



Internal Quality Assurance Cell  
University of Kerala

# News Letter

Cycle 3, Issue 3 ( Covering 2017)

January 2018

2 Technology Transfers  
Innovation Portfolio  
NAAC 'A' Grade  
PwD Audit  
Top NIRF Ranking in State  
Teaching, Learning and Assessment  
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Academic Audit  
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15 Policy Drafts  
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20. Prof. Achuthsankar S. Nair  
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Bioinformatics (Director, IQAC)

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## Editorial

**A**s I pen an editorial for the last time in the IQAC News Letter, I have the contentment of achievement of the University appearing in the national and international rankings. The Master Action Plan adopted by the IQAC in the beginning of the this cycle had prioritized visibility in the State, National and International rankings. University of Kerala topped in the NIRF rankings from Kerala, appeared in the World University Rankings (THES) and also Asian Ranking. Consequently the University was invited to apply for Institution of Eminence status and funding by the UGC. A team of teachers appointed by the IQAC spear-headed the very demanding proposal preparation which has been filed. The competition for the 1000 crores funding is tough. We have done our part and let us hope for the best.

The present IQAC which took over after NAAC re-accreditation in 2015 is completing 3 years of activities. From an ordinary committee which met occasionally and collected data for compiling AQAR and few other chores, IQAC has established itself as a solid organ

of the University academic system. It has been instrumental in promoting quality awareness and enhancement during these years. IQAC has published over 75 reports during these years, throwing light on the various aspects of functioning of the University. Some of them have been scholarly studies based on extensive surveys. Some have been produced after launching innovative schemes. I have no hesitation in saying that the IQAC has come a long way and is sure to remain at the center stage of quality, excellence and innovation in the University.

The excellent work that has been done by IQAC has been complemented, supplemented and tempered by a series of reforms and schemes that the University has undertaken. During my tenure as the Vice-Chancellor, five important regulations have been enacted each of which sketches better teaching and research. The Standing Committee of the Academic Council, which only used to meet prior to academic council to make recommendations on its agenda, was converted into a dynamic and frequently meeting

body - a change that paid rich dividends. The University has focused its maximum attention on its teaching and research departments in recent years. While the affiliation system and services to colleges cannot be wished away, time has come to increasingly focus on the departments and its development.

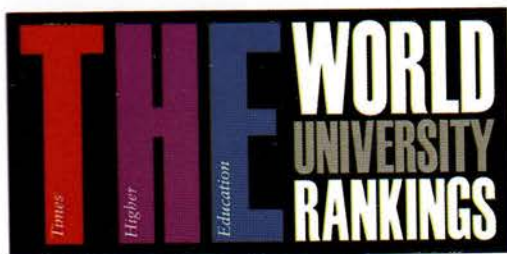
The establishment of the Sophisticated Instrumentation and Computation Centre (SICC) has given much needed trigger to better research and innovation. It has also enhanced consultancy services to a all-time high during 2016-17. Patent filings which were far and few in between has picked up substantially, resulting in half a dozen filing since 2014 and another half a dozen being processed.

Winning the maiden Chancellor's award at the state level, the national level NIRF rankings and the THES World University rankings reconfirm the march of the University in quality and excellence. I wish that the march continues, to equip well our students to compete globally.

Prof. P.K. Radhakrishnan  
Vice-Chancellor



# UoK in World University Ranking



Entering international rankings has been a major milestone planned in the Master Action Plan (MAP) produced by IQAC in 2015. For the first time, University of Kerala has found a place in Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) World University Ranking.

Times Higher Education World University Rankings is an annual publication of University rankings by Times Higher

Education (THE) magazine. The publisher had collaborated with Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) to publish the joint THE-QS World University Rankings from 2004 to 2009 before it turned to Thomson Reuters for a new ranking system. According to Wikipedia, it is considered as one of the most widely observed university measures together with Academic Ranking of World Universities and QS World University Rankings.

Out of close to 20,000 Universities world-wide, Only 1100 have been ranked and University of Kerala appears in the 800-1000 band. Among the 42 institutions from India included in the ranking, University of

Kerala is ranked 18<sup>th</sup>. Only two Universities were able to feature in the list from the state of Kerala: University of Kerala & CUSAT. While the band in which the University is ranked is the last 20%; it may be noted that this is among 1100 chosen Universities. Ranking is based on Teaching (30%); Research (30%); Citations (30%); International Outlook (7.5%) and Industry Income (2.5%).

The parameters used by international ranking agencies are not most appropriate for Universities in India. However time has come to evaluate ourselves from a global perspective and this ranking provides an opportunity for it.

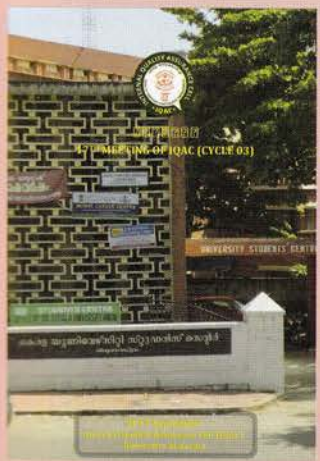
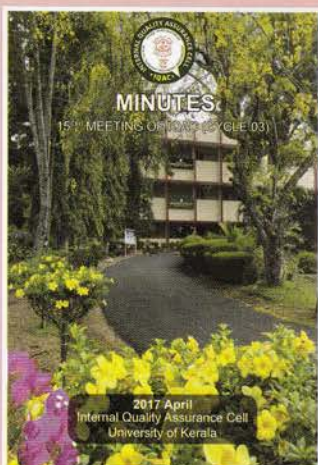
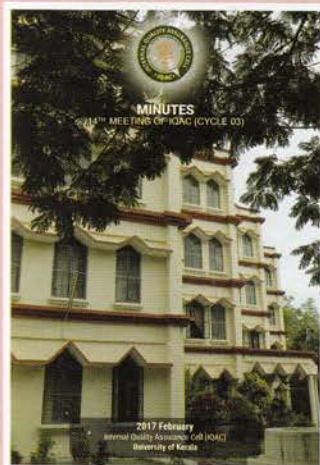
## Times Higher Education World University Ranking Report on University of Kerala

“University of Kerala is ranked 801-1000 this year out of 1102 institutions worldwide. Your strongest pillar was ‘Teaching’ where you ranked in the fourth decile. Your weakest Pillar was International Outlook where you ranked in the last decile. Within India you ranked joint 18<sup>th</sup> out of 42 institutions.”

	Teaching	Research	Citations	Industry Income	International Outlook
<b>Your scores</b>					
	<b>31.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>
<b>World wide</b>					
Top	56.3	63.7	100	76	99.8
75%	34.6	32.4	74.2	50.6	64.1
Median	24.9	18.9	47	38.4	43.7
25%	20	11.3	22.9	33.6	26.8
Bottom	11.1	1.3	0.8	9.1	7.9



## 18 Meetings, 300+ items



In the third cycle of accreditation, 18 meetings were held with 300 agenda items. In 2017, five meetings with 100 agenda items were held. Some decisions were implemented and matters falling under the powers of statutory bodies were forwarded to the authorities for consideration.

## UoK in NIRF top 50, Applies for Eminence Status.



The 'National Institutional Ranking Framework', NIRF launched by MHRD, Govt. of India has ranked the University of Kerala in top 50 among all Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) in the country. UoK was ranked 47<sup>th</sup> among all HEIs and ranked 29<sup>th</sup> among Universities. A committee led by Dr. A. Shaji (IDE), Dr. Anil Chandran (Demography), and Director, Computer Centre led the data compilation and on-line

entry. Publications data was taken by NIRF directly from the Scopus. Among Universities in Kerala, UoK came top and also is the only one from the state in 2017 to feature in the top 50. This is significant as the top 50 became eligible to apply for the 1000 crore "Institution of Eminence" status. The syndicate of the University of Kerala sanctioned Rs. 1 crore as application fees for the "Institution of Eminence" scheme and the Vice-Chancellor nominated a committee with Director, IQAC as chairperson and Dr. Binoj R.B. as convener to compile a proposal. Members were Dr. Rajalekshmi R., Dr. Sameer Babu M., Dr. Jayasree E.G. and Dr. Darwin L. Drawing inputs from all the departments a voluminous proposal has been drawn up and submitted to the MHRD, Govt. of India. The Govt. of Kerala gave an undertaking to support the scheme, as required by the Govt. of India. There is tough competition for the status. Three institutions from Kerala (UoK, Cochin University of Science and Technology (based on 2016 ranking) and National Institute of Technology, Calicut) are in the fray along with 50 others including IISc and IITs.





## International Seminar on 'Quality of Research'



**A**n International Seminar on 'Quality of Research' was organized by IQAC, University of Kerala on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Karyavattom Campus. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. E.P. Madhava Bhattathiry, former Nobel Prize Committee member and the function was presided over by Dr. Baboo M. Nair, Professor Emeritus, Lund University, Sweden. Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair, Director, IQAC and Dr. Ashalatha S. Nair,

Director of Research felicitated the event. 86 registered participants from various departments in the University and nearby research institutes participated in the seminar. A short interactive session with Dr. Bhattathiry was arranged, in which the participants were keen to know the challenges faced by Dr. Bhattathiry during his research tenure and the difference between past and present approaches towards research. A

panel of eminent scientists including Prof. P. R. Sudhakaran, Former Dean, Faculty of Sciences, University of Kerala, Dr. Baboo M. Nair and Dr. Gangan Prathap, Outstanding Scientist, NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram presented their views towards improving the quality of research in Indian universities. The talks covered the various factors that influence research like passion, imagination and creativity of researchers. In the remaining sessions, Dr. Amruth G. Kumar, Associate Professor, Central University of Kerala addressed the different critical questions that researchers should ask themselves to bring out the best research output. Dr. D. Benjamin, former Head, Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala gave a thought provoking session from the angle of arts and humanities, with emphasis on the importance of data collection, organization and framing of methodology in research related to literature. The seminar concluded with remarks from Dr. Baboo M. Nair on the diversity of research ideas put forward by the speakers and finally feedbacks were collected from the participants.

## Patent Awareness Meet

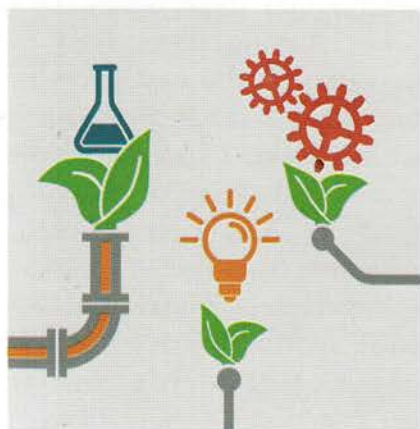
**A** patent awareness meet was held on 09.05.2017 as per IQAC decision Q3.15.11. The Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor addressed faculty members of Science & Technology Department. Director of Research and Director of IQAC also spoke. All teachers who had filed patent or processed patents applications shared their experiences. Certificates of appreciation were issued to all of them. Two more enquiries were received by office of the IQAC as a result of the above meeting.





# Promoting Innovations

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of  
Kerala University Innovation Council  
held on 09.05.2017



Internal Quality Assurance Cell  
University of Kerala  
2017

**K**erala University Innovation Council was constituted this year as per decision of IQAC. The Council held its first meeting on 09.05.2017 and prepared a number of creative suggestion to promote innovation among students, researchers and faculty. The council has the following members: (1) Vice-Chancellor (Chairperson) (2) Pro-Vice Chancellor (Vice-Chairperson) (3) Ms. Philomina Simon, Asst Prof, Dept. of Computer Science, UoK. (4) Dr. Subodh G., Head, Dept. of Physics, UoK. (5) Dr. Y. Anil Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Geology, UoK. (6) Dr. Salom Gnana Thanga, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Environmental Science, UoK. (7) Sri. Robin Tommy, Head, Innovation Lab, TCS, Tvpm. (8) Sri. Gokul Alex, Senior Manager, UST Global, Tvpm. (9) Sri. Anoop P. Ambika, CEO, Cognub-Decision Solutions Technopark, Tvpm (10) Ms. Vineetha V.,

Research Scholar, Bioinformatics, UoK. (11) Sri. Prem Sankar Chakkingal, Research Scholar, Future Studies (12) Sri. Sajan Ambadiyil, Research Scholar, Optoelectronics (13) Dr. V. Ajiith Prabhu, Joint Director, KSCSTE, Tvpm. (14) Ms. Gayathri Ganesh, M.Sc. Physics, Semester 2, Physics, UoK. (15) Ms. Amala Varghese, M.Sc. Chemistry, Semester 4, Chemistry, UoK. (16) Director, IQAC (Convenor)

The Council discussed the working definitions of innovation and mandate of the council and many schemes to promote innovation, including holding innovation contests, grand challenges, promoting start-ups, compiling portfolios etc.

## Innovation Portfolio

Innovation Portfolio  
• Snapshots of Innovations from University of Kerala  
• Summaries of Ph.Ds. awarded in 2016



Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)  
University of Kerala  
2017

**A**n Innovation Portfolio of the University of Kerala, highlighting prominent research has been compiled by IQAC and published. It also contains summary of Ph.Ds awarded in 2016.

## Innovation Contest

**Innovation Contest- 2017**  
(A Contest to ignite ideas on improving household items)



Prizes for winners & Certificates for all participants

**Unleash your creativity...**

Suggest any improvement in the above house-hold items.

This contest aims at promoting innovation by providing an opportunity to stimulate creative thinking in useful ways

Teaching/Non teaching staff and Students/ Researchers can take part

Send your entries by whatsapp on or before **15 May 2017**

Some examples from the pilot contest:

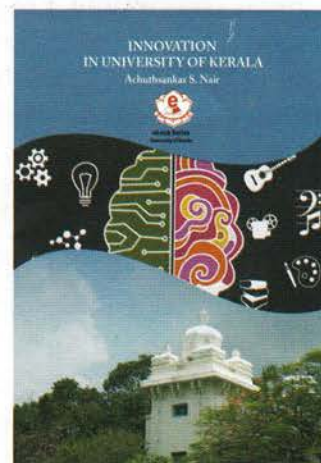
1. Penel with color sensor, point to anything, copy color & draw
2. Mirror with photographic memory, to show you your yesterday.
3. Lie detecting Mobile phones.
4. A comb that detects lice, & dirt in the scalp and alert user to bath.

Send Entries by whatsapp to

**7907967590**  
on before **31 MAR 2017**

**T**o promote Innovation in the University community, an Innovation contest has been held. It involved making suggestions to improve 10 house hold items. Teachers, staffs and students were invited to make suggestions. Tremendous responses has been received and the lengthy evaluation process is going on.



## Innovation History



**e-Book** published by IQAC in 2016 documents history of innovation in the University since 1937.



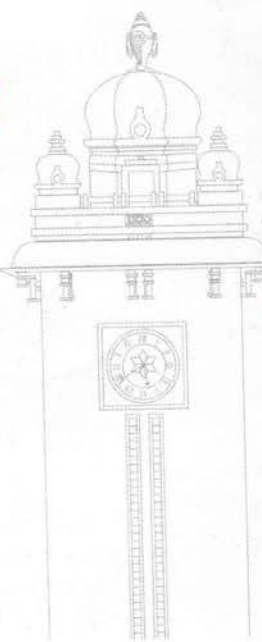
# First MOOC from UoK completed successfully... 303 International Signups.

**Announcing**

## Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

@ University of Kerala  
Online, Open, Free and Globally Available



First course on

### Making Powerful Multimedia Presentations

- 6 lectures, 6 MCQ Tests, 1 assignment, e-discussions
- Pre-requisite:** Anyone already familiar with making PowerPoint presentations
- Course instructor:** Professor, Achuthsankar S. Nair

This course will uncover techniques to make a multi-media presentation with optimal viewability, ergonomics, aesthetics, and enjoyment. It will give opportunity to critically review some sample presentations and finally make one

Sign up at:  
[www.keralauniversity.ac.in/mooc](http://www.keralauniversity.ac.in/mooc)

**MOOC**  
MAKING OPEN ONLINE COURSE

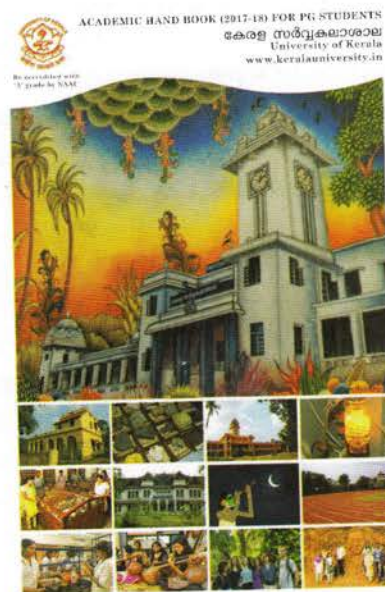
Out of the 568 registered students, 303 participated in the course. Among those who took the course in the first go, 8 were from UAE, 3 each from Kuwait and Malaysia, 2 from USA and 1 from Madagascar, Canada, Sweden, Australia. Among registrants from India, about 90% are from Kerala. The rest includes Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh, Orissa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry. The first course ran from May 2nd to June 12<sup>th</sup>. 82 students bagged course completion certificate.

## Academic Handbook

**M**OOC (Massive Open Online Course) has silently entered our Higher education sector. Many students of higher education sign up for courses offered through world-class Universities over platforms such as Coursera, Edx etc and some have even moved closer to receiving micro and nano degrees by accumulating credits from these. Courses of diverse variety are available online, starting from "Being Happy" to "Death". While students may sign up for subject related courses, laymen have wide variety to choose from including magic, soft skills, foreign languages, gardening and cooking. In India, the central Govt has created a platform christened Swayam through which MOOC courses are offered and students can sign up for the courses and transfer the credit to their University

programmes. The UGC regulations in this regard have been implemented in University of Kerala, though it is not known if any student has utilized the opportunity.

Many successful courses in international platforms are of short duration and not meant to be a part of academic certification. SWAYAM has a suite of courses, each of which caters to syllabi of Degree programmes and involve online listening of dozens of hours of lectures. This is what makes the initiative of University of Kerala different. It has run a certificate course on "How to make a powerful multi-media presentation" involving six 6-minute lectures and 4 quizzes and 2 assignments. Dr Achuthsankar S. Nair was the course lecturer. Out of the 568 registered students



**T**he University first produced a PG student brochure in 2015. The University has now enhanced the brochure to an "Academic Handbook", including many scholarly articles related to curricular and extra-curricular activities.



# IQAC Committees active in 2017

**A number of committees were continued to be formed by IQAC to initiate action on decisions. In most of these committees, women representation and representation of 3 major disciplinary streams (Science & Technology, Social Science and Art & Humanities) and representation of both senior and junior faculty has been attempted to be ensured.**

## Reconstituted Committees

1. **Committee on Academic Performance of Students from Disadvantaged Groups:** Dr. Pushpam M. (Sociology), Sri. Noushad V (Arabic), Dr. A Rosemary (Linguistics), Dr. B.V. Sasikumar (Malayalam), Dr. A. Ganga Prasad (Botany), Smt. Jeejakumari. K (Zoology), Dr. Sony George (Chemistry), Smt. Sajna A (History), Dr. Saiful Islam A (Politics)
2. **Committee on Citizen Charter:** Dr. Joseph Antony, Department of Politics (Convenor), Dr. S. Shifa, (Malayalam), Dr. Bushra Beegom R.K, (Sociology), Dr. Sabu Joseph, (Environmental Science).
3. **Committee on Research Methods Handbook:** Committee: Dr. G. Prasad, (Zoology) (Convenor), Dr. K.G. Gopchandra (Optoelectronics), Dr. Satheesh Kumar (Future Studies), Dr. Meena T. Pillai (Institute of English), Dr. Shaji. (IDE)
4. **Committee on Examination Reforms:** Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair (Bio informatics), Dr. C. Satheesh Kumar (Statistics) (Convener), Dr. S. Ajitha (IDE), Dr. S. Prema (Linguistics), Dr. C.S. Suchith (Hindi), Dr. Biju P.G. (Biochemistry), Dr. Josekutty C.A (Politics), Dr. Divya C. Senan (Education)
5. **Library Policy (2015)** University Librarian (Convenor), Dr. Mini Devi (Library Science), Dr. Sindhu Thulaseedharan (Law), Dr. Meena T. Pillai (Institute of English), Dr. Biju P.G (Biochemistry)
6. **Committee on Progress in Master Action Plan:** Dr. R. Jayachandran (Hindi) (Convener), Dr. V. Biju, (Physics), Dr. Bindu R.L., (Education)
7. **Committee for Promoting Journals Published by the University:** Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair (Bioinformatics) (Convener), Dr. A.P. Pradeep Kumar (Geology), Dr. Aji S (Computer Science), Dr. Meena T. Pillai (Institute of English), Dr. Vinod Chandra S.S. (Director, Computer Centre), Dr. C. Satheesh Kumar (Statistics), Director, Publications, Public Relations Officer.
8. **Committee on Student Charter:** Student Syndicate Member (Convenor), Dept Union Chairman, Dept Union Advisor.
9. **Committee for Preparing for UPE Scheme:** Dr. Manoj Changat (Future Studies) (Convener), Dr. V. Biju (Physics), Dr. Thajudeen A.S (Arabic), Dr. Shaji. A (IDE), Dr. Sunil (Future Studies) (Technical Officer), Dr. Sony George (Chemistry)

## New Committees

10. **Committee for Drawingup Proposals on Starting Community Radio Service:** Dr. K.S. Sarosh (Communication & Journalism) (Convenor), Sri. Lal Mohan P., (Communication & Journalism), Dr. Sindhu Thulaseedharan, (Law).
11. **Committee for Collection and Compilation of NIRF Data:** Dr. Shaji A (Convenor), Dr. Anil Chandran (Demography), Director, Computer Centre
12. **Committee to prepare proposals on utilization of solar energy and rain water harvesting:** Dr. E. Shaji, Dept Geology (Convenor), Dr. R. Sankararaman (Optoelectronics), Dr. Jaya D.S., (Environmental Sciences), J.R., Campus Administration
13. **Committee to Calculate Cost of Education (per unit):** Dr. Abdul Salim (Economics), Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan (Law), Dr. Bindhu P, (Psychology), Dr. T. Vijayalekshmi (Tamil), Dr. C. Satheesh Kumar (Statistics).
14. **Committee For Submitting Proposals on DSIR Recognition:** Director of Research (Convenor), Finance Officer, Dr. Manju S. Nair (Economics)
15. **Committee on Daishnik Paryayavaran Project:** Dr. Kamarudeen Kunju (Convenor) (Botany), Dr. Sindhu Thulaseedharan (Geology), Dr. Mini S (Bio-chemistry), Director (IQAC)



## Faculty Development



**A**s per the decision made in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of IQAC, a two day Faculty Development Program on “Improving Teaching & Assessment” was conducted for the Contract Lecturers working in the Teaching Departments of the University on the 15th and 22nd of July 2017 at Kariavattom Campus. The program was inaugurated by a renowned academician Dr. C.P Aravindakshan, Principal & Professor (Retd.), Department of Chemistry, Govt. Women’s College, Tvpmm, in the presence of Dr. A. Biju Kumar, Head, Dept. of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, Dr. R. Jayachandran, Head, Dept. of Hindi, Dr. Sobha B. Nair, Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology and Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair, Director, IQAC, UoK. The resource persons invited for the sessions were eminent personalities from diverse fields of the society. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a talk on “Booting up as a lecturer” by

Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair, Dr. Bushra Beegom R. K. Assistant Professor and Member IQAC was the speaker for the third session of the day. The Second day started with the session by Dr. Sonny Jose, Professor, Department of Social Work, Loyola College of Social Sciences on "Communication in Teaching". The next session was a totally different one, that of a clinical Psychologist, Dr. Justin Padamadan on "Student Management". The post noon session was handled by Dr. Joju John, Asst. Professor, Mar Theophilus College, Tvpm gave a session on "Teacher Competencies". The programme was concluded with a Group discussion and feedback by the participants. 56 contract lecturers from the Teaching Departments of the University participated in the FDP. Certificates of participation were issued to the participants in addition to a booklet with compilation of reading material on teaching and assessment.



**G**overnment of India has been providing support for conducting GIAN courses in Indian Universities with international experts. In 2016, University of Kerala organised 2 courses under GIAN and in 2017, the University has applied for 8 courses, one of which has been completed. Government of India now gives option to convert GIAN courses to MOOCs over SWAYAM platform. Due to University of Kerala's top ranking in NIRE, UGC has asked it to start courses over SWAYAM platform. Steps are on to offer two Swayam MOOCs during 2018. Meanwhile, University's own MOOC platform is ready for replication.





# Green Squad Meeting



**B**ased on the decision of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of IQAC to form GREEN SQUADS in every department to monitor the implementation of Green Charter of the University, all Departments were requested to form the Green Squads, nominating members from Students, Researchers, Teaching and Non- Teaching Staff. A meeting of the Green Squad members was organised at the Seminar Hall of the Botany Department on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. The IQAC had planned the event so as to be an example of how an event can be conducted in

a green manner. Recycled envelopes were used for sending out invitations. Tea and snacks served were ethnic and served in green leaves with no waste caused. Posters made in a very cost effective manner using biodegradable items, without sacrificing appeal, were showcased. As one of the most serious issue that the campus was facing was the heavy usage of polyvinyl flexes, a number of alternatives for flexes were displayed. Color printed paper posters (inkjet printed), Photo glossy color printed papers

(digital printed), cloth printed posters and a hand drawn poster (with printed colorful stickers used in minimal areas) were displayed. Mementos to the speakers were wrapped in colorful cloth and tied with cloth ribbons. Bouquets of the traditional style were used. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Joseph Antony, Member, IQAC. Dr. Shaji Anirudhan, Member IQAC, and the Director, IQAC spoke. It was followed by sharing of green thoughts by invitees which included Dr. Bushra Beegom (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology and member, IQAC), Sri. R. Dileep (the Joint Registrar, Campus Admn.) Sri. D. N Ajay and Sri. C. K. Suresh Kumar, Union leaders representing the Administrative staff of the University, and Sri. Prabhakaran K. and Ghosh K. S. representing the student Unions. The afternoon session had a invited talk by Sri. Shibu K. Nair, Programme Director, Thanal and Member, Technical Committee, Tvpnm Corporation.



## Green Action Points resolved in the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017:

**Avoid:** Plastic Files, Plastic Momentos, Plastic Wrapping of Momentos, Plastic Ribbons, Bottled Water, Thermocol Plates, Plastic & paper cups, Snacks brought in Plastic Packing (like biscuits), Packet drinks (like frooti), Costly printed posters, Flex banners, plastic cover for assignments.

**Use:** Banners in cloth, paper, hand-made banners in materials such as jute, thatched leaf; traditional bouquets or handful of Jasmine.

## Green Squad in Departments:

To monitor and persuade the above in Open defenses, Seminars etc.



# Curriculum Fair Matures... Showcases 42 Innovations

Internal Course  
Accreditation



The second edition of the "Kerala University Curriculum Fair", was organized under the joint auspices of Curriculum Development Centre, University of Kerala and Internal Quality Assurance Cell, University of Kerala.

Altogether, 42 posters articulating curriculum innovation were showcased. Dr. Asha J.V., Hon. Director, Curriculum Development Centre was the Co-ordinator of the programme. Posters presented in the fair represented pockets of innovation sprouting up across the

educational landscape. The 2 day Curriculum Fair was announced early, inviting innovative ideas from teachers of universities, colleges and teacher education institutions.

Teams of student teachers from different teacher education colleges along with their Teachers visited the Fair. Besides, teachers, Research Scholars, NGOs, teachers and students from Arts and Science Colleges and University Departments viewed the exhibited posters. Dr. K. R. Sivadasan & Dr. J. Reghu evaluated the posters.



Internal Quality Assurance Cell of University of Kerala has introduced an innovation in promoting quality in teaching. It has launched a scheme for "Internal Course Accreditation". The scheme is open to all faculty members. They can seek Internal Course Accreditation by submitting a complete documentation regarding courses offered by them (immediately after completion). IQAC gets a review of the course by an expert committee and issues a certificate of Internal Course Accreditation. It is aimed to encourage and showcase excellent courses. In 2017, IQAC received one application for Internal Course Accreditation from Smt Philomina Simon which was reviewed by Prof. Rajashree M. S. (Govt Engg College, Barton Hill) and Sri Robin Tommy, Head, Innovations Lab, TCS and the application is under process.



# Extension Activities



**D**epartments of the University have been active in outreach activities in their own ways with one-off programmes catering to school students and general public. To take the extension activities to the next level, IQAC has established a University Level Committee for Extension Activities (ULCEA). Dr. A. Bijukumar (Aquatic Biology & Fisheries) Dr. E. Shaji (Geology) Dr. Immanuel Thomas (Psychology) Dr. Sainaba M. (ORI) Dr. Rajesh S. V. (Archeology) Dr. R. Rajalekshmi (Botany) Dr. Aji S. (Computer Science) and Dr. C. R. Rajagopal (Malayalam) are the members and Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair is the Co-ordinator i/c. The committee met twice after the formation and made proposals for accelerating outreach activities. The committee also conducted a pilot visit to the home of a school student of the Govt UP School at Karyavattom. IQAC had earlier

drawn up University Policy on Extension and Outreach. The ULCEA further drew up an Outreach Activity Compilation, detailing possible activities of each department. It also brought out a poster inviting schools to visit the University, which was sent out to a number of Schools in the vicinity of Karyavattom campus and also in the city. The University has many unique museums and gardens in its campus including Archaeology Museum, Geological Musuem, Aqua Museum, Manuscripts Library, Seed bank, Herbarium, Botanical Gardens, Thulaseevanam Herbal Gardens, ICKS Scriptorium, and the 150+ years old Observatory. The Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre is worth visiting to see cutting edge instrumentation. Departments have offered to demonstrate experiments or conduct activities such as Blood

glucose determination, Haemoglobin level determination in blood, Urine analysis- presence of sugar, protein and ketone bodies, puzzles and activities to assess and improve sense, sensibility, cognition and communication, craft using palm leaves, paper, coconut tree leaves, introducing Dashapushpam, mock interviews, number games, introducing Carnatic music, demonstrating musical instruments, LED Lamp Assembly, Yoga, Psychological Tests (finger dexterity, manual dexterity, personality tests) etc. Students can also have quick introduction of languages such as German, Russian, Tamil, Sanskrit and Arabic.



## Outreach Invitation

The Mother University opens its knowledge treasures

University of Kerala Welcomes School Students to its Campus



Visit University Herbarium



See Cutting Edge Instruments



Visit rocks and fossils museum



Do exciting science experiments



Visit Thulaseevanam Herbal Garden



Watch Sky from observatory (1836)



See 3000 yr old artefacts in Archaeology Museum



See marine wonders in AquaMuseum



See hand writing of famed literary figures



See manuscripts in Oriental Library



### And much more...

Quiz, Puzzles, Creativity Games, Mind games, Group Discussions, Essay Competitions, Science Flashtalk Competitions, Akshara Sloka Mathsaram, Exposure to foreign languages (Arabic, German & Russian), Quickstart in Sanskrit,

Contact: University Extension Committee  
email: teamiqac@gmail.com  
Tel: (0)471 2303013  
Mob: 8281436084



# Start-up fever rises...



The University of Kerala started its experiments with entrepreneurship, as early as 2006, when it established an Industry Incubation Centre (IIC) and successfully incubated a student start-up – SooryaKiran Bioinformatics Pvt. Ltd. The University has recently re-established the IIC as “Kerala University Technology and Business Start-up Centre (KU-TBSC)” and is actively incubating new student start-ups under the scheme. Director, IQAC has been holding the charge of the KU-TBSC since its inception. Calls for applications are invited every year during June/July. The start-up proposals submitted are evaluated by an expert committee appointed by the University. (The Director, Institute of Management in Kerala (chairperson), along with Dr. Syed Ibrahim, Technopark, Dr. K. Madanan, former Managing Director, COIRFED, Dr. Oommen

V. Oommen, former CEO, Industry Incubation Centre, University of Kerala, Smt. Ananthalekshmi Ammal, Deputy Director, C-DAC and Director, KU-TBSC. In 2016, four student start-ups applied and were approved by the expert committee. They were: (1) SUKRITI - a skin and hair product testing venture (2) Pegasus Events - an event management company (3) Rihla Malabar Arab Travel Solutions - a travel management company for Arabic clients (4) Massive Data (MaD) Analytics - a big data analytics company. Of these MaD Analytics and Pegasus Events have signed the MoU with the University. MaD Analytics is fully functional. During the second round of call for applications, in July, 2017, there was a 125% increase in the number of applications received. Nine student start-ups in a diverse number of fields applied and were evaluated and approved

evaluated and approved by the expert committee. They are: (1) Biocules, a digital service provider for biologists. (2) Waggle Lab, a research start-up focusing on futurist technologies. (3) MakLab India, a start-up to teach programming to school students. (4) Dextro Systems, a technology related start-up focusing on open-source technologies. (5) Biovent, a biotechnology start-up. (6) Ayurbiotech, a start-up connecting Ayurveda and technology. (7) Frink Labs, an IoT based start-up. (8) Honeyhil Butterfly Gardens, a start-up to set-up butterfly gardens in schools & offices. (9) IT Technologies, a digital & mobile services company



Logo of MaD Analytics, a start-up from KU - TBSC



## UGC-NET Coaching Completed



**I**nternal Quality Assurance Cell of University of Kerala, in its meeting held on 18/09/2017 considered the proposal on Quality Enhancement of Deprived Students through UGC NET/JRF and CSIR-Net Training. It resolved to conduct coaching classes for General Paper of UGC/CSIR-JRF/ NET examination based on proposal submitted by Mr. Noushad V., Assistant Professor, Department of Arabic. IQAC nominated Mr. Noushad.V. as coordinator to run the project. 120 students registered, of which 81 students attended the classes for UGC- NET/JRF. The class for CSIR NET was not conducted due

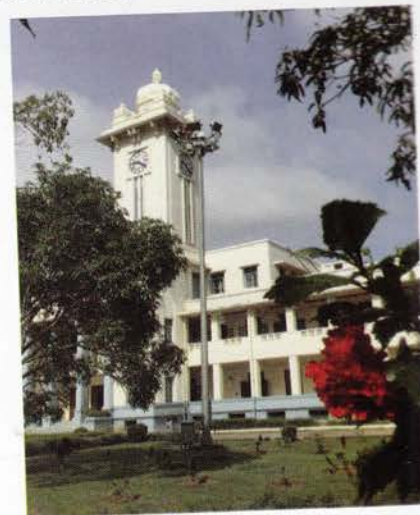
to less number of students registered for the course from science stream. For UGC-NET/JRF General Paper, Seven Full day sessions and Three half day sessions were conducted. Faculty members from the University and outside the university engaged the sessions. Gmail and WhatsApp groups was created, through which study materials were delivered to students. Nominal fee was charged (Rs. 300 from students from General Category and Rs.100 for the students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities).

## Online data entry

**T**he Computer Center of the University has designed and implemented an online data capturing system based on the data docket introduced last year by the IQAC. It is hoped that IQAC activities including preparation of AQAR, and various study reports will be greatly benefited by the new online system.

## Fact Sheet on University

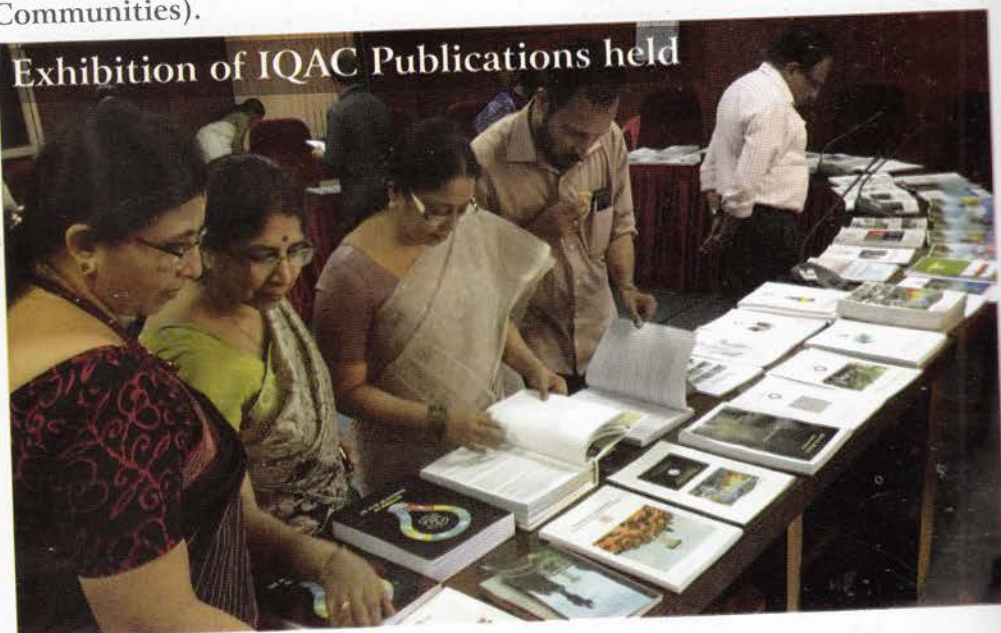
University Profile & Fact Sheet



University of Kerala  
2017

**A**dministrators, faculty and students of the University require basic facts of the University for preparing reports, proposals, etc. These may not be easily forthcoming as they are spread out in different offices or sections. In 2016, IQAC brought out a 'Profile & Fact Sheet' which has now been updated and released for 2017. It is hoped that this will be a ready reckoner for all.

## Exhibition of IQAC Publications held





## Annual Student Survey (2017)

Report of the  
Annual Student Survey 2017



**A**nnual Student Survey has been conducted for the third time in a row. It aims to capture a cross section of the student population, by surveying their economic and social background and their skill, outlook and aspirational profile.

## Library Audit (2017)

Library Audit 2016



**L**ibrary audit was conducted for the first time by the IQAC in 2015. After 2 years, it has been redone, this time entirely by the

Library Staff led by the Deputy Librarian (i/c) Sri. A. Hamsa. The Library stock has grown to 8.41 lakhs (whole library system), at an average growth rate of 3.3%. It is expected that the report will be helpful in planning the development of the Library.

## Research Students Survey

Report of the  
Annual Researchers Survey 2016



**T**he Annual Student Survey has been complemented with a Research Student Survey, for its first time. The survey has revealed economic and social background of students as well as research practices and needs. It is expected that this report will be highly beneficial for policy makers.

## Hostel Audit (2017)

**A** comprehensive audit of the hostels under the University has been conducted by the IQAC in 2017, for the first time. Nine hostels under the University have been audited. Hostels in Karyavattom campus cater to 619 persons with a demand ratio of 0.69. Men are accommodated at

27.9 Sqft./person and women at 22.02 Sqft./person.

Hostel Audit 2017



## Alumni Compilation

Alumni of  
Teaching & Research Departments  
of the University of Kerala



**A**n extensive (but not comprehensive) compilation of alumni of the University Departments have been brought out by IQAC. Engagement with alumni has been quite weak in the University. It is expected that this would be a starting point to enhance alumni engagement. The University budget for 2017-18 has provided funds to enhance alumni engagement and the Director, IQAC has been entrusted with the same.



# Questioning the Questions

Examination Reforms Committee Submits its first Report

An Interim Report of the Examination Reforms Committee

## Questioning the Questions

(Part I: Analysis of Question Papers of the University Examinations (CSS) in Teaching Departments)



Internal Quality Assurance Cell  
University of Kerala

**I**QAC constituted a committee in 2017 to start taking a critical look at the question papers of University Examinations (CSS PG exams). As an initial step, the committee has compiled question papers of 2017 in University teaching departments and attempted to label each question at different levels defined in revised Bloom's taxonomy. Revised Bloom's taxonomy

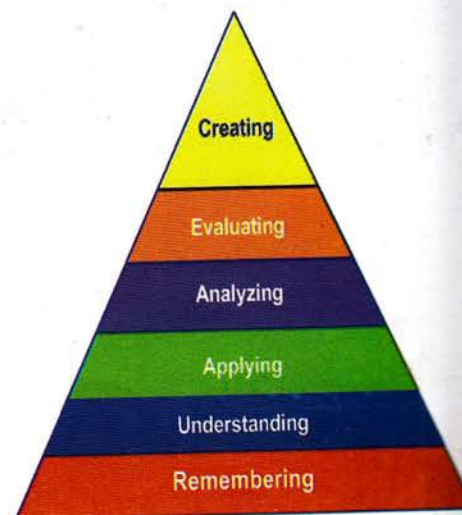
classifies cognitive objectives to 6 levels, as follows: Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analysing, Evaluating and Creating. When question papers address all the above levels, then it implies that learning too will.

The committee consisted of Dr. C. Satheesh Kumar (Convener), Dr. S. Ajitha, Dr. S. Prema, Dr. C. S. Suchith, Dr. Biju P. G., Dr. Jose Kutty C.A., Dr. Divya C. Senan, and Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair. The committee received 286 question papers from the Controller of Examinations, related to CSS end-semester PG examinations of 2017 (Another subcommittee is entrusted with analysis of internal assessments question papers). The question papers were grouped into three streams: Science & Technology, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities. The spread of the questions according to different levels defined by Bloom's Taxonomy was compiled as follows:

Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Percentage of Questions			
	Science & Technology	Social Sciences	Arts & Humanities	Overall
Remembering (Re)	2	8	12	7
Understanding (Un)	65	52	41	53
Applying (Ap)	8	11	16	12
Analysing (An)	17	19	11	16
Evaluating (Ev)	4	9	17	10
Creating (Cr)	3	0.45	3	2

The committee found that the distribution of questions is heavily skewed towards lower levels of "Remembering" and "Understanding". The percentage of questions in the category "Remembering" is reasonably low, 2-12% only. Therefore the common perception of University examinations being based purely on memory recall questions is not completely true, but highest level of "Evaluating" and "Creating" is seen to be meagre. The committee has recommended that training be given to all teachers on setting good quality question papers and that the report be printed and circulated to all teachers. It has also recommended that periodic evaluation of question papers be done to monitor the changes & take further steps for motivating and training teachers. The committee also did a compilation of questions from teachers of the University in different subjects, as models that will trigger new ideas.

Bloom's Taxonomy - Revised







# KERALA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

*Established vide UO No. IQAC/35/2017 dated 04.12.2017*

**U**niversity of Kerala is the oldest University in the state and among the first 16 in India. However, the University has so far not possessed a formally organized archives. IQAC has taken steps in this regard and archives has been established, bringing together archival documentation in one place. It is incomplete, but it is hoped that it can be continuously grown to make it richer. Documents collected by Sri. Robin Xavier, S.O. and personal collection of Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair have formed the nucleus of the Archives. Steps are on to make photocopies of documents in possession of Kerala Reference section in Kerala University Library. All faculty, former faculty and officers have been invited to contribute documents, photos, reports, newsletters, souvenirs etc. The University budget of 2017-18 has provided funds for establishing a University Heritage Museum. Both these are expected to be valuable facilities as the University marches to its century in two decades.

## Gems from the Archives....

Madras University Act and Calendar of 1859  
 Travancore University of Calender of 1948-49  
 Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilee souvenirs of University  
 University Hand book of 1972; University Herald from 1970's  
 Souvenirs & Newsletters from Departments  
 University Degree Certificate & Answer Books of 1950's  
 Travancore University Committee Report of 1925  
 Annual Report of almost all years from 1937-2017  
 Research Report of 1937-47; Convocation Address by Sir C.P.,  
 News letters of Various Unions of Staff, Students & Teachers  
 Rare Photographs of 1937-2017; Souvenirs of Affiliated Colleges  
 University Dairy from 1990 to 2017  
 Selected books by former VCs and Teachers  
 Report of Various commissions; University Voice and Kalari from MCJ  
 In addition, all 75 + IQAC Reports of last 3 years is also in the archives.







## **Avoid**

Plastic Carry Bags  
Plastic Cups  
Bottled Water  
Thermocol Plates  
Ball Point Pens  
Plastic clad reports/ assignments  
Plastic clad Bouquets  
Junk Food  
Flex Banners  
Plastic Mementoes

## **Promote**

Ethnic alternatives in food,  
decorations & utensils

## **Respect Nature**

Refuse  
Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle  
Rethink



Non- green products

# **Go Green...**



See University's Green Charter  
[www.iqac.keralauniversity.ac.in](http://www.iqac.keralauniversity.ac.in)





**CONTINUOUS  
ATTEMPT TO  
SCALE HEIGHTS OF  
QUALITY**

*Congratulations to  
Students, Research Scholars, Teachers  
and Non-teaching Staff  
for making this possible*

University of Kerala is ranked in the band

**800-1000**

among world Universities by  
THES World University Ranking

The University of Kerala was ranked

**29<sup>th</sup>**

among Indian Universities by the  
National Institutional Ranking  
Framework (NIRF) of MHRD, Govt. of  
India, 2017. This is the highest rank of  
any University in Kerala

The University of Kerala  
was ranked

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
(in 2015) and

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
(in 2016)

in the Chancellor's Award  
for best University in the  
State of Kerala

The University of Kerala is

**Re-accredited by NAAC in 2015**

with 'A' Grade (highest grade) with G.P.A of 3.03, up to 1.3.2020.

*The congratulatory message is issued vide decision of IQAC dated 18.09.2017*