



insider

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Issue 1 | Autumn | 2020

601-800th World University Rankings 2021

Scores

Overall	30.2-36.3
Teaching	40.9
Research	24.0
Citations	36.8
Industry Income	34.9
International outlook	18.9

Joins the World University Rankings 2021

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 has Placed MGU in the Band of 601-800

MGU joins the list of Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021



along with other 63 Indian universities. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 includes more than 1,500 universities across 93 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings until

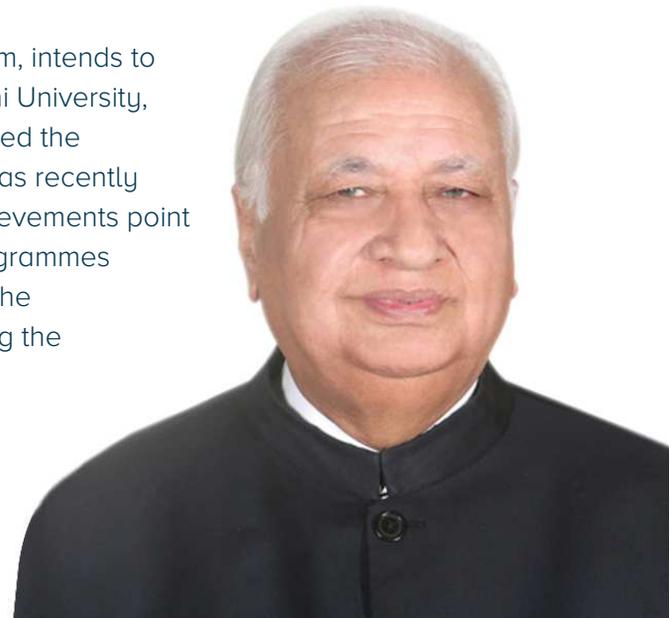
now.

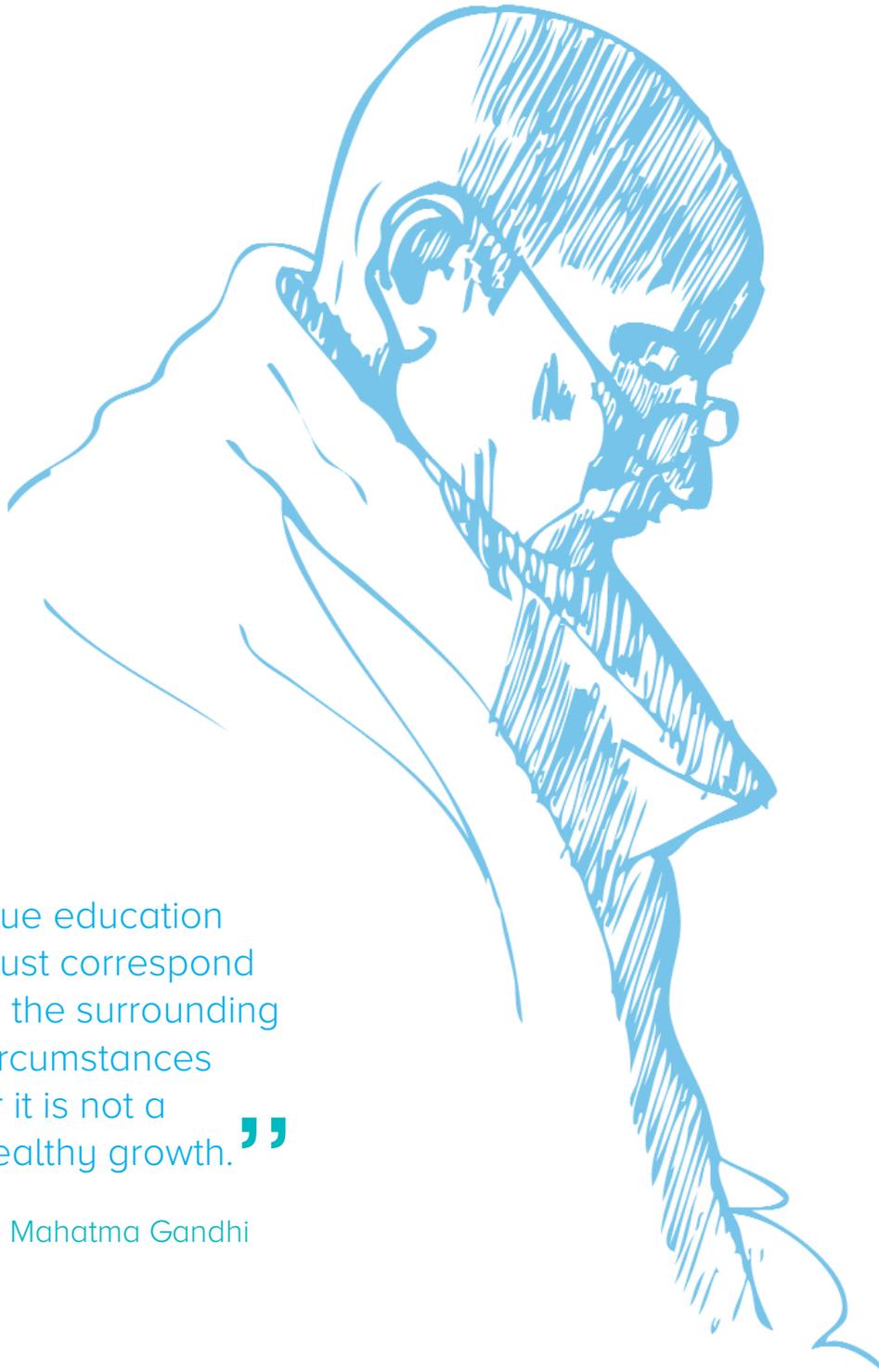
The ranking was based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.



I am happy to know that Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, intends to publish an official Newsletter entitled Insider, Mahatma Gandhi University, shortly. It is commendable that the university, which had bagged the Chancellor's Award for the best university in the State twice, has recently been ranked 6th in the India Today MRDA ranking. These achievements point to the effectiveness of the innovative and student friendly programmes implemented by the University in recent years. I compliment the Vice Chancellor and the Syndicate of the University for starting the newsletter and wish the publication all success.

Arif Mohammed Khan
Hon'ble Governor of Kerala





“ True education must correspond to the surrounding circumstances or it is not a healthy growth. ”

| Mahatma Gandhi

From the Vice Chancellor's Desk



Ever since its inception in 1983, Mahatma Gandhi University has been making phenomenal strides in the propagation of learning and research, creating an identity and benchmark of its own among Indian Universities. Our achievements over the years are by no means the least. In October 2017 the University was accredited with 'A' grade by NAAC with a score of 3.24 points which is the highest among the Universities in Kerala. We were able to bag the Chancellor's Award for the best University in the State for the year 2015-16 and 2017-18.

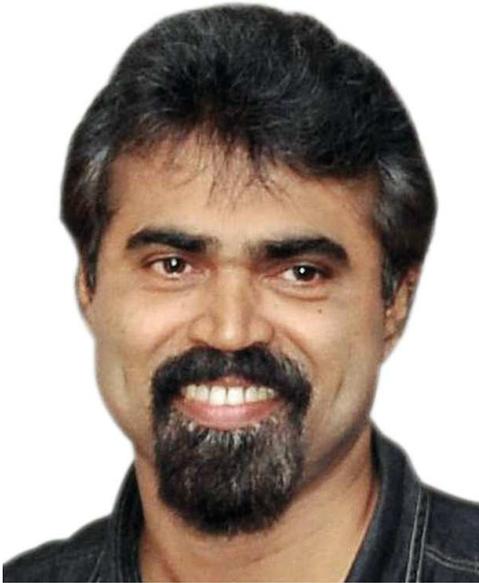
Our University was ranked 30th in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) conducted by the Ministry of HRD. In the overall ranking process of the Indian Universities by India Today, Mahatma Gandhi University was ranked 6th in MRDA Ranking 2019. CSIR has ranked Mahatma Gandhi University 13th in India in terms of Intellectual Productivity and NISTADS has rated it 19th in terms of h-index of the Science Faculty. DST has ranked the University 8th among the 29 Universities under the PURSE Programme. Our University has been placed within 6th to 25th position in the 'ATAL Ranking of Institutions on Innovation and Achievements'. We have had an impressive performance by being placed among the top 600–800 Universities of the world in seven categories by the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, 2020.

In the area of Life Sciences our world ranking is 501-600, while in Physical Sciences it is 701-800. Our University has been implementing many innovative and student friendly programmes in tune with the changing times. However, it is seldom that these achievements are documented, recognised and presented to the world in a befitting manner. It is in this backdrop that we are launching Insider, the official Newsletter of the University, which we hope will serve as our bandwagon and as our trumpet to the world, presenting a kaleidoscopic vision of our triumphal procession in the realm of the creation of propagation of knowledge. It is designed as a platform for the University to pour forth its vision and mission to the general public, the society and the world at large. It is meant to be a chronicle of events in our pursuit of excellence and as a clarion call to awaken and to inspire.

I take this occasion to express my sincere gratitude to the academia, the student community and the administrative staff and all other stakeholders who have lent their unmitigated support to make this venture a grand success. I fervently hope that Insider will turn out to be a casement for the world to look through and have at least a glimpse of the University, if not a vivid image.

Prof. (Dr.) Sabu Thomas
Vice Chancellor





From the Pro - Vice Chancellor's Desk

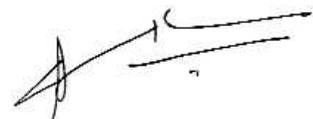
“ Greetings!

The year 2020 has given a rollercoaster ride for the human race and I hope this message find you in good health amidst the global pandemic. It's a pleasure to see the fruitful fulfilment of the effort put forth by the newsletter team to bring out the Insider, the first revised and online version of the University's newsletter which highlights the achievements of the staff and students of the university. I am happy to share the impressive performance of the University which placed us at the 30th position in the NIRF University ranking 2020, 49th position in the NIRF overall ranking, 601-800 rank of the Work University ranking by the Times Higher education and within the first 25 best universities under the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA).

I admire the resilience of my colleagues as well as our students who made it through the semester, despite many practical difficulties. They tried their best and evolved the methods for learning, teaching and research. Our faculty stood in the forefront of this major changes and found ways through it to shift our classes online and to mentor students virtually.

I encourage everyone to make an extra effort to stay in touch to keep moving towards the vision and mission of our University. I am extremely glad on the achievements made by the students as well as our faculties with the support of the administration, which helped our University to flourish. I hope all these achievements will pave way to greater heights of excellence in the days to come.

Wishing a great and safe time ahead.



Prof. (Dr.) C.T. Aravindakumar
Pro-Vice Chancellor

The Government Reconstitutes MGU Syndicate

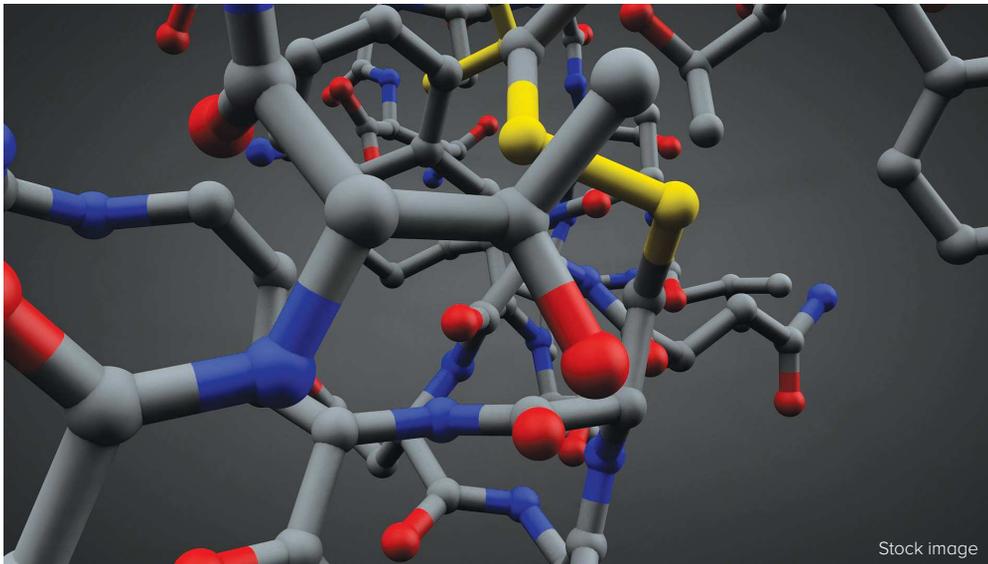
The Government of Kerala reconstituted the MGU Syndicate, the highest decision-making body of the university. The Syndicate approves matters relating to the administration of the university as well as academics.

The newly appointed members to the Syndicate are Adv. P Shanavas, Advocate in Kottayam; Adv. M. Anil Kumar, M M Cheriyan Law Chambers; Dr. B Keralavarma, former Associate Professor, Government College, Nattakom, Kottayam; Dr. A. Jose, former Associate Professor, K. E. College, Kottayam; Dr. Biju Thomas, Principal, Baselius College, Kottayam; Dr. Sujatha S, Principal, N.S.S.Hindu College, Changanacherry; Dr. Nandakumar Kalarikkal, Professor and Head, Pure and Applied Physics, MGU; Dr. Biju Pushpan, Principal, Sahodaran Ayyappan Smaraka S.N.D.P Yogam College, Konni; Prof. K.M. Krishnan, Dean, Faculty of Language and Literature, MGU; Prof. Santhosh P. Thampi, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, MGU; Prof. Bismi Gopalakrishnan, Dean, Faculty of Law, MGU; Dr. Varghese K Cherian, Principal, St. Joseph Training College, Kottayam; Dr. Mathew George, Spl Grade Principal, Maharajas College, Ernakulam; Dr. Sudhakaran K M, Assistant Professor, Sree Sankara Vidhyapeedam College, Perumbavoor; Prof. Harikrishnan P, Associate Professor, N S S College, Idukki; Dr. Shajila Beevi.S, Associate Professor, Maharajas College, Ernakulam; Ms. Daya Sabu, The School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, MGU.

SYNDICATE MEMBERS



MGU Secures a Patent for the Invention on Potential Polymer Composites that Shields Electromagnetic Interference



Prof. Sabu Thomas, Prof. Nandakumar Kalarikkal and Dr. Mohammad Arif at MGU have bagged a patent for their invention of a material based on polymer composites, which has the capacity to shield the electromagnetic interference of electronic devices.

A carbon nanotube-based polymer blend composite has been developed under joint research conducted by Prof. Sabu Thomas, Prof. Nandakumar Kalarikkal, and Dr. Mohammad Arif. The invented material was thin, light weight and had good mechanical properties. Currently, metal-based plates are used in the electronics industry to shield electromagnetic interference. This invention is expected to bring in

revolutionary changes in the mobile phone manufacturing and allied electronics industry. In the composite material, the carbon nanotubes are used to stitch the interface polymer blends by the localization of the carbon nanotube at the polymer blend interface. The interfacial stitching gives rise to the blend nanocomposite having stable morphology with excellent mechanical stability, dielectric and

electrical conductivity. This can be useful for protecting the electromagnetic fields from mobile phones and other communication systems. With these applications, a patent has been granted to the patentee for an invention entitled 'Polymer Nanocomposite, Process and Applications' for the term of 20 years from the 9th day of March 2015 in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

For more information about the invention, please visit: <https://data.epo.org/gpi/ep3268425a1-a-polymer-nanocomposite-process-and-applications-thereof>



Prof. Sabu Thomas



Prof. Nandakumar Kalarikkal



Dr. Mohammad Arif

The UGC-STRIDE Launches Faculty Development Programmes

MGU has received the prestigious UGC-Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) grant to identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research relevant to national development and to enhance the overall well-being of society.

Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) aims to promote innovative culture for trans-disciplinary research especially in Universities and Colleges. The main objectives of STRIDE are to identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research relevant to national development and to fund high impact multi institutional network projects in the identified thrust areas in humanities and human sciences and Indian knowledge system. STRIDE, through its three components, supports the initiatives and research projects that are socially relevant, local need-based, nationally important and globally significant to accomplish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and wellbeing of society. MGU conducted two short-term training programmes after its launch in September, 2020.

Dr. Noushad P P organised a oneweek training programme in quantitative research intending to equip young faculty members of

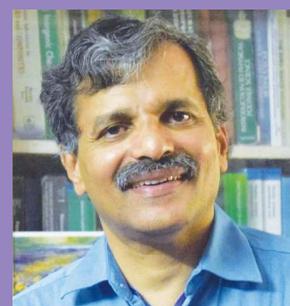
MGU to utilise higher level quantitative techniques in social research.

Dr. Rajesh Many designed and organised a one week faculty training programme on Advanced Training in ICT-Enabled Online Teaching Tools for the faculty from statutory schools, departments, centers and affiliated colleges of MGU. The course, intended at enhancing the ICT-enabled online teaching skills of the faculties in science and social science disciplines, especially in the COVID-19 scenario. The course covered various emerging online teaching tools like Video Conferencing Tools, Learning Management Systems, Virtual Lab, Online Assessment Techniques, PhET Interactive Simulations, MindMap Tools, and Interactive Videos and Presentations. The classes were delivered by eminent faculties of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. 265 faculties from different affiliated institutions under the MGU have participated in the training programme.

For further information, please contact
Dr. Abhilash Babu,
stride@mgu.ac.in

UGC-STRIDE Components

- Component-1: Research Capacity Building and Human Resource Development focused on colleges and Universities [All disciplines] (Duration – up to 3 Years).
- Component-2: Trans-Disciplinary Research and Inclusive Innovation for National Development [All disciplines] (Duration – up to 3 Years)
- Component-3: High Impact Trans-disciplinary Research in Humanities and Human Sciences
[Includes thrust areas in following subjects (not limited to) – Philosophy, History, Archaeology, Anthropology, Psychology, Liberal Arts, Linguistics, Indian Languages and Culture, Indian Knowledge Systems, Law, Education, Journalism, Mass Communication, Commerce, Management, Environment and Sustainable Development]
(Duration – up to 5 Years)



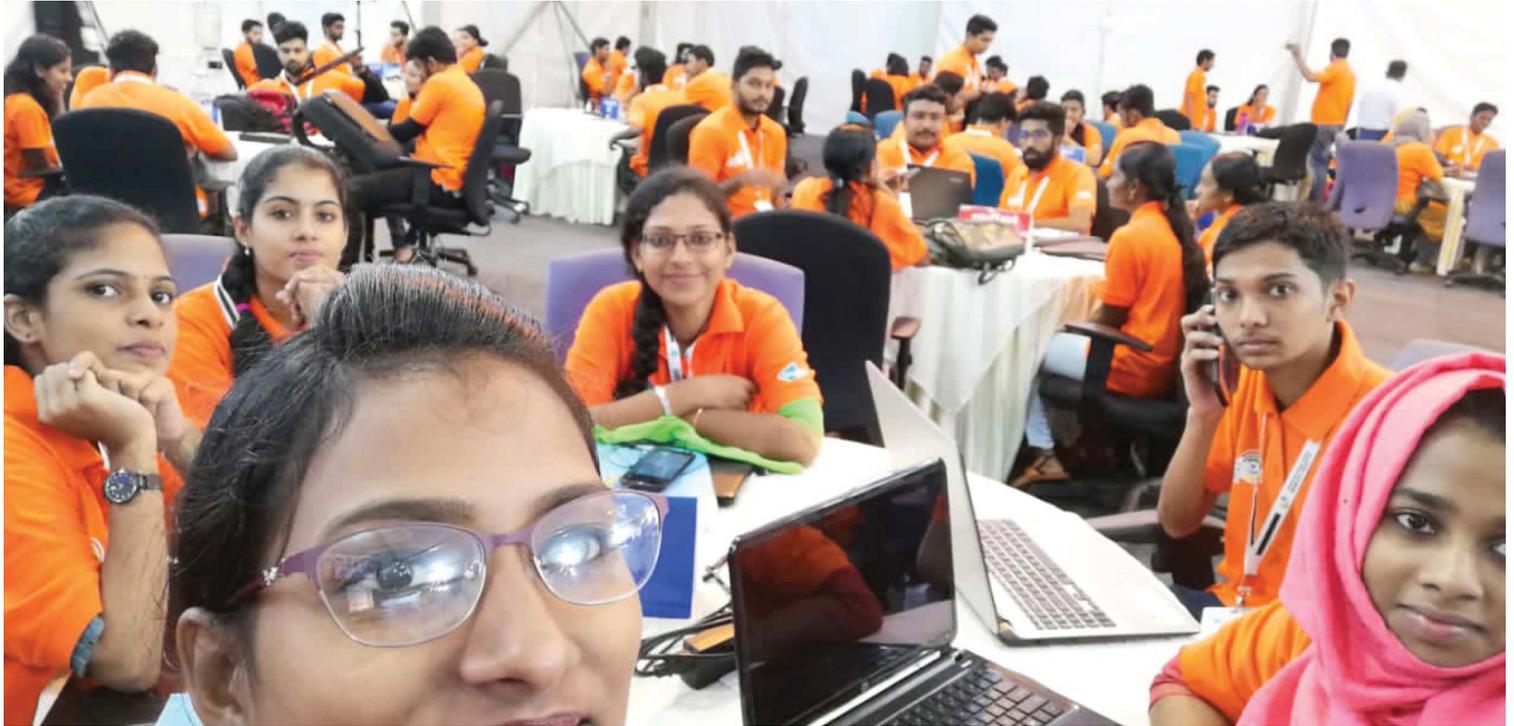
Prof. Sabu Thomas
(TRIDE Chairman)



Dr. Abhilash Babu
STRIDE Coordinator

MGU Participates in the Reboot Kerala Hackathon 2020

MGU participated in the Reboot Kerala hackathon organized by the ASAP and Department of Higher Education Kerala in the theme Health care, Social Justice.



Reboot Kerala Hackathon is an initiative of the Department of Higher Education – Government of Kerala and the Additional Skill Acquisition Program (ASAP) aiming to provide students of Higher Education Institutions a platform to

solve some of the pressing problems and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving. A team of six members, Tina K D, Surya Rao, Bhagi S Parvathy, Sooraj Krishnan V S, and Nafsa

Shifna K V lead by Akshaya S represented MGU under the topic of epidemic diseases. Mr. Sooraj Krishnan V S, SOCS, was shortlisted for the interview by Kimball Electronics after their performance that lasted 48 hours without a break.

Vidyamrutam Implements Learning Management System

Vidyamrutam is a customized implementation of the Moodle framework integrated Learning Management System (LMS) with a web conferencing facility. Students can access the system using the url vidyamrutam.mgu.ac.in for attending

their classes using any devices like a computer, laptop, tabs, and smart phones. Using this platform, teachers of statutory schools and centres at MGU can manage all their teaching activities online. As part of this initiative, an extensive faculty training pro-

A platform for online teaching and learning is implemented in MGU under the name Vidyamrutam.

gramme for teachers of the University on Vidyamrutam was organized by the School of Computer Sciences.

For more information on Vidyamrutam project, please contact: Prof. Bindu V.R: binduvr@mgu.ac.in

The Great-Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi Addresses MGU

The Great-Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Kirti Menon, delivered an online talk at the university on the topic 'Gandhi Under African Skies'.

Dr. Kirti Menon is an activist, educator and writer based in Johannesburg, South Africa. She focuses her research on quality of higher education. Her grandfather was Manilal Gandhi who remained in South Africa along with his wife Sushila Gandhi at Phoenix Settlement, Inanda, Durban. Dr Kirti Menon currently works as the Senior Director of Academic Planning, Quality Promotion and Academic Staff Development at the

University of Johannesburg.

Dr. Kirti Menon made a critical analysis of the making of Mahatma Gandhi under South African skies.

She also beautifully narrated her personal family memories of Gandhi and his revolutionary ideologies within the context of Phoenix settlement and Tolstoy Farm. Honourable Vice-Chancellor and Pro-vice-chancellor of the university extended a detailed talk on the significance of Gandhian



thoughts in modern world and MGU's various collaborative research activities with South African universities.

The programme was organised by Dr. Rajesh Many at School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies.

SCS Develops Cheap Hand Sanitizer in the Covid-19 scenario

The School of chemical Sciences (SCS) has started the production of low-cost hand sanitizer in collaboration with IQAC

The School of Chemical Sciences in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Mahatma Gandhi University developed cost effective hand sanitizer and made it available throughout the University.



Five Ph.D Graduations from SPAP

The School of Pure and Applied Physics (SPAP) produced five Ph.D graduates in last six months. The concerned researches helped the School to publish more than 51 peer reviewed articles in top rated journals with an average of 6 per faculty. The school has raised approximately 27 million from various agencies to conduct research.

The SPAP was established alongside the establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi University in 1983. The school currently has 8 permanent faculties and more than 20 researchers conducting research, including but not limited to biophysics, astrophysics, advanced materials,

solar physics, optoelectronics, photonic and crystalline materials, sol-gel optics, ultrafast and attosecond science. The school offers a two-year Master of Science in Physics programme, a M. Phil Programme and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) research programme.

The school, jointly with the International and Inter University centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IIUCNN) organized 2 international and one national conference in the past 6 months.

For more information, please visit <https://spap.mgu.ac.in/>



3-Days International Workshop on Medical Imaging and Nanotechnology- Latest Trends (IWMN-2020)



3-Days International Workshop on Catalysis and Applications (IWCA 2020)

SCS Raises ₹17 Million for Research in Emerging Areas of Chemical Sciences and Polymer Research

The School of Chemical Sciences (SCS) has raised around ₹17 million from various funding agencies in India and abroad for advanced research in chemical sciences. It has recently published more than 74 articles including books and book chapters. The School has also organized more than 27 outreach activities, one national conference and received two international/national collaborations. Two patents have been filed and are currently awaiting approval.

The School of Chemical Sciences is one among the initial statutory departments of the Mahatma Gandhi University. The SCS has diversified and widened its academic activities realizing the significance of chemistry as the central science and the need for the development of all aspects of teaching and research in chemistry. At present the school offers four different M.Sc. Programmes along with M. Phil, M. Tech and Ph.D. programmes covering all branches of chemistry and polymer science. The school has made a steady progress in all spheres of activities and has academic programmes spread in four

broad divisions, namely Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Polymer Chemistry. The school has gained both national and international acclaim for the research output and publications of the faculty and students. The M.Sc./M. Phil./M. Tech. and Ph.D. students have secured top positions in academia and industries in India and abroad. This school is blessed with reputed scholars on the faculty and has a good ambiance for carrying out quality research in frontier areas of chemical sciences. The school has also state-of-the-art laboratories with modern equipment for scientific research.

SCS Highlights

- ▶▶ Dr. Suresh Mathew was selected as RSC Highly Cited Author 2018
- ▶▶ Dr. G. Anilkumar was selected as an editorial board member-Current Catalysis and Current Organic Synthesis (Bentham)
- ▶▶ Dr. G. Anil Kumar's paper was selected as one of the most read papers during 2018-2019 published by Asian J. Organic Chemistry (Wiley).
- ▶▶ Jibin K. P won the Best Poster Award in the Kerala Science Congress 2020.

For further information, please contact
Dr. Subila K.B.: subila@mgu.ac.in



National conference on Recent Advances in Chemical Sciences (RACS-2020)



Dr. Jurgen Pionteck, Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research Dresden



Dr. Jacques Desbrieres IPREM UMR5254 - UPPA/CNRS, receiving an honour from the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sabu Thomas after his invited talk on - "Chitosan-based hydrogels as biomaterials for controlled release"

SES Installs Mobile Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (MAAQMS) for Air pollution Monitoring

The School of Environmental Science (SES) has installed a Mobile Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (MAAQMS) to observe different air pollutants, such as PM10, PM2.5, SO_x, NO, NO₂, NO_x, CO, CO₂ and O₃ simultaneously. This is the only mobile continuous monitoring facility in the state to measure air quality.

SES was brought into existence in 1995 as a Center of Learning in the frontier areas of Environmental Sciences. It is an effort by the University to give a new direction and dimension to fulfil the long-standing needs of the different sections of the society.

The major mandate of the School is to develop appropriate technologies and skilled human resources for conservation of nature, sustainable utilization and management of natural resources for development. The school's report on Biodiversity of the campus has led to the birth of Jeevaka Live Laboratory.

More intense extension programs were conducted, the drinking water issue of the Achinakom village in Kottayam district, Kerala, was partially solved through Rainwater for Humanity – a joint program of Brown University (USA) and the school lead to the construction of huge Rain water harvest tank to cater the drinking water needs of 44 families.



Team Members of the Arctic Expedition – A File Photo

SES Highlights

- ▶▶ Prof. E.V. Ramasamy participated in the Indian Scientific Expedition to Southern Ocean (ISESO).
- ▶▶ Dr. Syllas V P conducted a workshop on Outcome Based Education for University Teachers in association with IIT Madras.

The school was awarded with the coveted Obama-Singh (OSI) 21st century knowledge Initiative award (Indo-US program) with a grant of ₹ 12.5 million. A huge rooftop rainwater harvesting facility (69000 L storage capacity) was established at the

school as a part of the OSI program with a novel idea of re-circulating the coolant water exiting from the laboratory distillation units through the rainwater harvesting facility is perhaps the first-of-its-kind effort in the Kerala state.

Since 2013 the school has been associating with the National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) to carry out research in the Arctic region. Himadri, India's arctic research station is situated at NY Alesund which is located in a small island in the Svalbard archipelago. From January 2020, the school also took part in the Southern Ocean Expedition to Antarctic Coast.

The Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System (RS & GIS) centre at SES offers many certificate courses and training programs.

The school has published over 20 articles including books and book chapters. The school has organized many national and international conferences in recent times.

For further information please write to the email sesmgu@yahoo.co.in or visit <https://ses.mgu.ac.in>

SOCS Organizes Digital Image Processing, Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision Using Python-Open CV

The School of Computer Science (SOCS) has organized One Week Short-Term Training Programme on "Digital Image Processing, Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision using Python-Open CV".

The School organized a hands on workshop on "Digital Image Processing, Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision using Python-Open CV" under the DST-PURSE (Phase II)

programme of the University from 7.1.2020 to 11.1.2020. This training programme enabled the participants to get hands-on training in practical implementation of theoret-



One week Short-Term Training Programme on Digital Image processing

ical concepts of Digital Image Processing and Pattern Recognition using open source Python-Open CV.

Read more details at <https://socs.mgu.ac.in>

IIUCNN Dreams a Nano India

International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IIUCNN) recently made research output over 53 articles. It also hosted 27 outreach activities, 3 invited lectures, 4 research collaborations, and 3 international conferences.

MGU established IIUCNN to carry out intensive research in the field of Nanotechnology.

IIUCNN has profound research collaboration with various research institutions and universities all over the world. The Centre

extends its attention to comprise both research and teaching in Nanotechnology.

IIUCNN have always sought to bridge the researchers of the University and industry by offering them a place to exchange their

thoughts and encourage the scholars of the university to work on product development at industrial level.

For further details please visit: <http://iiucnn.mgu.ac.in>



International Workshop on Polymer Nanocomposite and Application in collaboration with North Carolina University and Kansas University USA

NIPST Advances in Plant Science Technologies

The National Institute of Plant Science Technology (NIPST) is an inter-school centre at MGU for teaching and research in plant science based eco-technology.

NIPST has recently published over 7 high impact research articles including books and book chapters. It has filed 4 patents and currently has 3 collaborations on the national

and international level. The research activities carried out in the centre is presented at 5 conferences covering national and international audience.



Helseena E.H., who won the second prize for poster presentation at the 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Globalization

BIIC Fosters Entrepreneurial Learning Processes at MGU

Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (BIIC) collaborate with Swakit Biotech and Kerala Start-Up Mission.



Dr. K.T. Jaleel, The Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Kerala, inaugurates startups incubation facility at MGU

BIIC at MGU was established with a seed capital of 10 Million from Government of Kerala in 2016 to enhance the entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem in the state. It is meant to support innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship by providing administrative, academic and financial ecosystem

for startups, R&D support, patent facilitation, entrepreneurial support and industry collaboration. BIIC supported 121 student startups, 5 firms, filed 22 patents, and 2 technology-transfer to industry. The University has signed MoUs with farmers' society, KADSPCL;

BIIC Highlights

- ▶▶ Signs MoU with Swakit Biotech, Bengaluru for familiarizing the organic products among farmers and to encourage organic farming practices.
- ▶▶ Establishes Host Institution-Business Incubation (HI-BI) facility in the campus with the support of MSME
- ▶▶ Joins with Kerala Start-Up Mission for the initiation and implementation of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IEDC) in the university

industry partners, ABTEC and the National institution, NIFTEM, Haryana and membership in Confederation of Indian Industry to accelerate industry-academia interaction.

More information please contact Dr. Radhakrishnan E.K., radhakrishnanek@mgu.ac.in

Training for Soft Skill Development and Corporate Etiquettes

K.N. Raj Study Centre for Planning and Centre - State Financial Relations conducted a training programme on Soft skills, Corporate, Etiquettes and Personality development for students.

The K N Raj Study Centre has focused its teaching and research in Economics with specialisation on Planning and Fiscal Federalism in the country.

MGU created the centre in honour of, and to perpetuate the memory of the late K.N. Raj, a highly esteemed Indian economist of post-independent generation and a great institution builder.

The Centre is a befitting tribute to this renowned



Dr. Jayan Jose, Member, Kerala State Planning Board



John Samual, President, ISDG

KNRC Highlights

- ▶▶ Dr. Jayan Jose, Member, Kerala State Planning Board, delivered a talk on Budget Analysis 2020.
- ▶▶ John Samual, President, Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG), conducted a special lecture on Public Policy and Governance
- ▶▶ Prof. Johney Johnson published several research articles in the subject areas of content dissemination through Facebook, digital content marketing, counterproductive work behaviour, etc.

economist whose contributions to India's developmental economics and planning are profound and enduring. Raj was one of the architects of the First Five Year Plan in India. He also served as economic adviser to Prime Ministers from Nehru to P.V.

Narasimha Rao. Throughout his career, Raj was an ardent advocate of equitable development and the welfare of the common man.

For further details please contact
Prof. Johney Johnson
j.johnney@gmail.com



School of Management and Business Studies

BEACON 2K20

The School of Management and Business Studies (SMBS) organised a National Management Fest, Beacon 2k20.

BEACON 2K20 was a mega event, conducted in the University Campus, in which students from various colleges across the nation came together to contest and prove their mettle.

There were 150 students participated in the program, and conducted events such as Best Manager, Best Management Team, Best Marketing Team, Treasure Hunt, Spot Photography, and Online Photography. The program was ended by the prize distribution ceremony and cultural events.



Best Marketing Team Competition

Forthcoming Events

- ▶▶ National seminar on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Business Organisations: A New Era for Sustainable Growth and Profitability with the financial assistance of ICSSR, November 2020
- ▶▶ Faculty Development programs in Business Analytics with the financial assistance of AICTE Training and Learning Academy, November 2020

For details of events and activities run by the SMBS please contact:

Dr. E Sulaiman

smbmsgu@yahoo.co.in



Haritha R., Muhammed Shafi A
MBA (2018-20)

Placed as Process Analyst at Broadridge Financial Solutions



Harishanker R.
MBA (2018-20)

Placed as Executive Trainee at ESAF Bank



Roshni R. Nair, Theertha Madhav, Sneha Benny, Reema Ann Philip
MBA (2018-20)

Placed as Financial Analyst at Statestreet HCL Services



DLLE Celebrates International Yoga Day

As a part of the international Yoga day celebration, the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension & Alumni Association with the support of 4 A.M club arranged an online Yoga programme.

The Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (DLLE) was established at Mahatma Gandhi University in 1991 as a Statutory Academic Department. The Department has paved a way for the extension activities and has joined hands with many organizations and is creating a positive impact among the general public. The most recent project sanctioned by the government of Kerala for propagating organic farming among the 100 affiliated colleges is an example of the department's positive

intervention among the society. The Department conducts various short term courses as weekend programmes. The objective of the courses is empowerment of the common people in the society. No formal qualification is required for admission to the organic Farming course. For admission to other courses a pass in Plus two or equivalent is a compulsory requirement. Examinations are conducted after completing 20 contact classes for the Certificate Course and 30 for the Diploma course.



Interesting Courses offered at DLLE

- ▶▶ Certificate Course in Yogic Science
- ▶▶ Certificate Course in Counselling
- ▶▶ Certificate Course in Management of Learning Disability
- ▶▶ Certificate Course in Organic Farming
- ▶▶ Diploma Course in Yogic science
- ▶▶ Diploma Course in Organic Farming



DLLE Launches Organic Farming Project for Supporting Tribal Farmers

As part of a sustainable development of the Tribal area, DLLE has designed various courses on training for Beekeeping, Mushroom farming, fish farming, distribution of vegetable seeds, fruit saplings, and calves to tribal farmers.

An Organic Farming project for supporting Tribal Farmers was started at DLLE under Unnath Bharath Abhiyan. Fourteen villages were selected for the implementation of the project. An initial survey was conducted in the villages in association with the Sree Sabeesa College, Murikkumvayal and Henry

Baker College, Melukavu to ascertain a clear understanding of the Socio-Economic status of the beneficiaries. The selection of villages and beneficiaries was done based on the survey results.

For further details please contact:
Manjusha K.A,
sasi.manjusha3@gmail.com

SGTDS Becomes Nodal Agency for Conducting Diploma Programmes in Decentralization and Local Governance, and Gender and Local Governance

MGU signs MoU with KILA to commence of diploma programmes in Decentralization and Local Governance, and Gender and Local Governance.

Mahatma Gandhi University and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the objective of collaborating in the conduct of joint academic programmes like Diploma and PG Diploma courses in the fields relevant to local governance. The School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies (SGTDS), being the nodal agency, has been assigned for conducting the joint academic programmes. Two courses, namely, Decentralization and Local Governance and Gender and Local Governance have been approved to be commenced jointly with School of Distance Education (SDE) from this year onwards.

The School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, the premier interdisciplinary department of Mahatma Gandhi University, started in 1983. The school offers courses which are interdisciplinary in the subject area of Gandhian Studies and Development Studies.



Prof. M.H. Ilias has received the Distinguished Fellowship at Middle East Institute (MEI), and SUSI Alumni Research Grant to work on the topic 'Visuals and Liturgies: Influence of Visuals on Religious Imagination in Kerala

Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) is an autonomous institution functioning for the Local governments in Kerala. KILA has been engaged in myriad of capacity building interventions on local governance and decentralization; including training, action- research,

SGTDS Highlights

- ▶▶ Prof. M.H. Ilias organised a series of Gandhi Smriti Webinars
- ▶▶ Dr. Rekha Raj organised a series of webinars in the theorisation of gender in India
- ▶▶ Prof. M.H. Ilias made two international publications on the topics 'South Asian Labour Unrest and Non-Citizenry Aspects of Popular Politics in the Gulf' and 'What is Post-Secular About Gandhi? Gandhi's Conception of Religion and Secular Politics'
- ▶▶ Dr. Rajesh Many contributed a chapter to the international publisher Routledge on the topic 'The Alcohol Paradox: Revisiting the Kerala Model of Development'

publications, seminars and workshops, consultancy, documentation, hand holding and information services.

For more information, please contact Prof. M.H. Ilias: sgtdsmgu@gmail.com

Suvarna Neelam - A Documentary on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha Movement, Receives Accolades from International Film Festivals

Dr. C.R.Harilakshmeendra Kumar, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, scripted and produced a documentary named 'Suvarna Neelam' based on the Champaran Satyagraha of Mahatma Gandhi. The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 was the first Satyagraha movement led by Gandhi in India and is considered a historically important revolt in the Indian Independence Movement. It was a farmers' uprising that took place in Champaran district of Bihar, India,

during the British colonial period. The documentary was directed by Mr. Eldo Jacob, a research scholar at SGTU. The crew took a genuine approach and visited Champaran in Bihar and also travelled through all the places covered by Mahatma Gandhi. The documentary has got selection in three international film festivals – 10th Data Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2020, 8th Kolkata Shorts International Film Festival 2020, and 3rd South Asian Short Film Festival 2020.



Suvarna Neelam, a documentary based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha Movement

For more details about the documentary, please contact: Dr. C.R.Harilakshmeendra Kumar, harilakshmeendra@gmail.com

SOL: Engaging Creative Minds

The School of Letters (SOL) upholds its legacy in receiving coveted honours by its faculty members and students at State and National Levels in the field of literature, critical theory, theatre and films.

A play production by scholars at SOL in connection with the Kerala History Congress

The SOL organized several literary events and lecture series in the beginning of 2020. It organised a seminar on 'Karshika Samskritiyum Malayala Sahithyavum' in collaboration with Inter University Centre for Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture. As part of G Sankara Pillai (Founder and first Director of SOL) Commemoration programme, Dr. Sunil P

Ilayidom delivered a talk on the topic 'Sahithyathile Naithikatha'. At the function Sri Raveendranath, the grandson of poet Vallathol Narayana Menon handed over a few books authored by the late C. Govinda Kurup, the son of Vallathol. It also conducted a lecture series in memory of D Vinayachandran - 'Arangile Dhwanipatom' by Prof K G Paulose; 'Samoohya Nirmithiyum



Mathrubhashayum' by P Pavithran; and 'Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Language' by P Madhavan. Four of our students won the Fellowship of Kerala Chalachithra Academy for research in Malayalam films.

For more information on the creative engagements at SOL, please contact: Prof. K. M. Krishnan, schooloflettersdirector121@gmail.com

SPS Discusses Issues in ‘Education during Covid 19 and Beyond’ and ‘Gender Bias and Stereotyping’

School of Pedagogical Sciences (SPS) at MGU conducted a series of webinars on the topics ‘Gender Bias and Stereotyping, Gender Equality and Women’s Rights’ and ‘Education during Covid 19 and Beyond’.

School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University Kerala organized a one-week national webinar on ‘Education during Covid-19 and beyond’. During the welcome address Prof. Minikutty A, talked about the impact of covid-19 on education sector, such as large scale disruption, setting up of virtual classrooms and need of reducing fear and anxiety of students. Prof. Sabu Thomas, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, stressed on the importance of the webinar in this pandemic period and the need of turning the crisis into opportunity in a successful manner. Further, he observed that, since India is a country where different branches of medical sciences like Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Nature cure, and Yoga etc., we have to adopt all these in a holistic point of view and try to improve our immunity. Around 700 delegates representing various parts of the world actively attended all the sessions of the webinar series on Gender Bias and Stereotyping, Gender Equality and Women’s Rights. Dr. Sonia George, General

Secretary, SEWA, delivered a lecture on the topic ‘Gender and Labour Debates: Discussing the informal’. Ms. Ann Susan Aleyas, Assistant Professor, St. Stephens College, University of Delhi, talked on ‘Gender and Literature: Discourses on Women’s Writing in the West’. Dr. T. K. Anandi, Gender Advisor to Government of Kerala, handled a technical session on the topic ‘Gender bias and stereotyping’. The School of Pedagogical Sciences started functioning in 1992 with a view to facilitate systematic learning from teaching contexts and professional development. The School offers a wide spectrum of electives like Environmental Education, Higher Education, Special Education, Teacher Education, Curriculum Development, Techniques of Test Construction and Evaluation, Early childhood and Elementary Education, Educational Administration Planning and Finance, Educational Technology, Economics of Education, Guidance and Counselling, Non-formal Education, Mathematics Education,

Science Education, Social Science Education, Language Education, (Arabic, Malayalam, English, Sanskrit and Hindi), Commerce Education, along with core subjects like Theoretical Foundations of Education, Methods of Educational Research, Statistics, Advanced Educational Psychology, with due emphasis to Information Technology.

The webinar content of ‘Education during Covid-19 and Beyond’ can be viewed at following YouTube links

- ▶▶ Day 1 Sessions: <https://youtu.be/nsNqDURQD>
- ▶▶ Day 2 Sessions: <https://youtu.be/GQajtW6tUvU>
- ▶▶ Day 3 Sessions: <https://youtu.be/UHctk5Wj340>
- ▶▶ Day 4 Sessions: https://youtu.be/molkwcY_OUw
- ▶▶ Day 5 Sessions: <https://youtu.be/aZIk2zB1Jiw>

For more information on activities at PDS, please contact Prof. Minikutty A. psmgudir@gmail.com

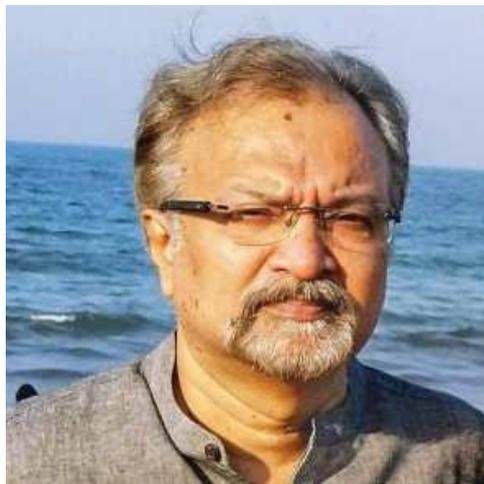
SIRP: Continuing Engagements with Academics, Pedagogic Platforms and Public Dissemination

The first half of the year 2020, through the ongoing pandemic predicament, witnessed some serious academic and research engagements initiated by the faculty at the School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP).

Dr. Seethi, gave the keynote lecture at the Joint Platform of Indian Citizens, Kottayam, at the National Campaign for the Constitutional Rights of Citizens and also spoke at the forum in Mathrubhumi International Literature Festival in the beginning of 2020. He authored a book, *Endless Sorrows: Endosulfan and Endangered Human Security in Kerala* that was brought out by DPP/IUCSSRE. There were also several publications that dealt with contemporary and contentious issues in the Global South Colloquy, an independent digital platform. These publications dealt with politics in South Asia and very significantly with socio political dimensions of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Dr. A M Thomas, Professor, SIRP, was appointed Director of Research at the Mahatma Gandhi University, in June 2020.

Dr. C Vinodan, the present Director of SIRP, participated and presented a paper at national conference on Bharat Shakti: The Inherent Energy of India and



SIRP bids adieu to Prof. K M Seethi

presented a paper titled ‘The Making of 21st Century India: The Paradigm Shift in Foreign Policy During Rao Era’ organised by the Department of Law and the Department of Politics and IR, Pondicherry University in March 2020. He also presented the paper, ‘Impact of Covid-19 in International Relations’ during the COVID-19 Studies Conference (Ankara, Turkey, June 2020). Dr. Bijulal gave an invited lecture ‘Concept of Data Ability and Online Teaching in HEIs in India’ as the one day national level webinar organised at Government Degree College Gajawel (Telengana) and coordinated a

significant Women’s day interaction, with social activist, Nalini Jameela, following the then pandemic protocols. There were a number of media as well as web based publications by Dr. M V Bijulal and Dr. Lirar Pulikkalath. Through ‘Net Factor’ (July 4 2020) and ‘Unusual Suspects’ (July 18, 2020), that appeared in the Times of India, Dr Bijulal, dealt respectively, with themes like online education and social justice in the context of pandemic and the gender dimensions to privacy rights. There were further interventions digital education in forums like Policy Circle during this period as well as significant interviews in Malayalam that appeared in popular online portals like Azhimukham that look up challenges to federal democracy and constitutional order in contemporary Indian contexts. Meanwhile Dr. Lirar, engaged critically with the evacuation mission of the national government of India during the current pandemic, through ‘Vande Bharat and Samudra Setu: The Much Awaited India’s Biggest

Evacuation Missions after Independence' that appeared in Countercurrents.org. His 'State Sponsored Statelessness in India in the Age of 'Sophia' in the same news and analysis website, evaluated the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in India. 'Life in Dharavi in Times of Covid-19' that appeared in Global South Colloquy, as a portrayal of the pandemic predicament of one of the largest slums in Asia and World Refugee Day intervention in the Voice of Margin web publication, added on to his timely takes.

Dr Mathew A Varghese was part of the multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research team from the Centre for Water Resources Research and School of Built Environment and Development Studies (UKZN, South Africa). The jointly authored, Enhancing Water Security through Restoration and Maintenance of Ecological Infrastructure: Lessons from Umngeni River Catchment, South Africa, was published by the Water Research Commission and University of KwaZulu-Natal. An article 'Limits' Of Imagining the Pandemic Present' was published in the Rozenberg Quaterly. He was a member of the, Technical Working Group, that worked on the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan preparation for the Kochi Municipal Corporation under Kochi Municipal Corporation and Interact-Bio, with support from the Ministry of

Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. Dr. Mathew is also part of the programme committee for the planned symposium Identity in Motion that is to take place at the Pirogov Medical University, Moscow, Russia later this year. The interdisciplinary symposium interrogates transforming institutional identities in fields as health care, education and academia, in the pandemic context as well. His two upcoming academic works include the article in the special issue of The Geographical Journal, from The Royal Geographical Society as well as the book that is to be published by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS). In the first half of 2020, SIRP also bid a 'formal adieu' to Dr. K M Seethi, one of the most illustrious scholars from the fraternity. Towards the second half of the year, the Director, Dr. C Vinodan is coordinating a webinar series on International Relations Theory. The opening lectures were given by Professor Shibashis Chatterjee, who is the director of the School of International Relations and Strategic Studies at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. One of the centres in the School, Centre for West Asian Studies through Dr. M V Bijulal is on with a seminar series called Transitions in Migrant Rights Governance: towards Inclusive and Rights Based Public Policy. The series started off with a talk from Sri. M P Joseph, Former Indian

and UN Civil Servant and labour rights governance expert. The Centre for Indian Diaspora Studies, through its chairman Dr. Lirar Pulikkalath, is initiating a webinar programme on Migrants and Displaced Persons amid Covid-19: Issues, Challenges and Policy Options. This event commences on the 15th of October 2020 and works synergistically with Flame University and Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT). An upcoming platform for interdisciplinary urban enquiries is in the making at the SIRP. As part of the opening up of this platform for focused urban enquiries and engagements with global urbanising processes, an Urban Studies Lecture Series and interactives, is being coordinated by Dr. Mathew A Varghese. Prof. Sanjay Srivastava, British Academy Global Professor, University College London, gave the inaugural lecture and initiated the upcoming interactives. Earlier a series of Pandemic Podcasts, which were short volunteer audio feeds from seven different countries with a specific focus on pandemics during its initial months, as well as a small interdisciplinary web interactive series titled 'Conversations with Time', coordinated by Dr. Mathew, focusing post graduate course groups concluded by the end of August.

For more information,
please contact:
Dr. C. Vinodan
sirp@mguniversity@gmail.com

IUCSSRE Works through Engagements and Extensions

Engaging with the unprecedented scenarios in contemporary times, the IUCSSRE initiated and encouraged stand alone web based lectures as well as series of thematic lectures and academic platforms.

The Inter University Centre for Social Science Research and Extension (IUCSSRE), Mahatma Gandhi University is envisaged as an Independent Platform for the Convergence of Social Sciences where Teaching, Research and Extension go hand in hand. Since its inception in 2010 there have been creative interventions of eminent scholars towards building up interdisciplinary engagements, pedagogical enhancements as well as field extensions. Under the current Directorship of Dr. K M Seethi, the IUCSSRE, initiated colloquiums as well as standalone lectures on specific themes. Before the pandemic struck hard, a memorial lecture and a colloquium on in honour of the late Dr. K. Mathew Kurian, a prominent economist, thinker and institution builder, was organised. There was a Special Lecture, during the end of August by Ambassador K.P. Fabian on “Downsizing Migrant workers in the GCC countries Impending challenges for Kerala”. The eminent research and academic team at the centre organised this web-interaction with the Centre for Indian Diaspora Studies



Ambassador K.P. Fabian



Dr. Haripriya Soibam



Patrick Martel

(CIDS) of Mahatma Gandhi University. Dr. Irudaya Rajan, Professor at the Centre for Development Studies and Shajahan Madampat, a UAE-based cultural critic and commentator, as well as Dr. Lirar P, who is the chairman of CIDS, became significant commentators during this talk. Parvathy Devi researcher on migration coordinated the session. Dr. Haripriya Soibam, poet and Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept of Conflict and Development Studies, Ghent University, Belgium gave another special lecture Poetry, Death, and Making of the Social. The lecture emphasised that in the context of continuing violence in

social spaces, there is a need to explore and expand the existing methodology of social sciences, particularly of sociology and social anthropology, in order to address the silences and gaps that constitute the traces of the field. According to Dr. Haripriya, “the recovery of poetry in the context of doing fieldwork in violent sites unsettles predominant ways of seeing, thereby offering new ways of reading the social.” This, as well as an ongoing interdisciplinary series called ‘Engagements with Ecologies’ was flagged off by Prof. K.M. Seethi, and oordinated/organised with Dr. Mathew A Varghese, Adjunct Faculty, IUCSSRE.

The first engagement in the series was with Patrick Martel, a researcher and the EPIC Durban Coordinator from the School of Built Environment and Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Martel delivered a special lecture: Using the hydrosocial cycle and governmentality as a lens to explore the main 'water moments' in Durban, South Africa. While analysing the dialectical relationship between water and society, Martel observed that "given the colonial and apartheid rule, South Africa's version of hydro-modernism became intertwined with racial identity, as asymmetries in service provision became widespread." Over time, these hydro-modernist approaches to water have become hegemonic and uses built infrastructure to 'tame' nature and secure water from ever-increasing distances. This approach favours technical, scientific and engineering knowledge" Martel added. The 'Engagements with Ecologies' series will progress through resource interactions with academicians, researchers, and filmmakers from different parts of the world.

SSS Looks into the Complexity and Complementarity of Indian Secularism

The School of Social Sciences (SSS) host a series of webinar presentations from experts across the world in the field of Social Sciences with thought provoking keynote lectures

As part of its ongoing social science webinar series, the School of Social Sciences organised a talk of Prof. C. Lakshmanan, Madras Institute Development Studies, on the topic 'Complexity and Complementarity of Indian Secularism'. The webinar talk was organised by Dr. Rajesh Komath at SSS.

The School of Social Sciences was established in October 1989 as an interdisciplinary department to facilitate teaching and research beyond the conventional disciplinary boundaries. The school has succeeded in undertaking interdisciplinary research projects seeking to evolve strategies, combining economic growth and equity and helped to resolve social problems of development with the insights of ecological sustainability in matters of judicious and conservation oriented use of contested natural resources. It has also tried to facilitate inter-university interaction, cooperation, collaboration and exchange amongst experts of interdisciplinary specialization of seminal importance in any part of

the world. The faculty has specializations in frontier areas like Social History, Social Theory, Human Ecology, Political Economy, Socio-linguistic Philosophy, Economic Anthropology, Ethnography, Social History, Social Theory, Social Anthropology, Archaeology and Human Ecology.

SSS Highlights

- ▶▶ Dr. Abhilash Babu published a book titled 'Higher education in India: Politics and Policies'. The book broadly looks into the issues in higher education in India with a special focus on the neoliberal agenda that colour the policies and direct the path of the system. Dr. Abhilash also leads the research project 'MASK: A Historical Album of COVID-19 in Kerala'.

For more information on SSS, please contact:
Dr. Abhilash Babhu
sss@mgmu.ac.in

For more details, please contact:
Prof. K M Seethi
ucssre@gmail.com

UCIC Bridges International Cultural Diversity

The University Centre for International Cooperation (UCIC) at MGU organised International Confluence on Celebrating Cultural Diversity where a cultural presentation on uniqueness of 25 countries.



Cultural activities held during International confluence

The UCIC is an integral part of the Interdisciplinary Convergence Academia Center established in 2010.

The central objective of UCIC is to explore the ways and means that shall facilitate student mobility, collaborative teaching, research and outreach programs with reputed institutions from abroad. It also facilitates academic mobility both inward and out-ward and organizes international summer schools on themes related to Indian society, economy, policy, culture and tradition.

Besides many other functions, the Centre also coordinates programs with national agencies such as UGC, ICCR, ICSSR, and ICHR for the promotion of international co-operation. UCIC is instrumental in admitting about 140 foreign students under MGU for the last 8 years through



scholarship schemes offered by ICCR and also through self supporting scheme.

UCIC Highlights

- ▶▶ Dr. Sajimon Abraham published an edited volume titled 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity'

For more information about UCIC, please contact:

Dr. Sajimon Abraham
sajimabraham@rediffmail.com

Awards and Recognition

Faculties



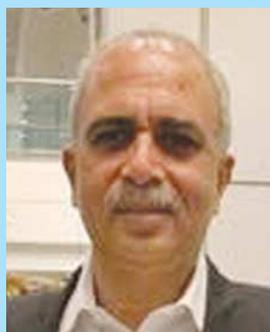
Prof. Sabu Thomas has received National Researcher Award under Department of Science and Technology (DST) Nanomission-2020 and received a Honorary Professorship from Siberian Federal University



Prof. Nandakumar Kalarikkal has received the Professor@Lorraine and Visiting Professor, Institute of Jean Lamour, University of Lorraine, Nancy, France and the CNRS Professorship with ILM-University of Claude Bernard Lyon, Lyon, France



Prof. E.V. Ramasamy has been awarded with DUO-INDIA Professor fellowship



Dr. Suresh Mathew was awarded NETZSCH-ITAS-2020 Award



Dr. Subila K B has received Kreitman post-doctoral fellowship to do post-doctoral research at the Ben Gurion University of Negev, Israel

Students



Avinash R Pai
NEWTON BABHA
Ph.D placement
programme



Young Innovators Program Award (YIP) 2019 for Anubha S. and Helseena E.H in the National Knowledge Session organized by the Kerala Development and Innovation, Strategic Council (K-DISC)

Editorial Leads

Dr. Rajesh Many, SGTDS
Dr. Smijesh N, SPAP
Mr. Arun Kumar A, PRO

Content Review

Prof. K.M. Krishnan, SOL
Prof. Bindu V.R, SCS
Dr. Mathew Varghese, SIRP
Dr. Abhilash Babu, SSS
Dr. Noushad P P, SGDS

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PRIYADARSINI HILLS P.O., KOTTAYAM, KERALA, INDIA



0481 - 2731020, 2733505, 2731007



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