



# MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER 2018

# 100+ STUDENT STARTUPS



**Giant Leap in NIRF Ranking: MGU ranked 34<sup>th</sup> position in India**

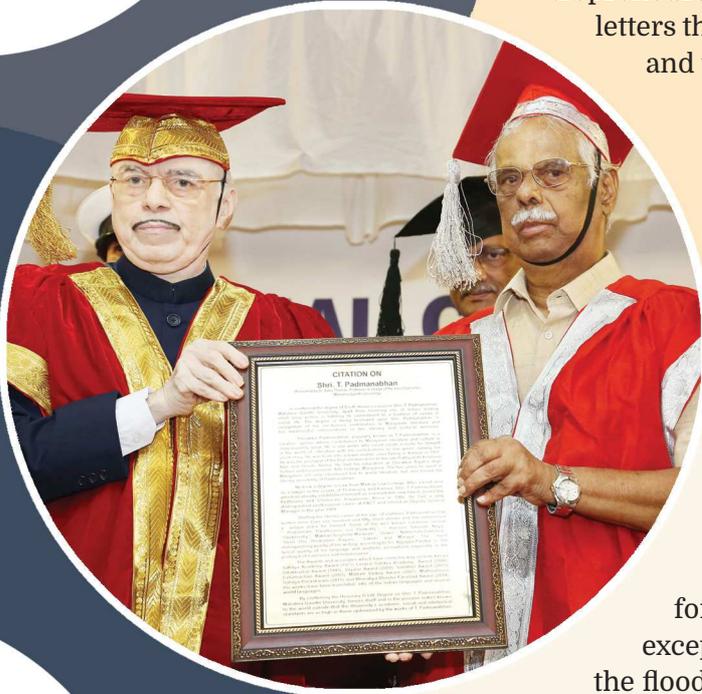
# D.Litt for T. Padmanabhan, Yusuf Ali

**G**overnor and Chancellor Justice (Rtd.) P. Sathasivam conferred honorary D.Litt (Doctor of Letters) to writer T. Padmanabhan and NRI businessman M.A. Yusuf Ali at a special convocation ceremony organised in the Mahatma Gandhi University Campus on 13th December 2018. The Governor stated that the receiptents have risen from humble beginnings and built their own empires; one in literature and the other in entrepreneurship. Both are extra ordinary in their own way. One with letters that immortalised the mystery and beauty of human emotions and the other with creative ideas - the Governor remarked.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. K.T. Jaleel, Higher Education Minister and Pro Chancellor of the Universities described how Mr. Padmanabhan touched the lives of Keralites and brought about a major change in Malayalam literature. Mr. Yusuf Ali, according to the Minister, taught Kerala society how hard work and dedication becomes the key to success.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Padmanabhan said he considered the honour bestowed upon him by Mahatma Gandhi as a unique gesture. "Throughout my life I have stayed true to myself and never allowed my works to become a merchandise. Neither have I gone after anyone for any recognition," - T. Padmanabhan ascertained.

Yusuf Ali said that the award would be an inspiration for him. He also congratulated the students of MGU for their exceptional performance in the relief activities carried out during the floods. Prof. Sabu Thomas, Vice Chancellor in charge, presented the citations. University registrar M.R. Unni also was present.



# From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

I am extremely happy to address you through the column of the Mahatma Gandhi University News Letter which is intended to update the MGU'ians on the trajectory of the great institution.

Our University all along had been unique, offering a model to be emulated by others. We can be proud enough to recall that the concept of interdisciplinarity has been initiated for the first time among Indian Universities way back in the late eighties. Besides promoting interdisciplinary approaches, we have been able to moot yet another unique intervention by incorporating inter-university centers paving way for multidisciplinary approaches in finding solutions for societal problems.

The Inter-University Centre (IUC), conceived as an independent institution for advanced studies and as a platform for the convergence of experts from various Universities with a mission to promote contacts, exchanges, collaborations, and sharing of resources through study programmes, courses, projects, and conferences across a wide range of scientific themes of intellectual concerns have set a major breakthrough in the academic echelons. Experts from various universities within the state, outside and worldwide can cooperate in organizing teaching, research and other activities at the IUC, which represents the distinct institutional system so structured as to be stimulating interdisciplinary research. The IUC addresses the need for the creation of the academic culture inspiring choices of deeper knowledge for problem-solving through the democratization of sciences enabling adherence to such values as people centeredness, empowerment orientation, inclusiveness, and sustainability.

The initiatives to map student progression by providing appropriate academic ambience, conducive environment for translating innovative and brilliant ideas of the students into a business/technology/industrial enterprise through Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (BIIC) has given the right impetus for elevating the campus into a new-gen University. The concerted efforts of the faculty, research scholars and the students have made the University to leapfrog in every aspect of higher education. The quantum jump in the NIRF Ranking, from 67th position to 34th rank during the current reporting period is exhilarating. I use this opportunity to congratulate all faculty, scholars and employees of this great organization in making the University into a truly global varsity.



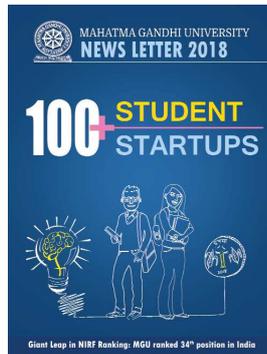
**Prof. (Dr.) Sabu Thomas**



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# EDITORIAL

MGU  
NEWS  
LETTER  
2018



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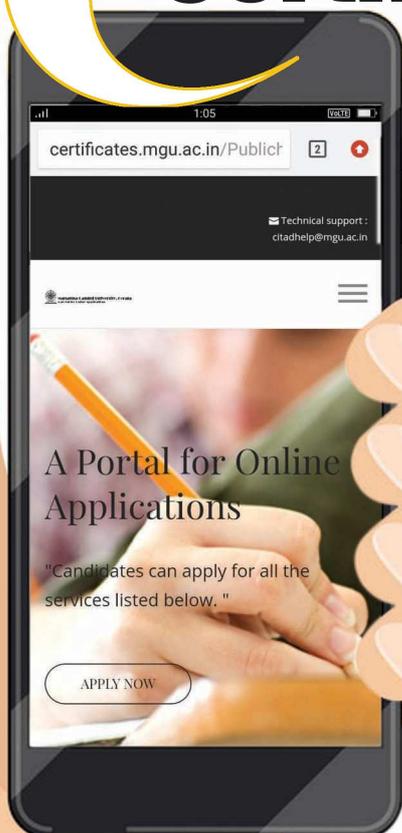
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# Certificates



**M**ahatma Gandhi University has introduced online facility for Eligibility and Equality Certificates, Migration Certificate, Inter College Transfer, Medium of instruction, re-admission, Condonation of attendance and Course Certificate. It is really a quantum jump for an affiliating University in the State. Students seeking the above certificates need to log on to and register on [www.certificates.mgu.ac.in](http://www.certificates.mgu.ac.in).

The application form details have to be filled online before making digital payment.



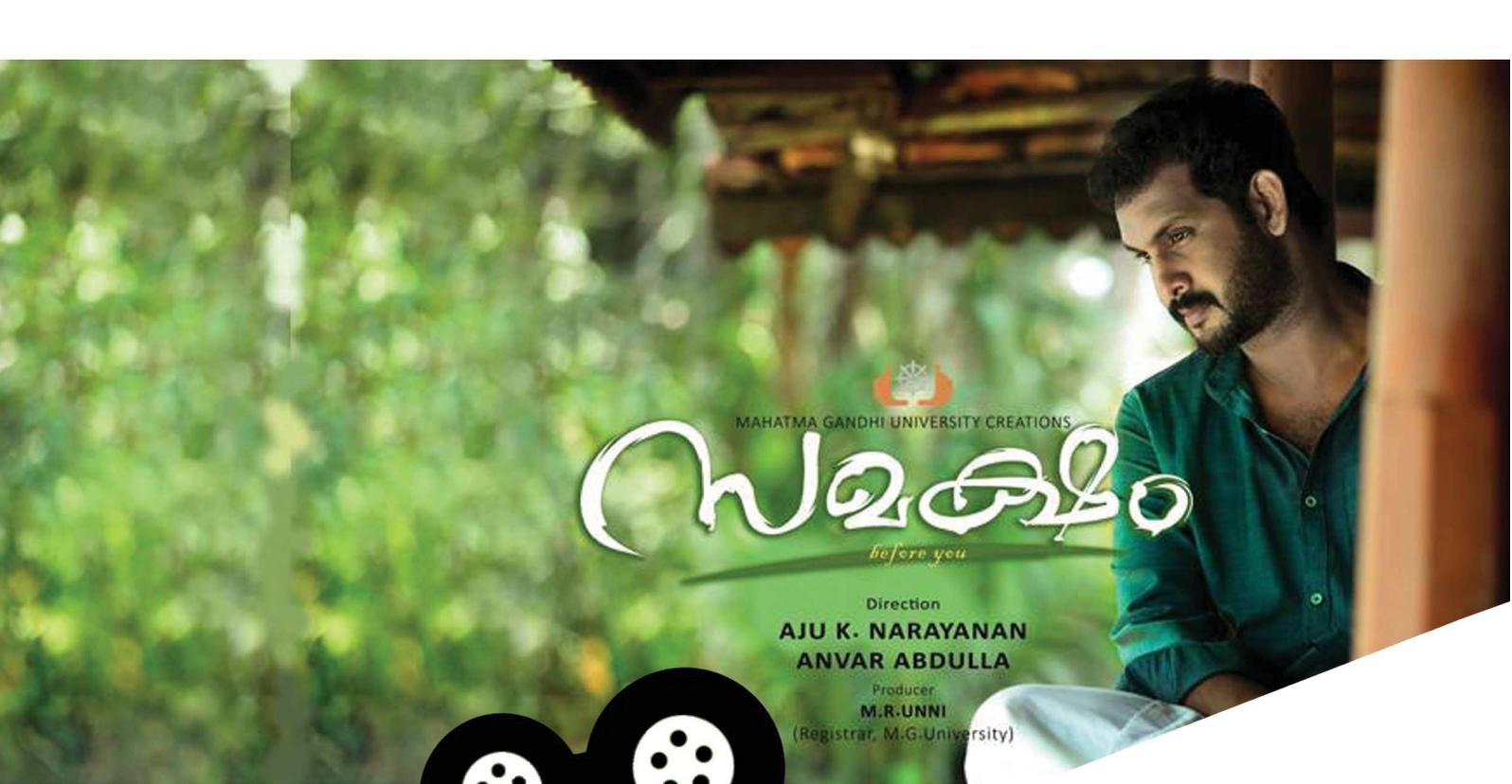
**M**aking a giant leap in ensuring a fool-proof examination system, Mahatma Gandhi University has commenced delivering online question papers for the examination of various under graduate courses in its affiliated colleges.

The online system, which is expected to speed up the entire examination process, including valuation and announcement of results, was launched at the examination of the third-semester degree courses on 27th Novem-

ber 2018. The question papers were selected and sent with the help of computers from the question bank prepared by the university.

Various affiliated colleges download it and distribute it to students after taking a print-outs at the examination centres. The question papers are being made available through a secure question paper transmission system in an encrypted format, which ensures error-free and secure delivery of question papers.

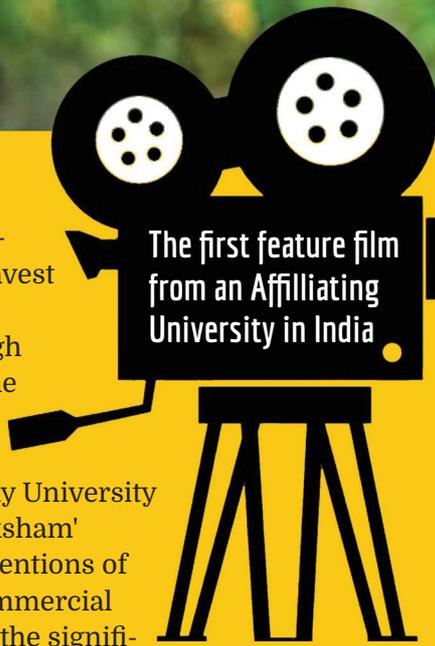
## Online question papers for UG exams



MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY CREATIONS  
**ചമക്കുഴി**  
*before you*

Direction  
**AJU K. NARAYANAN**  
**ANVAR ABDULLA**

Producer  
**M.R.UNNI**  
(Registrar, M.G.University)



The first feature film  
from an Affiliating  
University in India



**M**ahatma Gandhi University is addressing the gravest threat faced by mankind through 'Samaksham', the first full-length feature film made by any University in India. 'Samaksham' breaks the conventions of both art and commercial films to portray the significance of an organic way of living.

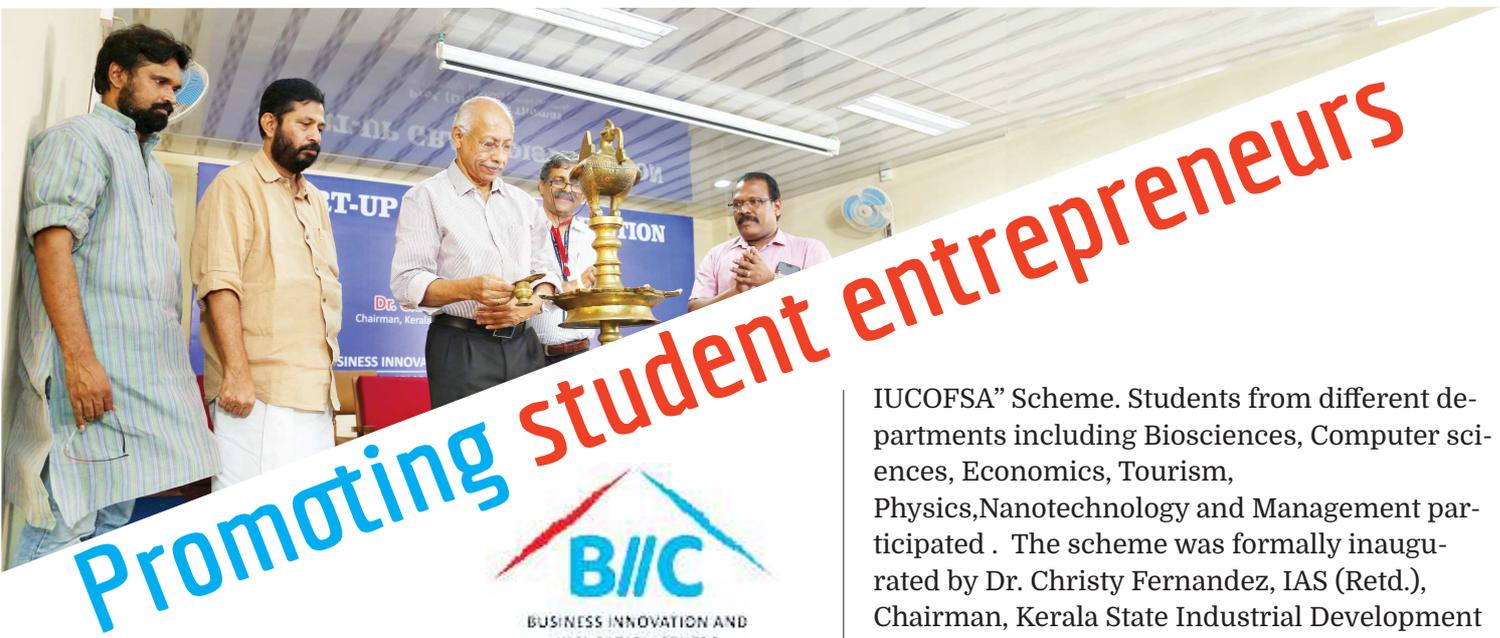
It breaks new grounds by focusing on serious social and environmental issues which are often depicted in a trivial light. Produced under the banner of Mahatma Gandhi University Creations, as part of its 'Jaivam' organic literacy drive covering over 4.2 Lakhs households in Kottayam District, deploying over 10000 trained National Service Scheme volunteers. Directed by Aju K. Narayanan and Anvar Abdulla, the film

# Samaksham, a story from the **soil**

was released in nine centres across the state on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The 120 minute long film tells the story of a young doctor who is disturbed by the deaths he comes across.

As a result, he questions the current practices in modern farming and their social fall-out. Actors Kailash, Gayathri Krishna, Sohan Seenulal and P Balachandran have played the lead roles in the movie.





# Promoting student entrepreneurs



**B**usiness Innovation and Incubation Centre, Mahatma Gandhi University has so far been able to mentor more than 100 student start-ups. BIIC, besides facilitating student start-ups, provides for patent facilitation and inculcate the values of entrepreneurship awareness of the students. The university established BIIC in 2016 with the sole intention of fostering a vibrant innovation system and better university-industry linkage. So far, 14 patents applications have been filed.

**Crossing 100 Student Startups**

40 students were provided grants under “BIIC Connect” and “BIIC-

IUCOFSA” Scheme. Students from different departments including Biosciences, Computer sciences, Economics, Tourism, Physics, Nanotechnology and Management participated. The scheme was formally inaugurated by Dr. Christy Fernandez, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. Speaking on the occasion D. Fernandez congratulated MGU for its achievements in entrepreneurial area.

“This achievement will strengthen the eco system of innovation in Kerala and will spread a strong message to the student community to strive harder.

Such endeavors on the part of the university will re-design the existing norms and prepare the ground to perceive the students as job providers and not as job seekers.” Dr.

Fernandez also offered the help of KSIDC to support the inculcation of the ideas. Prof. (Dr.) Sabu Thomas, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, claimed that this is the first time that any university was able to make such phenomenal achievement. Syndicate members Adv P. K. Harikumar and Dr.

R. Pragash, Dr. Girish Kumar R, Director, BIIC, and Prof. DR.

Mathew Kurien also spoke.



# MGU Campus is differently abled-friendly



MGU News Letter 2018

**M**ahatma Gandhi University has become the first differently abled friendly varsity in the state by introducing battery-driven buggies to transport students, employees and visitors on its campus in Kottayam.

Prathyasha Foundation director Simon George and Biju Varghese, a national-award winning innovator, flagged off the vehicle.

Vice-chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas said that the varsity is keen to recast the infrastructure into cent percent friendly for the differently abled. Moreover plans are afoot to install elevators, and put in place special rest rooms and disabled-friendly parking area.

Syndicate members Dr. K. Krishnadas, Dr. P. K. Padmakumar, Dr. A. Jose and Dr. R. Pragash, Registrar M. R. Unni, Internal Quality Assurance Cell Director Prof. C.T. Aravindakumar, School of Tourism Studies Director Dr. Robinet Jacob and IUCDS Director Dr. P.T. Baburaj spoke on the occasion.

A seminar on how to increase the quality of life of differently-abled people, and on manufacture of special vehicles for them was jointly conducted by Internal Quality Assurance Cell and Centre for Disability Studies on the occasion.

first  
differently abled  
friendly  
varsity in the state



# School of Behavioural Sciences



Inter University Centre for Disability Studies and Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in association with Revenue and Social Justice Department organised a 4 day training programme on Disaster Risk Reduction for differently abled persons in 14 districts of Kerala.



## Two Day Workshop

Inter University centre for disability studies (IUCDS) conducted a two day workshop on remedial coaching and counselling of children with learning disabilities for teachers, parents, research scholars and other rehabilitation professionals on 1st and 2nd August 2008. The programme was inaugurated by Prof.



Sabu Thomas, Pro Vice –Chancellor.

Dr.P.T Baburaj, IUCDS Director presided over the function. Dr. Robinet



Jacob, Director, School of Tourism Studies and Director of IQAC provided the felicitation. Ms.Hena N.N,

Lecturer, IUCDS welcomed the gathering and Dr. Anila Kumari M.C delivered the vote of thanks.



## CRE Programme

Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS), Mahatma Gandhi University and Composite Regional Centre for Persons with Disabilities –Kerala (CRC-Kozhikode) jointly conducted a two day state level CRE programme . The topic of the programme is 'Physical Education Spots & Games . The RCI registered special educators and other rehabilitation professionals can attend the programme.

## Research Methodology Workshop

Inter University Centre for Disability Studies organized a two day workshop on "Research Methodology 27th -28th December 2018.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P.T. Baburaj, Hon. Director, IUCDS presided over the function. Ms.Hena N.N, Lecturer, IUCDS welcomed the gathering.

## Orientation Workshop

IUCDS organised Orientation Workshop on Accountability to Affected Populations, Kottayam on 1st November 2018. Ms. EshaPriya IAS, Sub Collector, Kottayam inaugurate the workshop.

The session on introduction Core Humanitarian Standards was conducted by Mr. Manish Jain in a participatory manner through a peer review and learning process.

Organized a five-day National Workshop on “Digital Image Processing, Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision using MATLAB” by Dr. Mahesh Anand, Founder and CTO, Scientific Computing Solutions India under the DST-PURSE (Phase-II) scheme from 8.1.2018 to 12.1.2018.



- ▶ Organized International Women’s Day Celebrations at School with a Quiz competition on “Socially and Educationally Inspired Women” on 9.3.2018.
- ▶ Organised a technical talk on “Bridging the Gap between Academia and Industry” by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kochi on 19.12.2018
- ▶ Being a nodal department of Business Incubation and Innovation Centre (BIIC), Mahatma Gandhi University, conducted selection committee meeting of the research scholars start-up projects under BIIC- FLI-II ( From Lab to Industry) 2018 on 19.12.2018 with the help of external experts from Academia and Industry. The projects were evaluated under the industrial potential and 3 start-up projects were selected from the School.
- ▶ Initial discussion was conducted with representative from "Global Academy of Technology", Bangalore.

Smart Classroom setup in the School under RUSA project was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor on 17.12.2018. MGU setup 14 smart Classrooms in various schools. Technical staff and Faculty members attended the Testing and Technical Training and Users Training workshops organized in December 2018.



## Best Paper Award

Research paper titled “Novel Quality Metric for Image Super Resolution Algorithms – Super Resolution Entropy Metric (SREM)” authored by Greeshma M S and Bindu V.R. won the Best Paper Award at the Second International Conference on ‘Recent Trends in Image Processing and Pattern Recognition (RTIP2R 2018)’, organized by Solapur University, India in collaboration with Universidade de Evora, PORTUGAL and the University of South Dakota, USA, sponsored by Springer, MHRD and CSIR, during 21-22 December 2018.





# 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Globalization

11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, MG University

Organized by

## School of Tourism Studies

School of Tourism Studies MG University has significant accomplishment in involving academic, research industry collaborations and scholarly activities in the year 2018. In the beginning of the year, the School organized the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Globalization (ICSG) in collaboration with University of Wisconsin Parkside USA, Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Germany and Saint Petersburg State University of Economics. Prominent academics and Industry experts from 10 different countries participated and presented their research papers at this international event.

Apart from this scientific event, the School also celebrates the World Tourism Day 2018 theming tourism and the digital transformation. Key speakers involved in the session were Sri.Jiju Jose, Chief Executive officer Green Tourism circuit Dept.of tourism, Govt. of kerala and Sri. GireeshKumar BIIC Director,

MGU.

A holistic academic and aptitude event named as Sasthrayan exhibition was also organized by the School to strengthen its academic capabilities and exhibit students' aptitude on destination related studies. Which not only exhibited the students' academic works but also facilitated the unique culture of Kerala tourism. In November 2018, the School organized a special lecture session by Mr. Sushanth Sreenivasan, Branch Head, Foreign Exchange Thomas Cook India on transformation of Travel trade on the School.

The graduating class of the School, the School organized a talk and interactive workshop theming 'how to write effectively' in November 2018.

In order to enhance group dynamism and increase the tourism product knowledge, the School also organised an education trip to Kodaikanal in February 2018.



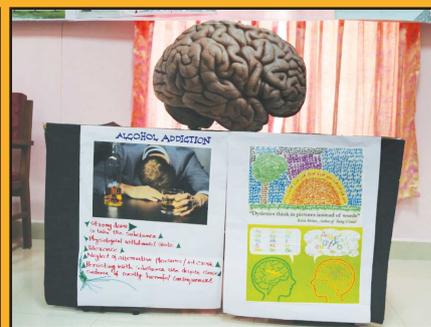


# Sasthrayaan

As part of the “Shasthrayaan” scheme M. G. University opened the doors of its laboratories for two days to the general public and aspiring students. Students and the public thronged in large numbers on February 26 and 27 providing a unique opportunity for the visitors to familiarize with the various activities of the Departments and to know about its achievements, inventions, facilities, research projects, implementation etc. This exercise certainly helped the society to have a first hand knowledge about the academic functioning of the university and the academics to understand the issues and concerns of the society which would help the university to reorient research and academic function towards the societal needs.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman, ISRO on 26th February at School of Chemical Sciences auditorium. During the inaugural speech Dr. K. Radhakrishnan emphasized the importance of research work focusing towards the sustainable development of the nation.

The function was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor (i/c) Prof. Dr. Sabu Thomas and Dr. Tommy John (PSG member RUSA) introduced Shastrayaan scheme. Dr. Robinet Jacob, IQAC joint Director, Dr. B. Prakash Kumar, DCDC and Dr. S. Anas, programme co-ordinator spoke. Around 2600 people visited various schools during these days.



# Giant leap in NIRF



In the third sector-wise ranking of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) introduced by the Union ministry of Human Resources Development, MG University has made a remarkable stride to the 34th position from previous year's 67th rank.



## From Labs to Industry

In a bid to bring research scholars to address industry requirements, Mahatma Gandhi University launched 'From Labs to Industry' programme (FLI) on January 19. FLI attempts to translate scientific findings into innovative products and services to improve the quality of living.

The attempt is to bring the findings of the research scholars to the society and make their innovative findings patented, promoting of industrial applications.

MGU identified nearly two dozen start-up projects from among research scholars, who are either pursuing PhDs or have recently submitted their PhDs.

Seven faculty members from different teaching departments expressed their willingness to serve as faculty mentors.

The attempt is to synergise better industry-academia linkage. To ensure Knowledge Transfer that is mutually beneficial to university and industries, the Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (BIIC) of the varsity is keen to transfer of expertise and skills the needy.

MGU foresees that this would not only generate external resources, ensure University's self-sustainability but also enable academics to fine-tune research to address industrial and societal needs.

IIUCNN



Vice Chancellor Dr. Babu Sebastian inaugurating the 'Bio-materials for Tomorrow' Workshop



Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sabu Thomas inaugurating the University Data Centre

IUCOFA



'Jaivam' Painting Exhibition

IIUCNN



Prof. C.N.R. Rao inaugurating International Nano Conclave 2018



Vice Chancellor Dr. Babu Sebastian inaugurating the online certificate services



Shri. Subhash Palekar inaugurating the zero budget farming workshop

MCU News Letter 2018



**School of Biosciences**

Adv. P.K. Harikumar, Member of Syndicate inaugurating the Sustainable Water Resource Management Workshop



**IUCDS**

Dr. P.K. Padmakumar, Member of Syndicate inaugurating the hearing aid distribution



Vice Chancellor Dr. Babu Sebastian inaugurating the Students Adalath 2018



**School of Letters**

V.C. Harris Vajnanika Sadas : Prof. Jonathan Dollimore delivering the Erudite Lecture in the name of the late V.C. Harris

MGU News Letter 2018



**School of Environmental Sciences**

World Environment Day : Mass cleaning at Pathiramanal Island



**SGTDS**

Vice Chancellor (i/c) Prof. Sabu Thomas inaugurating the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations

**M**ahatma Gandhi University extended its helping hand to Kumarakom Government Vocational Higher Secondary School to rebuild their library lost in floods. Books worth Rs 1.30 lakhs was handed over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas at a function 'Snehaksharam' held at the school auditorium. The university had contributed 511 books to the school library. Kumarakom Grama Panchayat President AP Salimon presided over the function. District Panchayat member Jayesh Mohan delivered the keynote address. Gram Panchayat member Sindhu Ravikumar, University Librarian Dr. Laila T. Abraham, Principals Leia Thomas, Viswanathan Nair, Headmaster Vijayakumar and PTA President Philip Scaria also addressed the gathering.

## Rebuild Library

## Rebuild Life

**M**GU provided duplicate copies of mark sheets and certificates to those candidates who have lost the same in the 2018 floods and landslides that hit the state of Kerala. The university conducted 'Kaniv' Adalat on August 25, 2018, distribute 327 certificates to those candidates who have lost in floods. Prof. Sabu Thomas, Vice-Chancellor MGU inaugurated the Adalat.



Snehaksharam: Handing over of books to rebuild library





A mega Job fair titled Disha 2018 was conducted by the Employability center Kottayam in association with Placement and Training Cell of Mahatma Gandhi University, in the Campus. Around 50 companies came for recruitment and around 5000 students participated in it.

The students got the opportunity to be the volunteers of the program. Students were able to hone up their skills in co-ordinating the activities and managing the whole event.

## Disha Mega Job fair



University Union Chairman Nikhil S, General Secretary Sai Krishna



University Union Office bearers

MGU News Letter 2018

As part of revising the syllabi for all its credit-and-semester post graduate courses from the next academic year, a three-day workshop was organised from 5th December.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas inaugurated the workshop. C. James and Gabriel Simon Thattathil made subject presentations during the event, which was attended by the chairmen of all PG Boards of Studies and members of the Board. MGU is reworking the syllabi of 80 courses across 45 different subjects articulating innovative content, to ensure better job opportunities for the students.

A new evaluation system which envisages a seven-point-scale for grading as against the current five-point-scale is being developed. Students should secure a minimum of 'C' grade and 75% attendance to successfully complete a course. The courses will have a total of 80 credits with each semester having 16-25 credits. The revision of the PG syllabi was previously carried out in 2012.

# Reworking PG syllabi

## 80 courses across 45 different subjects





Vice Chancellor Dr. Babu Sebastian and top brass of the University initiates experimental paddy cultivation in Vaikom

MCU News Letter 2018

# Jaivam

chemical-free farm practices

**K**ottayam, the ‘land of lakes, latex and letters’ in Kerala and the first district in the country to achieve total literacy, is hitting the headlines again.

Referred to also as the capital of the plantation country, it is now piloting a silent revolution by spreading organic way of living, at the behest of the Mahatma Gandhi University. The Inter University Centre for Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture at the University is driving the massive programme titled ‘Jaivam’. This is a unique public education programme on organic means of living and chemical-free farm practices covering the entire households in the district.

The project has covered 4,25,361 households through house visits by trained volunteers. The 9,400 volunteers drawn from the National Service Scheme have participated in 118 camps to cover 71

grama panchayats and six municipalities in the district. Pilot camps have been held outside Kottayam as part of a proposal to take Jaivam to other parts of State.

### Global organic meet

The university organised a Global Organic Meet from April 21 to 24 at CMS College, Kottayam, as part of the project. It also included an international seminar on ‘emerging trends in organic farming and sustainable agriculture’.

Jaivam project was conceived as complimentary to the larger Haritha Keralam Mission of the State government. It is being implemented by a high-level committee under the chairmanship of Adv. P.K. Harikumar.



Harvesting ‘Njavara’ rice from the experimental paddy field of IUCOFSA, in Vaikom



Independence Day Celebration : Vice Chancellor Dr. Babu Sebastian hoisting the National Flag



Vice Chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas inaugurating the National Service Scheme 'Sukrutham' Camps



Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas receiving the best Faculty Research Award from Union MHRD Minister Prakash Javadekar



State NSS Awardees : Sini Jacob (Best Programme Officer, St. George College, Aruvithura), Best Volunteers : Poojamol P.B. (Baselious College, Kottayam), Sachin S. Dev (Marthoma College, Thiruvalla), Navya Yesudas (St. Xaviers College for women, Aluva)



Vice Chancellor Dr. Babu Sebastian inaugurating the World Yoga Day Celebrations



NUALS Vice Chancellor Dr. Rose Varghese inaugurating the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture

MGU Vice Chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas kicks off a ball to open the training session of a football team of differently abled persons in the vocational rehabilitation centre under the School of Behavioural Sciences

New beginning



