



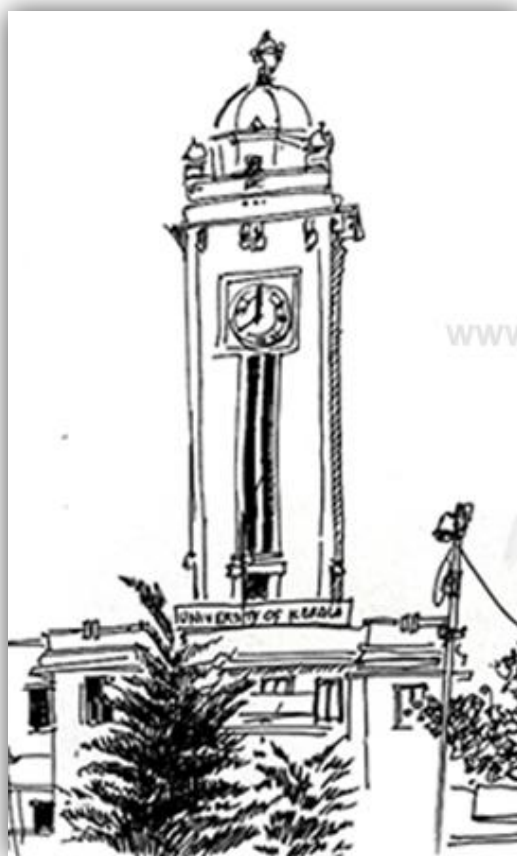
INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

NEWS LETTER

Cycle 3, Issue 6 (Covering 2020) January 2021



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA



Members

1	The Vice - Chancellor (Chairman)	2	The Pro - Vice - Chancellor (Vice-Chairman)
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9	The Chairman, Department Students' Union	10	The Chairman Research Students' Union
11	Dr. Unnikrishnan S. M., Associate Vice – President, International Business & Strategic Planning, HLL Life care Ltd, Poojappura.	12	Dr. Biveesh U. C., Research Officer & Nodal Officer, RUSA State Office, Thiruvananthapuram.
13	Dr. A. K. Prasad, Professor, Dept. of Economics	14	Dr. K. S. Chandrasekhar Professor & Head, IMK
15	Dr. B. Hariharan, Professor & Head Institute of English	16	Dr. Jayachandran R Professor & Head, Dept. of Hindi
17	Dr. R. B. Binoj Kumar, Professor & Head Dept. of Geology	18	Dr. S. Mini, Professor and Head Dept. of Biochemistry
19	Dr. S. R. Sheeja, Professor Dept. of Economics	20	Dr. S. Aji, Associate Professor Dept. of Computer Science
21	Dr. E. Shaji, Associate Professor Dept. of Geology (Joint Director, IQAC)	22	Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil Director, IQAC

MEETINGS

IQAC held 8 meetings in the year 2020 on the following dates

17.01.2020	06.03.2020	19.05.2020
01.07.2020	13.07.2020	13.08.2020
28.09.2020	21.10.2020	

NIRF RANKING

University of Kerala was ranked at 23rd position among Universities and 42nd position among all Higher Education Institutions in the country by NIRF India Ranking 2020, MHRD Govt. of India. Our University stood first among Universities in Kerala.





COVID INITIATIVES THROUGH IQAC

IQAC extended support services through its infrastructure for counseling using the services of the Department of Psychology. IQAC initiated steps for preparation and liabilities of hand sanitizers for public and university staff free of cost. The sanitizers were manufactured through the joint initiative of Department of Biochemistry and Department of Chemistry.

CONDUCT OF ACADEMIC AUDIT

Academic Audit is being undertaken by each Department through a team of three experts who are Eminent Academicians/ Professionals/ Experts in the discipline and external to the Department and the University. Auditors are identified in terms of experience, professional integrity and involvement in similar processes. The experts for Academic Audit are nominated by the Hon'ble Vice - Chancellor from a Panel proposed by the Head of the Department, Panel to include 10 experts. **18 departments have completed Academic Audit in their departments.**

ONLINE STUDENT FEEDBACK

An online portal for obtaining feedback of 4th semester students was developed by Computer Centre, University of Kerala and initiated the same to all Heads of the Department. The feedback received is being compiled. IQAC, in association with Computer Centre, is in the process of developing similar portals to take feedback of remaining semesters.

ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON “INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS”

College Development Council, University of Kerala organized a One Day Workshop for Principals of the affiliated Colleges on “Innovations in Teaching Learning Process” on 24th February 2020 at Senate Chamber, University of Kerala. An amount of **Rs. 55,000/- (Rupees Fifty five thousand only)** as provisional advance from KUF to Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC towards meeting the expenses in connection with the conduct of the workshop.



WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS ON SYLLABUS REVISION FOR OBE

IQAC and CSS organized a training workshop for the faculty members of university departments, as per the schedule below: GROUP I: 09 June 2020: Science and Technology GROUP II: 10 June 2020: Social Sciences GROUP III: 11 June 2020: Arts and Humanities/ Languages.



FILING OF INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR QUALITY ASSESSMENT (IIQA) FOR NAAC ACCREDITATION

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor has accorded sanction for filing Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) as part of commencing the formal NAAC accreditation process. Accordingly, IQAC University of Kerala has filed Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) on February 29, 2020 with basic data. The PDF of final submitted data is attached. Upon approval of IIQA by NAAC, the Self Study Report (SSR) is to be filed by the University within 30 days.

POST COVID RESEARCH INITIATIVES - PROJECT PROPOSAL

From Departments

As directed by the Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor and based on the discussion held with HoDs, IQAC sought proposals from all departments/centres with a focus on Post COVID-19 rebuilding, rehabilitation and sustainable development. Proposals to focus on deliverables mentioning what the project would deliver in terms of social benefits and sustainable development.

CURRICULUM FAIR 2020

The Fifth Annual Curriculum Fair and Exhibition was held during 13-17 February, 2020 jointly organized by Curriculum Development Centre, Department of Education, IQAC,

University of Kerala and FLAIR, Govt. of Kerala.

MOOC – KU PADASALA PREPARATION OF ONLINE CONTENT

Every department is requested to create online content for at least one course under any of the programmes currently offered in the department. 11 departments have submitted the details of online content to be developed and to authorize the Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor to nominate members for a review committee to examine quality and suitability of the MOOC courses.

ONLINE PRESENTATION ON YIP OF KDISC

An online presentation on Young Innovators' Program of KDISC was organized on 1st August 2020 (Saturday) at 4.30 p.m. for all teachers, research scholars and facilitators. Dr. Shaji E, coordinated on behalf of University of Kerala and Mr. Manu Devasy, DIC coordinator on behalf of KDISC.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION PLAN ON NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020

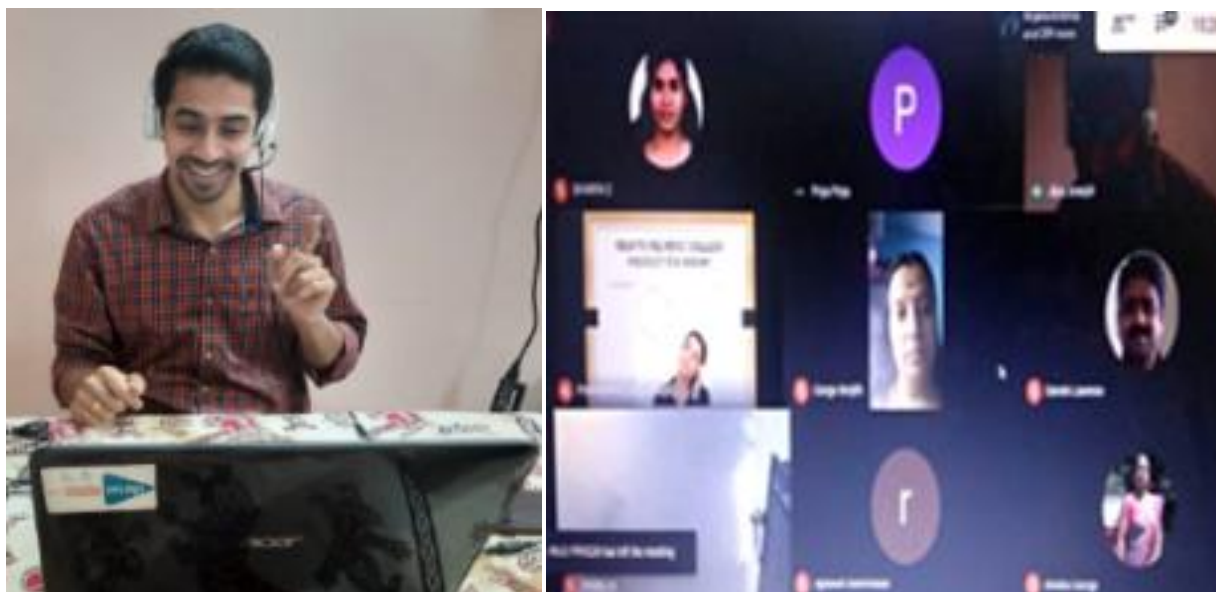
With an objective to elicit action points and activities under NEP 2020 considering aspects of the policy which the State considers amenable to implementation, a meeting for University of Kerala was convened. The objective of the meeting was to have a para-wise discussion on the NEP 2020.

WEBINAR ON FULBRIGHT NEHRU AND OTHER FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS

IQAC in collaboration with United States-India Educational Foundation conducted a webinar on the Fulbright-Nehru and other Fulbright fellowships, on May 12, 2020 (Tuesday) from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. This virtual session provided information on the various Fulbright grants categories, disciplines that are offered, the application processes, guidelines. The session also provided tips on preparing a strong application.

ASAP GREENROOMS FOR LIFE SKILLS - TWO DAY ONLINE SKILL ACQUISITION SESSION

As part of the implementation of ASAP Green Room for Transformative Learning, a joint initiative of the University of Kerala and Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) of Government of Kerala a two day online Skill Acquisition Session was organized for the research scholars and PG students of the University of Kerala. The online sessions were held on 05 & 06 August 2020 through the Google Meet Licensed Platform of the University of Kerala.



Two hour sessions were organized on both days from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Sri. Jijoy Joseph, ASAP Trainer was the resource person selected for handling online training sessions. A communication to this effect was given in advance to all heads of the Department, University of Kerala for ensuring the participation of students. In the training programme there were 250 participants which was the permissible limit in the online platform. The resource person succeeded in communicating very effectively using PPT. There were serious discussion and positive responses from the participants. In the first day the topic handled was Identifying Ourselves in a New World where as in the second day it was Re-defining Skill in Post Covid 19. The services of the trainer was provided by ASAP, Kerala. The full video of the sessions were recorded and shared to IQAC, University of Kerala.

ONLINE TRAINING UNDER LMS

University of Kerala had made it mandatory to adopt LMS under CSS from 2019 onwards and we have provided several introductory training sessions on the relevance and use of the same. However, most of the teachers are yet to adopt the same. Considering the significance of LMS based on the online teaching learning methods being adopted and its relevance for the accreditation process there was a need to urgently put LMS in to practice. The training programme was conducted in the online mode for all teachers of the University including contract lectures. The programme was conducted in association with HRDC, University of Kerala as a refresher course.



TWO DAY ADD ON PROGRAMME ON LMS

In continuation to the Online training programme on LMS conducted during 2020, a two-day Add-on online training programme on LMS was conducted on 2-3, November 2020. Dr. Ashkarali P., FLAIR international intern 2015, Assistant Professor of Electronics, Govt. Arts and Science College, Tanur and Dr. Ramesh A. R., FLAIR international intern 2014, Asst Professor of Chemistry, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad engaged the sessions. The focus was on student enrolment and initiating semester one courses. This was also a Gap filling session on the left outs.

CLEAN CAMPUS DRIVE PROGRAMME



The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor resolved in the meeting of Heads of Teaching Departments and IQAC, launched a Clean Campus Drive Programme during 2- 6 November 2020. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the programme on 2nd November 2020 at Kariavattom Campus. The objective was to keep the campus clean and maintain cleanliness and hygiene.

INAUGURATION OF MEET THE SCHOLAR PROGRAMME 2020

Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Coir inaugurated and delivered the inaugural address for the flagship programme 'Meet the Scholar' initiated by the University of Kerala on 28th October 2020 at 5 p.m. through video conference. The inaugural address was followed by an online interactive session where students, researchers and faculty interacted with the Hon'ble Minister on the theme 'Covid-19 and the Kerala Economy'.



The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai presided over the function. Felicitations were offered by Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar, Members of the Syndicate Adv. K. H. Babujan and Dr. K.G. Gopchandran. The programme was organized in the virtual mode complying with Covid-19 guidelines. Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC welcomed the gathering while Prof. C. R. Prasad proposed the vote of thanks.

INAUGURATION OF TRAVEL THROUGH NOBEL WINNERS PROGRAMME

Prof. C. Vijayan, Professor of Physics, IIT Madras delivered the inaugural talk on the theme “Raman Effect and Raman’s Effect” as part of the innovative lecture series “Travel through Nobel Winners” organized by IQAC, University of Kerala on 11th December 2020 through video conference. He spoke on the need to dwell deeper into nature and draw inspiration from understanding nature in order to make learning complete.



The Hon’ble Vice – Chancellor Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai presided over the function in which felicitations were offered by Hon’ble members of the Syndicate Adv. K.H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran as well as Shri. Ramshad Khan R., Chairman, Kerala University Departments’ Union and Smt. Ilfa K.M. Chairperson, Kerala University Research Students’ Union. Prof. A. Bijukumar, Vice–Chairman, CSS welcomed the gathering, while Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC, proposed the vote of thanks.



COMMON STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAMME (2020 ADMISSION)

University of Kerala hosted a 3 – tier induction programme for its newly admitted students in the 2020 batch. The 3 tier programme had a university level induction, school level induction as well as department level induction. Over 600 students were admitted to the 43 teaching departments representing disciplines in Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Commerce.

The University level induction programme was formally inaugurated by Prof. C. Vijayan, Professor of Physics, IIT Madras on 11th December, 2020. He spoke on the need to dwell deeper into nature and draw inspiration from understanding nature in order to make learning complete. The inaugural function was chaired by Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Hon'ble Vice – Chancellor, University of Kerala, Hon'ble members of the Syndicate Adv. K.H. Babujan, Dr. S. Nazeeb, Dr. K. G. Gopchandran as well as Shri. Ramshad Khan R., Chairman, Kerala University Departments' Union and Smt. Ilfa K.M. Chairperson, Kerala University Research Students' Union.



On 12th December 2020, the second induction lecture was delivered by Padmabhushan Prof. P. Balaram on the theme Science and Nature. He spoke on how different scientific disciplines were connected and how they are a deeper connect with nature. The association between cultural evolution and biological evolution was well illustrated. He spoke on how to link the various elements in different sciences as well as how we could understand the history of mankind. Tracing the evolution of life from unicellular organisms to the present human race.



The final induction lecture was delivered by Prof. V. Madhusoodhanan Nair, Poet and Critic of Malayalam literature. Poet appealed requested students to love their mother tongue so as to understand our own identity. The concluding session was chaired by Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Hon'ble Vice – Chancellor. Prof. R. B. Binojkumar, Research Director, Dr. E. Shaji, Joint Director, IQAC, Prof. S. Shifa, Head, Department of Malayalam were present.

The Hon'ble Pro – Vice – Chancellor Dr. P. P. Ajayakumar, urged students to take advantage of the unique opportunity that was bestowed upon them on securing admission to the University departments for higher learning. Dr. C. R. Prasad, Registrar formally welcome the newly

inducted students on behalf of University of Kerala.

WEBINAR ON NAAC ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION

IQAC in association with NAAC, Bengaluru organized a Webinar entitled NAAC Assessment and Accreditation on 8th July 2020. IQAC, University of Kerala, in association with NAAC, Bengaluru organized a Webinar entitled **NAAC Assessment and Accreditation** on 8th July 2020. The objective of the Webinar was to create awareness on the NAAC accreditation process and help Higher Education Institutions, more specifically, the unaccredited colleges in securing accreditation and thereby promoting quality in their processes.

The Webinar was formally inaugurated by Prof. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of University of Kerala. Prof. Pillai stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had imposed several challenges in higher education and NAAC is working on the New Normalcy to address these challenges. He congratulated NAAC for their efforts in this regard and for their association with University of Kerala. This is an opportunity to understand and incorporate the Revised Accreditation Framework which is data driven based on the quantitative and qualitative metrics. Our familiarization and internalization on the same is crucial, he added, we need to reciprocate the keen interest that NAAC is manifesting in promoting quality among Higher Education Institutions.

Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Adviser, NAAC, delivered the introductory remarks where he gave a detailed presentation on the relevance of Accreditation and the role NAAC is playing, specifically in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accreditation supports funding for HEIs

and it creates a standard which is accepted not just in India but also abroad. Institutions should take advantage of the accreditation process and its benefits, students from accredited institutions find it easy to secure admission in internationally reputed institutions. The unaccredited colleges need to understand the significance of such initiatives and take all steps to ensure accreditation.

The Webinar had three technical sessions as follows:

- *Revised Accreditation Framework: Introduction, IIQA, SSR - Dr. Pratibha Singh, Deputy Adviser, NAAC*
- *Data Validation and Verification for Accreditation - Dr. K. R. Vishnu Mahesh, Assistant Adviser, NAAC*
- *Student Satisfaction Survey, Logistics and Peer team visit management – Dr. D. K. Kamble, Assistant Adviser, NAAC*

Dr. Pratibha Singh explained in detail the steps involved in the preparation of IIQA and the factors to be considered. She also gave a criteria-wise presentation on preparation of SSR with the key indicators and the Quantities Metrics as well as the Qualitative metrics involved. The weights assigned and the factors that deserve consideration were illustrated in a lucid style.

Dr. K. R. Vishnu Mahesh emphasized on the need to be truthful and precise in the preparation of SSR as all data would be the subject to Validation and Verification through third party experts. The system driven process would look for accuracy while assigning points for each of the metrics. Need for documentary support and careful verification for all the quantitative data was stressed by him. He also spoke of the NAAC initiatives to deal with corrections sought under DVV.



Dr. D. K. Kamble spoke on SSS, where the process of seeking feedback from students was illustrated. The data on students was to be correctly uploaded. He gave details on how students were to be selected from each HEIs and the need to giving exact data of students. The logistics for the visit was also covered. This was followed by a Q & A session where several questions were raised by the participants. The NAAC team clarified on the doubts raised and agreed to support the Institutions on all accreditation clarifications through their Help Desk and other supportive interventions.

Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director IQAC, University of Kerala welcomed the dignitaries to the Webinar and proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed special gratitude to NAAC for their support. 170 delegates participated. The delegates expressed satisfaction and happiness on the Webinar in terms of the inputs they received.



**STATE LEVEL QUALITY
ASSURANCE CELL -
NOMINATION OF DR. GABRIEL
SIMON THATTIL AS MEMBER OF
THE COMMITTEE.**

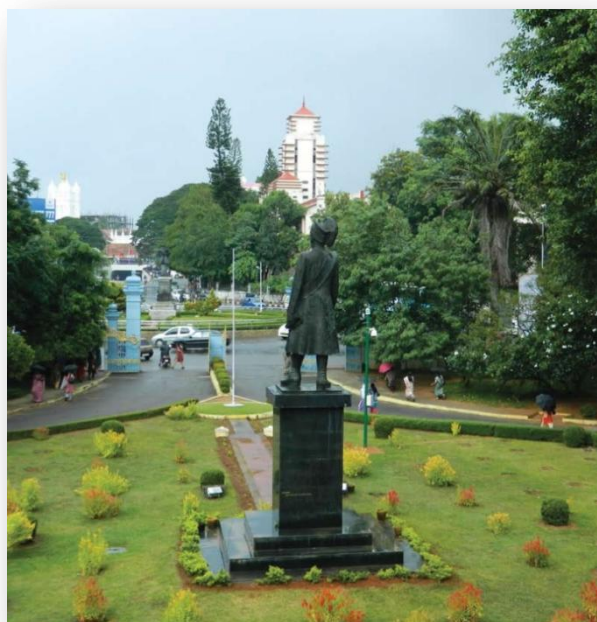
RUSA, under the Higher Education Department nominated Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director IQAC as one of the members of the State Level Quality Assurance Cell.

**KERALA STATE LEVEL
ANALYSIS OF ACCREDITED
HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTION - REPORT OF
NAAC - NOMINATION OF
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Two of the faculty members of University of Kerala were included in the committee for editors for compiling the Kerala State Level Analysis of Accredited Higher Education Institution, Report of NAAC. Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director, IQAC and Dr. Manoj Chacko, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics were members.

**UGC - PARAMARSH
NOMINATION OF
DR. GABRIEL SIMON THATTIL
AS MEMBER**

UGC has sanctioned PARAMARSH - UGC Scheme for Mentoring NAAC Accreditation Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education to Mar Ivanios College (Autonomous). Dr. Gabriel Simon Thattil, Director IQAC is nominated as one of the members of the Standing Committee for PARAMARSH under Mar Ivanios College.



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