

Report of the Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission to consider the proposal of [REDACTED] for grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

The University Grants Commission constituted an Expert Committee consisting of the following members to examine the proposal of Kerala Kalamandalam, Thrissur, for grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

1. Prof. B.H. Briz Kishore, F.I.E. Convener
Chairman,
National Council of Rural Institutes,
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Govt. of India.
& Member, UGC
Sankar Bhawan, Fatch Maidan Road,
Hyderabad-50004.
2. Prof. M.V. Pylee ... Member
Former Member, UGC
7/100, HMT Colony
Kochi - 683 503
3. Prof. Indrani Chakravarti ... Member
Vice-Chancellor
Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya
Khairagarh - 491 881 (M.P.)
4. Prof. Debu Chaudhuri ... Member
Former Professor & Head
Department of Music & Arts
University of Delhi, Delhi
J-1852, Chittaranjan Park
New Delhi - 110 019
5. Prof. Chitranjan Jyotishi ... Member
Dean
Faculty of Performing Arts
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi - 221 005
6. Prof. Mohan Maharishi ... Member
Department of Performing Arts
Punjab University
Chandigarh - 160 014

7. Shri Gurcharan Singh ... Member Secretary
Joint Secretary
University Grants Commission,
New Delhi

The Expert Committee visited Kerala Kalamandalam, Thrissur on 11th & 12th December, 2001. All the members were present.

The deliberations started with a detailed presentation made by the Secretary of Kerala Kalamandalam where the other members of the Executive Committee were also present.

The Expert Committee went round the different departments and visited the laboratories, class rooms, general facilities, such as, library, workshop, auditorium, hostels, academic and administrative buildings, to satisfy itself regarding the availability of infrastructural facilities and future expansion possibilities of the Institute.

The Expert Committee conducted physical inspection as per the information provided in the proposal. The Committee members also met the faculty and students and examined various diploma/post diploma programmes that are being offered by the Institute.

INSTITUTE

Kerala Kalamandalam located in Vallathol Nagar, Cheruthuruthy, Thrissur District (Kerala) was established in the year 1930 by Late Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon. The Institute was registered under the T/C Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act XII of 1955, S.No.59 of.1975 on 10-07-1975.

CAMPUS

The campus of the Institute is spread over an area of 35 acres comprising of physical facilities like academic and administrative buildings, hostels, staff quarters, laboratories.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Kerala Kalamandalam offers the following diploma and post diploma courses. The intake capacity of each course is indicated against each :-.

Name of Course with subject

	<u>Diploma</u>		<u>Post Diploma</u>	
	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
1. Kathakali Vesham	6 years	10	2	5
2. Kathakali Music	6 years	06	2	2
3. Kathakali Chenda	4 years	10	1	2
4. Kathakali Maddalam	4 years	05	1	2
5. Kathakali Costume and Makeup	3years	05	1	2
6. Koodiyattam Male	6 years	03	2	2
7. Koodiyattam Female	4 years	03	1	2
8. Mizhavu	4 years	03	1	2
9. Thullal	4 years	05	1	2
10. Mohiniyattan with Bharathanatyam Kuchupudy	4 years	15	1	5
11. Mridangam	4 years	05	1	2
12. Panchavadyam	4 years	05	1	2
13. Carnatic Music	-	05	-	-

RESEARCH CENTRE

Kerala Kalamandalam has been approved as a research centre by Kerala and Calicut Universities. Students of Design Engineering from different universities and National Institute of Fashion Technology visit the Institute in connection with their research work. Foreign students and artists in the field of theatre and dance utilize the facilities of Kerala Kalamandalam as a research centre.

FACULTY

The faculty of 68 teachers from Professor to Instructor is engaged in the academic activities of the Institute. The details of teachers is given in Appendix-I. *not enclosed*

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FUNDING

The Institute is funded by the Department of Culture, Government of Kerala. The State Government has agreed to continue to provide funding to the Institute in case it is granted deemed to be university status.

After detailed deliberations, scrutiny of documents and physical inspection of the infrastructural facilities, the Committee makes the following observations and recommendations.

OBSERVATIONS

1. The Institute has an excellent campus, fairly large, to accommodate more than 500 students and approximately 70 teachers in hostels and staff quarters. The small class-rooms separated from each in terms of distance over a slope, the whole campus is beautifully landscaped. Small classes are organized to have better teacher taught relationship.

The campus is residential and following the old Gurukula system based on value education.

2. Primarily the Institute is dealing with Kathakali and related accomplishments like costumes and music. There is a vast scope to introduce other performing arts/theatre, arts/music specific to Kerala while integrating with other systems in the country.
3. It was found that the very basic objective of Kerala Kalamandalam for which it is established for the development and enrichment of Indian culture as a whole in the fields of Indian dance/drama and music has not been accomplished.

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4. There is no conformity to several important invital guidelines of the UGC regarding the quality of high standard research, teaching programmes at Master's level and different areas of specialization or any other conventional degree programmes.

The State Government of Kerala in its order reference GO(MS) No.29/99/CAD dated 15th July, 1999 has admitted that the candidates in the Institute do not posses general standard and lack profound acknowledge of Indian Languages.

5. The Institute offers the following main courses and subsidiary courses :-

Main Courses : Kathakali, Koodiyattam, Thullal, Mohiniyattan and Carnatic music (which is for some reason called Kerala music.

Subsidiary Courses : Yoga, Make-up, Languages (English, Sanskrit, Malyalam & Prakrit)

This is a fully integrated programme of two internationally recognized dance and drama forms of Kathakali and Koodiyattam. In fact, Koodiyattam has been declared by UNESCO as world cultural heritage. The subsidiary courses compliment the main courses.

6. Kerala Kalamandalam directly controls and manages two very simple but beautiful museums. However, these museums, one in poet, Vallthol's house and the other housed in the campus can be further developed with proper resources.

7. The library has more than 8000 books related to various disciplines, a very large mumber of manuscript which is 100 years old and preserved in the original form on palm leaves. These texts can be of enormous interest in doctoral and postdoctoral research work.

8. One of the greatest possible achievement of Kerala Kalamandalam is to build a theatre building with a capacity of 500 people and a large enough stage for various performances and demonstrations with magnificent back stage facility.

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The architecture of the theatre is directly inspired by the oldest Kutambalam (approximately 100 years old) situated in Thrissur. The architecture closely conforms to the stringent demands made in Natyashastra in constructing a Vikrisht Medieval Theatre.

9. The Committee visited the classes and was more than satisfied with the instruction. There is no doubt in any member's mind regarding the thoroughness and precision with which the subject is approached.
10. Almost all the teachers are at ploytechnic/secondary grade level and none of the faculty members is drawing the UGC pay scale or are eligible to draw the UGC pay scale.
11. There is no trace of the teaching of theory alongwith the practical training nor there is any restriction on the admission of students viz; age, qualifications etc.
12. The Members were also witness to an astounding performance of Kathakalli Thulal, Kottiyattam and Mohiniyattan which proved the excellence of both the teachers as well as the students.
13. Notwithstanding all the foregoing strengths from the point of view of the requirements of deemed university, the Institution has to fulfill certain essential ingredients, such as, teachers, courses of study at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, research, eligibility criteria. The very nature of the Performing Art, Music and Training prohibits the conventional stream of the university system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee strongly felt that additional systems of Arts Education should be given due recognition by the UGC without, in any way, diluting their basic character and strengths. Analogous to conservatorium as existing in several foreign universities, our Gurukul System of Training in Music, Performing and Visual Art should be brought into the main stream i.e. the University system.
2. In view of the above noted observations of the Committee and after careful consideration of the actual position in relation to other similar Institutions in the field of performing arts, the Committee strongly feels that the diploma courses of the Institute should first be upgraded to the level of Degree College with a plan of action for its upgradation to P.G. and Doctoral programmes by the State Government and further strengthen it with physical and academic infrastructure. The State Government should submit its revised proposal as and when the observations/recommendations of the Expert Committee have been complied with in consonance with the conditions stipulated by the University Grants Commission for the grant of deemed to be university status.

MEETING WITH SECRETARY (CULTURE)

The Secretary (Culture), Government of Kerala met the Committee members on 12th December, 2001. He apprised the Committee members of the situation of Kerala Kalamandalam for granting it the status of a deemed university. The committee members informed the Secretary of the various lacunae that existed in the Institute. The Secretary (Culture) appreciated and assured that as and when the Report of the Committee is

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received by the State Government, it will take all necessary action to comply with the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee places on record its appreciation for the cooperation and assistance extended to it by the Secretary, Faculty, students and non-teaching staff during the visit of the Committee to the Institute.

(Prof. B.H. Briz Kishore)

(Prof. M.V. Pylee)

(Prof. Indrani Chakravarti)

(Prof. Debu Chaudhuri)

(Prof. Chitranjan Jyotishi)

(Prof. Mohan Maharishi)

(Gurcharan Singh)

Thrissur
December 12, 2001

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REGISTERED.

No. VC/Secy/6628

May 30, 2002.

Dear Shri Gurcharan Singh,

Your D.O. letter No.F.6-16/99(GPH) dated May 17, 2002 received by me a day before I have gone through the report. The report is otherwise right but a few points are missing, I believe. They are mentioned as under:

In the Expert Committee meeting after experiencing the detailed deliberations, scrutiny of documents and physical inspection of the infrastructure facilities, the Committee discussed in detail on 12th December, 2001. In that observation I with Prof. Mohan Maharishi requested to help the Kala Mandalam in whatever way the UGC could help. I also requested the Convener and other members of the Committee to find out whether the institution could be considered as Center of Excellence or a deemed university to be known as conservatorium.

After a detailed discussion the draft report was prepared by you and it was read before all the members. In that report my views, seconded by Prof. Maharishi was included and the members agreed with the report.

But in the present observation and recommendation no such reference is given.

I, therefore, request you to include the vital point in the recommendation so that an Institute per Excellence may get a chance to be considered in the meeting of the Commission to be held on 5th June, 2002.

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I request you to place my suggestion before the meeting of the Commission and if my suggestion is accepted to be placed in the meeting, then only I could approve the report as a member.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Prof. (Dr.) INDRANI CHAKRAVARTI)

Shri Gurcharan Singh,
Joint Secretary,
University Grants Commission,
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
NEW DELHI-110 002.

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Endt.No.VC/Seott./6629 Dated: May 30, 2002.

Copy to Prof. B.H. Briz Kishore, F.I.E., Convener & Chairman, National Council of Rural Institutes, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, & Member, UGC, Sankar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad-50004, for information.


(Prof. (Dr.) INDRANI CHAKRAVARTI)
VICE-CHANCELLOR

23236351, 23232701, 23237721, 23234116,
23235733, 23232317, 23236735, 23239437

UGC Website : www.ugc.ac.in



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110 002
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002

October, 2004

F.6-16/99(CPP-I)

The Secretary
Kerala Kalamandalam,
Vallathal Nagar,
Cheruthuruthy-679 531
Kerala

**Subject: Proposal for grant of Deemed to be University status to Kerala Kalamandalam,
Vallathal Nagar, Distt. Kerala**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. KKM/A1/018/1997 dated 31.1.2003 on the above subject and to say that the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited the Kerala Kalamandalam on 11th - 12th December, 2001 was placed before the Commission in its meeting held on 27th December, 2002 (Item No. 6.06). The Commission had decided to defer this item until the finalisation of the new guidelines which were then under preparation. The Commission in its meeting held on 13th August, 2004 (Item No. 5.01) has decided that the old guidelines of the year 2000 for considering the proposals for declaring an Institution as Deemed to be University be continued till the new guidelines are approved.

The UGC Expert Committee which visited Kerala Kalamandalam, Kerala on 11th - 12th December, 2001 has not recommended grant of Deemed University status to Kerala Kalamandalam, Kerala for the present.

The report of the UGC Expert Committee on Deemed to be University status to Kerala Kalamandalam, Kerala has been approved by the Chairman, UGC.

A copy of each of the report of Expert Committee and guidelines for Deemed to be University (2000) is attached for your information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

V.K. Jaiswal

(V.K. Jaiswal)

Under Secretary

Encl: As above

Copy to (along with the copy of Report of UGC Expert Committee)

1. The Secretary, Government of Kerala, Cultural Affairs (A) Department, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) (Ref. 615/A-1/97/(CAD))
2. Sh. A.K. Chaturvedi, Under Secretary (U.3), Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Deptt. of Secondary & Higher Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001. (F.9-11/93 (U.3).

V.K. Jaiswal

(V.K. Jaiswal)

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A. P. ANILKUMAR

MINISTER FOR WELFARE OF BACKWARD &
SCHEDULED COMMUNITIES AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Office : 233754
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272384

TAMILNADU CULTURAL FORUM
07.02.2008

Dear Vice Chairman,

I would like to invite your kind attention to the discussion which we had at UGC Headquarter on 31st of January regarding conferring Deemed University status to Kerala Kalamandalam and the telephone discussion which we had yesterday. Government of Kerala, Department of Culture would like to mark our profound gratitude to you for all the positive steps from your side in the capacity of a well-wisher of our endeavour.

We invited Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to declare this historical and prestigious status to Kerala Kalamandalam. We are expecting Prime Minister in Kerala on 17th and 18th of February.

I had a detailed discussion with Mr. T.K. A. Nair, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister in this regard. He agreed all possible help from his side, provided, we are able to submit a copy of the declaration at least by 16th of February. I sincerely wish your presence during this historical occasion at Kerala Kalamandalam. We will send a formal invitation to you immediately after the conformation of Prime Minister's programme.

Please send the committee members at the earliest which will help you to pass necessary orders before Prime Minister's proposed visit.

I entrusted Shri. Ramesh Kumar. C., Dy. Director, PRD, Stationed at Kerala House to contact you in person for further followup in Delhi.

If you need any further details or clarifications, please contact in my mobile (No: 9447115677) or Mr. Suresh (9447114414) who is being posted as Special officer in this regard.

We would like to have a copy of the bylaw or statute of Tamil Nadu Cultural Deemed University or any other similar deemed university to frame a constitution for the proposed deemed university.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

A.P. ANILKUMAR

Prof. Dr. V.N. Rajesekharan Pillai
Vice Chairman,
University Grants Commission,
Bhebedursha Zafar Marg,

New Delhi. Copy to: 1. Resident commissioner, New Delhi, ✓
2. Sri. Ramesh kumar D.D, PRD