

National Research Conference & Kerala Higher Education Expo 2026

Research to Impact: Innovation and Translation for Societal Advancement

Organised by:

Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala & The Kerala State Higher Education Council

in association with

Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram



Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala



Dr. R. Bindu

Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education & Social Justice
Government of Kerala

3 DAYS

FEBRUARY 2026

9-11

VENUE:

**Government College for Women,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

Conference Overview

The **National Research Conference and Kerala Higher Education Expo 2026** brings together researchers, faculty members, policymakers, students, and institutions to deliberate on emerging trends in **research, innovation, funding, and academic transformation.**

The conference will showcase Kerala's growing higher-education research ecosystem through **plenary lectures, thematic presentations, policy discussions, workshops, and an extensive Higher Education Expo.**

Programme at a Glance

Day 1 (09 Feb 2026) Monday:

- Inauguration of the Expo, Policy Conclave, Research Workshops, Leadership Roundtable

Day 2 (10 Feb 2026) Tuesday:

- Thematic Research Sessions, One-Day Workshops, Cultural Programme & Conference Dinner

Day 3 (11 Feb 2026) Wednesday:

- Plenary Lectures, Chief Minister's Address, Valedictory Session

Day 1: Monday, 9th February 2026

Main Auditorium

10.00 am to 11.00 am

Inauguration of Pre-Conference Seminars, Workshops & Kerala Higher Education Expo 2026

- Welcome Address: **Dr. Rajan Varughese**, Member Secretary, KSHEC
- Chair: **Prof. Rajan Gurukkal**, Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC)
- **Inaugural Address: Dr. R. Bindu**, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Kerala
- Keynote Address: **Prof. K. P. Sudheer**, Ex-Officio Principal Secretary, Science & Technology Department & Executive Vice President, KSCSTE
- Special Address: **Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph, IAS**, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education
- Guest of Honour: **Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy**, Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University

Felicitation:

- **Dr. Jayaprakash P.** – Director of Technical Education (DTE)
- **Dr. Umajyothi V.** – Principal, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram
- Vote of Thanks: **Smt. Beenarani G. S.** Registrar, KSHEC

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Policy Conclave on Research and Innovation in Higher Education

- Chair: **Prof. Rajan Gurukkal**, Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC)
- Keynote Address: **Dr. R. Bindu**, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Kerala
- Special Address: **Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph, IAS**, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education



Speakers

- **Prof. M Junaid Bushiri**, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology
- **Prof. K. K. Saju**, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Kannur University
- **Prof. A. Biju Kumar**, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
- **Prof. K. K. Geethakumary**, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit
- **Prof. Saji Gopinath**, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University Kerala)

- Vote of Thanks

-
- **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Lunch Break**
-

Parallel Workshops and Special Sessions

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Venue: Main Auditorium, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Workshop 1: Reimagining Undergraduate Research: FYUGP Honours with Research

Workshop Coordinator

Prof. A. Bijukumar K, Professor, Mahatma Gandhi College, Thiruvananthapuram

Sessions & Resource Persons

FYUGP Honours with Research – Vision, Policy Framework, and Kerala Model

- **Prof. S. M. Sunoj**, Senior Professor, Department of Statistics, CUSAT

Building Undergraduate Research Capacity – Labs, Libraries, Data, and Faculty Readiness

- **Dr. Rani Maria Thomas**, Principal, Assumption College, (Autonomous) Changanassery

Designing the Fourth Year – Curriculum Architecture, Credits, and Assessment

- **Dr. Soju S**, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Sree Narayana College, Chempazhanthy

From Undergraduate Research to Research Careers – Pathways and Funding

- **Dr. Vikas L. S.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram



Workshop 2: Building Research Careers: Academic Writing, Fellowships, and Networking

Venue: Assembly Hall, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Workshop Coordinator

Dr. Prince P. R., Associate Professor, University College, Thiruvananthapuram

Resource Persons

- **Dr. Manomohan Antony**, Associate Professor, University College, Thiruvananthapuram
- **Dr. Libin Kuriakose**, Associate Professor, St. Thomas College, Pala
- **Prof. K. Satheesh Kumar**, Emeritus Visiting Professor, Digital University Kerala
- **Dr. Harshan V. N.**, Venturesci Consulting

Special Round Table Session

2.00pm to 3.00 pm

Venue: Orice Hall, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Research to Impact: TrEST Research Park Leadership Round Table

Chair : **Dr. Rajasree M S**, CEO, TrEST Research Park

Special Evening Lecture

3.00pm to 4.00 pm

Venue: Orice Hall, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Research to Impact: TrEST Research Park Leadership Round Table

- **Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy**, Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University
- **Dr. K. P. Mohanan** (Retd. Professor) MIT, Stanford University, NUS & IISER, Pune.

Day 2: Tuesday, 10th February 2026

Thematic Area-Wise Paper Presentation Sessions

Common Session Structure (For all Session)

- Session 1: **9:30 am – 11:00 am**
- Session 2: **11:15 am– 12:30 pm**
- Session 3: **12:30 pm– 1:30 pm**

Lunch Break: 1:30 pm– 2:00 pm

- Session 4: **2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**
- Session 5: **3:45 pm – 4:45 pm**

Opening Remark by the Chair: 5 minutes (9:30 am – 9:35 am)

All invited lectures –: 15 minutes from (9.35 am - 9.50 am)

Followed by Oral Presentations

Thematic Area: Social Sciences

9.30 am – 4.45 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall; Economics MA – I Classroom; Economics MA – II Classroom

Invited Speaker:

- **Prof. C. P. Chandrasekhar**, Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
- **Prof. D. Narayana**, Former Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Prof. K. J. Joseph**, Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation,
- **Prof. Vani Kesari A.**, Associate Professor, School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology
- **Dr. K. V. Kunhikrishnan**, Former Registrar, Cochin University of Science and Technology
- **Dr. Mathew A. Varghese**, Assistant Professor, School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP)
- **Dr. T. R. Manoj**, Member, Syndicate; Associate Professor of History, MSM College, Kayamkulam
- **Dr. Pramod N**, Member, Syndicate; Assistant Professor, Department of History, NSS College, Nilamel
- **Dr. Firosekhan S.N.** Assistant professor, Department of Political science, University College, TVPM.
- **Dr. Abdul Kareem T B**, Associate Professor Department of Islamic History University College Thiruvananthapuram
- **Dr Vimal Kumar C L**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government College for Women

- **Dr Pillai U V Lakshmy**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Government College for Women
- **Dr. Ganasree H.G**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, KVSM Government College, Nedumangad
- **Dr. Resmi R. Nair**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University College Thiruvananthapuram

Thematic Area: Arts & Humanities

9.30 am to 4.45 pm

Venue: Psychology Hall, E-Block, Philosophy

Invited Speaker:

- **Dr. K. P. Mohanan** (Retd. Professor), MIT, Stanford University, NUS & IISER, Pune.
- **Prof. P P Ajayakumar**, Former Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Dr. Pramod Kumar K. V.**, Member, Syndicate, Kannur University; Associate Professor, Department of English, M. G. College, Iritty,
- **Dr. K. Rahim**, Member, Syndicate; Associate Professor of Malayalam, Government College for Women, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram,
- **Dr. T. Mohamed Saleem**, Principal & Professor of Education, Farook Training College, Kozhikode,
- **Dr. Swapna Sreenivasan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam, GWC, TVPM
- **Dr. Shyama Sajeev**, Associate Professor, Govt. Arts & Science College, Thrithala, Pkd.
- **Dr Sabna T Thaj**, Assistant Professor, Dept of Jyotisha, Govt Sanskrit College, Trivandrum
- **Prof .Dr Suma S.**, Retd. Principal
- **Dr Renjini T**, Head, Department of Psychology , Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram
- **Dr. Higgins Robert**, Asst. Professor in Geography,,University College, TVPM
- **Dr. Beela G. K**, Prof. and Head, Department of Community Science, KAU

Thematic Area: Physical Sciences

9.20 am to 12.30 pm

Venue: Physics Hall

Invited Speaker:

- **Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy**, Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Dr. Aldrin Antony**, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Physics, CUSAT
- **Dr. Carol Vincent**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, GWC, TVPM



Thematic Area: Chemical Sciences

1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Venue: Physics Hall

Invited Speaker:

- **Dr. Lalitha Guruprasad**, Senior Professor & Coordinator, ASPIRE-TBI, University of Hyderabad

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Dr. Jogy Alex**, Associate Professor (Retd.), St. Thomas College, Pala; Member, Syndicate, Mahatma Gandhi University
- **Dr. Vijukumar VG**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, GWC, TVPM

Thematic Area: Biological Sciences

9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Venue: Botany Hall

Invited Speaker:

- **Prof. Ranganath H. Anne Gowda**, Distinguished Biologist, Former Director, NAAC

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Dr. Baby Chakrapani P. S.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, CUSAT
- **Prof. Radhakrishnan E. K.**, Associate Professor, School of Biosciences, Mahatma Gandhi University
- **Prof. K. Jayachandran**, Senior Professor, School of Biosciences, Mahatma Gandhi University
- **Dr. Laija S. Nair**, Professor & Head, Department of Botany, University College, TVPM
- **Dr. Preetha T.S.**, Professor, Department of Botany, University College, TVPM

Thematic Area: Health & Allied Sciences

9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, Hindi

Invited Speaker:

- **Dr. E. Sreekumar**, Director, Institute of Advanced Virology

Invited Lectures; Oral Presentations; Poster Presentations

- Chair/ Lead : **Dr. U C Jaleel**, Former Principal Scientist, ChemInformatics, IISc, Bangalore



Thematic Area: Engineering, Science & Technology

9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Venue: J BLOCK – IMB , J BLOCK – HISTORY

Invited Speaker:

- **Dr. Rajasree M. S.**, Chief Executive Officer TrEST Park, Thiruvananthapuram

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Dr. Joby K. Jose**, Registrar & Professor, Department of Statistical Sciences, Kannur University.
- **Dr. Anoop A**, Professor, School of Digital Sciences, Digital University Kerala
- **Dr. K. S. Anil Kumar**, Principal & Professor, KSMDDB College, Sasthamcotta
- **Dr. N. Gopakumar**, Controller of Examinations, University of Kerala

Thematic Area: Commerce & Management

1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Venue: J BLOCK – HINDI

Invited Speaker:

- **Dr. Saji Gopinath**, Vice Chancellor, Digital University of Kerala

Chairs / Session Leads:

- **Dr. Jorney Johnson**, Professor, School of Management & Business Studies
- **Dr. S. Santhosh Kumar**, Professor, School of Management Studies; Director, DDUK, CUSAT
- **Dr. Rajesh M.** Pyngavil, Director, KICMA

Workshop-III

9.30 am to 5.00 pm

Venue: Main Auditorium

On Emerging Research Funding Models and Grant Strategies for Early-Career Academics

Workshop Coordinators:

- **Dr. Shaji E.**, Professor, Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), University of Kerala
- **Dr. Sreejith Parameswara Panicker**, Head & Director, AcREM -STEM, Department of Zoology, University of Kerala



Key Sessions & Resource Persons:

Nurturing the Knowledge Society: State Policy Frameworks and Budgetary Strategies for Research Excellence:

- **Dr. Jiju P. Alex**, Professor, Kerala Agricultural University; Member, Kerala State Planning Board

The Changing Architecture of Research Funding in India:

- **Dr. Gangan Prathap**, Former Director, NISCAIR

From Translational Research to Start-ups: Funding, Technology Transfer, and Incubation:

- **Dr. Lalitha Guruprasad**, Senior Professor & Coordinator, ASPIRE-TBI, University of Hyderabad

National Research Funding Landscape in India:

- **Dr. Suresh Das**, Former Director, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram

International and Bilateral Research Funding Opportunities:

- **Dr. Sabu Thomas**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University

Winning Research Grants: Proposal Strategy and Opportunities through KSCSTE:

- **Dr. A. Sabu**, Member Secretary, KSCSTE

Industry, CSR, and PPP Funding Models for Research and Innovation:

- **Dr. Dhamodharan S**, Professor, Amrita Centre for Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine, Kochi

Workshop -IV

9.30 am to 4.35 pm

Venue: Orice Hall

Accelerating Research with Responsible AI

Workshop Coordinators:

- **Shri. Sunil Prabhakaran**, Consultant – AI & Digital Practices

Seminar

9.30 am – 4.00 pm

Venue: Assembly Hall

Global Institutional Shifts and Lessons for Kerala's Higher Education System

Moderator:

- **Prof. Sabu Thomas**, Former Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Speakers:

- **Prof. Zachariah Mathew**, University of Michigan–Flint, USA
- **Prof. Matthew A. Witenstein**, University of New Mexico, USA
- **Prof. Ajayan Vinu**, University of Newcastle, Australia
- **Prof. Deepak P.**, Queen's University, UK (Online)
- **Prof. Mohan Jacob**, James Cook University, Australia
- **Prof. Sarada Balachandran Nair Sumadevi**, RIKEN, Japan
- **Prof. Vinod Namboodiri**, Lehigh University, USA

Special Evening Lectures

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Venue: Assembly Hall

- **Prof. C. P. Chandrasekhar**, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU, New Delhi
- **Prof. Ranganath H. Anne Gowda**, Distinguished Biologist, Visiting Professor, Centre for Human Genetics, Bangalore

Poster Presentations

5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Venue: Assembly Hall Area



Special Presentation & Film Screening

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Venue: Surya Ganesham, Thycaud

Presentation: Dr.Methil Devika, Temple ***Terrain as a Performance Space for Women***: Screening of Two Dance Films

Cultural Programme

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Venue: Main Auditorium

Performances by **Students of Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram**

Conference Dinner

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Venue: Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

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**National Research Conference
& Kerala Higher Education Expo 2026
Plenary Sessions, Inauguration & Valedictory**

Day 3: Wednesday, 11th February 2026: Inaugural Session

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Plenary Sessions

Venue: Main Auditorium

Plenary Speakers

- **Dr. D. Narayana**, Former Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation
- **Dr. M. R. N. Murthy**, Former Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru

Venue: Assembly Hall

Plenary Speakers

- **Dr. V. S. Vijayan**, Chairman, Salim Ali Foundation

Inaugural Address

12.00 noon- 1.30 pm

Venue: main Auditorium

Welcome Address

- **Prof. Rajan Gurukkal**, Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC)

Chair

- **Dr. R. Bindu**, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Kerala
- **Inauguration of the Conference**
- *Launching of the Scholar Connect Digital Platform*
- *Distribution of Chief Ministers NAVA Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship Certificate*

Inaugural Address by **Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

Keynote Addresses

- **Prof. V. K. Ramachandharan**, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board, Kerala
- **Prof. P. Balaram**, Former Director, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- **Prof. Prabhat Patnaik**, Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
- **Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy**, Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University



Special Address

- **Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph, IAS**, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education

Felicitation

- **Dr. Umajyothi V.**, Principal, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Vote of Thanks

- **Dr. Rajan Varughese**, Member Secretary, KSHEC

Valedictory Session & Concluding Remarks

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Venue: Main Auditorium

Welcome Address

- **Dr. Sudheendran K**, Research Officer, KSHEC

Chair

- **Prof. Rajan Gurukkal**, Vice Chairman, KSHEC

Valedictory Address

- **Dr. R. Bindu**, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice

Conference Report

- **Dr. Rajan Varughese**, Member Secretary, KSHEC
- **Dr. Umajyothi V.**, Principal, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Vote of Thanks

- **Dr. Saji Alex**, Joint Coordinator National Research Conference, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram



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Empowering Teachers, Students & Institutions



About magazine

Higher Education Matters is a publication of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, showcasing insights, innovations, and initiatives shaping the future of higher learning.

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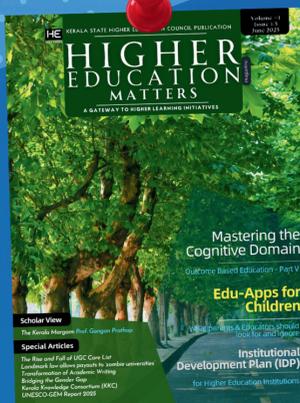
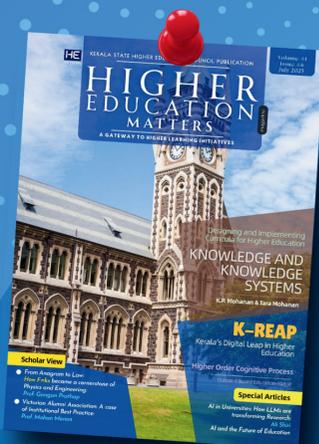
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NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE & KERALA HIGHER EDUCATION EXPO 2026

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FEBRUARY

Govt. College for Women,
Thiruvananthapuram