University National Youth festivals. The University recorded a total win in 37 events during the assessment period. Active participation is also recorded for the South Zone Youth festival.

### Inter-university festival: UoK overall champions for 5th consecutive time



Kerala University has emerged overall champions for the fifth consecutive time at the 36th south zone inter-university youth festival held in Tirupati. KU has also qualified to participate in 15 competition items at the national level youth fete to begin in Bengaluru on February 24. The youth festival had 27 competition items in music, dance, fine arts, literary and theater sections. of these, KU emerged



champions in literary and the three sections and was runner-up in music section. Students of the university won first prize in light vocal solo, folk orchestra, quiz, debate, drama, skit, mime, mimicry and poster making. KU also won second prize in group song (Indian) and elocution. KU emerged third in cartooning classical percussion (solo), classical instrument (solo) and western vocal (solo). Kerala University team that emerged overall champions for the fifth consecutive time at the 36th south zone inter-university youth festival held in Tirupati.

## The Department of Physical Education

The Department of Physical Education, University of Kerala has a consistent record of success and presence nationally. The department regularly organizes Inter Collegiate tournaments as well as All India Inter University Tournaments. During the assessment period the University secured 68 gold medals, 54 Silver medals and 44 Bronze medals in the All India/Zonal Inter University Tournaments.



### The overall trophy in the Inter-University taekwondo Competition

Kerala University received the overall trophy in the inter-university taekwondo competition conducted by the University of Kerala. Kerala University achieved 21 point with 4 gold and 1 bronze. Higher Education Minister Dr. R. Bindhu distributed the prizes for winners in the meet.

### University of Kerala Sports Merit Scholarship



University of Kerala Sports Merit Scholarship was distributed. Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain and her coach Sandhya Gurung were the special invitees. The conference was inaugurated by Honorable Minister for Education and Labour, Sri. V. Sivankutty.

### Neurobiology Lab Inaugurated



A Neurobiology Lab has been set up at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Kerala using Plan Funds 2021-22 by Dr. Viji Vijayan. The laboratory comprises (i) Cell Culture facility; (ii) Assessing Animal Behavior and (iii) Vivarium. The Neurobiology laboratory currently focuses on understanding the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's disease and neurological disorders like Schizophrenia. The lab was inaugurated by Syndicate members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran on 12 Dec 2022.



## Team IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell)

Teamwork and well planned action were key drivers to success in achieving the historic NAAC A++ grade for University of Kerala. Under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Vice - Chancellor, our Syndicate Members, Statutory Officers, Teachers, Staff and Students we were committed to reach this milestone. Prof. Gebriel Simon Thattill is Director of IQAC. IQAC has done the coordination as required by NAAC. IQAC was involved in the conduct of three NAAC sponsored workshops during the last five years of which the workshop of 2018 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chancellor with the NAAC Director delivering the keynote address.



### Major initiative of IQAC includes:

- Conduct of Annual Induction Programme for Students with invited lectures.
- Academic Audit
- School level Interdisciplinary Academic Meet
- Curriculum Fair
- Workshops and Orientation Programmes in association with Students Union
- Performance Awards for Teachers
- Patent filing and publication support for Teachers
- Training for teachers on Curriculum design under Outcome Based Education (OBE)
- Training for teachers on Curriculum delivery under Learning Management System (LMS)
- Training for Administrative Staff
- Examination Reforms Workshop
- Career Advancement Scheme, Reviews for Teachers

### IQAC support for Accreditation and Ranking

IQAC undertakes the following initiatives as part of Accreditation, Ranking and Quality Enhancement

- NIRF India Rankings
  - Chancellor's Award by KSHEC
  - Quarterly Performance Report for the Chancellor
  - QS Rankings
  - Times Higher Education Survey
  - Submission of NAAC - AQAR
  - Academic Meets under KSHEC
  - State Level Quality Assurance Cell, Govt. of Kerala
- The Documented Reports from IQAC Includes:
- Research Handbook
  - Academic Handbook
  - Handbook on Learning Outcome Based Curriculum framework

## Inaugurated Centre for Advanced Cancer Research



Syndicate member Adv. K. H. Babujan inaugurated the Centre for Advanced Cancer Research (CACR) in the presence of the Syndicate members Dr. S. Nazeem, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran and others on 12.12.2022.

## A Global Recognition: Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC)

Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Professor, Department of Optoelectronics, University of Kerala was admitted as Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). Royal Society of Chemistry, founded in 1841, is the largest organization in Europe for advancement of chemical sciences. Fellows are elected based on the impact of contributions they have made to chemical sciences. The names of newly elected Fellows are published each year in The Times (London). He is presently a Member in the Syndicate of the University. Presently he holds the positions of the Director of School of Technology and the Chairman of Board of Studies of Optoelectronics in the University. Formerly he was Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology of the University. He has published



about 100 papers in journals and received more than 3500 citations with an h-index of 29. His main areas of research are Information Technology and Nanophotonics. He has already mentored eight post-doctoral fellows in his career. Seventeen candidates have already been awarded Ph.D. degrees under his guidance. Forty- eight candidates have successfully completed M.Phil. dissertations under his guidance. He has reviewed papers for more than 45 Journals and includes Nature Communications and Scientific Reports published by Nature Group of Journals, RSC, ACS, Elsevier and Springer Journals. He was also holding additional charge of the Director of the Astronomical Observatory, Thiruvananthapuram (Estd.1837), from June 2013 to May 2017. He was a member of the Governing Council of Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) during 2014-16.

### Letter of Appreciation from Elsevier



Elsevier to Dr. E. Shaji: “Between 2019–2021, you published a total of 2 open access articles with Elsevier, receiving a

total of 37,646 downloads. 1 of your articles were linked to the UN SDGs, helping to tackle some of the world’s greatest challenges. Your top downloaded open access article linked to the SDGs was: Arsenic contamination of groundwater: A global synopsis with focus on the Indian Peninsula 34,907. SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. Dr. E. Shaji is the Head, Department of Geology, University of Kerala.

### Best Poster Presentation Award



Dr Viji Vijayan receives Best poster presentation award on the topic “Altered S100B protein expression in the cerebellum: Implications for schizophrenia” under non - communicable disease’s category at the National seminar on Recent Trends in Disease Prevention & Health Management jointly organized by CSIR-NIIST & Kerala Academy of Sciences on Dec 14-15, 2022.

### Dr. S. Vasudev Award 2022 by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environments

Dr. E.A. Siril and Dr. A. Gangaprasad, professors of the Department of Botany, University of Kerala, received Dr. S. Vasudev Award instituted by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environments (KSCSTE),

Trivandrum, Kerala, for best Research Project under Science Research Scheme for the year 2022. The award carries a citation and cash prize of Rs. 50,000. The award was received from the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri Pinarayi Vijayan, at the Inaugural Ceremony of the 35<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress on February 12, 2023, at Mar Baselios Christian College of Engineering & Technology, Kuttikkanam, Idukki.



*Dr. E.A. Siril receiving Vasudev Award*



*Dr. A. Gangaprasad receiving Vasudev Award*



## Inauguration of Bachelors Hostel



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai inaugurating *the Bachelors Hostel* in the presence of the Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Shri. P. Rajendrakumar and the Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar on 09.06.2022.

## The Newly Constructed Dormitory Facility in the Ladies Hostel



The Vice Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai inaugurating *the Newly Constructed Dormitory facility in the Ladies Hostel* in the presence of the Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate members Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran Shri. P. Rajendrakumar, Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar and others on 09.06.2022.

## The Renovated Canteen at the Academic Campus, Kariavattom



The Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar inaugurating the *Renovated Canteen* along with Vice-Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai on 09.06.2022.

## Inauguration of the Indian Coffee House in the Academic Campus, Kariavattom



Syndicate member Adv. K. H. Babujan inaugurating *the Indian Coffee House at the Academic Campus, Kariavattom* in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Sr. Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Syndicate members Dr. S. Nazeeb, Adv. A. Ajikumar, Adv. G. Muralidharan, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Mr. P. Rajendrakumar, Registrar Prof. K. S. Anilkumar etc. on 09.06.2022.

## Congratulations to the South Zone Youth Festival Winners



*The South Zone Youth Festival winners with Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal (Vice Chancellor), Adv. K. H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Prof. K. G. Gopchandran, Dr. K. B. Manoj, Prof. K. Lalitha, Ms. Renju Suresh (Syndicate Members), Prof. K. S. Anilkumar (Registrar), Mr. R. Mahadevan (Finance Officer), and Mr. R. Siddik (Director, Students Service).*

## 'Agaam': Rare Mango Sapling Planted at the Administrative Campus, Palayam



*Agaam mango sapling planted at the Senate House Campus by Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Mohanan Kunnummal. The Agaam mango is a new variety recently identified, conserved and reproduced by the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, University of Kerala.*



# നേട്ടങ്ങളുടെ 'കേരള'

**16 മാർച്ചിലെ 43 പരീക്ഷകൾക്ക് നേട്ടം നൽകി നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം**

**അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ പ്രൊഫ. അരുൺ**

പരിശോധനയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം നേട്ടം നൽകിയ പരീക്ഷകൾക്ക് നേട്ടം നൽകി നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം. 16 മാർച്ചിലെ 43 പരീക്ഷകൾക്ക് നേട്ടം നൽകി നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം. 16 മാർച്ചിലെ 43 പരീക്ഷകൾക്ക് നേട്ടം നൽകി നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം.

# ഉന്നത വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേഖലയെ രാജ്യാന്തര നിലവാരത്തിലേക്ക് ഉയർത്തും: മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി

കേരളം നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം. 16 മാർച്ചിലെ 43 പരീക്ഷകൾക്ക് നേട്ടം നൽകി നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം. 16 മാർച്ചിലെ 43 പരീക്ഷകൾക്ക് നേട്ടം നൽകി നവ്വംഗമിനിയം കേരളം.

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# 'Tshika-2' brings out hidden artists among KU staff

**Times News Network**

Thiruvananthapuram: The second chapter of an initiative, which started in 2020, was launched off by administrator of education K Bhandu, courtesy of the many employees who found inspiration to bring back their artistic gangster.

Many of them were thrilled with the initial response and hence have come together for 'Tshika-2' led by the province-chancellor of Kerala University Prof Dr P P Aggarwal and organized by Channan, the arts and cultural organization of Kerala University Employees.

"It all started with a WhatsApp message we sent to the workers and professors during the lockdown period. These talented artists became painters. Their works were then exhibited as part of Tshika-1 in 2020 which inspired many other hidden artists to come forward," says Santhosh G Nair, secretary of Channan.

The exhibition includes works of around 21 artists, including professors of different departments and other employees of the university.

Worked around 21 artists, including professors of different departments and other employees of the university.

added Nair: "Painting is a hobby that picked up during the lockdown while I was encouraging my son to pursue art as part of his co-curricular activities. I started liking the process and started learning more. The interest and the positive energy I received have led me to take this up more seriously."

# KU publishes results of degree exams in record time

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram**

The University of Kerala has published results of degree examinations in record time of one month and two days. The success rate for various streams are: BA (90.68%), BCom (93.31%) and BSc (96.46%). The sixth semester degree exams ended on April 22. The valuation was held at the university headquarters and colleges in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Alappuzha districts.

# Researchers of KU, Chennai college discover two spider species from Shendurney sanctuary

**South India Observer**

A group of researchers from Kerala University and Chennai College, Chennai, have identified two new spider species from Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary that form part of the Western Ghats.

A team of researchers comprising Anitha A. and Viji from the Zoology Department of Kerala University, department head Dr. Prasad, and John T. G. of Chennai College, discovered *Rehmanium shendurneyensis* and *Rehmanium keralaensis* that belong to the subgenus *Rehmanium*.

The findings that were recorded during a recent visit to the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary in April 2021 have been published in the peer-reviewed journal *Arthropod Science*.

According to the team, only one species had been previously recorded in India. *Rehmanium* was discovered in Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Reproductive patterns**  
The new species were found to have reproductive patterns that are different from the known species of *Rehmanium*. The new species were found to have reproductive patterns that are different from the known species of *Rehmanium*.

**Geographical research**  
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# New genus, species of freshwater crabs spotted in the Western Ghats

**THE ANIMAL**

Researchers have identified a new genus and two new species of freshwater crabs from the Western Ghats. The new species were found to have reproductive patterns that are different from the known species of *Rehmanium*.

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# അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര സർവ്വകലാശാലാ യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിൽ കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാലയ്ക്ക് ഓവറാൾ കിട്ടി

കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാലയ്ക്ക് ഓവറാൾ കിട്ടി. കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാലയ്ക്ക് ഓവറാൾ കിട്ടി. കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാലയ്ക്ക് ഓവറാൾ കിട്ടി.

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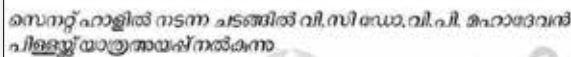


The scope of study has been widened to assess the extent of impact of statins on hair loss.

Addressing the conference, Health Minister Voon George said that the doctors' grievances related to salary revision had been sorted out. She also congratulated them for their work during the pandemic period.

Meanwhile, T.N. Suresh has been elected as the new president and P.K. Sathil general secretary of the KGSMA State committee.

## 23 Oct 2022



According to Berry department head E.A. Sill, the department's proposal for a grant of \$2 crore has been accepted. The department intends to establish several cutting-edge equipment such as multi-phase reader with curvette, bench top supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction, plant growth chamber, microwave extraction unit, cryostat, fluorescent microscope with camera and RNA/DNA wick system. The Goswami department will receive funds to the tune of 50 crore for various purposes, including purchase confocal Raman spectrometers, according to department head E. Shaji.

mar, both of whose tenure will come to an end on Monday, were accorded farewell by the staff and students of the university on Saturday. Syndicate members K.H. Babujan, S. Na-

The academic council decided that for such candidates, assistance (such as a scribe) can be provided. The number of experiments that have to be completed to get full marks assigned to the Practical Record will also be reduced by one-third.

സർവകലാശാലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് സമ്പൂർണ്ണ ഡിജിറ്റൽ മുഖം നൽകുക എന്നതാണ് വെർച്വൽ ഐടി കേന്ദ്രത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശ്യം. ഇതിന്റെ പ്രാരംഭപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങി.











# Snippets from the University Drama Festival 2023



ARYA U R

THE first edition of Bharath Murali Theatre Festival, organised by the University of Kerala, has reinvigorated the drama scene in the capital city with a visual treat for art lovers.

Packed with nine plays, the festival began on March 30 in memory of actor Murali, who was a student and, later, an employee of the university. The fest, enriched with diverse and versatile Malayalam theatre productions, concluded on Tuesday.

Traversing socio-political and cultural themes, the productions showcased by artists from across the state exposed the changing language of theatre, the organisers said.

From the play 'Ithihasa' on the life of William Shakespeare by Thiruvananthapuram-based theatre group Souparnika to

## BHARATH MURALI THEATRE FEST PACKS A PUNCH



For over half a decade, there have been no public theatre fests in the capital city. This initiative has helped strengthen the theatre movement - Santhosh Venjaramoodu, actor

stages and won eight awards at the professional theatre festival by Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi.

with distinct themes, production and acting styles. That said, we incorporated sandwich and arena model theatre viewing for the audience to break the conventional patterns," said Santhosh.



# New Initiatives for New Heights



University of Kerala gets a number of new facilities from the Government of Kerala. E.M.S. Auditorium, Translational Research and Innovation Centre (TRIC-KU), Sri Vidyadhiraja Chattambi Swamy International Centre for Study and Research, A.R. Rajaraja Varma Translation Study centre, Centre for Academic and Professional Training (C-APT), Sugathakumary Smriti vanam, Microwave Material laboratory block for the Department of Physics and apartments for teachers were inaugurated. Dr. Bindu also laid the foundation stone for the Ayyappa Paniker Memorial English and Foreign Languages block.

During her inaugural address Dr. Bindu commented that «the State government is committed to creating a people oriented knowledge society by developing the infrastructural facilities in public academic institutions.” The Minister also added that the government is focussing its efforts to propel the state universities as one of the top ten academic institutions in the country. She emphasized that “research activities are being diversified into emerging areas like artificial intelligence. The vision is to accelerate the move to a progressive society and achieve economic growth through quality education.”

Minister for General Education, Mr. V. Sivankutty, who was present at session added that the achievements in higher education sector would help Kerala’s pursuit in achieving social progress. The Minister for Cultural Affairs Mr. Saji Cherian who had inaugurated the Sugathakumary Smritivanam expressed interest in setting up a memorial for the late poet if land is provided by the university. The VC Prof. Mohanan Kunnummal presided over the function. All Syndicate members, statutory officers students union representatives were also present at the meeting.



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