

INTERNATIONAL BROCHURE



MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Established by Kerala State Legislature by Notification
No. 3431/Leg C1/85/Law dated 17th April 1985



INDIA STUDY PROGRAMME



University Centre for International Cooperation

**Published by the
University Centre for International Cooperation,
Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India-686560.**

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Printed at Print Solutions, Kottayam. printsolutionsktm@gmail.com



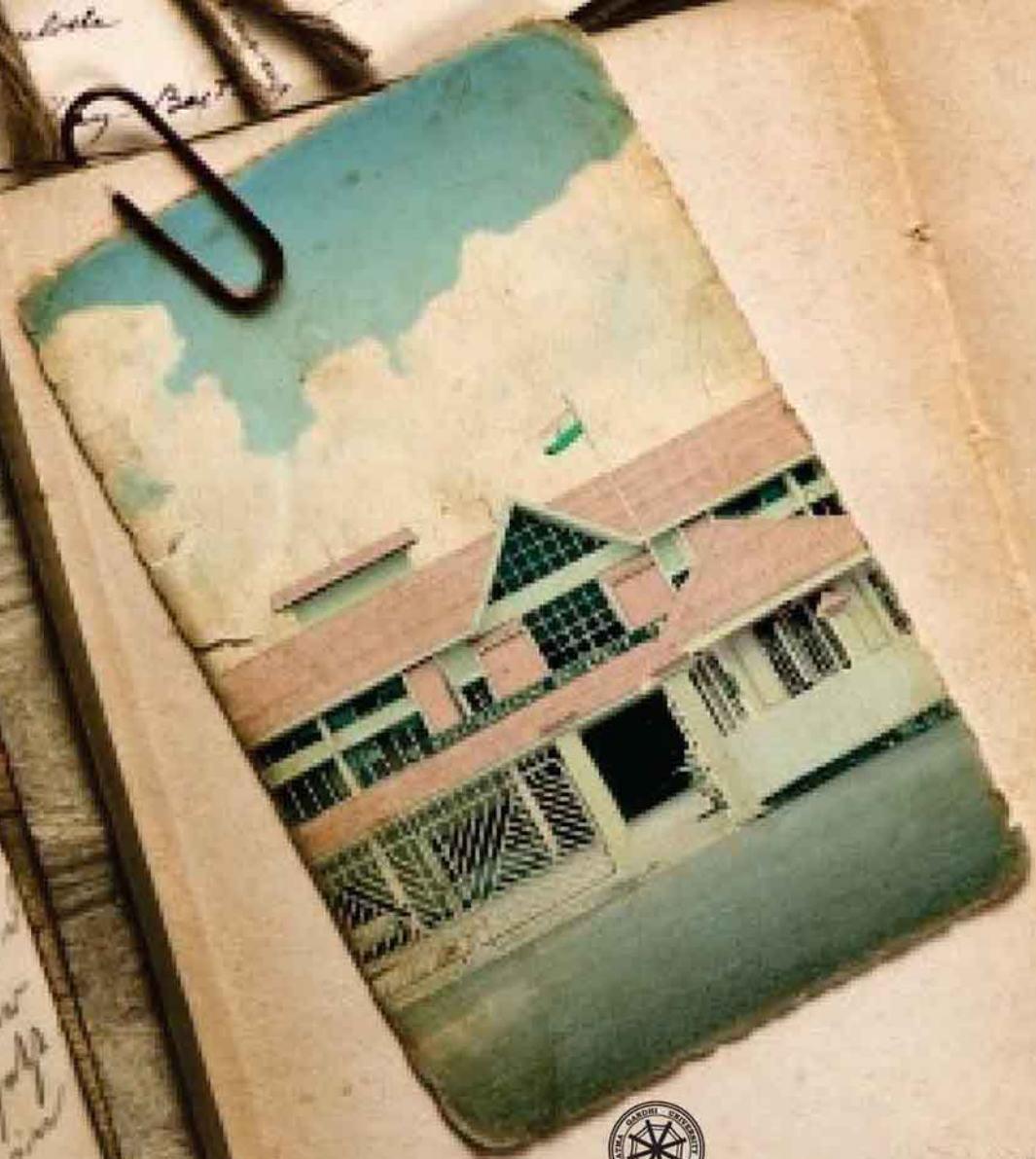
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Correspondence
Madame
Antoine

CARD
BRIEF
INA POSTALE



Handwritten French text on a letter, including 'mon cher', 'je vous envoie', and 'avec toute ma sympathie'.



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mon cher
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Je vous envoie
avec toute ma sympathie
un livre de la collection
de la bibliothèque de la
ville de Paris.



MAHATMAGANDHI UNIVERS

Vision

Mahatma Gandhi University envisions championing the cause of higher education in the country by catering to the scholastic, expertise and developmental needs of the individual, the society and the industry through the creation of critical knowledge base, with well-defined means for its social dissemination and extension for the society's sustained and inclusive growth.



There will have to be rigid and iron discipline before we achieve anything great and enduring and that discipline will not come by mere academic argument and appeal to reason and logic. Discipline is learnt in the school of adversity.

-Mahatma Gandhi



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Dr. Babu Sebastian, the Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, receiving the Indira Gandhi National Service Scheme Award for best University in India for the year 2013-14 from the Honourable President of India Sri. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee on 19 November, 2014 at Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.



Mahatma Gandhi University

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Dr. BABU SEBASTIAN
Vice-Chancellor



VC.806/014/2015

MESSAGE

13th April, 2015

The University Centre for International Cooperation (UCIC) is established in Mahatma Gandhi University five years ago to explore the ways and means that shall facilitate collaborative teaching, research and outreach programmes with reputed institutions abroad. In 2013, the UCIC initiated an **India Study Programme (ISP)** to promote Semester in India programme for international students. We aspire to create a centre where brightest students and promising researchers across the world can thrive, no matter what their social or cultural background are. India Study Programme in Mahatma Gandhi University gives the opportunity to experience a world with overwhelming greenery, silken reams of emerald backwater, long and charming shorelines, spice-scented hill tops, lush jungles, exotic wildlife, ancient regimens, spectacular art forms, colorful festivals, fascinating history and a wealth of unique culture and traditions. Kerala, a state situated on the tropical Malabar Coast of southwestern India, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. Named as one of the *ten paradises of the world* by the National Geographic Travel, Kerala is famous especially for its ecotourism initiatives.

As the largest University in the state of Kerala, the Mahatma Gandhi University had carefully nurtured International linkage to open its windows to world outside since its establishment in 1983. It imparts education in the interdisciplinary as well as conventional disciplines of science, social science and the humanities as well as in the professional disciplines of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, engineering, technology, pedagogy and legal studies. Mahatma Gandhi University has a rich heritage and an enviable international reputation for quality, achievement and success. We are also dynamic and future focused, with a contemporary approach towards education, life and culture. The University is quite prominently placed on the international academic map through its entry into the Obama-Singh 21st century Knowledge Initiative as the lone affiliating University in Kerala.

Today, there is an unprecedented flow of international scholars and students into our University. The University regards it as a great opportunity for it provides a platform for triggering changes to achieve world class standards, and promise you a great and wonderful stint here. I welcome all prospective international students and scholars to the Mahatma Gandhi University and wish that their collaboration with our University shall be beneficial to all.


(BABU SEBASTIAN)

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Dr. SHEENA SHUKKUR
Pro-Vice-Chancellor



MESSAGE

13th April, 2015

The Mahatma Gandhi University from its inception boldly entered a new frontier in international education by establishing the School of International Relations. International education is going to be the primary means by which we are able to bridge the cultural and linguistic divides/barriers that exist not only within the country but also globally. Without an appreciation for other cultures, other languages, history and the problems and contribution of other countries, the students will not be able to become effective world leaders. Of course, students with international experience are getting higher paying jobs and have greater opportunities for career advancement.

We are definitely hopeful that the inspiration comes from a well established, well run and extremely effective international programme: which will enable the foreign students to achieve their desired goal.

Mahatma Gandhi University has never limited its vision to the view from Kerala but has always ventured beyond the horizon because this is where future leaders tread boldly in the global community.

The University Centre for International Co-operation is established in Mahatma Gandhi to support foreign students with a simple reason that it enriches the curriculum by providing them with rigorous transformative and immersion experience.

The creative world of Mahatma Gandhi University offers a conducive atmosphere to the students for holistic development of their personality. The students are not only equipped with talent, knowledge and skills for their all round growth but they are made to them in an atmosphere in the backdrop of Keralian/Indian rich ethos and values to enable them to completely transform their personalities and growth.

The Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative had handpicked Mahatma Gandhi University as the only University from Kerala for its programme. We welcome and value the richness you bring to the University and the community. Our goal is to support your academic success by helping you navigate as international students.

Your decision to enroll in this University will never be a regret as the University promise you great satisfying result oriented and eventful innings in this educational hub. I hail you all potential international students and scholars to this amazing campus and crave for your alliance to go hand in hand for reciprocal advantage.

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THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

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Ambassador (Rtd.) T. P. Sreenivasan
Vice-Chairman



30th March, 2015

MESSAGE

I congratulate the Mahatma Gandhi University on its efforts to enhance its international profile. I am glad that, as suggested by the Kerala State Higher Education Council, the University has designed several courses specifically for foreign students and presented them in an attractive brochure.

Internationalization of education is imperative in these times and the Government of Kerala wishes to make Kerala a hub for higher education worldwide. I am sure that the efforts of the Mahatma Gandhi University will contribute to that objective.


Amb(Rtd.) T. P Sreenivasan
30/3/2015



THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (UCIC)

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India

PREFACE

Sir/Madam,

The Mahatma Gandhi University established University Centre for International Cooperation (UCIC) as an integral part of the international programmes in the University during 2010. The central objective of the UCIC has been to explore the ways and means that shall facilitate collaborative teaching, research and outreach programmes with reputed institutions from abroad. The Centre seeks to establish institutional collaboration between Mahatma Gandhi University and institutions from abroad and shall facilitate academic mobility both inward and outward. One of the most important programmes of the UCIC is the India Study Programme whereby international students are provided with knowledge and information on the society, polity, economy, culture and tradition of India and Kerala in particular.

We have great pleasure to bring out this international brochure which will be of immense benefit to students, scholars and institutions from across the globe. We are extremely thankful to the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala, Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) and the authorities of Mahatma Gandhi University in realizing this endeavor.



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Profile

Mahatma Gandhi University is the premier educational institution that strives to fulfil the higher educational needs of the people of Central Kerala. Set on the sprawling 110-acre campus called Priyadarsini Hills at Athirampuzha, 13 kms off Kottayam, the University also has ten satellite campuses in parts of Kottayam and the neighbouring districts. The University was established on 2nd October 1983 and has jurisdiction over the revenue districts of Kottayam, Ernakulum, Idukki and parts of Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha. The university conducts a range of programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate, M.Phil and Doctoral levels through its 18 University Departments, One International Inter University Center, 6 Inter University Centres, 8 Inter School Centres, 36 Self-Financing Departments, 75 Aided Affiliated Colleges (of which 5 college have become autonomous), 220 Unaided Affiliated Colleges and 273 Recognized Research Institutes. It imparts education in the interdisciplinary as well as conventional disciplines of science, social science and the humanities besides in the professional disciplines of Medicine, Nursing,

Pharmacy, Dentistry, Engineering, Technology, Pedagogy and Legal Studies. The University has also made its educational presence felt outside the territorial jurisdiction through 122 Off-campus Centres under the School of Distance Education. From its inception and through the last three decades Mahatma Gandhi University has taken immense strides in the fields of inter-disciplinary teaching and research in the areas of pure and applied sciences, social sciences and humanities. The teaching programmes conducted under the Credit and Semester System (CSS) in the statutory departments of teaching and research, organized as Interdisciplinary Schools, are marked by their innovative motivating curricula and their learner-oriented approaches. The faculty of the



University comprises outstanding scholars, many of whom have made original contributions in their respective fields of specialization. The faculty and research scholars of several departments have gained widespread recognition for the commendable quality of their research publications. The research journals published by some of the Schools have garnered international recognition.

At present Mahatma Gandhi University offers research programmes in over forty disciplines through its own Schools as well as through its approved research centres. The university has close collaboration for academic, research and extension programmes with a number of national agencies and institutions including the UGC, FIST, DRS, ISRO, COSIT, DIT, DST, Nano Mission, CSIR, DAAD, STEC, ICMR, BARC, MOEF, ICCR, ICHR, IED, IIFT, Institute of Chinese Studies and the Sahitya Akademy. The University is also involved in active collaboration with research institutions of international reputation such as the Max Planck Institute of Technology Germany, Brown



University, USA, University of Nantes, France, California Institute of Technology, USA, University of Toronto, Canada, Catholic University, Belgium, Heidelberg University, Germany, and the Institute of Political Studies, Rennes, France, Trent University Canada, IPF Dresden, Germany, University of Paris and University of Strasbourg. Some of the members of the faculty have proved to be frontrunners in the development of indigenous technologies and are holders of as many as twenty five patents, including six US patents. A considerable percentage of the alumni of the University are comfortably placed in the country and abroad as

academics, scientists and professionals.

The recent development in the inter disciplinary initiatives of the University is the establishment of nine interface centres of teaching and innovative research, of which some are Inter-University Centres exemplifying institutions of convergence, an emerging academic feature of importance. Advanced Centre of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development, Inter University Centre for Bio Medical Research, Inter University Centre for Disability Studies, and Inter University Centre for Social Sciences Research and Extension are





conceived to consolidate the strengths in various Universities in the specified area. Institute for Intensive Research in Basic Sciences, Centre for English language and Communication Skills, Centre for Nano Science and Nano Technology, Instrumentation Centre and K.N Raj Centre for Planning and Centre-State Relations Studies envisage advanced studies independently.

Mahatma Gandhi University's academic growth during the past has been phenomenal in terms of the number of new academic initiatives launched, curricular revisions undertaken, research grants received, research collaborations entered into, extension activities organized, research papers published, national and international seminars hosted, student support programme conducted, quality enhancement measures initiated, infrastructural support generated, resource mobilization, and distinctions and achievements acquired.

The university is quite prominently placed on the international academic map through its entry into the Obama-Singh 21st century Knowledge Initiative as the lone affiliating University in Kerala. In the overall ranking process of the Indian universities by India Today, Mahatma Gandhi University was ranked first in Kerala, third in South India and 28th in India. CSIR has ranked the University thirteenth in India in terms of intellectual productivity and NISTADS has rated it nineteenth in terms of h-index of the science faculty. DST has ranked the University 8th among the 29 Universities under the PURSE programme.

The University has been able to make these gains thanks to the healthy environment of academic interaction that exists on the campus. The students will vouch for the atmosphere of cordiality and fellowship that marks the campus life here. All components of the teaching-learning system contribute toward making the process of

learning a memorable experience. Though the rural, tribal and underprivileged background from which a good majority of the students come might pose some initial hurdles before some of the students, they smoothly overcome the hurdles and catch up with the environment. This is mainly due to the student support and other services available on the campus. The web-enabled University Library with its plethora of books, journal and e-journals. The online Thesis Digital Library provides open access to its enviable collection of digitized Ph.D. dissertations. The publishing unit which has brought out hundreds of titles in Malayalam, English and Hindi.

University Centre for International Cooperation (UCIC)



Mahatma Gandhi University established University Centre for International Cooperation (UCIC) as an integral part of the interdisciplinary convergence academia centre during 2010. The central objective of the UCIC has been to explore the ways and means that shall facilitate collaborative teaching, research and outreach programmes with reputed institutions from abroad. The Centre shall explore the possibility of institutional collaboration between Mahatma Gandhi

University and reputed institutions from abroad and facilitate academic mobility both inward and outward and organize international summer schools on themes related to Indian society, economy, polity, culture and tradition. The Centre shall also host the study abroad programmes and semester abroad programmes of reputed institutions abroad. The Centre shall decide and develop short-term course modules that shall be offered to young scholars from abroad for varying durations of 1-4 months.

Objectives

- ♦ To promote academic collaboration and exchange in teaching and research.
- ♦ To identify potential international institutions of repute that shall enter into collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi University.
- ♦ To identify potential academic areas of co-operation.
- ♦ To formulate short term inter-disciplinary courses for foreign students.
- ♦ To facilitate international co-operation between University Departments and colleges with foreign academic institutions.
- ♦ To co-ordinate with national agencies such as UGC, ICCR, ICSSR, ICHR in the promotion of international co-operation.
- ♦ To facilitate the visits of students, research scholars and teachers from Mahatma Gandhi University in



institutions abroad.

- ♦ To promote and host study abroad programmes of institutions from abroad.
- ♦ To provide necessary inputs to university decision making bodies so that international exchange will take place to the satisfaction of the institutions involved.
- ♦ Outward mobility of students from Mahatma Gandhi University.
- ♦ To provide partial financial support to study abroad.







INDIA

Study Programme

INTRODUCTION

The Mahatma Gandhi University established an India Study Programme (ISP) as part of its international collaboration initiative. The mission of the India Study programme is to promote a better understanding and appreciation of Indian thought, culture, civilization, society, politics, economy, foreign policy, education, scientific advancement and contemporary challenges by developing expertise and resources for offering courses and research opportunities to international students and scholars. India is both a young state and one of the world's oldest civilizations; it is an emerging great power, it is the proud land of the peaceful Mahatma Gandhi, yet it brandishes nuclear weapons and hosts one of the world's largest militaries; its infrastructure in many areas is abysmal, yet its information technology workers,

engineers, scientists, and academics are in demand the world over; it is a country led by powerful women at various ranks and it is a polyethnic society and the world's largest and most vibrant democracy. India's diversity is thousands of years old and is partly what makes its civilization unique.

India Study Programme (ISP) is an interdisciplinary initiative emphasizing heritage, continuity and changes in contemporary India. The unique cascade of ISP will be the focus on the primary attention given to student's interests. The ISP will arrange one-on-one counselling on e-mail, contact prior to arrival, meeting after arrival by the ISP faculty and program assistants, will lead to a good match between student's preferences and the courses they take. In particular cases, independent studies are devised for ISP students.

COURSES

The ISP will offer courses on: Indian Diaspora, Women's Studies, Folk Culture Studies, Religious Studies, Indian Philosophy, Indian Dance, Indian Music, Indian Cinema, Art, Literature, Indian Politics and Foreign Policy, Indian Economy, Linguistics, Science and Technology, Environment and Development, Gandhian Studies, India's Defence and Security Policy, Anthropology, Indian History, Mathematics, etc. Basic and advanced language courses like Hindi, Malayalam, Sanskrit, and other Indian languages will also be offered.

Regular University courses in different schools involving lectures, seminars, assignments and examinations. ISP courses, especially designed for foreign students. Independent/directed study where a faculty member supervises readings, field study, and research focused on some topic. Courses involving practice/performance, e.g. Indian Classical Dance, Theyyam, Kathakali, Kalarippayattu, Mohiniyattam Painting, etc. Non-credit courses such as Yoga, Theyyam, Kalari, etc.

ISP - SALIENT FEATURES

The ISP is the only comprehensive India study program in India with impeccable blend of academia. Internationally acclaimed faculty, many of whom have extensive teaching and research experience abroad.

The modular structure of a rigorous and flexible semester-based program, economical and variable tuition fee related to the credits earned by the students. Credits are transferred to the students' institutions, if we have an agreement. In other cases, a student is given the transcript directly.

- ♦ A fully computerized library and Email/Internet facilities.
- ♦ A diverse campus, with international students and Indians from different parts

of the country.

- ♦ A pollution-free, ecofriendly campus.
- ♦ A secure, hygienic and modern accommodation for International Students.

DIFFERENT PROGRAMS AT ISP

India Semester Programs

The Fall semester runs from late July till the end of November, and the Spring Semester from early January till early May. 12 to 20 credits (3-5 courses) can be



taken by students in a semester. They can take some of the regular courses offered to the students of the Mahatma Gandhi University and interact with Indian students.

Summer Programmes

It is a six-week program, which runs from the third week of April till the fourth week of May. Students normally take from 4 to 6 credits (2-3 courses).

The courses are peculiarly designed for the ISP students.

Faculty Development Programme

ISP has also plan to offer faculty development programme during the first two weeks of December. The programme includes several site visits as well as a series of lectures on Indian society, history, polity, economy, art, and culture by prominent

academics. There is also scope for collaborative teaching and research initiatives between visiting faculty and MGU faculty. This program is intended in part to assist foreign universities to expand the Indian components of their own academic programs. The faculty development programme typically enrolls about 10-15 college/university teachers.



A woman with brown hair tied in a ponytail with a green scrunchie, wearing a striped tank top and a bright green skirt, is seen from behind. She is holding a silver digital camera up to her eye, taking a photograph of the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal's white marble domes and minarets are visible in the background under a clear blue sky. There are green bushes and orange flowers in the foreground.

COURSES UNDER **INDIA STUDY** PROGRAMME

The India Study Programme at Mahatma Gandhi University aims to introduce foreign students to the larger domain of economic, political, social and cultural complexities of Kerala, India and South Asia. Courses would broadly cover five subject areas with an emphasis on India: India Studies; Literature; Religion, Philosophy and Yoga; the Arts; Languages. Elective courses are courses of wide variety which can satisfy both major or degree requirements and personal academic interests through Mahatma Gandhi Universities' numerous Departments and Centers, and affiliated colleges. Some of these shall be practice based.

Sl.No	Department	Code	Title	Cr
1	Economics	ECO.	Indian Economy	4
2	Economics	ECO.	Kerala Model of Development	2
3	Economics	ECO.	India and Globalization	2
4	Politics/English	ENG.	Indian Diaspora	2
5	English	ENG.	Indian Literature	2
6	English	ENG.	Indian Film and Fiction	2
7	Malayalam	MAL.	Malayalam Language and literature	4
8	Philosophy	PHI.	Contemporary Indian Philosophy	4
9	Management	MMT.	Evolution of Indian Business and Management	4
10	International Relations	IR	Contemporary India and China	4
11	International Relations	IR.	International Relations in Asia	4
12	International Relations	IR	India and the Global System	4
13	International Relations	IR	International Relations in South Asia	2
14	International Relations	IR	Indo- US Relations	4/2
15	International Relations	IR	India-China Relations	4/2
16	International Relations	IR	Human Security in India	4/2
17	International Relations	IR	Energy Security	2
18	Politics	POL	State, Politics and Governance in India	4
19	Politics	POL	South Asia: Political Dynamics	4
20	Politics	POL	Society, Politics and Economy of Kerala	4/2
21	Politics	POL	Public Policy and Governance in India	4/2
22	Politics	POL	India's Foreign Policy	4
23	Politics	POL	Indian Constitution	4/2
24	Politics	POL	Environment, Development & Politics	4/2
25	Politics	POL	India's Defence and Security Policy	2
26	Politics	POL	Human Rights in India	4/2
	Politics	POL	Civil Society in India	2
27	Politics	POL	Decentralization and Local Governance(India/Kerala)	4/2
28	Politics	POL	Women Empowerment in Kerala	2
29	Art/History	AR.	Art, Culture and Music in India	2
30	History	HS.	Modern Indian History	4/2
31	History/Philosophy	HS	Gandhian Studies	4/2
32	Psychology	PSY.	Indian Concept of Psychology	2
33	Sociology	SOC.	Gender and Indian Society	2
34	Sociology	SOC.	Indian Sociological Tradition	2
35	Tourism	TM	Tourism in India	2
36	Science	SC	Development of Science and Technology in India	4/2
37	Law	LA	India's Legal Tradition	2
38	Education	ED	Indian Education: Evolution and Current Trends	2
39	Journalism	JM.	Media and Democracy in India	2

Practice based (2 credits)

Introduction to Indian Music	Introduction to Ayurveda
Introduction to Kathakali	Introduction to Martial Arts in Kerala.
Introduction to Yoga	Introduction to Sanskrit
Introduction to Folklore	Introduction to Theyyam
Introduction to Malayalam	Introduction to Mohiniyattam

Innovative programmes



Intensive Research in Basic Sciences:

Five Year Interdisciplinary Integrated M.S. (Master in Science) Chemistry, Physics, Biology-stream and Five Year Interdisciplinary Integrated Ph.D (M.Sc.+Ph.D.) in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology:

Regular Courses include: Ph.D. in Nanoscience and Nano Technology. M.S. in Nano Science and Nano Technology, M.Phil in Nano Science and Nano Technology, PG Diploma in Nano Science and Nano Technology, and Integrated Ph.D.

INDIA SEMESTER PROGRAMME**PROGRAMME 1: SYNTHESIS OF NANOMATERIALS (Total Credits 20)**

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
CNNC 101	SYNTHESIS OF NANO MATERIALS	4
Nano Lab 01	LAB WORK	4
Nano Project SN	PROJECT	12

PROGRAMME 2: CHARACTERIZATION OF NANOMATERIALS (Total Credits 20)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
CNNC 102	CHARACTERIZATION OF NANOMATERIALS	4
Nanolab 02	LAB WORK	4
Nano Project CN	PROJECT	12





International Masters Programme (1Year)

1. INTERNATIONAL MASTERS (M.Sc.) PROGRAM IN NANOSTRUCTURED MATERIALS.

Offered by: International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Mahatma Gandhi University.

Nanotechnology, the ability to control materials and devices at the atomic and molecular level is enabling revolutionary changes. Nanotechnology and advanced materials form a broad and interdisciplinary area of research and development that can enable new or improved properties in products and engineering processes. The essence of nanotechnology is to manipulate atoms and molecules at nano-scale level and create nanostructures with fundamentally new organizations and properties. The different fields of research that fall under

nanotechnology umbrella and describing the background knowledge required to work in them. It also seems wise to say something about the different levels of knowledge and modes of learning that are relevant to such a broad, interdisciplinary area because of this the need for nanotechnology professionals became critical for future technologies. The International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology intends to offer a one year in International Masters (M.Sc.) program in Nano Structured Materials from the academic year 2015-16 onwards. The basic admission requirement for the programme will be Bachelors in any branch of Science, Engineering, Medicine or Biotechnology. The admission will be purely based on the admission requirements of the Mahatma Gandhi University as per the CSS rules and regulations. The M.Sc. students will undergo one semester project work with leading research institutions or industries in India or abroad.

2. INTERNATIONAL MASTERS PROGRAMME IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

(Intensive one year course for human resource development in Disaster Management)
Offered by-Centre for Disaster Management, Mahatma Gandhi University.

Disasters-natural or human-made are common throughout



the world and continue to occur without warning and are perceived to be on an increase in their magnitude, complexity, frequency and economic impact. Disaster leads to the loss of security (food, health, environment and livelihood, social, personal) that prevents the sustainable development of the society. Development as a process of improvement has always been undermined by the occurrence of disasters, where previous development achievements are damaged. Development has either positive

or negative impact on disasters, or where the stage and quality of development determine whether or not certain negative events become disasters. Disaster risk is not inevitable but on the contrary can be managed and reduced through appropriate development policy and action. Development cannot be sustained without integrating the disaster management with the development process through various good governance mechanisms. If not integrate disaster management into the



development, that again leads to disaster situation. Efficient disaster mitigation and management demand more human resource in the field. Exchange of information, experience and expertise in the area of participatory approaches, risk assessment and reduction should be carried out through a network of established knowledge centres where lessons learnt, preventive models and innovative ideas are produced. The Intensive Masters Programme in Disaster Management is designed as a multidisciplinary programme

with theme based extensive courses such as Science of Hazards and Disasters, Public Administration and Management, Public Policy and Advocacy, Project Management, Safety Engineering and Social work. Interaction with the community, field visits, internships and projects will be a key part of the programme which will enable the students to get in to the sphere of career development. The programme will be Credit based semester system with Core and Elective courses.

3. INTERNATIONAL MASTERS PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE (MPPG)

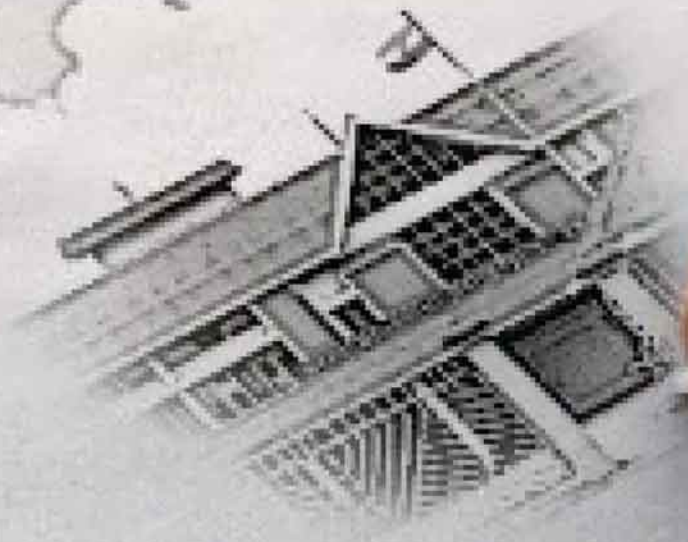
Offered by the School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University.

Programme Overview: The one-year International Masters Programme in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) is designed for young professionals and academics, who seek rigorous education and training in public policy making and governance. The programme provides students with a strong

foundation in the process of public policy making, policy analysis and implementation, actors and process involved in public policy making, issues and challenges of governance in public service etc. The programme also aims to meet the needs of government departments and public agencies for highly skilled professional policymakers and analysts to meet the new and emerging challenges in the globalised era. Therefore the MPPG programme intends to prepare graduates for entry to the profession of public service. To do this, the programme emphasizes course work on theoretical and policy aspects, problem solving and teamwork skills, along with two months internships and two months project work in a government/ professional agency. MPPG graduates go on to work in many settings: from national, state, and local government to think-tanks, consulting firms, multilateral institutions, and non-profit organisations. The programme is interdisciplinary in nature and will be run purely based on the rules and regulations of the Mahatma Gandhi University.



University DEPARTMENTS





SCHOOL OF BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

School of Behavioural Sciences, established in 1988, is one of the rare university departments in India that conducts higher education programmes, research and extension activities on the mental health and disability rehabilitation. The School was selected as a Centre of Excellence by NACO in 2006. Rehabilitation is a multi-disciplinary process. School of Behavioural Sciences is an interdisciplinary department having the following branches: Medicine, Nursing, Special Education, Psychology and Rehabilitation Sciences. The school aims to bring out professionals and researchers who have a holistic view and integrated approach to work in the area of mental health and disability rehabilitation.

Objectives

- ♦ To impart advanced training in all areas of disabilities.
- ♦ To treat various disabilities in a comprehensive way.
- ♦ To conduct research projects on mental health and disability rehabilitation.
- ♦ To extent counselling/ psychotherapy services to the weaker sections of the society.
- ♦ To make the clinic as a service centre and resource centre for academic programmes.
- ♦ To provide training for NGOs, schools, colleges and other organizations on mental health, learning problems and disability rehabilitation and empower them on employment and disability care.
- ♦ To act as a nodal centre for disseminating information and giving training to other institutions working in the area of mental health and rehabilitation.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.Sc. Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science	12	Degree in Arts with 45% marks or any Science Degree with 50% marks.
M.Sc. (Psychology)	10	B.A./B.Sc. Psychology with not less than 50% marks).
M.Phil. Behavioural Medicine and Rehabilitation	4 Full time Part time	Degree in Medicine (55% marks), MD (desirable)
Rehabilitation Psychology	4	P.G. in Psychology with 55% marks.
Special Education and Rehabilitation Sciences	4 Full time	P.G. in Special Education/M.Ed. with not less than 55% marks.
Behavioural Science and Rehabilitation Nursing	4 Full time	M.Sc. Degree in Nursing (with not less than 55% marks).
Ph.D. Special Education, Psychology, Medicine and Nursing.		





SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES

The School of Biosciences (SBS) of Mahatma Gandhi University is focusing on high quality education and training in cutting edge knowledge on Life Sciences. The dedicated faculty of the School along with the high quality curriculum provide ideal platform to shape the younger talents to explore their scientific potential.

The ever increasing demand for novel natural products with superior biological activity highlights the global significance of the educational and research programmes conducted by the SBS. Considering the commitment of SBS towards human health care and well-being of the other living systems and environment, the School has developed many potential research projects in addition to regular academic programmes.

The teaching programs follow semester system with course and credit pattern with effective and continuous internal evaluations. The M. Sc. programme provides a unique opportunity for the students to take up a research project in any of the National Laboratories or R & D institutes of their choice as part of their fourth semester course. This project work provides excellent exposure and instills confidence in the students, enabling them to make the right choice in their career in science after completing the Masters Program.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.Sc. Microbiology	10	B.Sc. Degree in Botany, Zoology, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Chemistry or Physics with 50% marks in Part III of respective subject + Entrance test.
M.Sc. Biochemistry	10	
M.Sc. Biotechnology	10	
M.Sc. Biophysics	5	
M. Phil. Bioscience	10	M.Sc. Degree with 55% marks in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology or Biophysics + Entrance test.
Ph.D. Microbiology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Physiology.		





SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL SCIENCES

The School, since its inception, has been making a steady progress in all spheres of activity and has academic programmes spread in four broad divisions namely;

- ♦ Inorganic Chemistry
- ♦ Organic Chemistry
- ♦ Physical Chemistry
- ♦ Polymer Science

The teaching programs follow semester system with course and credit pattern with effective and continuous internal evaluations. The M.Sc. programme provides a unique opportunity for the students to take up a research project in any of the National Laboratories or R & D institutes of their choice as part of their fourth semester course. This project work provides excellent exposure and instills confidence in the students, enabling them to make the right choice in their career in science after completing the Masters Program.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.Sc. Chemistry	32	55% for Part III Chemistry B.Sc. with Physics and Mathematics as subsidiaries.
M.Sc. Organic	8	
M.Sc. Inorganic	8	
M.Sc. Physical	8	
M.Sc. Polymer Science	8	
M.Phil. Inorganic	12	M.Sc. Chemistry with not less than 55% marks.
M.Phil. Organic	3	
M.Phil. Physical	3	
M.Phil. Polymer Science	3	
M.Tech Polymer Science and Technology	10	B.Tech/B.E in Polymer Science & Technology/Fibre Science & Technology/ Rubber Technology/ Plastic Technology/Chemical Engineering/ Materials Science/ Chemical Technology with 60% or equivalent grade: M.Sc. in Chemistry/ Polymer Sc./Applied Chemistry from a recognized institution with 65% or equivalent Grade. Preference for candidates with valid GATE score.
Ph.D.	Full time & Part time	
M.Sc., Ph.D (Integrated).		



SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCES

School of Computer Sciences was founded by the University 1990 with an objective to meet the increasing demand for superordinate IT Professionals. Though one of the youngest departments of the University, the School has been able to achieve and maintain very high standards through its very special mode of instruction and extra-curricular activities. Since inception, ten batches have passed out with flying colours from the School of Computer Sciences. Currently there are two full-time batches of M.Sc. students at the School. The School currently offers Post-Graduate and Research Programmes in Computer Science. The School maintains two computing laboratories with full-time Internet access facility exclusively for the use of students and faculty members.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.Sc. Computer Science	25	B.Sc. Computer Science, B.Sc. Computer Applications, B.Sc. IT, BCA, B.Tech Computer Science or any other B.Sc. degree with Computer Science as one of the main subjects with 55% marks in optional subjects (Main and Subsidiaries (SC/ST need only the pass minimum).
M.Tech. Computer Science & Technology	18	B. Tech. Degree in Computer Science and Engineering/ Technology or Information Technology or equivalent Degree from University and AICTE approved institutions with 55% marks in aggregate. For SC/ST candidates 45% marks.
Ph.D.		





SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

The School of Distance Education (SDE) commenced its activities in 1990 to provide cost effective quality education to larger sections of the population including those living in remote and far flung areas. With over a decade of existence, the SDE has carved a niche for it among the premier

educational institutions in India and abroad. Now SDE has 73 off -campus centers 66 within India and 7 abroad. The School of Distance Education is striding long steps towards democratization of higher education through off campus academic centers in India and abroad.



SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

School of Environmental Sciences came into existence in 1995 as a Centre of learning in the frontier areas of environmental sciences. It is one of the premier departments for advanced environmental studies under Mahatma Gandhi University. The major mandate of the school is to develop appropriate technologies and skilled human resources for conservation of nature, pollution prevention, sustainable utilization and management of natural resources for development

OBJECTIVES

- ♦ Human resource development in environmental management through education and research.
- ♦ Establishment of modern facilities in order to promote research and technology development imparting training to personnel of NGO's, industries, institutions and public undertaking consultancy projects in environment management, EIA, RS & GIS etc.
- ♦ Offering environmental information, education and communication services.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.Sc. Environmental Science & Management	10	B.Sc. Degree in any of the optional subject-Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Geography, Life Science, Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Microbiology, Bio Chemistry, Bio Technology, Plant or Animal Science, Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Horticulture, Forestry/B. Tech. in Civil, Mechanical, Chemical, Environmental or equivalent examination with not less than 50% marks in Part III. M.Sc. Environmental Science & Disaster Management (10) Eligibility-B.Sc. With not less than 50% marks in Part III. Selection: Qualifying exam. (40%), entrance test (40%) group discussion (10%) and interview (10%).
M.Phil. Environment Management	8	Master's degree with not less than 55% marks in Botany, Zoology, Physics, Chemistry, Ecology, Geology, Geoinformatics, Remote sensing and GIS, Earth Science, Life Science, Environmental Science, Environmental Science and management, Microbiology, Aquaculture, Fishery Science, Bio-chemistry, Bio-technology, Disaster management, Plant or animal Science, Agriculture, Forestry and Engineering.
Ph.D. Environmental Chemistry, Biotechnology, Geo Sciences, Toxicology, Wetland Biodiversity, Waste Management, Climate Change	Full time & Part time	
Short Term courses on Geoinformation Science and Technology.		

Divisions

Ecology and Resource Conservation Environmental Biotechnology & Waste Management Environmental Chemistry	Environmental Geosciences and Disaster Management Environmental Microbiology and Toxicology Remote Sensing and GIS
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SCHOOL OF GANDHIAN THOUGHT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

The School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies was set up in 1983 as one of the founding departments of Mahatma Gandhi University. The Department started the M.A. programme in Gandhian Studies in 1984. The School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies has been selected by the UGC for Special Assistance Programme (SAP) for 2004-2009.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.A. Gandhian Studies	12	Any Bachelor Degree with 45% marks.
M.A. Development Studies	12	
M.Phil. Development Studies	2+1	Master Degree with a minimum of 55% marks.
M.Phil. Gandhian Studies	2+1	
M.Phil. Social Work	5	MSW/M.A. Social work with minimum of 55%marks.

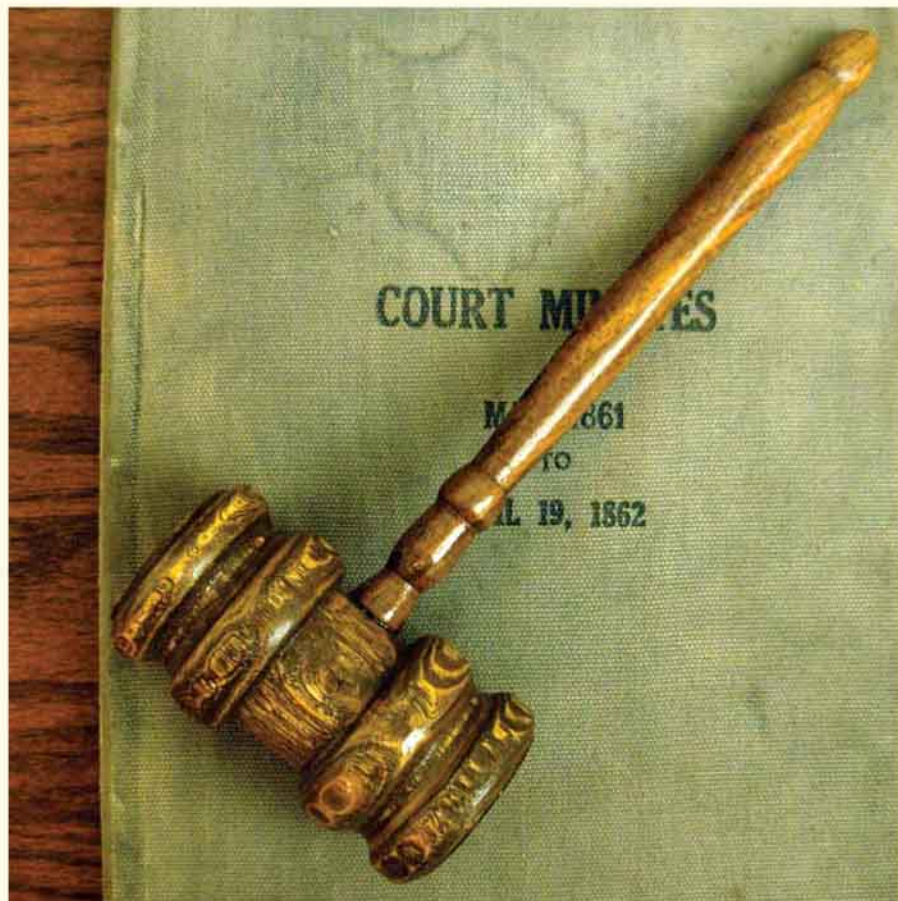


SCHOOL OF INDIAN LEGAL THOUGHT

School of Indian Legal Thought was established in 1989 with the major objectives of producing a vibrant cadre of lawyers, equipped with professional competence and good law teachers and legal researchers, providing specialized courses in emerging and important areas of law for post graduate studies and research and providing a special focus on the contribution of Indian thought in the field of law and jurisprudence as part of the general stream of legal education. The school campus is located at Suryakalady Hills, Nattasserry which is 5km away from Kottayam.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
LL.B (Hons. 6 sem) 3 Year	50	Any degree with not less than 45% aggregate, SC/ST-40%. No age limit.
LL.B (4 p.m to 9 p.m) 6 Sem, Limit 3 Year		
BBA.LL.B (Hons) 10 Sem, 5 Year	30	Plus Two or equivalent (50% aggregate), SC/ST 45%, Age Limit: Not completed 20 years as on 1st July, SC/ST 21 years.
LL.M.		LL.B. with not less than 55% SC/ST 50%, No age limit.
Law of Human Rights	10	
Constitutional and Administrative Law	10	
Administrative Law	12	
Criminal Law	12	
Law of Obligations	12	
Intellectual Property Rights/ Contract Law	12	
Cyber Law	12	
Ph.D.		





SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICS

The mission of the School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP) is to provide the highest quality post-graduate and M. Phil/Ph.D. programmes in the frontier areas of Political Science, Public Policy, International Relations and Human Rights, shaped by the distinctive perspectives of the Faculty of the School.

To provide education of the highest quality with the emphasis on mutual respect, social harmony, sustainable development and world peace, SIRP's mission keeps in perspective the dynamic role of a caring Faculty committed to creating an open and cooperative learning environment. The teaching-learning process at SIRP is shaped by a view of higher education as a process of developing a critical faculty on questions of polity, governance, culture, economy and international society so that the students will become involved learners.

The School also provides wide-ranging opportunities for students and faculty to interact with each other as persons, to learn from each other in a cooperative community, an important aspect of which is collaborative student/faculty research.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.A. Politics & International Relations	15	10% / 2 seats (whichever is higher) are extra sanctioned for foreign students. Degree in Economics, Politics, History, or Law with 45%, English, Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy and Commerce with 50% or Science subjects with 60% for part III.
M.A. Politics and Human Rights	5	
M.A. Public Policy and Governance	5	
M.Phil. Politics and International Relations	8	2 seats for foreign students. P.G. in Politics and International Relations, Politics, Economics, History, Law, English with not less than 55% marks.
Ph.D.		



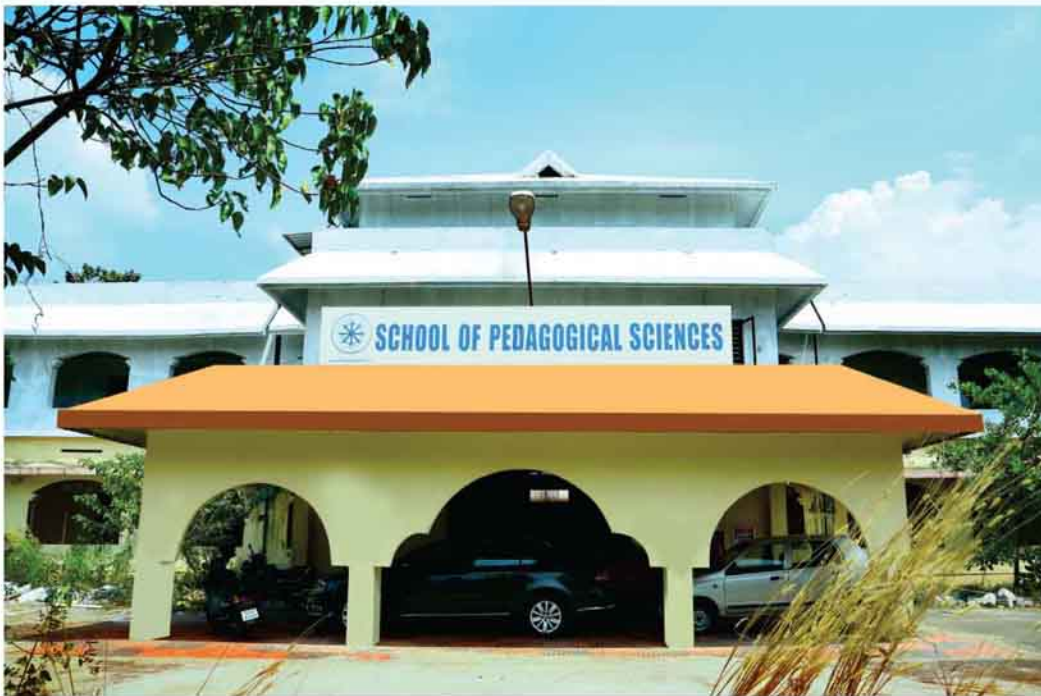


SCHOOL OF LETTERS

In the domain of language and literature, the School of Letters offers interdisciplinary areas of specialization such as comparative literature, literacy/cultural theory, theatre/performance studies, translation studies, women's writing and cinema studies.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.A. English	10	B.A. English with minimum of 45% marks in Part III/or any Bachelor's Degree in Arts/Science with a minimum of 50% marks in Part 1 English.
M.A. Malayalam	10	B.A. Malayalam with a minimum 45% marks in Part III or any Bachelor's Degree in Arts/Science with a minimum of 50% marks in Part II Malayalam.
M.Phil Malayalam, English and Theatre Arts	8 8 6	Masters degree in the relevant subject with not less than 55% marks. For Theatre Arts, a Master Degree in Theatre Arts or Literature preferable.
Ph.D. English, Malayalam, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.		



SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES

The School of Pedagogical Sciences started with a view to facilitate systematic learning from teaching contexts and professional development. School of Pedagogical Sciences intends to promote a global perspective of education placing new demands on learning envisaging a wide spectrum of cognitive and reflective empowerment to students and to develop uniquely suited teacher education to attain a level of excellence. Transforming teacher education into an enterprise that is grounded in research, revolving around continuous assessment of learning, and making decisions driven by evidences to enable them to strive academically and evolve themselves as full fledged teachers. A panel of visiting professors has been maintained at the School for having an exposure to excellence.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M. Ed.	40	B.Ed. With not less than 55% marks or CGPA of 2.2 Candidates with teaching experience in approved Schools/Colleges and candidates who have P.G. in the subjects concerned are eligible for weightage of marks.
M. Phil		M.Ed. With not less than 55% marks.
Ph. D. in Education, Educational Psychology		



SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS SCIENCES

Mahatma Gandhi University is better known as a “Sports University” for its highest achievements; both in national and international levels of Sports and Games. Mahatma Gandhi University has produced several outstanding sports persons. The School is planning to develop “Centre of Excellence” so as to impart systematic and scientific training programmes to outstanding students both in colleges and University Departments. This Centre of Excellence will be able to give continuity to these athletes/players with respect to their sports training programmes which will in turn help to yield the maximum potentials from them in terms of their performance. School of Physical Education and Sports Sciences of Mahatma Gandhi University has the unique credit of presenting three of its Athletes Chitra.K.Soman, Preeja Sredharan and Sini Jose of Mahatma Gandhi University to participate in the 2008 Olympics held at Beijing.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
MP. Ed.	30	BPE/BPEd/PG Diploma (DPed). One year duration with minimum of 50% marks in aggregate. Age limit: Not complete 25 years on 1st July of the concerned year.
Ph.D.		



SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED PHYSICS

The School of Pure and Applied Physics has developed into one of the premier research and postgraduate centres of Kerala. The School is conducting M. Sc. Course with specializations in Materials Science, Astrophysics, Applied Electronics and Theoretical Physics. M. Phil. Course with specializations in frontier areas of Physics is being conducted. The major areas of research are Materials Science, Spectroscopy, Theoretical Physics, Nanomaterials and Ceramics, Biomaterials, Crystallography, Astrophysics, Cosmology, Plasma Physics, Solar Physics and Crystalline materials. The research efforts have resulted in the publication of nearly 500 research papers in internationally reputed journals. UGC has identified the School as a centre of Potential research department through SAP-DRS program and BSR program. DST has sanctioned financial assistance through FIST program.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.Sc. Physics	20	B.Sc. Physics with mathematics (subsidiary) with not less than 50% marks in Part III. SC/ST Candidates need only a pass.
M.Phil	10	
Ph.D. (Full time and Part time)		



SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS STUDIES

School of Management and Business Studies conduct streamlined and well-articulated courses to provide the best inputs in management education. Management issues relating to both the domestic and international arena form the core inputs of the programme. The programme is designed to impart knowledge, sharpen personal and managerial skills, widen the knowledge base in areas of specialization and to inculcate the students with right attitudes and values which are essential for creating competent managers. The course content is constantly revised and updated through feedback and evaluations to make it more responsive to the changes and needs of a developing country and managerial skills, widen the knowledge base in areas of specialization and to inculcate the students with right attitudes and values which are essential for creating competent managers. The course content is constantly revised and updated through feedback and evaluations to make it more responsive to the changes and needs of a developing country.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
MBA	30	Any Degree with not less than 50% marks in aggregate or Master's Degree in any subject. Selection is based on the marks of the Entrance examination, Group Discussion & Personal interview.
M.Phil. in Business Studies	6	MBA/M.Com/ M.A. Economics/MHRM with not less than 55% marks.
Ph.D in Management		



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The School of Social Science (SSS) provides interdisciplinary higher learning in areas like, socio-linguistic philosophy, political sociology, political economy, ethnography, economic anthropology, social history, social theory, social empowerment and transformation research and human ecology. The interdisciplinary structure, composition and academic practice of SSS have enabled it in securing several international recognitions.

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
M.A History M.A. Anthropology	10 5	Degree in Social Sciences with a minimum of 45% marks for Part III.
M. Phil in General Social Science	12	Master's Degree in Social Sciences with not less than 55% Marks.
Social Transformation and Empowerment	6	
Human Ecology & Natural History	6	Master's Degree in Natural Sciences/Material Science with not less than 60% marks or any of the Social Science with not less than 55% marks or graduates of Forestry Courses/ Graduate Officers of the Forest Department with two years Professional Training in Forestry or equivalent.
Ph.D. in Social Science		



SCHOOL OF TOURISM STUDIES

Tourism is the largest and highly emerging industry in the world today. It has become a significant industry in India, contributing around 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and providing employment to about 41.8 million people. The state of Kerala is considered as one of the fastest growing tourism destinations in the world. Tourism activity in Kerala has found a niche for itself as an effective instrument for generating employment, earning revenue and foreign exchange, preserving environment, culture and tradition thereby facilitating overall development. It is a labour intensive service industry with many functional divisions like Airlines, Shipping and Cruise lines, Hotels, Travel agencies, Tour operating companies, Resorts/Spas, Theme parks, Car/Coach rental companies, Money changers, Hospitals (medical tourism) etc. School of Tourism Studies generates skilled personnel with a broad range of applied, technical, interpersonal, analytical and communication skills in tourism leadership. The School focuses on four major areas-Tourism Studies, Hospitality Management, Cultural Studies and Foreign Languages

Courses

Programme	Seats	Eligibility
Master of Tourism Management	20	Bachelor's degree with not less than 50% marks in aggregate in any discipline.



Dr. K. Sabukuttan, Head of the Department, Department of Life Long Learning and Extension receiving the Indira Gandhi National Service Scheme Award for best N.S.S Programme Coordinator for the year 2013-14 from the Honourable President of India Sri. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee on 19th November, 2014 at Darbar Hall Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.



DEPARTMENT OF LIFE LONG LEARNING AND EXTENSION

The Department offers facility for inter disciplinary research in community related areas of study. It also promotes documentation and publication of papers related to adult education, youth development and community organizations.

Programme	
Six Months Certificate Courses	One Year Diploma Courses
Certificate course in Counseling	Diploma in Yogic Science
Certificate course in Management of Learning Disabilities	Diploma in Counselling
Certificate course in Yogic Science	Diploma in Organic Farming
Certificate course in Organic Farming	





Universtiy Centres

K. N. Raj Study Centre for Planning and Centre-State Financial Relations (KNRC)

MISSION

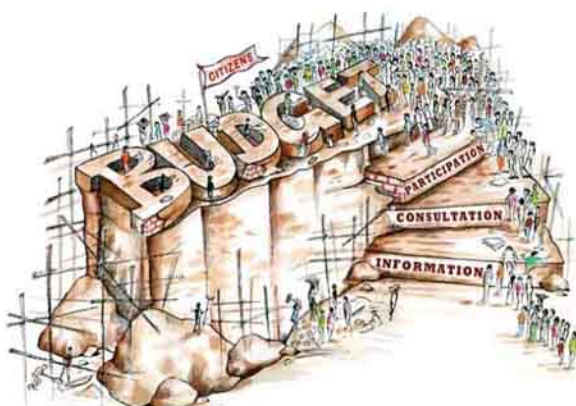
To provide exemplary training and research programmes in Economics for students and researchers. It will be accomplished by educating/training students to be leaders in their disciplinary profession; conducting exceptional basic, public policy/developmental services research; advocating for improvement in inclusive growth and development; and building a collaborative, diverse environment that values and rewards innovation, productivity and critical thinking.

VISION

The vision of the K. N. Raj Study Centre for Planning and Centre- State Financial Relations (KNRC) is to be the leading academic centre for innovative interdisciplinary research and training in Economics. KNRC is committed in generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and to working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges. KNRC seeks to develop in each member of the academic community the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind.

Courses

Programmes	Seats	Eligibility
M.A. Economics	12	Candidates should have passed Bachelor's Degree in Economics/ Mathematics/Statistics under 10+2+3 pattern of education with at least 45% marks in core and complementary subjects.
M.Phil and Ph.D. in Fiscal Federalism, Centre-State Financial Relations.		



Centre for English Language and Communication Skills (CELCS)

The role and status of the English language in the international context has changed radically over the past two or three decades. While English was the language of the bureaucracy in the colonial days and enjoyed the status of an elite language used by members of the higher echelons of society, it has, in the age of globalization, become the international medium of communication for all its sections. While English has always served as a link language in the multi-lingual polity of modern India and has been recognized as one of the official languages by the Union Government, it has, among the younger generation of the Indian people, acquired the

unique position of the language of success and material prosperity. It has become the single, most important criterion for success in the job-market too. Communication skills in the English language thus become an important target for planners and administrators in the field of higher education. It is in this context that Mahatma Gandhi University has instituted the Centre for English Language and Communication Skills (CELCS) aimed at developing and upgrading communication skills in the English language among the students, researchers, employment seekers and the general public in the areas that come under the jurisdiction of the University. The Centre deals with all aspects of English Language Teaching and Communication Skill Development.

Courses

Post Graduate Certificate in English Communication (PGCEC)
Post Graduate Diploma in English Communication (PGDEC)
Other short-term courses in English Language and Communication.



The Advanced Centre of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (ACESSD)

The Advanced Centre of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (ACESSD) is an Inter University Centre aims to integrate Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development. It has been envisaged as a common centre where all branches of Science, Social Science as well as Humanities converge so as to facilitate the conduct of programmes with inter-disciplinary dimension. The Centre also visualizes the presence of multidisciplinary scholars, scientists, educators, development practitioners, international experts and professionals who could discuss and find solutions to issues of sustainable development from an environmental and holistic perspective to suit the developmental needs in the regional, national and international levels. The Centre has taken up activities under

Academic, Research and Extension programmes with specific objectives. The areas identified for the programmes include: Sustainable Water Resource Management, Sustainable Energy Use, Public Health and Sanitation, Waste Management, Pollution Studies, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Mountain and Forest Studies, Tribes and Marginalised People, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity Conservation and Management, Sustainable Tourism, Environmental Education and Governance, Sustainable Consumption, Eco-friendly Shelters.

The centre is housed in the School of Environmental Sciences of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India. There are Science and Social Science groups to coordinate the academic, research and extension



programmes envisaged. The Centre has the state-of-the-art facilities for advanced level research. It works with an open-minded approach and established linkages with various National and International Institutes and Universities for

collaborative works and exchange programmes. Researchers and professionals under the International, National and Regional Desks of the Centre give the strength and motivation for the activities. The Centre has a good library with

sufficient journals and advanced volumes. Network facilities are available to all the personnel and due efforts are given for proper documentation. Proper communication facilities at par with other higher centres are also provided.

Courses

Ph.D (Environmental Science, Chemistry, Forestry)
Inter disciplinary open courses
Research Programmes
Extension Programmes



Inter University Centre for Social Science Research and Extension (IUCSSRE)

The IUCSSRE is conceived as an interdisciplinary centre of excellence for social science research and extension. The basic presumption is that the centre facilitates theoretical researches in the interfaces of established social science disciplines, with intellectual efforts to simultaneously evolve their praxis through extension. The centre should therefore comprise the major interdisciplinary areas of emerging social importance in the context of globalisation.

The rationale of establishing an Inter-University centre for Social Sciences Research should be explained at the outset by delineating the perspectives/

philosophy and reviewing the state of art of social sciences research. The rationale of any new attempt should emanate from the limitations of the existing setup. The most striking limitation of the existing institutional and methodological setup of social sciences research is the distance from people and their problems. This aspect has to be considered in some detail here by way of drawing the perspectives and philosophy of the proposed centre.

The higher knowledge enunciated in social sciences of both the positivist and hermeneutic types, has always been remaining inaccessible to the mass due to its positivist





academic pretensions expressed in scientific equations as well as the hermeneutic highbrow humanism expressed in theoretical nomenclature. By and large social scientists have been studying social phenomena empirically under the methodological assumptions of the positivistic science, a contingent practice inspired by

Newtonian Physics that used to be the aspired foundation taken for granted. Most of us as professionals and non-professionals continue the practice by surveying the empirical situation using scaling and sampling for understanding the social aspect that we seek to study. There is an upper hand of neo-positivists in the

contemporary social science research, who use higher statistical techniques to quantify the data in the most sophisticated manner ensuring maximum accuracy. Hermeneutic method necessitating the faculty of higher theoretical cognition is to a great extent set aside.

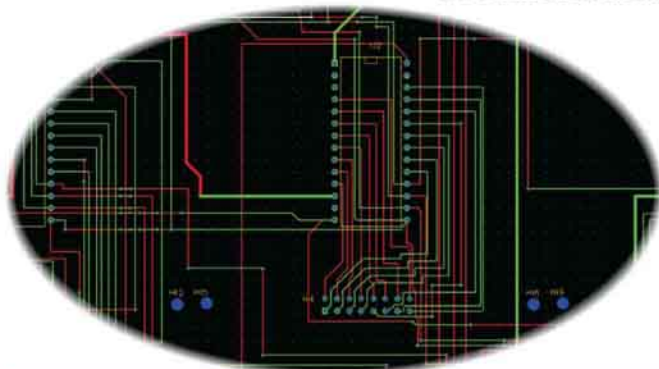
Courses

Ph. D in Human Geography, Human Ecology, Social Transformation Studies, Gender Studies, Tribal Studies and Sustainable Development Studies.

Inter University Instrumentation Centre (IUIC)

Inter University Instrumentation Centre gear up to serve the research communities in all the Universities in Kerala by initiating advanced level research in various interdisciplinary areas which require state-of-the-art equipment facilities. Scientific research demands advanced and sophisticated instrumental support in order to work out high quality and meaningful work. A major problem associated with advanced research in the field of science, particularly in the state of Kerala, is the lack of sophisticated equipment. This upset the various research activities of most of the science departments in all the universities in Kerala. The advanced equipment available at the national research centres is often not available to researchers from universities. Improvement of the quality of scientific research in our state

can be achieved only by providing such equipment in various research centres. On the other hand, most of these equipment are very costly and hence the state universities cannot afford to procure such high cost equipment. Therefore, it will be ideal to share equipment for similar research by researchers working at different places. In this context, teachers and research scholars working in various universities and affiliated colleges may be provided with common centres having both basic and advanced scientific equipment so as to utilize the facilities to their full potential. It is therefore, envisage acting as a common centre for advanced instrumentation at the Mahatma Gandhi University where researchers can initiate high quality research which requires advanced instrument facilities in the field of chemistry, physics, biology and environmental science for high quality research work. The objective of IUIC is cater to the needs of all the Science Departments of the University and to assist the Industries, R&D organizations and Higher Education Centers by providing highly sophisticated testing and calibration facilities, material analysis facility, R&D support, consultancy services and training programmes.



Courses

Ph.D in all branches of Science
Short term course on Analytical Instrumentation

Institute for Intensive Research in Basic Sciences (IIRBS)

A state level nodal centre for Inter Disciplinary Studies has been set up in Mahatma Gandhi University, to impart a high quality scientific education to the youth of India today-the program is revolutionary in so far as it seeks to create scientists who also have a deep appreciation of humanities. The five year Integrated Interdisciplinary M.S. program launched in 2009 has many innovative aspects. There are opportunities for employment

through education as well as visits to reputed institutions within India and abroad. In addition to class room learning and experimental work, students will carry out original research. There are lectures by eminent visiting faculty, and extensive usage of technology enhanced learning techniques. It is also proposed to launch an innovative integrated Ph.D. program in basic science.

Courses Offered

Five Year Interdisciplinary Integrated M.S. (Master in Science) Chemistry, Physics, Biology-stream (Major) No. of seats: 10, Minimum 55% in +2 Science, Entrance test-objective followed by interview. Five Year Interdisciplinary Integrated Ph.D. (M.Sc. + Ph.D.) in Physics, Chemistry, Biology streams. (No. of seats: 18) Eligibility: Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry/Physics/Biology/Mathematics/B.E/B.Tech/B.Pharm/Medical/Paramedical/any Engineering or Science based Bachelor's Degree including Agricultural Sciences (with minimum 60%). Maths must be studied at plus two or Degree level as one of the subjects.



Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS)

New knowledge and new initiatives can only originate at the boundaries of disciplines. The centre functions with complete academic and administrative autonomy and operates through a single

window system under the university. The governing council is constituted with persons of national stature to prevent the centre from falling prey to parochial sentiments.



International and Inter University Centre for Nano Science and Nanotechnology (IIUCNN)

The Centre for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology was established by Mahatma Gandhi University in 2009 in order to meet the rising demands and challenges of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. Considering the remarkable achievements of the Centre in academic and research pursuits after its inception, the State Government of Kerala has elevated the status of the Centre as International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IIUCNN) in 2013. The IIUCNN is one of the most active Centre of the University both in terms of research publication as well as international collaborations. Being the most vibrant Centre in the University, the IIUCNN attracts many students from India and abroad. Multi cultural-

ethnic student community has broken all geographical barriers and is pursuing for their higher degrees at IIUCNN. The students of the centre are facilitated to carry out their research projects at some of the best labs in the world. The Centre also attracts eminent scholars from different well renowned laboratories around the world which leads to a conducive research at world class levels. The Centre has also signed MoUs with various academic and research institutions of international repute. The Centre also has interactions with different industries and collaborative projects are going on with many such industries within India and abroad. Interactions with international scientists from various parts of the world





the research facilities of the Centre in terms of the procurement of advanced analytical instruments for cutting-edge research activities which can be extended to other researchers within the state and country.

The Centre intends to function as a cross-disciplinary centre and provides easy access to the various facilities for synthesis, characterization and fabrication of devices based on nanomaterials. The Centre also intends to constantly seek co-operative research opportunities with other research organizations both within and outside the country.

The Centre has distinguished faculty members working in frontier areas of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. Many faculties of various Schools of the University are also acting as adjunct faculties of the Centre. Their expertise is made available for the functioning of the Centre as a Centre of Excellence in Nanoscience & Nanotechnology. The Centre has established two chairs on 'Hybrid Materials' and 'Nanoscience and Nanotechnology' which will be conferred to internationally renowned scientists annually.

provide avenues for students to open up their areas of research and higher education. All these international and national exposures enhance the possibilities for the students and paves way for their successful professional carrier ahead.

The Centre has very much been successful in getting funding

from different national and international agencies which made possible to have sophisticated experimental facilities. The researchers from other educational and research institutions can easily get access to all the facilities of the Centre. The technological development is also envisaged to strengthen



The Centres major areas of research include: Nanochemistry, Green energy, Nanomedicine, Nanomaterials and Social, Ethical, Legal and Environmental (SELE) issues of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.

Courses
PG Diploma in Nano Science and Nano Technology (1 semester, Evening programme, 30 students)
M.S. in Nano Science and Nano Technology (4 semester, 12 students)
M. Phil in Nano Science and Nano Technology (2 semester, 12 students)
Ph. D in Nano science and Nano Technology (3 Years) Integrated M. Sc-Ph. D (5 Years)

The students of IIUCNN get opportunity to work with well renowned scientists in different research laboratories as a part of their educational program. Many of their visits are normally funded by the host institute. Many of the students graduated from the Centre are well placed in reputed industries, academic and research institutions.



Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies (ICCS)

The Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies (ICCS) was established in 2011 under the Area Studies Scheme of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The ICCS is being envisaged as an interdisciplinary research intensive centre offering Post-graduate and Research Programmes in Chinese Studies under the Convergence Academia Centers (CAC).

Courses proposed:
5 year M.A. Integrated

Programme in International Relations with specialization on Chinese Studies;
Semester Abroad Study Programme whereby students from Mahatma Gandhi University will spend one semester in China and will specialize in course modules related to China. On the other hand, Chinese students will spend one semester in Mahatma Gandhi University, focusing on India studies;
M. Phil/Ph. D. Programmes in Chinese Studies.



Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS)

Objectives

- ♦ Develop higher level professionals in the field of disability studies.
- ♦ Develop a holistic approach for the total rehabilitations of the disabled.
- ♦ Establish advanced facilities and promote research and extension activities in major areas of disabilities.
- ♦ Establish linkages with National and International organizations for collaborate academic and research programmes.
- ♦ Develop assessment tools for assessment of various disabilities.
- ♦ Act as a Nodal Resource centre for disseminating information to the parents and the professionals working with disabled.
- ♦ Impart training to personnel of NGOs, parent groups, students, teachers, special educators and rehabilitation professionals.
- ♦ Address the physical, psychological and socio cultural issues related to disability based on interdisciplinary studies for evolving sustainable solutions.
- ♦ Establish and facilitate parent's self-help groups.
- ♦ Promote employment to the disabled with the help of NGOs and parents' help groups.
- ♦ Strengthen steps to ensure safety and security to the disabled.
- ♦ Initiate steps for mainstreaming the disabled and integrating them to community.
- ♦ Strengthen the regular school system to facilitate inclusive education.



Courses

M.Phil. in Disability Studies.

Ph.D in Disability Studies.

Short term certificate programmes in Disability Rehabilitation, Early Assessment and Management Services (DREAMS) Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychological Assessments, Counseling Services, Disability Assessments.

Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC)

Objectives

- ♦ To provide High Performance Computing facilities for Research Scholars and Faculty in the Science Departments.
- ♦ To provide expensive software that is commonly used by Researchers in Science.
- ♦ To develop the Centre and the Discipline of High Performance Computing by providing Adjunct faculty positions to faculty in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science.
- ♦ To provide access to high performance computers such as GARUDA through

National Knowledge Network after obtaining consent of the owners of such services. Access to Global Research & Development (R&D) Networks such as GLORIAD (Indo-US initiative) and TIEN 3 (Indo-European initiative) through National Knowledge Network. To start M. Phil, M. Tech level courses in High Performance Computing. Inter-University Centres are established within the Universities in Kerala for centrally providing state of the-art facilities for researchers working in different Universities within the state.



Inter University Center for Studies in Science of Music (IUCSSM)

The Inter University Centres are interdisciplinary centres for cutting edge research across disciplines. The participating departments could carry out common research programmes synergizing available academic expertise in the Universities and research Institutes within Kerala. Post Graduate and Ph.D Programmes, Short term programmes for high-achieving students, Visiting Faculty Programme are some of the

major programmes envisaged in these Centres. Twelve Inter University Centres have been established in the Universities in Kerala in niche areas and Mahatma Gandhi University has four such Centres.

In addition to the existing Inter University Centres, the University has now established an Inter University Centre for Studies in Science of Music. The research aims to understand everything about music: it's basic structure; it's biological, emotional and psychological effect on humans and the brain; it's healing and altering potential; and its function in the evolutionary process. By learning more about music, we can learn more about ourselves. Music helps scientists understand complex functions of the brain and opens up treatments for patients who are recovering from strokes or suffering with Parkinson's. Research even suggests that music may alter the structure of the brain.



Erudite Programme

Erudite scholars from foreign Universities who are willing to be Visiting Professors in Mahatma Gandhi University can utilize the Erudite scheme of the Kerala State Higher Education Council. They can visit for short terms such as 1-3 weeks or stay on for a semester and offer a full course. All travel and stay expenses are met by the Council and an honorarium is also paid for each working day.





University Library

The web enabled library with its large collection of books, journals and e-journals, the Online Theses, Digital Library that provides open access to its enviable collection of digitized Ph.D. dissertations. The University library is a member of the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad (Information and Library Network), and an Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission. INFLIBNET Centre support has enabled to improve the quality and relevance of University Information services. The University Library is a fully automated system using the library software package SOUL developed by the INFLIBNET Centre. The Library is also a member of the DELNET (Developing Library Network). Being a member of these networks, the library is able to share the resources of a number of other libraries and has been able to make inter library loan of books. The Mahatma Gandhi University is one of the first fifty Universities to come under the UGC-Infonet Programme. Through UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium, the University library provides access to more than 4000 journals and

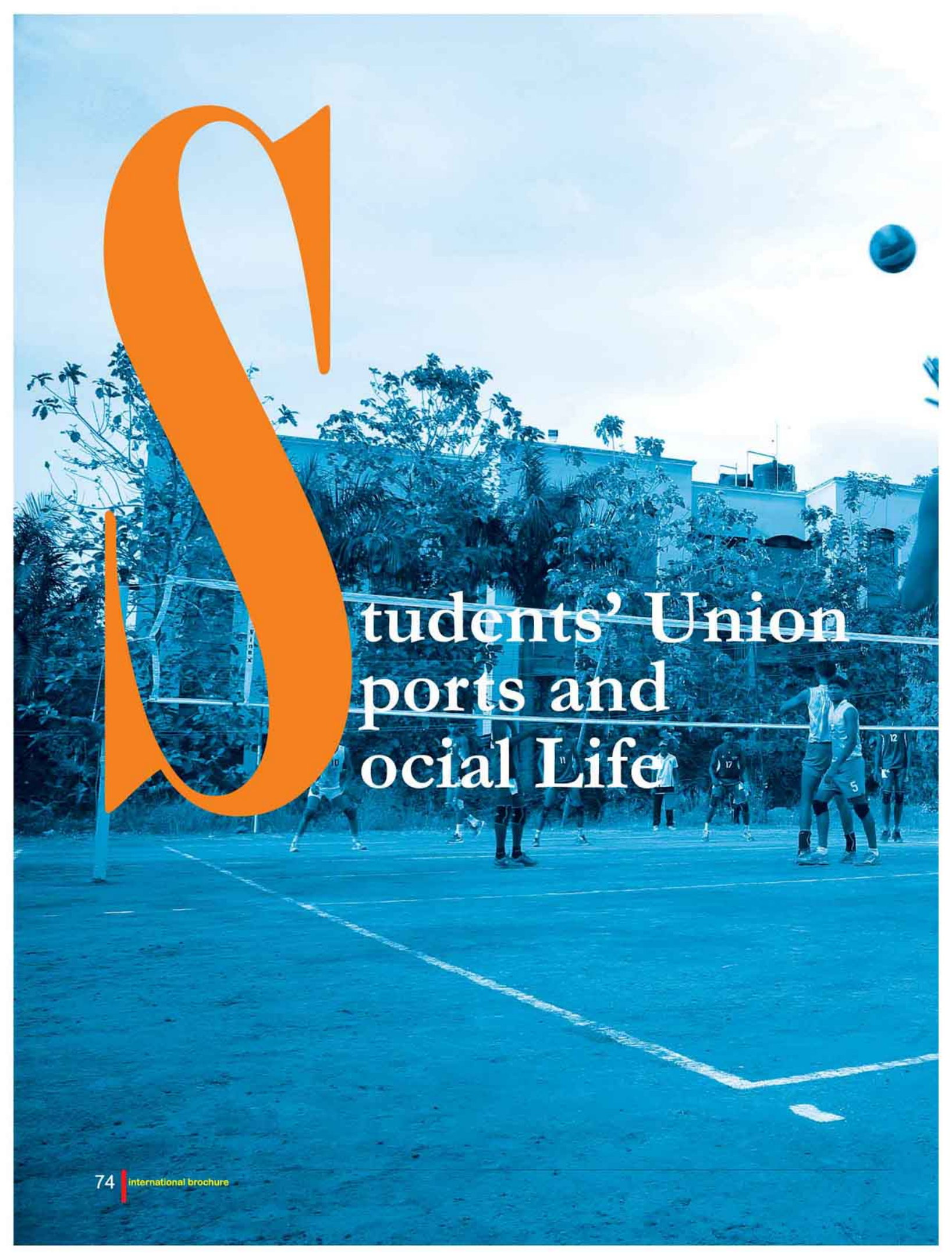



databases. MGU Library and Information System consist of University Central Library and more than 30 libraries of the departments, schools and study centres existing in different campuses. The most important achievement of the MG University Library is the endorsement related to the Ph. D. Theses Archives developed by the University Library.

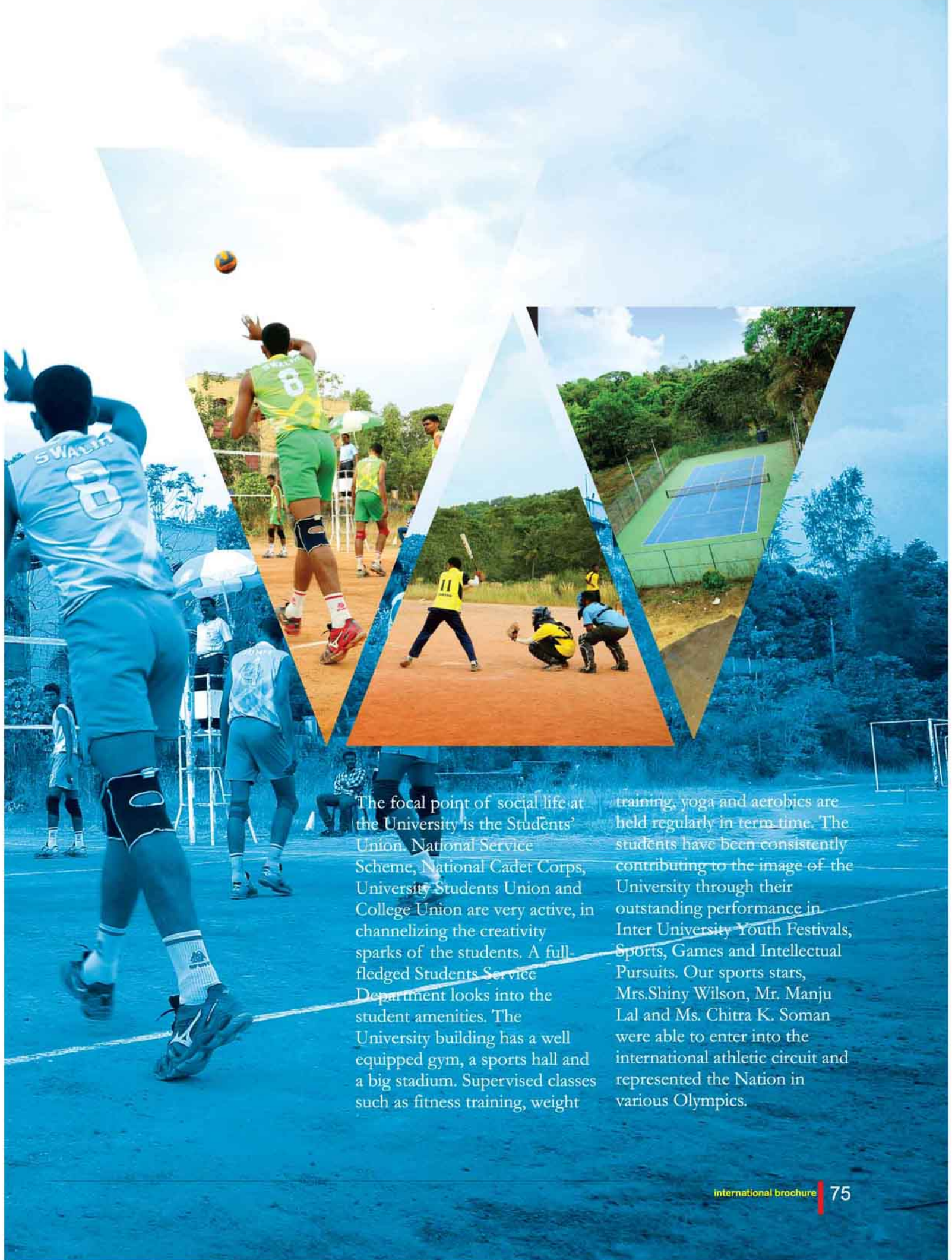
MGU became the first Indian university to adopt Open Access to make the results of doctoral research in the university transparent to academics World Wide. Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library website <http://mgutheses.in> which provides Open Access to the

doctoral dissertations accepted by the MGU has been selected as one of the very best web resources for education and research by INTUTE and included in INTUTE: System accessible at <http://www.intute.ac.uk>. An Audio Visual Resource Centre (AVRC) was started at MGU Library during the year as a central facility in the university for collecting interactive multimedia, video lectures/films etc on subject areas relevant to the academia of MGU. The services will also be extended to nearby schools on special occasions. MGU has become one of the 20 universities and the first in Kerala during the year to provide access to Science

Finder Scholar (SFS) the world's largest pool of scientific information, which includes numerous mechanisms for retrieving information and also for thousands of knowledge processing applications including laboratory functions. Mahatma Gandhi University has published 53 titles in Malayalam, 38 titles in English and 16 titles in Hindi. The University is also engaged in co-publishing with leading publishers like Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, BI Publications, DC Books, Modern Book Centre and Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam, Aranmula.



Students' Union Sports and Social Life



The focal point of social life at the University is the Students' Union. National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps, University Students Union and College Union are very active, in channelizing the creativity sparks of the students. A full-fledged Students Service Department looks into the student amenities. The University building has a well equipped gym, a sports hall and a big stadium. Supervised classes such as fitness training, weight

training, yoga and aerobics are held regularly in term time. The students have been consistently contributing to the image of the University through their outstanding performance in Inter University Youth Festivals, Sports, Games and Intellectual Pursuits. Our sports stars, Mrs. Shiny Wilson, Mr. Manju Lal and Ms. Chitra K. Soman were able to enter into the international athletic circuit and represented the Nation in various Olympics.

India


An Experience of Unity in Diversity

"So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked."

—Mark Twain

INDIA: Quick Facts

Official name	: Republic of India
Population	: 1,189,173,000 (July 2011)
Area	: 3.29 million sq. km. (about 1/3 of the U.S.)
Capital	: New Delhi
Major cities	: New Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Kolkata, (Calcutta), Chennai (Madras), Bangalore
Government	: Federal republic; parliamentary democracy with 29 states and 7 union territories
Neighboring countries	: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan
Common languages	: Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, English
Common religions	: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism
Monetary unit	: Indian rupee (INR)
Major industries	: Agriculture, Industrial Equipment & Machinery, Mining, Petroleum, Pharmaceuticals, Software, Steel, Telecom, Textiles, Tourism, Transport Equipment



India is a land of unity in diversity and is described as the land of extremes as the country is gifted with nature's bounteous riches. India's strategic geographical position has made it one of the acme tourist destinations. The array of caste, creed, languages, religion, climate and geology combined together made India a dream place for tourists. Bounded by the Himalayan mountain ranges in the north, covered by water bodies from three sides, India is distinct from any other place and a tourist interested in exploring every corner of this mystic land needs a really long vacation and experienced assistance. An incredibly diverse country, India has 22 official languages and myriad religions and ethnic groups.

India is also graded among the top three adventure tourism destinations. The land of "*Punjab Sindhu Gujratha Maratha*" is gifted with a potpourri of hilly mountain ranges on the top, pure water

bodies flowing by the sides and through its heart, greenery and also desert lands in the west. Moreover, India's strategic geographic location and its characteristics give copious scope for adventure travel.

Indian society has a rich diversity. Starting from the arrival of the Aryans, there was an interaction with conflict, cooperation and synthesis of different cultural/religious streams. While Brahminism imposed an exclusionist caste hierarchy on society, other streams like Jainism, Buddhism, Tantra, Kabir, Nanak and multiple local sects like Jyotiba Phula, Tukaram, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, etc. contributed to the synthesizing of local cultures.

India is the Seventh-Largest country by area, second-largest by population, the world's largest and most populous democracy in the world. It is the fastest growing economies in the world. Home to the Indus Valley

Civilization and a region of historic trade routes and vast empires, the Indian subcontinent was identified with its commercial and cultural wealth for much of its long history. Four major world religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism originated here and always support religious diversity and tolerance.

CULTURAL TOURISM IN INDIA

India has long history and culture with diversity. The Indians celebrate the various fairs and festivals. The rites and the rituals followed by the Indians, the enthusiasm and faith that are constant features add to the charm of the fairs and festivals. Most the Indian festivals are regional, seasonal or religious. There is a big list of the religious festivals that are celebrated in India. In the secular country of India people light up their homes with as many lights on Diwali as on Christmas, the fireworks are as loud as on Onam. The colors of Holi are spread across the castes and creeds.

Hindus commemorate the birth anniversaries of their deities as Ram Navami, Maha Shivratri, Janmashtami similarly, the Sikhs remember their gurus on Gurpurab. On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan an unspoken pledge is exchanged between, a brother and sister cementing their fraternal relationship. There is another list of seasonal fairs and festivals that are celebrated across India. Teej celebrates the onset monsoon. The Ganguar fair and the festival of Baisakhi are held in the harvest season. Down south the people perform the seasonal Ayyappa Pooja. The harvest festival of Assam is Rongali Bihu, when unbounded joy and enthusiasm is expressed through intoxicating songs and dances. Famous dance festival of Konark in Orissa and Khajuraho temples of Madhya Pradesh Surajkund Crafts Fair, Kumbh Mela at Haridwar and Nashik, Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival) at Jagannath Puri add to the cultural tourism in India.



EDUCATION IN INDIA

India has had a great tradition in Education. Education has always been given great prominence in Indian society since the times of the Vedic civilization, with gurukula and ashrams being the centres of learning, and with evolving times, a large number of centres of learning were established across ancient India of which Takshashila and Nalanda are the most famous ones known today. India's modern higher education system was scripted during the British rule with 3 Universities: Calcutta, Madras and Bombay

(modelled after Cambridge and Oxford, founded in 1847). Today it has grown into 713 Universities and produces 12 million graduates. India's National Institutes such as IISc and IIT's ranks best in the world and traditional Universities are in the path of expansion and quality melioration. The public Universities in India provide education under democratic social control and the fees charged are often nominal. Disadvantaged group are given special privileges, and are greatly supported with scholarships which cover entire fees.





India has a long and venerable history in the field of higher education. India has had a great tradition of in education. India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, after China and the United States. In ancient times, the country was known to have been home to the oldest formal universities in the world. The world's first University was established in Takshila or Taxila or Takshashila (now in Pakistan) in 700 BC. The ancient seat of Buddhist learning in India, the ancient university of Nalanda is believed to be one of the first great universities in recorded history. Education in India is provided

by the public sector as well as the private sector, with control and funding coming from three levels: central, state, and local. Indian higher education system has expanded at a fast pace by adding nearly 20,000 colleges and more than 8 million students in a decade from 2000-01 to 2010-11. As of 2011, India has 42 central universities, 275 state universities, 130 deemed universities, 90 private universities, 5 institutions established and functioning under the State Act, and 33 Institutes of National Importance. Other institutions include 33,000 colleges as Government Degree Colleges

and Private Degree Colleges, including 1800 exclusive women's colleges. Some institutions of India, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT's), have been globally acclaimed for their standard of undergraduate education in engineering. The IITs enrol about 10,000 students annually and the alumni have contributed to both the growth of the private sector and the public sectors of India.

India is known as a land of great spiritual heritage and is a mystery for the entire world. Despite numerous myths and misconceptions prevalent in other continents about the country, millions of tourists flock to India all around the year. A trip to India can prove to be an unprecedented and glamouring experience, provided you research well and plan your trip properly. From cost calculation to arranging for accommodation, things should be planned well in advance for ensuring your trip, safe and pleasurable.







Tourism in India

India being a tropical climate country, the number of foreign visitors takes a nosedive in summer months and the trend in winter is just the opposite. The tourism industry in India has seen growth in last decade though it is still behind other Asian countries like China and Korea. As per the data obtained from UNWTO or United Nation World Tourism Organization, India got 6.65 million tourists last year. The issues like prolonged militancy tussle in the country's northernmost part and sporadic incidents of racial violence are the bottlenecks thwarting growth of tourism in India.

Best Time to Visit India:

Ideally, the best time to visit India for a foreign tourist would be during the winter months. The period from November to March sees the highest influx of foreigners visiting the country, especially those from Europe and the USA. If you plan to visit the desert region and Northern states, winter is a better choice. However, those who have been to countries with tropical climates and can cope with the heat and humidity may also opt for a monsoon trip. Certain states of the country, including Kerala, Goa and Assam don beautiful look during the monsoon months.



Food:

India has a vast range of cuisines, each having a unique combination of spices, oil and herbs. While you may find them exquisite, a section of westerners do not cope well with the spicy dishes. Rice is a main staple in meals across major parts of India and breads of different kind are served in northern states. In Kerala and West Bengal, you can savour the regional fish based delicacies. The northern states are known for their tongue tickling pickles and variety of animal meat based gourmets. You will also be

able to taste a wide range of desserts, mostly made with cottage cheese and spices. However, it would be best to abstain from relishing the street side snacks sold by food vendors, however alluring they seem.

Shopping:

You need to be careful when you shop for mementoes, decorative items and similar stuffs while touring India. The possibility of buying fake product sold at higher rate is there in many places. It is also

commonplace to find a cab driver suggesting you buy such items from his relative's shop. Some shops in major cities that sell wonderful carpet, handicraft, organic products and textile items you will not find elsewhere. For those who feel the ambience of a shopping mall desirable, a huge number of retail chains have sprung in India in recent years.

Popular Attractions:

In India, you cannot get enough of exploring the popular things and places. For tourists in India,





However, research well before you want to witness any religious event. The majestic forts in the desert of Rajasthan are also major tourist pullers and you cannot help wondering and thinking how they were built in the first place. Nature lovers can also explore serene backwaters of Kerala or soak in the sprawling beaches in Goa. The awe-inspiring sculptures of Ajanta and Ellora caves also attract many tourists footfall.

Western Ghats World Heritage Site

The Western Ghats are internationally recognized as a region of immense global importance for the conservation of biological diversity, besides containing areas of high geological, cultural and aesthetic values. A chain of mountains running parallel to India's western coast, approximately 30-120 km inland, the Ghats traverse the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa,

the Taj Mahal remains a major attraction and you should not miss seeing the grand marble mausoleum and the Western Ghats World Heritage Site. There are several popular festive events and fairs that take place in various parts of India.

The Indian culture labeled as an amalgamation of several cultures, spans across the Indian subcontinent and has been influenced by a history that is several millennia old. The culture of India is one of the oldest and unique. In India, there is amazing cultural diversity throughout the country. The South, North, and Northeast have their own distinct cultures and almost every state has carved out its own cultural niche. There is hardly any culture in the world that is as varied and unique as India. India is a vast country, having variety of geographical features and climatic conditions. India is home to some of the most ancient civilizations, including four major world religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. "Unity in diversity" - these are not just words, but something that are highly applicable to a country like India that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage.





Maharashtra and Gujarat. These mountains cover an area of around 140,000 km² in a 1,600 km long stretch that is interrupted only by the 30 km Palghat Gap at around 11°N. The mountains of the Western Ghats (highest point 2,695 m, Anaimudi Peak) mediate the rainfall regime of peninsular India by intercepting the monsoon storm systems. Areas

to the west of the highest elevations receive the greatest annual rainfall, 3,000 mm on average, with 80% of it falling during the period of the southwest monsoon (June-September) and the balance during the retreating north-east monsoon (October-November). Annual rainfall levels decrease considerably along the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.

Rainfall also decreases from south to north, especially north of the Palghat Gap.

A significant feature of the Western Ghats is their exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism. This mountain chain is recognized as one of the





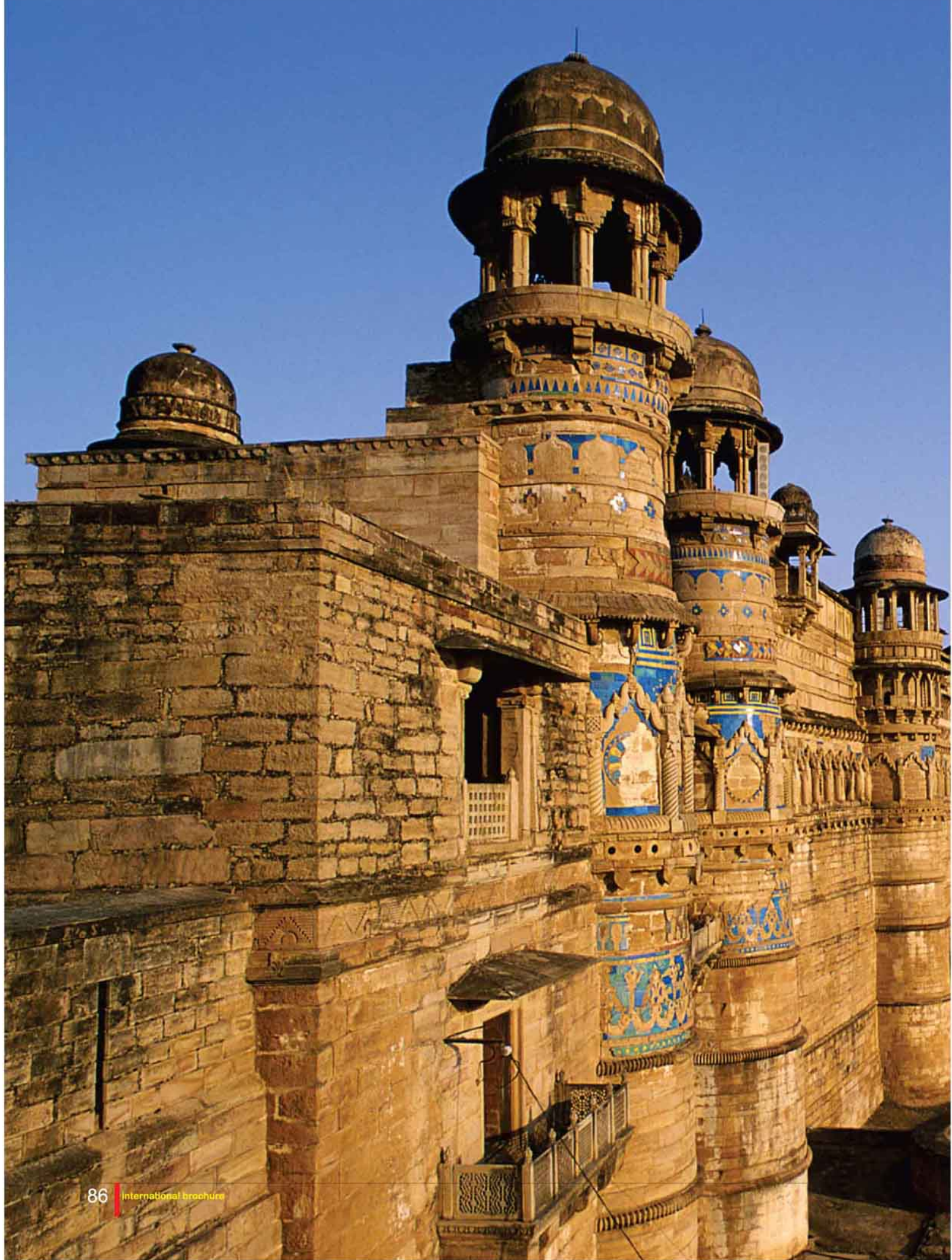
world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity along with Sri Lanka. Global Biodiversity Hotspots have been defined as areas with over 1,500 vascular plant species (>0.5% of the world's total) as endemics and currently retain 30% or less of the original vegetation. In terms of plant diversity, the Western Ghats harbor approximately 5,000 species of flowering plants, belonging to nearly 2,200 genera and 217 families; about 1,700 species (35%) are endemic. This hotspot also has around 23% (43,611 km²) of the

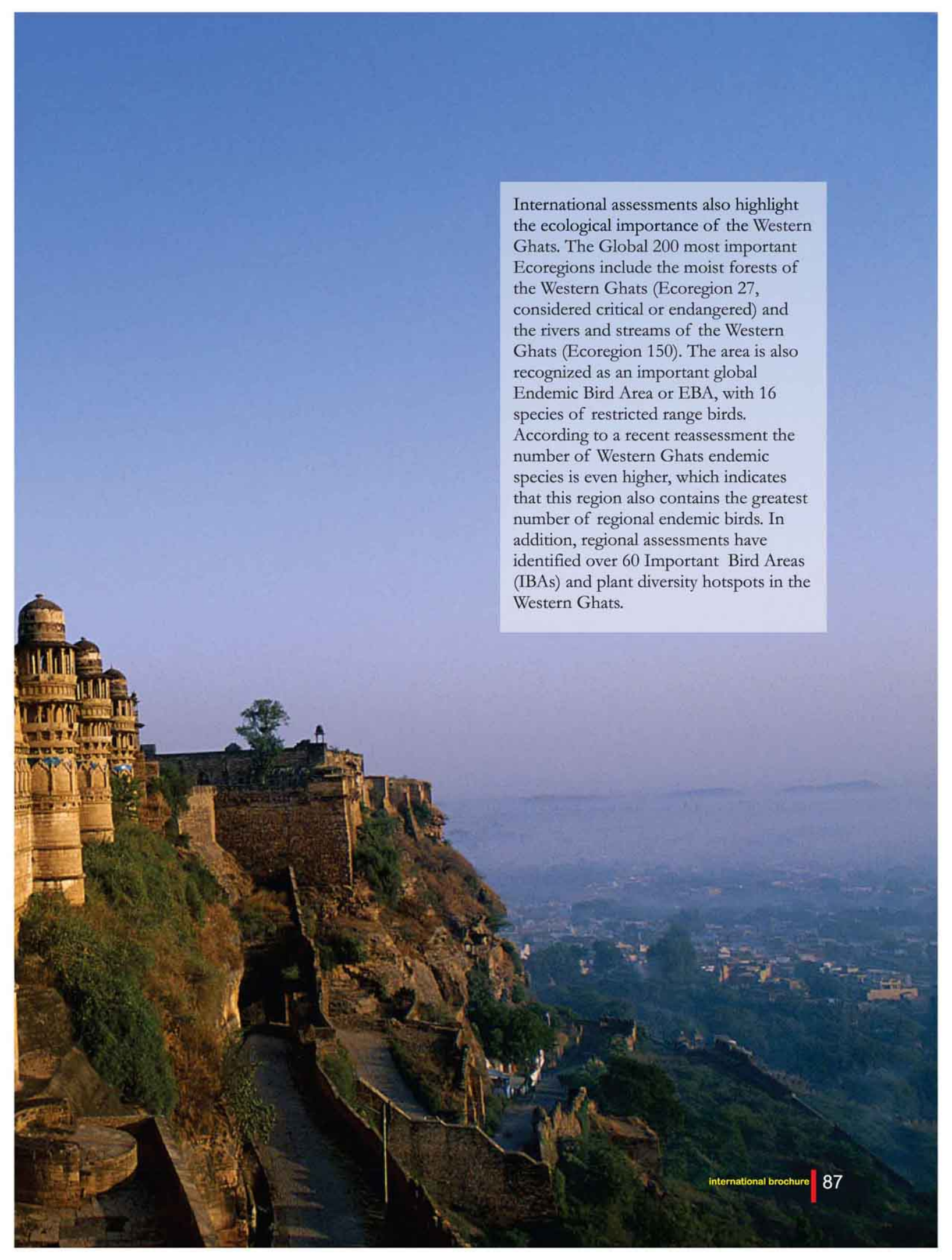
original extent of forests (189,611 km²) remaining as natural habitat and is one of the four Biodiversity Hotspots that lie almost wholly or partly within India.

The Western Ghats contain sites of exceptional natural beauty. Foremost among these would be the unique shola-grassland ecosystem, a spectacular array of stunted evergreen forests in compact blocks ensconced in valleys surrounded by beautiful short grasslands. Perhaps best appreciated through personal experience, these remarkable

ecosystems occupy the highest regions of the mountains (>1,800 m) especially in areas such as the Nilgiris, Anamalai and Kudremukh regions. Vistas of unbroken rainforest spanning hundreds of square kilometers, spectacular geological formations of the Sahyadri, plateaus of wild flowers abloom after the monsoon and a multitude of sparkling perennial rivers are among the many panoramas of exceptional beauty and aesthetic value one encounters along this unique mountain range.







International assessments also highlight the ecological importance of the Western Ghats. The Global 200 most important Ecoregions include the moist forests of the Western Ghats (Ecoregion 27, considered critical or endangered) and the rivers and streams of the Western Ghats (Ecoregion 150). The area is also recognized as an important global Endemic Bird Area or EBA, with 16 species of restricted range birds. According to a recent reassessment the number of Western Ghats endemic species is even higher, which indicates that this region also contains the greatest number of regional endemic birds. In addition, regional assessments have identified over 60 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and plant diversity hotspots in the Western Ghats.



Kerala

God's Own Country



Mahatma Gandhi University India Study Programme gives you the opportunity to experience one of the ten paradises of the world. To overwhelming greenery, silken reams of emerald backwater, long and charming shorelines, spice-scented hill tops, lush jungles, exotic wildlife, ancient regimens, spectacular art forms, colorful festivals, fascinating history and wealth of unique culture and traditions. Kerala, a state situated on the tropical Malabar Coast of South Western India, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. Named as one of the ten paradises of the world by the National Geographic Traveler, Kerala is famous especially for its ecotourism initiatives. Kerala is an established tourist destination for both Indians and non-Indians alike. Kerala is popular for her beaches, backwaters, mountain ranges and wildlife sanctuaries. The city

of Kochi ranks first in the total number of international and domestic tourists in Kerala. Other popular attractions in the state include the beaches at Kovalam, Cherai and Varkala; backwater tourism and lake resorts around Vembanad Lake, Kumarakom and Alapuzha; hill stations and resorts at Munnar, Wayanad, Nelliampathi, Vagamon and Ponmudi; and national parks and wildlife sanctuaries at Periyar and Eravikulam National Park. India's most verdant state is a seamless landscape of palm-lined beaches rising to meet steamy jungles and plantation-covered hills, watered by 44 tropical rivers.

Learning to live and study in Kerala is both challenging and exciting. There truly is something here for everyone. Because Kerala is the state with the lowest positive population growth rate in India (3.44%) and has a density of 819 people per km. The state has the highest Human Development Index (HDI) (0.790) in the country according to the Human Development Report 2011. It also has the highest life expectancy (74 years) and the highest sex ratio (as defined by number of women per 1000 men: 1,083 women per 1000 men) among all Indian states.

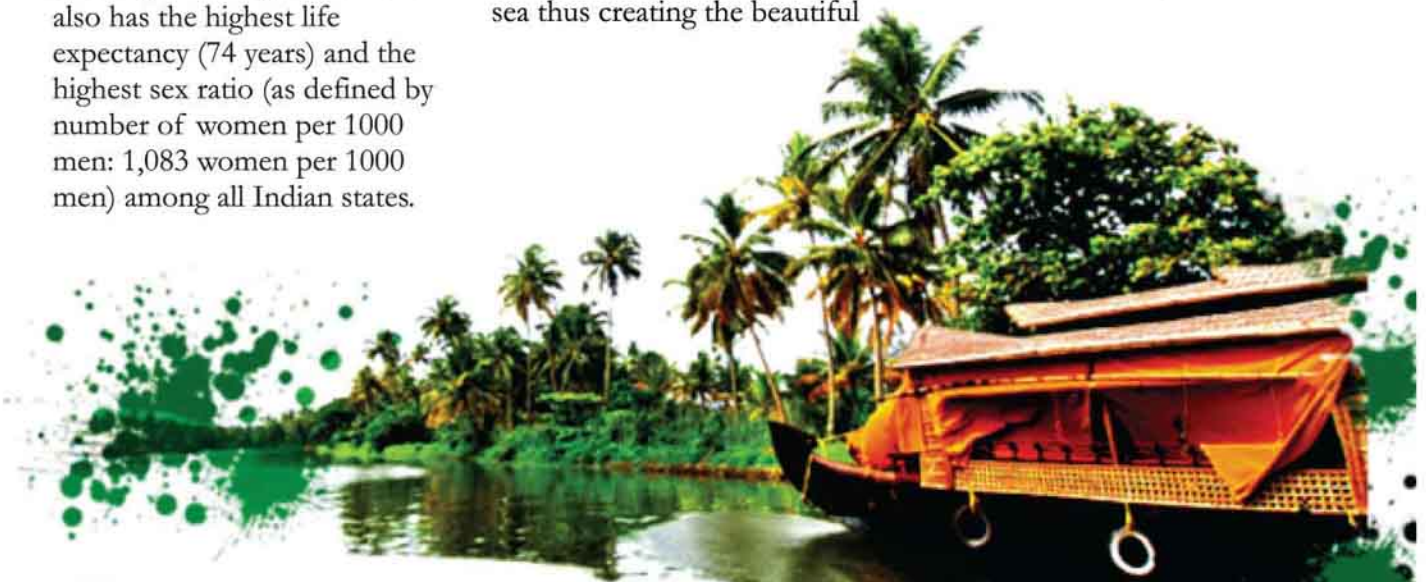


Kerala is one first Indian state with a literacy level of 100%. Both Malayalam and English are widely taught Language in the state. Malayalam is, however, the regional and official Language of the state. There are three existing and two proposed international airports. The state has the highest media exposure in India with newspapers publishing in different languages; mainly English and Malayalam.

KERALA - THE EPITOME OF BIOIVERSITY

According to the myth, Lord Parasuram flips his axe into the sea thus creating the beautiful

green stretch of land - Kerala. Kerala lying between the Lakshadweep Sea and the Western Ghats that define its border with Tamil Nadu in the east came into existence on November 1, 1956 as part of the reorganization of Indian States with 9 districts and 55 taluks. Presently, there are 14 districts and 63 taluks. The State is situated between 8°18' and 12°48' N latitude and 74°52' and 77°22' E. longitude. Brisk beaches, placid backwaters, and dramatic high ranges make Kerala an awesome beauty which attracts tourists of diverse strata of the society.





The state is often referred as “God’s Own Country”. Kerala has a total area of 38,863 sq. km and has a population of 33,406,061 inhabitants. The state is bordered by the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu along with the Lakshadweep Sea. Thiruvananthapuram (also known as Trivandrum) is the capital of Kerala, which is famous for the Kovalam beach, one of the top beaches in the world. The state of Kerala is divided into fourteen districts. Each of them has a distinct character.

KERALA FACT FILE

Area	: 38,863 sq. Km
Population	: 3,34,06,061 (All India Census 2001)
Capital	: Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum)
Literacy Rate:	94.00 per cent (96.11per cent of males & 92.07per cent of females)
Religion	: Hinduism, Islam and Christianity
Languages	: Malayalam, English and Hindi
Temperature:	Min. 20 degrees centigrade; Max. 32 degrees centigrade
Rainfall	: Varies from 50 cm to 350 cm

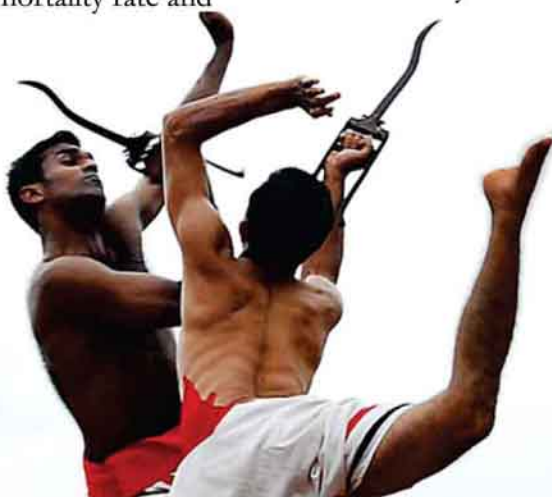
Kerala is one of India’s most lush states and has been rated by National Geographic Traveler as one of the world’s 50 must-see destinations. The unique geography of Kerala makes it a home to diverse species of flora and fauna which spread all over the state.

Kerala has a history dating back to the Christian era, although the modern Kerala was created on 1st November 1956 when all the states were reorganized along linguistic lines. Kerala is different from the rest of the India in many ways. History was created in 1957 when Kerala became the first state in the world to democratically elect a Marxist government. The state has a strong presence of left ideology. It has the highest literacy rate in the country, lowest infant mortality rate and

the highest female to male population ratio. These facts speak volume of the state which is often compared to the society of the developed western countries.

Physiography of Kerala

Area	: 38,863 Sq.Km.
Percentage of	: 118
Area to the area of Indian Union	
Length of costal line	: 580 Km
Highest peak- Anamudi	: 2694 meters
West flowing rivers	: 41
East flowing rivers	: 3
Districts	: 14
Taluks	: 63
Revenue Village	: 1478
Corporations	: 5
Municipalities	: 60
Grama Panchayats	: 978
Block Panchayats	: 152
District Panchayats	: 14





Average Annual
Rainfall :2900 mm.
Per capita production
of food grain :21.6 Kg.
No. of Padasekharams
(paddy fields) :7359

Climate

The coastal state of Kerala lying on the South-western tip of India has commonly been called the tropical paradise of India. Bounded by Arabian Sea at one side and the Western Ghats on the other, the beautiful land with stunning beauty has an equable and tropical climate offering a pleasing atmosphere throughout the entire year. This coastal state has hot and humid climate during April-May and pleasant, cold climate in December-January. Summer extends from the month of April to June when the temperature reaches to a maximum of 33° centigrade. Summer is followed by South West Monsoon that starts pouring in the month of June and continues till September. With the arrival of winter there is certain drop in

the temperature and you can feel a slight chill due to the cold wind. Winter in Kerala lasts from November to January or February.

Culture and Festivals

To the South West extreme of India, lies a land, rich in every aspect imaginable; lush green, fertile land crisscrossed by seething rivers; beaches-stunningly beautiful where the waves seem to well up and kiss the golden sands; backwaters and marshlands where the flora seems to have tamed the Ocean itself; and above all a race of people, who seem to have mastered the essence of

civilization. Rich in culture, cuisine and, capabilities, excelling in education, sports and unique martial arts. Yes, this is the blessed land of Kerala indeed.

People of Kerala: An amazing race of people, following a unique lifestyle-the perfect blend of traditional, time-honored practices and progressive, innovative trends.

Kerala Food: A delectable cuisine, unique to the region which involves the locally available ingredients such as coconuts, seafood, rice etc.



Performing Arts: An interesting combination of dance, music, theatre and mythology. Apart from the famous dances viz. Kathakali, Koothu and Mohiniyattom, a tradition of ritual arts are such as Theyyam, Kummattikkali and Mudi yettu has also been kept alive.

Kerala Music: Like the rest of South India, Kerala's classical music is essentially Carnatic, raag-taal based music. It is also famed for Sopanam. Music is an integral part of the everyday life. There are the traditional folk songs for occasions such as marriages, childbirth and also the devotional songs such as Ayyappanpattu and Maripattu. A number of musical instruments including wind and string instruments, percussions are played and practiced in Kerala.

Kerala Painting: Other than the unique art of body painting for specific dance forms such as Kathakali, Kerala has a rich style of the mural paintings. While the state identifies with the rest of India in its use of henna to paint parts of the body such as hands and feet, Kerala has also its singular art forms of floor

drawings and paintings (Kalamezhuthu).

Kerala Handicrafts: Among the variety of handicrafts produced in Kerala, the more renowned are sandalwood items, woodcraft, handlooms and metal work (especially brass and copper).

Kerala Martial Arts and Sports: Sports and Martial Arts take prime importance in the life of a Malayali. Kalaripayattu, a traditional martial arts training, a holistic, physical and mental development systems and are taught in combination with ayurveda, acupressure, herbalism etc.

Malayalam Literature: Though the origins of are generally traced to Tamil, due to its affinity to the classical language, Malayalam has evolved and is a vast ocean as it stands today. The prose, poetry and plays are appreciated by critics worldwide.

Festivals of Kerala: Kerala is the land of high festivities and cheer. A number of Festival like Onam, Vishu and Thiruvathirai

are celebrated. They are usually marked by family get together, cheer and festivity.

Kerala Matrimony: Marriage in Kerala is usually arranged by one's family.

Kerala Movies: Malayalam movies started in 1928, when the First silent movie was released in Kerala. Since then Malayalam movies have come a long way and the cinema industry is now a flourishing business with Malayalam movies competing on an international level.

Kerala News Papers: In keeping with the rest of the world, Kerala has a number of newspapers in both Malayalam and English. With the advent of technology a number of websites have come up which report global news in both languages.

Kerala Tourism

Sandwiched between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, the emerald land of Kerala





is 'God's Own Country'. Today the state features in the global map among the 'Top 10' Tourism hotspots by virtue of its natural splendour. The beautiful land of Kerala exudes a benign charm. The mighty Western Ghat hills in the west roll down to the golden sun-bathed coasts along the Arabian Sea via undulating verdant woods.

A travel to Kerala would take you to its undulating backwaters gliding through the canals and estuaries. Count on some amazing spectacle as you skim past paddy fields, coir villages, rustic homes and coconut groves.

The golden beaches in an eternal affair with the Arabian Sea would have you swept off your feet, the misty hills in green velvet and the alluring fragrance of the tea and coffee plantation would beckon you to a

otherworldly sojourn as you travel to Kerala. Do not forget to pay a visit to some of the state's national parks and Wildlife sanctuaries. You may catch up some rare wild lives in the natural setting.

How to Reach Kerala

How to reach Kerala is a commonly asked question. Getting to Kerala has never been as easy. A modern and progressive state with a cosmopolitan look, Kerala is accessible quite easily. Well connected by all major systems of transport, Kerala is now one of the most sought after travel destinations in the world. Cochin is the main sea-port opening out into the Arabian Sea. Traveling to Kerala is a whole new experience, educative and enriching, rejuvenating and fulfilling. Here's wishing you a very warm welcome to a beautiful land and its equally

beautiful people. An important tourist destination among Indians and foreigners, Kerala is very well connected by:

Air

There are three international airports in the state located at Thiruvnanthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode. The Karipur Airport, Kozhikode plays host to domestic airlines while the Thiruvnanthapuram International Airport and the Cochin Airport, Nedumbasherry operate both domestic and international flights.

Road

A very strong communication network makes Kerala easily accessible from all parts of the country. Kerala is directly connected by road to both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. National Highway No. 47, 17, 49, and an extensive system of metalled roads connect Kerala





to the rest of the country. Bus, tourist taxis, and autos are the main modes of road transport.

Train

There are 200 railway stations in Kerala connecting places both within and outside Kerala. One can avail of Super-Fast, and express trains to reach ones chosen destination. The train services link the state to all the important cities of India including the four metropolitan cities namely, New-Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

Shopping in Kerala

The Eden like paradise of God's Own Country cradles some of the best shopping haunts in India. Shopping in Kerala is one attraction, if you planning your vacations in Kerala. Indigenous handicrafts prove to be the major crowd pullers. The backpackers crave to stack their rucksacks with collector's items that have the unique insignia of the backwaters. Culture,

tradition, mythology, fusion of aesthetics has left an indelible imprint that characterizes the wonderful handicrafts of the land of sun and coconuts.

Lovely coconut shell craft, the metal inlaid wood craft, coir products, horn carved products, wood carved products, bamboo mat paintings, metal ware, kathakali masks are some of the coveted hand crafted products that sends the cash registers ringing. A trip to their places of production must also be a part of your itinerary. A mind boggling array, a riot of colours, brilliant aesthetics, exquisite embellishments, the handicrafts of Kerala is indeed the true representatives of the vivacious land. Besides, the marvellous handicrafts, the aromatic spices and vibrant textiles are also things to shop for when you go for a holiday to Kerala.

Kerala is the shopping heaven of south India. Several arcades and emporiums have cropped

up in several nook and corner of the various districts which are a storehouse of the rich reservoir of handicrafts, spices and textiles.

PLACES TO VISIT IN KERALA

Kerala Backwaters

The backwaters of Kerala are made up of over 900 km of interconnected waterways, rivers, lakes and inlets. The backwaters of Kerala are marked by a



unique ecosystem wherein lagoons, lakes, canals, estuaries and deltas of several rivers meet the Arabian Sea.

While hill resorts and beaches can be found in several parts of India, the backwaters are found only in Kerala. The Kerala backwater tours offer a perfect blend of scenic attractions and tranquility. One can travel on a traditional houseboat and enjoy the beauty of Kerala backwaters which make their way through a number of towns and cities.

Some of the popular destinations for Kerala Backwater tours are: Kochi is one of the most visited Kerala Backwater destinations. Many backwater cruises begin or end in Cochin. Kerala backwater tourist attractions of Cochin can be enjoyed while staying at hotel or by staying at backwater houseboats while on Kerala backwater tours.

Alappuzha is a district of



immense natural beauty. The best companion for exploring this place is the Kerala backwater houseboat. One can enjoy touring the attraction of Alappuzha in Kerala Backwaters India. Alappuzha is also famous for the Snake Boat Races held every year on Onam festival. The Kerala backwaters around Kollam, which extend from the Ashthamudi Lake, are mesmerizing. The boat rides on the sun-kissed water scores brownie points with most of the tourists visiting the Kollam

backwaters. The splendid town of Kollam is renowned for being the gateway to the beautiful backwaters of Kerala. The backwater tour from Kollam to Alappuzha is the longest backwater tour in Kerala.

Kasargod backwaters in Kerala offer holiday of a lifetime. The bewitching sunset on a Chandragiri cruise is an edenic and idyllic experience. One of the top draws of this journey is a ride on the Kettuvallam or the



knot-boats. Tourists can also enjoy premier facilities at the Kerala backwaters houseboat. Kottayam is a beautiful Kerala backwater tour destination. The famous Vembanad Lake makes Kottayam a popular backwater of Kerala. One can see the historic churches and temples of Kottayam during Kerala backwater tours. Kumarakom backwater in Kerala is an enamoring site with its exotic bionetwork. The extensive paddy fields, luxuriant mangrove forests and coconut woods, white lilies and variety of natural elements of the Kumarakom backwater is a must visit on Kerala backwater tours. The unexplored backwaters of Kozikode are popular for boating and water sports. Kozhikode is known for its historic buildings, beautiful green countryside, beautiful beach, hospitality and cosmopolitan culture. Thiruvallam is a popular Kerala backwater tour destination. It is at the confluence of the two rivers, Killi and Karamana that Thiruvallam stands and the backwaters here are more special

because of having been fed by them. The natural beauty of the region is enhanced by these river banks.

KERALA BEACHES

Located at the southernmost tip of India, Kerala is one of the most beautiful states of the Indian Peninsula. Rightly known as 'God's Own Country' embracing the Arabian Sea in its west and the Western Ghats to its east, it has spellbinding geographical features. Its long shoreline consists of various tranquil beaches that would make your journey to this heaven haunting.

ALAPPUZHA BEACH

Alappuzha Beach (Alleppey Beach), located in Alappuzha District of South Kerala is a very popular tourist spot. On the west of this mesmerizing beach lies the great Arabian Sea while the other end is covered with dense palm trees. It is composed of various lagoons, fresh water rivers and vast lakes that enhance its beauty. The 140 year old pier, extending into the sea is also a major attraction of



the beach. Among visitors across the world, it is famous as 'Venice of the East'. Alappuzha Beach offers various water sports including swimming, beach volleyball, surfing and para-sailing. Boat races are also a major attraction of this place. Stay at the houseboats in backwater of the beach is a beguiling attraction.

CHAVAKKAD BEACH

Situated about 5 km from Guruvayoor town, Chavakkad beach is located in Thrissur district of Kerala. It is believed to get its name from the Cheval trees which are found in abundance here. Lying at the confluence of the Arabian Sea and a river locally called Azhimokam, it is one of the best beaches which is blessed with nature's inexplicable beauty.



The still water lagoons, soft sands of the beach, palm trees and azure water from the Arabian Sea, add to the picturesque view of the whole beach. Guruvayoor Temple, one of the most sacred and famous temples of Kerala, is also situated near the beach and is visited by both foreign and Indian tourists. St. Thomas Church at Palayur the oldest church in India, built in AD 52 by St. Thomas himself, is also situated nearby.

CHERAI BEACH

Cherai Beach is located 25 km away from Kochi bordering the Vypin Island. It is also known as 'The princess of the queen of Arabian Sea'. An adventurous boat ride from Kochi to Vypin followed by 40 minutes of bus ride will take to this magnetising beach. Situated at the combination of sea and the backwaters and bordered by luscious green coconut palms, the 15 km long Cherai Beach is a covered with paddy fields and soft sand all over the place. Chinese fishing nets and small wooden boats can be found around the beach. The Bolghatty Palace in Bolghatty Island built in 1744 by the Dutch, which now operates as a hotel, is also worth visiting. Another important tourist spot is the Pallippuram Fort built in 1503 by the Europeans and is one of the oldest existing monuments in India.

FORT KOCHI

Located just 12 km from the city of Ernakulam, Fort Kochi is the first township discovered by Europeans in India. This former

fisherman town was shaped into the current booming town by the Portuguese, the Dutch and finally by the Britishers. It is one of the most beautiful beaches of Kerala still maintaining its old colonial charm. Bewitching colonial forts, churches and several European style buildings that surround the beach are major attractions. St. Francis Church, Santa Cruz Basilica, Vasco House, Bolgatty Palace, Hill Palace, Palliport, Jewish Synagogue and Jew Town are some of the prominent structures in the area.

KAPPAD BEACH

Situated just 16 km away from Kozhikode, this beach holds the prestige of being the place where Vasco Da Gama, the first

European landed to India, to create a history in the socio-political relationship between India and Europe. On 27th May, 1498, he along with 170 men, first set foot here. A stone monument with the words 'Vasco Da Gama landed here' inscribed on it memorialize this historic event. The best way to reach Kappad beach is through the calm backwaters of the Korappuzha River. Rocks that protrude into the sea add to its majestic look. The golden sand of the beach lined by swaying coconut palm trees at one end and crystal clear water of the Arabian Sea on the other end makes this beach one of the most pleasant tourist destinations of Kerala.



KOVALAM BEACH

Located just 16 km to the south of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, Kovalam beach was once a casual fishing village that transformed into the now world famous beach. It is also known as 'Paradise of the south'. The 17km long coastline of the beach is divided into three crescent shaped beaches by headlands jutting into the sea. The southernmost beach, most famous and largest of all, is the Lighthouse Beach. It got its name from the 35 meter high lighthouse atop a hill named Kurumkal. The second beach is the Hawah Beach named as it is legal for topless female tourists to throng there. The northern-most beach is the Samudra Beach which is not so

famous and is used by fishermen for their trade. This beach is unique in its own beauty since it is covered with black sand (unlike any other beach) and fringed with palm coconut trees at one end, making the environment soothing, and Arabian sea on the other which you would love gazing at while enjoying a sunbath.

MARARI BEACH

Marari beach, located just 60 kms from Cochin, is a pristine fishing beach. A stretch of soft white sand with coconut palm trees swaying in the air, this is a perfect place to relax, unwind and enjoy what nature has to offer you. Since it is not a tourist beach, you would love to be soaked in the serenity and peace



of the beach. During the month of August, snake boat races where large serpent-shaped boats are rowed by 130 oarsmen was carried out in a festival mood. The beach also has a large number of homestays and resorts for tourists. The mouth-watering coconut flavoured seafood of Kerala is also worth eating once you are on this beach.

MEENKUNNU BEACH

Situated about 12 kms from the Kannur district and 2 km from the main town of Kannur in Azhikhode, Meenkunnu Beach is an extension of Payyambalam beach. Its name is a combination of two Malayalam words Meen, which means fish and Kunnu which means small hill. This secluded beach with golden sandy seashores fringed with rows of swaying coconut palms on the other end is a traveller's paradise. The calm and secluded environment of the beach is its most adorable characteristic. The tourists love to lie lazing on the sunbathed beach enjoying the serene beauty of the gushing waves of the azure sea water. early attractions





of the beach includes the Snake Park which is dedicated to preserving the endangered reptile species including both poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. St. Angelo Fort, a Portuguese Fort, is also worth visiting. Which offers mesmerizing views of the beach and the entire Kannur town from a hilltop.

MUZHAPPILANGAD BEACH

Muzhappilangad beach is located just 15 km from the city of Kannur and 8km from Thalasseri. It is the only drive-in beach of Kerala and the second largest in India. The complete four kilometres length of the beach with firm sand is available for a drive. To reach this beach you have to pass the unpaved roads bending through coconut groves. Once you reach this beach you would spellbound by its exceptional stillness and cleanliness. It is gaining

attraction from both local and foreign tourists with every passing year. It is surrounded by black rocks which protect this beach from the strong currents of the sea and makes it a natural shallow cove. It is a perfect location for those who love swimming in the sea without the fear of lashing waves. One can also enjoy sunbathing at the shores of the beach About 100-200 meters south of the beach is a privately owned Island named Dharmadam or Green Island. Covering an area of 2 hectares, it is enclosed with coconut palms and mangrove bushes. During low tides one can even walk to this island.

PAYYAMBALAM BEACH

Payyambalam beach is located just 2 km away from the Kannur district of Kerala. It is a beautiful beach of Kerala, mostly famous as a relaxing holiday spot. The secluded beach of Payyambalam has vast

stretches of silver sand fringed by waving coconut palm trees. Tourists visit this place to recline in the tranquil, clean and serene environment. The view of sunrise and sunset from the beach is rejuvenating. The beach is famous for its gardens and the massive sculpture of Mother and Child erected by Kanayi Kunhiraman, a noted sculpture.

SNEHATHEERAM BEACH

Snehatheeram beach is located in Thalikkulam which is about 30 km from the Thrissur District of Kerala. Snehatheeram is a Malayalam word which means love shore. It is an ideal beach destination for couples and children. Maintained by Department of Tourism (Kerala), it was also awarded the best tourist destination in the year 2010. With relatively calm and safe sea and cleanliness of the beach, it is an ideal picnic spot. It also offers resplendent view of the sunset and sunrise.

KOLLAM BEACH

Kollam Beach is located in Kollam district about 71 kms to the north of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala state. Another name for this beach is Mahatma Gandhi Beach. After Cochin Port trust, it is the second largest port in Kerala, as of 2010 data. It is also the hub for international cashew trading of the country and acts as a gateway to the elegant backwaters of Kerala and is situated on the butt of Ashtamudi Lake. Canal cruises to the island village is an exceptional experience. The Mahatma Gandhi Park, which is situated along the beach, is also a major attraction of the Kollam Beach. It is owned by Kollam City Corporation and maintained by the Rural Tourism Development Company. Inaugurated on January 1, 1961 by Zakir Hussain, the then Vice president of India, this park has entertainment facilities of International Standard. The nearby village of Thangasseri is also worth visiting. The 144 feet tall light house was built in 1902 and is open to visitors. Ruins of Portuguese/ Dutch churches and forts built in the 18th



century stands as a keepsake of their rule in this area.

THIRUMULLAVARAM BEACH

Thirumullavaram beach is located 6 kms from Kollam town in Kerala and is a popular picnic spot among the residents from time immemorial. The cloistered beach of Kollam is illustrious for relaxation of mind and body with its natural beauty.



The swaying coconut palms, the ebbing waves of the Arabian Sea and the clean and unspoiled sand of the beach makes this beautiful beach an ideal picnic spot. Swimming on this beach is a safe activity that tourists like to indulge in. A water hillock named Nyarazhcha Para which means Sunday Rock, is another allurement for the tourists visiting here. During low tides, this hillock can be seen clearly from the shore about one and a half kms into the sea. Apart from this, the famous Shree Vaikundapuram Mahavishnu Temple is also situated near the beach that is believed to be sanctified by Parasurama, the creator of Kerala. The pond inside the temple has a strange feature that the water inside it never tastes salty despite being consisting of sea water.



VARKALA BEACH

Varkala beach, located about 50 km north-west of Thiruvananthapuram and 37 km south west of Kollam is one of the top 10 seasonal beaches of the world. The calm and serene environment of the beach consisting of silvery sands enclosed with swaying coconut palms was breathtaking. This beach is locally called as 'Papanashini' since the water of the beach is considered sacred and is believed to wash away all the sins of the soul and purge body impurities on taking a dip in it. Of all the beaches in Kerala, this is the only beach that has cliffs running parallel to the entire length of the beach. These cliffs are famous as Varkala formation amongst the geologists. It also offers an astounding view of the sunset.

The 2000-years old temple - Sree Janardhana Swamy Temple, dedicated to Ayyappa stands on a cliff of the beach. People here offer 'Vavu Bali' for peace of soul of their relatives who have departed from this world. On the top of Sivagiri hillock, stands the final resting place of Shree Narayana Guru, a great social reformer who spread the ideology 'one religion, one caste and one god'. Thousands of



devotees visit here every year from 30th December to 1st January-the pilgrimage days.

Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)

Periyar Tiger Reserve lies in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of the Kerala state in India. The terrain of the Reserve is undulating with North-eastern boundary of the Reserve is a ridge, which also forms boundary between Kerala and Tamil Nadu states for 90 kms. The PTR supports forest types of West Coast Tropical Evergreen Forests, West Coast Semi Evergreen Forests, Moist Deciduous Forest, Southern Montane Wet Grassland and Eucalyptus Plantations.

Pilgrims at Sabarimala Ayyappan Temple: The Sabarimala Ayyappan Temple in Periyar Tiger Reserve attracts 5 million pilgrims during the 60-day duration of the pilgrimage (Mandala- Makaravilakku season).

Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Cuddled up in the southeast corner of the Western Ghats, the Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary is a colourful canvas of exotic flora and thriving fauna. The sanctuary set up in 1958 is 12,000 hectares in area with rich vegetation and is one of the most frequented and beautiful wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala. The sanctuary is in the drainage





basin of the Neyyar River and its tributaries - Mullayar and Kallar. The intrinsic beauty of the sanctuary is further augmented by the Agasthyamalai and Neyyar Reservoir. The fascinating Agasthyarkoodam peak here has an elevation of 1,890 metres and the beautiful Neyyar Dam Reservoir extends over an area of 9.06 sq. km.

Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary

Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary lies within the geographical extremes of latitudes 10°26' N and 10°40' N longitudes 76°15' E and 76°28' E in the Taluk of Thrissur and Thalappilly and in the administrative jurisdiction of Peechi Wildlife Division of Northern Wildlife Circle, Palakkad.

The Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife sanctuary is the second oldest sanctuary in Kerala.

The sanctuary comprises of parts of Paravattanimala,

Machadmala and Bahranipacha mala .

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve with its panoramic landscape, meandering streams, extensive water spread of the reservoir, cascading waterfalls, rolling hills and valleys and wealth of biodiversity is one of the captivating places in Kerala. It is located in the Chittoor taluk of Palakkad district. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a well protected ecological portion in the Nelliampathy - Anamalai landscape of the Southern Western Ghats in India. It is located in the Palakkad District of Kerala. It is one of the biodiversity hot spot in the world supports diverse habitat types and endemism. Considering its biological richness, abundance of wildlife and landscape beauty makes Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is one of the most attractive places in the entire stretch of Western

Ghats.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Wayanad wildlife sanctuary is contiguous to the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka on the north-east and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu on the south-east. Rich in biodiversity, the sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Interestingly, it was from here that Pazhassi Raja fought valiantly against the British.

Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary

A land-locked district, Idukki is one of the most nature-rich areas of Kerala. The Idukki



KERALA WILDLIFE

The dense tropical rainforests of Kerala house a veritable treasure of exotic flora and fauna and an astounding variety of wildlife have found their habitat in the

state. The Government (both central and state) has taken extreme measures to conserve the forests and preserve the fast vanishing species of species here. A number of wildlife

sanctuaries and national parks have been built here and these are major attractions for tourists to the state.

Protected Areas

Sl. No.	Protected Areas	Area (Km ²)	District
1	Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)	998	Idukki
2	Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary	128	Trivandrum
3	Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary	125	Thrissur
4	Parambikulam Tiger Reserve	643.66	Palakkad
5	Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary	344.44	Wayanad
6	Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary	70	Idukki
7	Eravikulam National Park	97	Idukki
8	Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary	53	Trivandrum
9	Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary	25	Ernakulam
10	Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary	171	Kollam
11	Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary	90.44	Idukki
12	Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary	85	Thrissur
13	SilentValley National Park	89.52	Palakkad
14	Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary	55	Kannur
15	Pampadum Shola National Park	1.318	Idukki
16	Mathikettan Shola National Park	12.817	Idukki
17	Anamudi Shola National Park	7.5	Idukki
18	Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary	0.027	Ernakulam
19	Kurinjimala Sanctuary	32	Idukki
20	Choolannur Pea Fowl Sanctuary	3.42	Palakkad
21	Kadalundi-Vallikunnu Community & Malappuram Reserve	1.5	Kozhikode
22	Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary	74.215	Kozhikkode

Wildlife Sanctuary here spreads over an area of 77 sq km in the Thodupuzha and Udumpanchola taluks of the district. Situated at an altitude of 450-748 m above sea level, this sanctuary occupies the forest land between the Cheruthoni and Periyar rivers. There is a scenic lake around the sanctuary,

covered by an enchanting canopy of tropical ever-green and deciduous trees, and offers boat rides.

Eravikulam National Park

A sanctuary for the endangered mountain goat of South India, the Nilgiri Tahr (*Hemitragus hylocricus*), the Eravikulam

National Park stands out for the stark beauty of its rolling grasslands and sholas, in the Kannan devan hills. Anamudi, the highest peak (2695 m) south of Himalayas, stands majestically in the core area of the national park. The slopes of the hills abound in many kinds of rare flora which include rare

terrestrial and epiphytic orchids, and beautiful wild balsams. Three major types of plant communities are found in the Park-grasslands, shrub land and forests. The high plateau and the hills rising above it, are primarily covered by grasslands. Shrub lands are seen along the bases of the cliffs. Shola forests are located in the valleys and folds. Turner's valley, which splits the Park roughly in half from northwest to southeast, is the deepest.

Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary

The sanctuary constitutes the catchments of the Peppara dam constructed across the Karamana river and commissioned during 1983 to augment the drinking water supply to Thiruvananthapuram city and suburban areas. Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary consists of Part of Palode reserve and part of Kottoor reserve. There are 13 tribal settlements in the sanctuary. Eleven are in Athirumala section and two are in Thodayar section. The sanctuary has a rich population of mammalian fauna and is emerging as a big attraction to

wildlife enthusiasts and ornithologists. Asian elephant, sambar, leopard, lion-tailed macaque, can be seen here. Birdlife includes the endemics like Malabar Grey Hornbill, Whitebellied Treepie, Small Sunbird, etc.

Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary

Thattekkad is made up of tropical evergreen and deciduous forests and some grassland patches. This globally acclaimed bird sanctuary owes much of its fame to Dr. Salim Ali, the internationally renowned ornithologist. After his famous bird survey of Travancore in the early 1930s, he reported that this area is extremely rich in bird diversity and that it should be made into a bird sanctuary. Thus his efforts were instrumental in the formation of this sanctuary to a large extent. More than 300 species of birds are found here. The sanctuary lies between the tributaries of the River Periyar like a peninsula. Birds like Srilankan Frogmouth, Racket tailed Drongo, Bronzed Drongo, Whitebellied Treepie, Shama, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Rufous

Babbler, Malabar Parakeet, Whitebellied Blue Flycatcher, Malabar Grey Hornbill, are some of the birds that can be easily seen here. Thattekkad also has extensive plantations of teak, rosewood, mahogany. The dense forest is also home to nearly 28 species of mammals and about 9 species of reptiles. The Bombay Natural History Society has identified 253 kinds of birds. Spread over an extent of 25.16 sq.kms, Thattekkad attracts nature lovers from far and wide.

Shendurney Wildlife

Sanctuary, part of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, is one of the richest areas of bio-diversity in Western Ghats. The biotic richness and distinct biographic features of this forest area makes it an ideal gene pool reserve. The etymological meaning of the name "Shendurney" has been derived from a tree locally called 'Chenkurinji' or 'Chenkurunji' (*Gluta travancorica*), which is an endemic tree confined to this tract. The undulating terrains, rocky mountains, waterfalls, grasslands etc. form the habitat



of a variety of tropical flora and fauna. The construction of the Parappan dam has resulted in the creation of an artificial lake of about 18.69 sq.km within the sanctuary.

Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

The Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the rain shadow region of Western Ghats of Kerala, India, and represents a large number of plants and animals unique to the thorny vegetation. Apart from the dry thorn forests, due to the significant variation in altitude and rainfall, it has a wide array of habitat types like deciduous forests, dry thorny forest, riparian types, sholas and grasslands that are interspersed with plains, hillocks, rocks and cliffs which provide microhabitats for varied forms of life. Chinnar is the habitat for the endangered Giant Grizzled Squirrel of India. An extensive Sandalwood forest nearby is an added attraction at Chinnar. This is also an ideal place for

watching herds of gaur and elephants amble past. Dry deciduous forests, high sholas and some grasslands add to the diversity of the sanctuary. As one travels from Karimnathi to Chinnar, elephants, spotted deer, sambar, hanuman langur and even peacocks can be spotted on either side of the road.

Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary

Serene, beautiful - Chimmony wildlife sanctuary located in the Western Ghats, is one of the world's 25 bio-diversity hot-spots, the haven of innumerable species of endangered plants and animals. The total area of this wild life sanctuary considered as a global mega-diversity zone comprising several local species of living organisms and virgin forests come to around 85.067 sq km inclusive of the Chimmoney Lake. Immensely blessed by nature, this protected area which is an integral part of the Western Ghats comprises steep mountain ranges having a height of 40 to 1116 Mtrs from the sea level. The main mountain peaks of this sanctuary are Pindi Mudi (1116 Mtrs) and Ponmudi (928 mtrs). The South-East borders have abundance of green forests coming under the Chalakudi-Vazhachal Forest Division.

Silent Valley National Park

The Silent Valley National Park is located in the Northeastern corner of Palakkad district. The core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is the Silent Valley National Park. Despite its name, the Silent Valley (the clamour of Cicadas is conspicuously absent here) is a rich storehouse of biodiversity. It is a true Garden of Eden for students of life sciences, professional scientists and field biologists. More than 1000 species of flowering plants which include about 110 species of orchids, more than 34 species of mammals, about 200 species of butterflies, 400 species of moths, 128 species of beetles of which 10 are new to science, about 150 species of birds including almost all the 16 endemic birds of southern India. The River Kunthi descends from the Nilgiri hills, from an altitude of 2000 m above sea level, and traverses the entire length of the valley and rushes down to the plains through the deep forest.

Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

Aralam wildlife sanctuary is the northernmost protected area of Kerala state, situated in the southeast part of Kannur District. The sanctuary is located in the Northwest slopes of Western Ghats contiguous with the forests of Coorg (Kodagu) district of Karnataka state. The Aralam Sanctuary is spread over undulating forested highlands on the slopes of the Western Ghats. The highest peak here - Katti Betta - rises to a majestic 1145 m above sea level. Covered with tropical and semi evergreen forests, the





Aralam Sanctuary is home to a vast variety of flora and fauna endemic to the Western Ghats.

Pampadum Shola National Park

Considering the ecological, faunal, floral, geographical and zoological significance of Pampadum Shola, the Government of Kerala declared it as a National Park in December 2003. The Park is located in the eastern part of Southern Western Ghats of Kerala on the way to Vattavada, near Top Station about 35 Kms from Munnar town. The coldest months are December and January when the minimum temperature inside forests fall up to 6°C even at lower elevations.

Mathikettan Shola National Park

The National Park represents the remnant of pristine forests which was part of the Cardamom Hill Reserve in the high ranges of Idukki district. The only tribal community within the limit of the Park is Muthuvan. The terrain is undulating with hillocks of

varying heights. The altitude ranges between 1200 to 1984 m. The park receives both south-west and north-east monsoons profusely. The average annual rainfall ranges between 2000-2700 mm.

The region attracts large numbers of adventure seekers, especially trekkers. Trails running through the forests provide amazing views of the region and you can spot animals and birds in their natural habitat. Watching birds and wildlife in their natural habitat is a popular attraction of trekking in the national park. Photographers visit the national park and stay for long periods to capture the animals in their natural habitat.

Anamudi Shola National Park

It represents one of the largest shola forest ecosystem in the Country with unique biodiversity and climate. The National Park consists of three pristine shola reserve forests viz., Mannavan Shola, Pullaradi shola, Idivara Shola. The forest is with continuous canopy interspersed with emerging grasslands which is frequented with *Strobilanthes kunthianus*. Mostly comprises Southern sub tropical hill forests, Southern montane wet temperate forests towards the top and moist deciduous forests. Average height of the forest is 20-25 m at lower elevation. The bark of the trees is covered with lichens, mosses





and climbers. The forests are interspersed with montane grasslands.

Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary

The Mangalavanam Bird sanctuary, the green lung to the city of Kochi, is a patch of natural greenery comprising mainly of mangrove species in the small tidal wetland. Mangalavanam gained importance because of the mangrove vegetation and due to the congregation of breeding birds.

It is an incredible green spot with an extensive variety of life and that too amid a buzzing metro! Primarily a bird refuge, the innate appeal of Mangalavanam is augmented by the Arabian Sea which borders the sanctuary and adds to it a panoramic ambience.

The mangroves and their associated species that have their roots in the nourishing earth of Mangalavanam include *Avicennia officinalis*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Acanthus ilicifolius* and *Acrostichum aureum*. Among these *Acanthus ilicifolius* is considered to be endangered and *Rhizophora mucronata* as a vulnerable species, according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Kurinjimala Sanctuary

Kurinjimala Sanctuary is the home to many rare species of flora and fauna. It preserves the Neelakurinji plant (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*), which is an endangered species. The sanctuary also protects the unique biodiversity of the area. The Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

lies to near the Kurinjimala Sanctuary and Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The other National parks near the sanctuary include Eravikulam National Park, Pampadum Shola National Park and Anamudi Shola National Park.

Kadalundi-Vallikunnu Community Reserve

The decision to declare the Kadalundi-Vallikunnu estuary area a community reserve comes as a happy climax to efforts by nature lovers, academics and bird-watchers to get official recognition and protection for a favourite haunt of migratory birds. The importance of the estuary as a wintering ground for migratory wading birds has been highlighted since the early 1980s when birdwatchers started visiting the area from September to April every year. During low tide, the inter-tidal area there is populated by plovers, sandpipers, terns and gulls and a variety of resident birds. The estuary is under the ownership of Kadalundi and Vallikkunnu.

Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary

The sanctuary is part of the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot. It also comes under the





Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and forms a part of the Wayanad.

Kerala Wiki Profile

Kerala is spread over 38,863 km² with 33,387,677 inhabitants as per the 2011 census. The region was a prominent spice exporter from 3000 BCE to 3rd century. Later, in the 15th century, the lucrative spice trade attracted Portuguese traders to Kerala, and eventually paved the way for the European colonization of the whole of India, (see www.dutchinkerala.com).



com) Kerala is the state with the lowest positive population growth rate in India (3.44%) and has a density of 819 people per km². The state has the highest Human Development Index (HDI) (0.790) in the country according to the Human Development Report of 2011. It also has the highest literacy rate of 95.5, the highest life expectancy (almost 77 years) and the highest sex ratio (as defined by number of women per 1000 men: 1,084 women per 1000 men) among all Indian states. Kerala has the lowest homicide rate in Indian, for 2011 it was 1.1 per 100,000. A survey in 2005 by Transparency International ranked it as the least corrupt state in the country. Kerala has witnessed significant emigration of its people, especially to the Gulf States

during the Gulf Boom the 1970s and early 1980s, and its economy depends significantly on remittances from a large expatriate community. Production of pepper and natural rubber contributes to a significant portion of the total national output. In the agricultural sector, coconut, tea, coffee, cashew and spices are important. The state's coastline extends for 590 kilometers (370 mi), and around 1.1 million



people of the state are dependent on the fishery industry, which contributes 3% to the state's income.

Flora and fauna: Most of the biodiversity is concentrated and protected in the Western Ghats. Out of the 4,000 flowering plant species, 900 species are medicinal plants; 1,272 of which are endemic to Kerala and 159 threatened.

Subdivisions: In India, self-governance of the major cities rests with Municipal corporations; there are five such bodies governing Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode, Kollam and Thrissur. Kochi metropolitan area is the largest urban agglomeration in Kerala. According to recent survey by Indus Analytics, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Kochi, Kannur and Thrissur are among the best ten cities in India to spend in. The survey used parameters such as

health education, environment, safety, public facilities and entertainment to rank the cities. Kerala was selected as the state of states in 2013 based on the criteria of GDP Governance, health, education etc. Kerala's 10% rise in GDP is 3% more than the national GDP Rise in capital expenditure is 30% against a national average of 5%. 35% rise in two-wheelers owners against a national average of 15%. Teacher pupil ratio jumped from 2:100 to 4:100.

Geography:

The state is wedged between the Lakshadweep Sea and the Western Ghats and the width of the state varies between 11 and 121 km. Geographically, Kerala can be divided into three climatically distinct regions: the eastern highlands, rugged and cool mountainous terrain; the central mid-lands, rolling hills; and the western lowlands and coastal area.

Economy

The apparently paradoxical "Kerala phenomenon" or the "Kerala model of development" of very high human development, yet not very high economic development resulted from a strong service sector. As of 2008, the Gulf countries had a Keralite population of more than 2.5 million, who send home annually a sum of US \$6.81 billion. On 1st October 2011, Kerala became the first state in the country to have at least one banking facility in every village.

Agriculture

Kerala produces 97% of the national output of black pepper and accounts for 85% of the area under natural rubber in the country. Coconut, tea, coffee, cashew and spices - including cardamom, vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg - comprise a critical agricultural sector. The key agricultural staple is rice, with



varieties grown in extensive paddy fields.

Roads

Most of Kerala's west coast is accessible through two national highways: NH 47 and NH 17, and the eastern side are accessible through various state highways. National Highway 17 with the stretch of 421 km connects Edappally to Panvel; it starts from Kochi and passes through Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod before entering Karnataka. Traffic in Kerala has been growing at a rate of 10-11% every year, resulting in high traffic and pressure on the roads. Road density is nearly four times the national average, reflecting the state's high population density. National Highways in Kerala, are the narrowest compared to other parts of the country and will remain so in the foreseeable future, as the state government has requested and got special approval (exemption) for narrow national highways in the state. In Kerala, highways will be 45 meters wide, whereas in other states National highways have a minimum of 60 meters wide, has grade separated highways as well as 6/8 lane access-controlled expressways.



Demographics

Kerala is home to 2.76% of India's population. Trivandrum is the largest and most populous city in Kerala. In the state, the rate of population growth is India's lowest, and the decadal growth of 4.9% in 2011 is less than one third of the all-India average of 17.64%. Kerala's population more than doubled between 1951 and 1991 by adding 15.6 million people to reach 29.1 million residents in 1991; the population stood at 33.3 million by 2011. In Early 2013, there were close to 2.5 million (0.7% of state population) migrant workers from other states of India in Kerala.

Gender

There are a number of possible explanations for the improved position of women in Kerala. The governments helped to distribute land and implement educational reforms. Another explanation is the tradition of matrilineal inheritance in Kerala. This was common among certain influential castes and is a reason for the high value placed on daughters. Christian missionaries also influenced Malayali women in that they started schools for girls belonging to poor families. Opportunities for women like education and gainful employment often translate into a lower birth rate, which in turn, makes education and employment more likely to be accessible and more beneficial for women. While having the opportunities that education affords them, such as participating in politics, keeping up to date on news, reading religious texts, etc., these tools have not translated into full, equal rights for the women of Kerala. Kerala is a state in flux where, despite the social



progress made so far, gender still influences social mobility.

Human Development index

Kerala has undergone the “demographic transition” characteristic of such developed nations as Canada, Japan, and Norway. 11.2% of people are over the age of 60, due to the low birthrate of 18 per 1,000. In 1991, Kerala’s total fertility rate (TFR) was the lowest in India. According to Human Development Report 1996, Kerala’s Gender Development Index was reported to be 597; higher than any other state in India. However, Kerala’s morbidity rate is higher than that of any other Indian state—118 (rural) and 88 (urban) per 1,000 people. The corresponding figures for, India were 55 and 54 per 1,000

respectively as of 2004. Education.

The Kerala School of astronomy and mathematics flourished between the 14th and 16th centuries. In attempting to solve astronomical problems, the Kerala School independently created a number of important mathematics concepts including series expansion for trigonometric functions.

Music

Carnatic music dominates the Keralite traditional music. This was the result of Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma’s popularization of the genre in the 19th century. Panchavadyam is a different form of percussion ensemble, in which artists use five types of percussion instrument. Kerala’s visual arts

range from traditional murals to the works of Raja Ravi Varma, the state’s most renowned painter. Most of the castes and communities in Kerala have rich collections of folk songs and ballads associated with a variety of themes; Vadakkan Paattukal (Northern Ballads), Thekkan Paattukal (Southern Ballads), Vanchi Pattukal (Boat Songs), Mappila Paattukal (Muslim songs) and Palli Paattukal (Church songs) are a few of them.

Cinema

Malayalam films carved a niche for themselves in the Indian film industry with its presentation of social themes. Directors from Kerala, like Adoor Gopalakrishnan, John Abraham, Kamal and G. Aravindan, have made a considerable contribution to the Indian parallel cinema. Late Malayalam actor Prem Nazir holds the world record for having acted as the protagonist in over 720 movies.

Literature

Malayalam literature starts from the late medieval period and includes such notable writers as the 14th century Niranam poets and the 17th century poet Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan, whose works mark the dawn of

Climate: Climate data for Kerala

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average High	28.0	30	31	32	34	34	30	29	29	30	30	31	34
0C (0F)	(82.4)	(86)	(88)	(90)	(93)	(93)	(86)	(84)	(84)	(86)	(86)	(88)	(93)
Average Low	22	23	24	25	25	24	24	24	24	24	24	22	22
0C (0F)	(72)	(73)	(75)	(77)	(77)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(75)	(72)	(72)

both modern Malayala language and poetry. The “triumvirate of poets” (Kavithrayam): KumaranAsan, Vallathol Narayana Menon and Ulloor S. Parameswaralyer are recognized for moving Keralite poetry away from archaic sophistry and metaphysics, and towards a more lyrical mode. In the second half of the 20th century, Jnanpith winning poets and writers like G. Sankara Kurup, S. K. Pottekkatt, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai had made valuable contributions to modern Malayalam literature. Later, writers like M. T. Vasudevan Nair and O. N. V Kurup, O. V. Vijayan, Kamaladas, M. Mukundan, Arundhati Roy gained international recognition.

Elephants

Elephants have always been an integral part of culture of the state. Kerala is home to the

largest domesticated population of elephant in India - about 700 Indian elephants, owned by temples as well as individuals.

Media

The National Family Health Survey - 3, conducted in 2007 ranked Kerala as a state with the highest media exposure in India. Dozens of newspapers are published in Kerala but principally in Malayalam and English. A sizeable “people’s science” movement has taken root in the state, and such activities as writers’ cooperatives are becoming increasingly common. In January 2012, the total number of wireless phone subscribers in Kerala was about 34.3 million and the wireline subscriber base was at 3.2 million, accounting a telephone density of 107.77. Unlike in many other States, the urban-rural divide is not visible in Kerala.

Sports

Kalaripayattu is regarded as “the mother of all martial arts in the world”. Another tradition sport of Kerala is the boat race, especially the race of Snake boats. Cricket and football became popular in the state; both were introduced in Malabar during the British colonial period in the 19th century. Foot ball is one of the most widely played and watch sport with huge support for club and district level matches. Kerala football realm contributes several national players. Among the prominent athletes hailing from the state are P. T. Usha, Shiny Wilson and M.D. Valsamma, K. M. Beenamol, Anju Bobby George, T. C. Yohannan, Suresh Babu, Sinimol Paulose, Angel Mary Joseph, Mercy Kuttan, K. Saramma, K. C. Rosakutty and Padmini Selvan.



A photograph of a group of people in a wooden boat on a narrow river in Kottayam, Kerala, India. The river is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves. The people in the boat are looking towards the camera. The word "KOTTAYAM" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the middle of the image.

KOTTAYAM



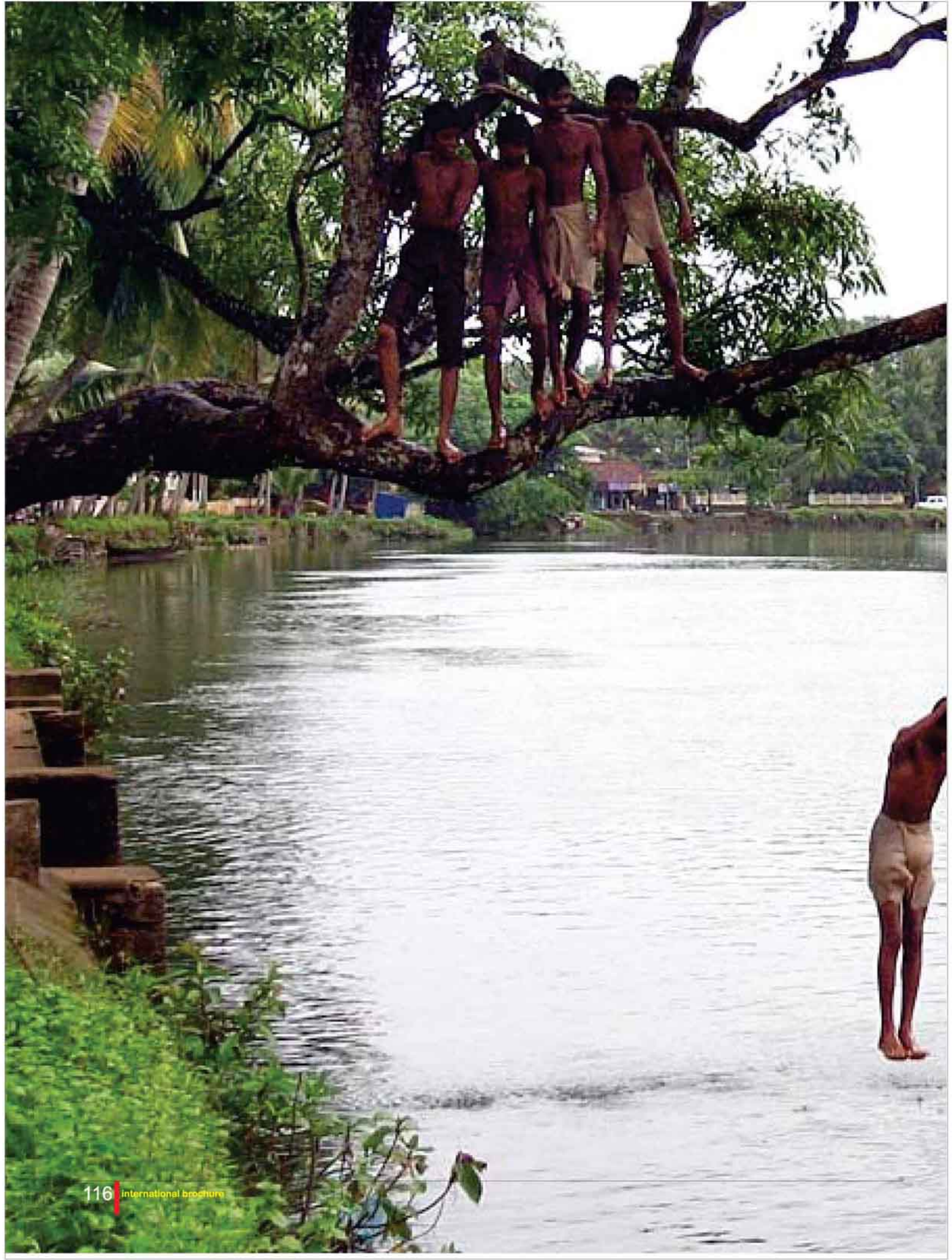
LAND OF LETTERS, LATEX AND LAKES

Kottayam is situated in south-central Kerala and is the administrative capital of Kottayam district. It is spread over an area of 2,208 sq km and is around 151 km from the state capital Thiruvananthapuram. Kottayam is situated near the Meenachil River and the Vembanad backwaters. The scenic backwaters offer amazing opportunities to enjoy nature at its best. The city really enchants those who visit here.

The climate in Kottayam remains moderate and pleasant with annual temperatures between 20°C to 35°C. From June to September, the southwest monsoon brings heavy rainfalls and from October to December light rainfall is received from the northwest monsoon. The best time to visit Kottayam is in the winter months.

Kottayam is a major trading centre of commercial crops,

spices and natural rubber. Rubber trees are widely cultivated here and the Plantation Corporation of Kerala has its headquarters at Kottayam. The city is a well-known business centre with major shopping centres at Kottayam-Kumily Road, Sastri Road and Baker Junction. Many businesses related with tourism flourish in the town and provide a boost to the economy. There are also numerous restaurants that cater various cuisines for the people and several hotels and resorts are available in Kottayam. Kottayam is considered as the center of publishing media in Kerala. Major print media like Malayala Manorama, Mangalam, Deshabhimani, Mathrubhoomi, Madhyamam and Deepika have their headquarters in this town and around 30 periodicals are also published from Kottayam. The city houses several book publishers too.



The C.M.S. Press was the first printing press in Kerala and was established in Kottayam by Benjamin Bailey in 1821. Since then the city has been in the front line of publishing and is known as Akshara Nagari-the City of Alphabets. As a revolutionary centre for modern education in Kerala, Kottayam became the country's first city to attain 100% literacy in 1989. The educational facilities are much more developed today

with several schools, colleges and institutes. The most popular sports in Kottayam are Cricket, Athletics, basketball and football.

Kottayam is well connected by National Highways as well as State Highways. The Kottayam railway station is placed in the heart of the town and is served by several trains connecting most of the major cities in the country. The nearest airport to

Kottayam is the Cochin International Airport at a distance of 87 km. The Kottayam Port is India's first multi-model Inland Container Depot (ICD) and a minor port which uses the inland water way network and is situated at Nattakom on the banks of Kotoor River. The Kerala State Water Transport Department (KSWTD) operates ferry services through the backwaters in and around Kottayam city.

Kottayam District, Kerala - Basic Information

Head Quarters of Kottayam

Area

Major Religions

Population Density

Literacy

Came into existence

Main tourist attraction at Kottayam

Altitude

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, selected Kottayam as the first town in India to be transformed into an eco-city.

Kottayam
2,208 sq. km.

Hindu, Christian, Muslim

894 persons/sq km

97.21%

July 1,1949

Kumarakom, House Boats

35m above sea level



A vibrant tropical beach scene. In the foreground, several large palm trees with long, slender trunks lean over a sandy beach. Their fronds are lush green and cast long, dark shadows on the sand. The beach is populated with several people: some are sitting or lying on the sand, while others are walking. In the background, the blue ocean meets the shore with gentle waves. A large, green, forested mountain rises behind the beach under a clear blue sky.

General Information

Preparing to travel to India

Understand your physical, emotional and health needs well in advance. You should clearly communicate to Mahatma Gandhi University all your allergies, illnesses, psychological treatments, disabilities, dietary needs, and any other medical needs. It is recommended that you have a complete physical check up with your physician and a dental consultation with your dentist before you leave your home country.

For understanding regional health issues, visit www.cdc.gov/travel/indianrg.htm www.mdtravelhealth.com/destinations/asia/india.html

Which give basic details on regional illnesses and standard immunizations prior to travel. The standard immunization for India includes Hepatitis-A, Typhoid and Routine immunizations (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella immunizations). Remember that you will need to take these at least 4-8 weeks prior to departure for the shots to take effect.

Make sure you carry sufficient amounts of updated prescription of medication before you leave, in case it is not be available in Kottayam. Also, having them mailed will not only take weeks to arrive, Customs may scrutinize them and may delay or prevent the arrival. Be sure keep your medications in their original containers. Keep copies of your

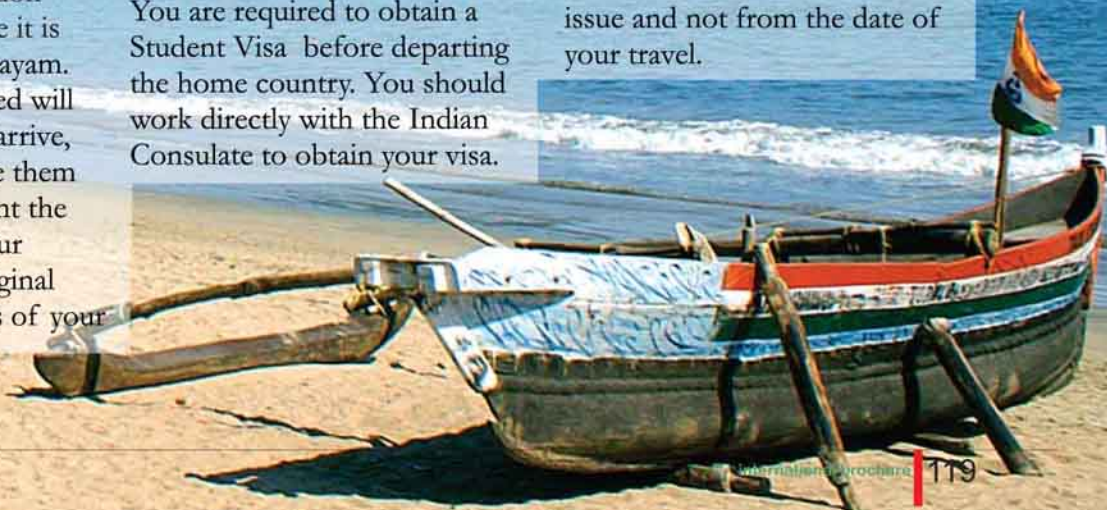


relevant medical records and prescriptions as they may be requested during the Customs arrival check.

Purchase traveller's insurance through any study abroad Insurance Agencies, which cover travel, medical baggage, and travel accident protection in addition to emergency assistance services. Private insurance companies in India offer insurance schemes including health insurance to international students. You may also consider schemes available in your country especially for people travelling abroad.

VISA: A valid passport (Valid till your return to the home country) is required to submit an application for your student visa. You are required to obtain a Student Visa before departing the home country. You should work directly with the Indian Consulate to obtain your visa.

Please remember when dealing with the Indian Consulate, it is a privilege, not a right, to obtain this visa. Make sure that you leave ample time to apply and have your visa processed in order to obtain it in time of your departure. You may apply either by visiting the Indian Consulate or mailing your application to the consulate that serves your home town. Application processing can take several weeks. Please plan ahead and give yourself ample time. For Students on a short term study program in India, the validity of the student visa can range from six months to one year. Always ask for one year visa. Please remember that the expiry date of visa is calculated from the date of its issue and not from the date of your travel.



THINGS TO PACK

- A good digital camera with accessories.
- Laptops in India need to get connected to a 230V electrical socket, you may need an adapter. This may cost around \$1. You can buy in India.
- For the Kottayam weather, cotton garments that fit loosely are ideal. T-shirts salwar kameez, jeans and tops, or skirts are suitable.
- Since you can buy garments very cheap in India, it is recommended that you travel light. One set of dress will cost approximately \$20-30. Choose dress that suits the humid and seasonally warm climate. On the choice of dress, it is best to seek advice of your academic mentors and fellow local students for appropriateness.
- Please bring a pair of sneakers for trekking and one pair comfortable sandals.
- Cell phone that will accept international SIM card.
- Hand sanitizer, Bug repellent,

Sunscreen lotion (very important if you are from US, UK, Europe etc), water bottle, cooling glasses.

- Medications (both prescription and over the counter).

Airports

Kerala has Three International airports, all of which have direct flights from Gulf countries and a few other countries.

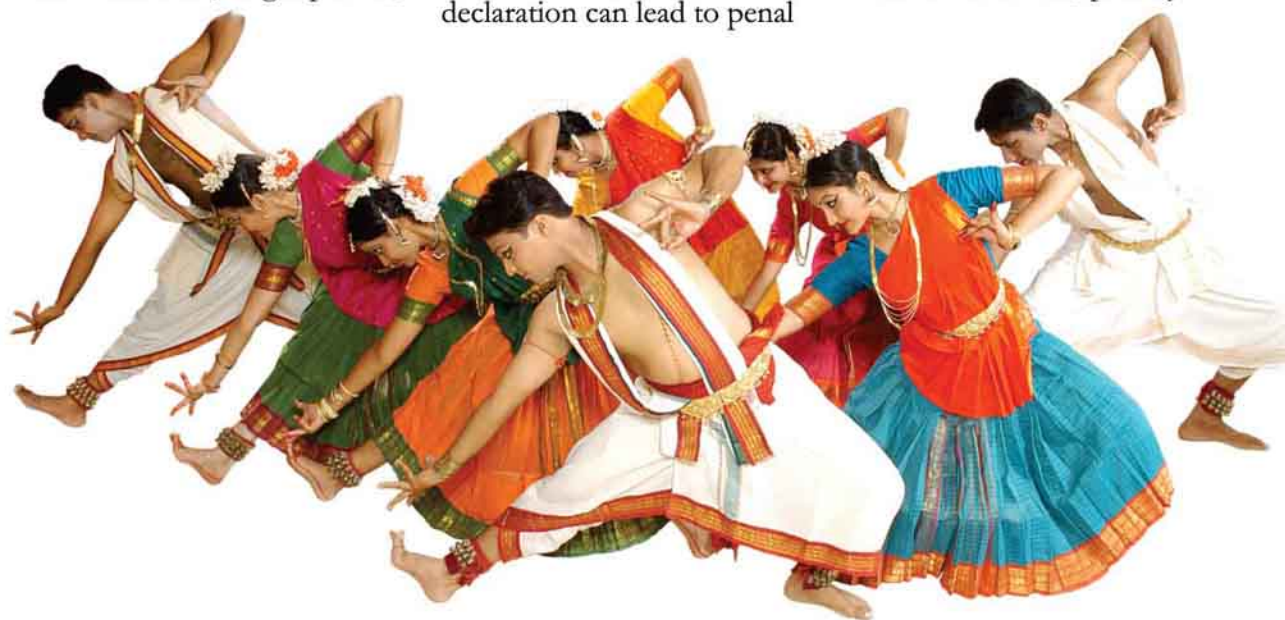
Alternatively, foreign students may choose to fly to one of the metros Delhi, Bombay (Mumbai), Bangalore or Madras (Chennai) the last being closest to Cochin) and then take domestic flights to Cochin.

It is obligatory for you to declare details of plants/plant material in your baggage, on arrival in India. Indian Customs require you to declare, goods in excess of the free allowance, prohibited or restricted goods (including narcotics, drugs wildlife and its products, and arms and explosives), and commercial goods, at Red Channel Counter. Attempt to import these goods and/or non-declaration can lead to penal



consequences, including arrest.

Free allowance for passenger of Indian origin and foreigners residing in India (of age above 10 years) returning from the countries other than Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and China is normally Rs.35,000/- per passenger. Alcoholic liquor or wines up to 2 liters and 200 cigarettes can be brought as part of the free baggage allowance. Duty free gift and souvenirs worth Rs. 8,000/- can be imported. You can import used personal assets including laptop, palmtop computer and reasonable jewellery free of duty, if these are re-exported at the time of departure. Plants/ seeds/fruits/flowers/ vegetables/bulbs/other planting materials, meat and meat products/dairy products/live or ornamental fish/poultry





products, satellite phone, Foreign currency notes in excess of US \$5000 or equivalent, Foreign exchange (foreign currency notes, drafts, traveller's cheques, letter of credit, bills of exchange or any instruments which enable any amount is payable in Indian currency) in excess of US\$10,000/- or equivalent are to be declared.

YOUR ADDRESS IN INDIA

University Centre for
International Cooperation
(UCIC)
Mahatma Gandhi University,
Athirampuzha, Kottayam,
Kerala, India-686560
Phone: 0481-2594268
Website: www.mgu.ac.in
www.ispucic.ac.in
E-mail: ucicmgu@gmail.com
mgu@mgu.ac.in
registrarmgu@gmail.com

Visa Registration

It is mandatory for all foreigners arriving on long term student

visa to register themselves within 14 days of their first arrival in India, irrespective of duration of stay. Children below the age of 10 are exempted from registration. Pakistani nationals have to register within 24 hours. Besides, international students are required to adhere to any observation made on the Indian Visa. Registration facilities are not provided at the airport and are carried out in the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) at Kottayam. No fee is required to be paid for registration, but a penalty of US \$30 (around Rs.1500/-) is charged for late registration.

For Registration, first visit www.indianfrro.gov.in/frro/ and follow instructions. You need to first submit your application online (please select state as Kerala and District as Kottayam and give the details asked for). Once the application is submitted you will be given a date and time to appear in person at the Kottayam

Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO). Please note that no private agency of any kind should be involved and you must appear in person. The University Centre for International Cooperation (UCIC), Mahatma Gandhi University will provide any required assistance. Registration is not only a procedural matter. It also concerns your personal safety. Please note that your place of stay should be communicated to the FRRO as well as the local police station.

The following documents are required to be submitted at the time of the registration:

- Registration form (3 Copies).
- 4 recent passport size photographs.
- Bona fide certificate from University in Original.
- Copy of passport/visa/ arrival immigration stamp.
- Copy of valid Lease/Rent agreement or copy of C-form from the hotel or copy of recent electricity/telephone bill along with letter from the landlord, towards proof of residence.
- Passport in original on registration a registration document/number will be issued to the students.

Visa Extension

International students need to approach the FRRO for extension of stay for a period of one year at a time up to the duration of the University program of 5 years whichever is less. The following documents are required to be submitted at

the time of visa extension.

- Visa extension form.
- 1 recent passport size photograph.
- Bona fide certificate from the University in original.
- Copy of valid Lease/Rent agreement or copy of C-form from the hotel or copy of recent electricity/telephone bill along with letter from the landlord, towards proof of residence.

Student Visa Conversion

International students who are already in India and who wish to pursue research programs after completing their studies, the FRRO may convert a student visa into research visa. Proof of adequate financial resources should be produced for this.

Grant of Return Visa

International students may approach FRRO for grant of one return visa per year on genuine grounds such as for visiting parents, relatives during vacation, family emergencies, appearing in exams etc. In cases of extreme compassion i.e., death/serious illness of close relative/friend, even second return visa may be granted, but will be subject to usual checks and only on production of certificate from the University/Educational Institutions.









Important Sites

Government of India:
www.india.gov.in
Ministry of Home Affairs:
www.mha.nic.in
Immigration Department:
www.immigrationindia.nic.in

Airport Authority of India:
www.airportsindia.org.in
Indian Excise and Customs:
www.cbec.gov.in
Ministry of Tourism:
www.incredibleindia.org,
www.tourism.gov.in
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs:
www.moia.gov.in
Indian Embassy:
www.indianembassy.org
Ministry of Civil Aviation
www.moca.gov.in
Kerala Tourism:
www.keralatourism.org

Cost of living

Kottayam has comparatively low cost of living as the table below reveals. Figures are in USD and are only indicative of typical costs which can vary widely.

	 USA	 Japan	 UK	 Germany	 Australia	 Singapore	 Delhi	 Chennai	 Kottayam
1 Litre of petrol	1.0	1.6	1	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2
1 Litre of Diesel	1.2	1.3	1	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.9
1 Litre of Processed milk	0.9	2	1	1.9	1.4	2.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
1 Liter of mineral water	0.3	1.5	0.8	2.6	0.9	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
1 kg of sugar	1.5	2.8	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.3	0.6	0.9	0.8
1 kg of Tomato	2	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
International Mobile call/m	-	-	-	0.1	0.32	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Taxi Charge/Km	0.2	-	3	2.3	1.9	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
1 Unit of Electricity	-	3.5	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
A cup of Coffee (min)	1	1.5	2	1.9	3.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.2
Rent 1-bed room apt	1200	800	1400	531	250	550	90	90	70
English News Paper	1	2	1.5	4.7	1.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cinema Ticket (Min)	12	18	12	10.16	9	7.9	2	1.2	1.2

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

University Centre for International Co-operation (UCIC)

P. D. Hills P.O., Kottayam, Kerala - 686560

List of Foreign Students Admitted to Mahatma Gandhi University Recently

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Country	Course
1.	Ms.Louise Pageot	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
2.	Ms.Marie Houdin	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
3.	Ms.Pauline Calvez	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
4.	Mr.Antoine De Seigneurens	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
5.	Mr.Vincent Sacau	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
6.	Ms.Gao Wenjing	China	M.A Politics and International Relations
7.	Mr.Tran Minh Nhan	Vietnam	M.A Politics and International Relations
8.	Ms.Elif Bali	Turkey	M.Phil Politics and International Relations
9.	Mr.Tito R Mhagama	Tanzania	MBA
10.	Ms.Oceng Frede Amito	Uganda	M.Sc Food Service Management
11.	Ms.Lwamusai Marsha	Uganda	MBA
12.	Mr.Kamya Joseph	Uganda	B.Com
13.	Mr.Mwanje Ssenono Aloysius	Uganda	M.Sc. (IT)
14.	Ms.Hanna Barbara Urbanska	Poland	PDF
15.	Ms.Mallet Oriane	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
16.	Ms.Caillon Marine	France	M.A Politics and International Relations
17.	Mr. El. Hadji Mamour Sakho	Senegal	Ph.D.
18.	Mr.Kamya Joseph	Uganda	B.Com
19.	Mr. Zhussip Zhumagaliyev	Kazakhstan	M.A. Politics and International Relations
20.	Mr. Imanirarora Lote	Rwanda	Master in Comp.Sc./IT
21.	Mr. Sho Tanaka	Japan	M.A. Politics and International Relations
22.	Ms. Céline Di Mantova	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
23.	Ms. Alma Laplace	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
24.	Ms.Chloé Delpierre	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
25.	Mr. Simon Cannone	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
26.	Mr. Derouault Jean-Baptiste	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
27.	Ms. Jessica K. Haven	United States	M.A. (Development Studies)
28.	Ms. Céline Di Mantova	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
29.	Ms. Alma Laplace	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
30.	Ms.Chloé Delpierre	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
31.	Mr. Simon Cannone	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
32.	Mr. Derouault Jean-Baptiste	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
33.	Mr. Ravneel Prakash Mani	Fiji	B.Sc. (Comp. Sc.)
34.	Mr. Kwasi Mensah Nyarko	Ghana	M.A. Politics and International Relations
35.	Ms. Ni Luh Hindy Citra Satyawati Inggas	Indonesia B.A.	Economics
36.	Mr. Adoum Idriss Adoum	Chad	M.A. Politics and International Relations
37.	Mr. Joseph Phillippo	Tanzania	M.Sc. (Comp. Sc.)
38.	Mr Lucas Pardal	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
39.	Mr Hugo Chene	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
40.	Mr. Feyisa Rita Melaku	Ethiopia	Ph.D. in Social Work
41.	Mr. Corentin Maurice Daniel Mercier	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
42.	Ms.Fanny Jeanette Marie Josephe Ragot	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
43.	Ms.Julie Marie Rousseau	France	M.A. Politics and International Relations
44.	Mr. Hay Sambo	Cambodia	M.Sc. (Comp. Sc.)
45.	Mr. You Vanndy	Cambodia	M.Sc. (Comp. Sc.)
46.	Ms. Ellen Twamanguluka Nghikembua	Namibia	M.Sc. Psychology

Exchange rate of the Indian Rupee versus other key currencies



Country	Currency	Approximate Rupees
Australia	1 Dollar	53
China	1 Yuan/Rimini	10
Egypt	1 Egyptian pound	8
Europe	1 Euro	77
Indonesia	1000 Rupiah	5
Iran	1000 Rial	2
Israel	1 Shekel	16
Japan	100 Yen	57
Kenya	100 Kenya Shilling	69
Korea	100 Won	6
Kuwait	1 Kuwait Dinar	212
Libya	1 Libyan dinar	50
Malaysia	1 Ringgit	19
Maldives	1 Rufiyaa	4
Mali	100 CFA Franc	12
Mauritius	1 Mauritian Rupee	2
Myanmar	100 Kyat	6
Nepal	10 Nepalese Rupee	6
Oman	1 Omani Rial	159
Philippines	1 Peso	1





Country	Currency	Approximate Rupees
Philippines	1 Peso	1
Poland	1 Zloty	19
Qatar	1 Qatari Rial	17
Russia	1 Ruble	2
Saudi Arabia	1 Riyal	17
Singapore	1 Singapore Dollar	48
Sweden	1 Krona	9
Switzerland	1 Swiss Franc	64
Turkey	1 Turkish Lira (YTL)	27
UAE	1 UAE Dirham	17
UK	1 Pound Sterling	98
USA	1 Dollar	62



A large, stylized green outline of the map of India, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

A perfect destination for study and travel

India has been a major seat of learning for thousands of years. The country was home to both Takshashila - the first university in the world, and to the inventor of the digit 0 - Āryabhata. Albert Einstein once said: "we owe a lot to the Indians who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made".

India has traditionally been seen as a country that sends rather than receives international students, but a growing number of students from elsewhere are now choosing to *Study in India*. Indeed, the 2012 Open Doors report from the Institute of International Education found that India had become the 11th most popular country for US students abroad.

With the world's second largest population, and a fast-growing and ever-more influential economy, it's unsurprising that India's higher education system has undergone rapid expansion over the past few decades. It is now one of the largest higher education systems in the world (after China and the US). Today, India is known as a communication hub, and has become popular with international students from all over the world. It is highly attractive due to its forward thinking, its popularity with large multinational companies, and also due to English being the common language of communication. Also India has 150 million people for whom English is their main language so India is indeed becoming a knowledge center".

Foreigners can travel as cheaply or as lavishly as they want in India, and that's definitely part of its appeal as a tourist destination. India is known for its huge market places and most tourists visit the country because of the amazing shopping experience. India is a place that everyone should visit once in their lives to get out of their comfort zones and get a different perspective on life. The culture shock in India can be hard to deal with. However, you'll quickly come to appreciate what you have back home and how fortunate you really are. There's a saying in India, "*Athithi Devo Bhava*", which means "the guest is God". Indians consider it a huge honor to have guests in their home, and go out of their way to please them. There's nothing like Indian hospitality. And, as a result of the growing popularity of home stays in India, there are plenty of opportunities to experience it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University Centre for International Cooperation acknowledges input, critical suggestions and useful comments from the following persons.

1. Authorities of Mahatma Gandhi University
2. Amb. T. P. Sreenivasan, Former Ambassador of India in USA & Vice-Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council.
3. Members of the Executive committee of the University Centre for International Cooperation, Mahatma Gandhi University.
4. Dr. Raju K. Thadikkaran , Director, University Centre for International Cooperation, Mahatma Gandhi University.
5. Dr. C. Vinodan, Joint Director, University Centre for International Cooperation, Mahatma Gandhi University.
6. Dr. A.M. Thomas, Professor, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University.
7. Dr. K.M. Seethi, Director, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University.
8. Dr. Sabu Thomas, Director, International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IIUCNN), Mahatma Gandhi University.

The University Centre for International Cooperation acknowledge the following sources of information:

1. Wikipedia and other writings on Kerala/India
2. Website of the Mahatma Gandhi University and Govt. of India
3. "Global Tourism Discovery of India"
4. Annual reports and other occasional publications of Mahatma Gandhi University.
5. Writings contributed by consultants engaged by the University Centre for International Cooperation.
6. Writings by the Editors.





MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Established by Kerala State Legislature by Notification
No. 3431/Leg C1/85/Law dated 17th April 1985