

Kerala State Higher Education Council
Minutes of the 12th Executive Body meeting held on 03.01.2025

The 12th Executive Body Meeting of the fourth KSHEC was held on 03.01.2025 at 11.00 am through hybrid mode. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M., Vice Chairman presided.

The following members attended the meeting.

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| 1. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M. | : | Vice Chairman, KSHEC. |
| 2. Dr. M.S. Rajasree | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 3. Dr. K.K. Damodaran | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 4. Sri. Paul V. Karanthanam | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 5. Dr. P.P. Ajayakumar | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 6. Dr. Rajan Varughese | : | Member Secretary, KSHEC |

The following agenda was transacted and decisions taken.

Item No. 1 - Implementation of K -REAP Software

After detailed discussion it was resolved to request the Government to approve the proposal to collect operational charges from universities at a rate of Rs. 150/- per student per semester by KSHEC and the Government may issue necessary directions to all universities in Kerala to implement the above measures for the successful execution of the K-REAP software project.

Item No. 2 - International Conclave on Next Gen Higher Education

Reported the details of the International Conclave as given below.

A. Details of Programme – (Draft)

Day 1 - 14 January 2025

Inaugural Session

Presidential Address

Dr. R. Bindu

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education & Social Justice

Inaugural Address

Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan,

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kerala

Guest of Honor

Shri. K N. Balagopal

Hon'ble Minister for Finance

Other Speakers

Professor V.K. Ramachandran

Vice-chairperson, Kerala State Planning Board

Smt. Ishita Roy IAS, Principal Secretary,

Department of Higher Education

Professor Philip G. Altbach, Boston College

Topic: Kerala and the World: The Future of International Higher Education

Dr. Nina Arnhold,

Global Lead, Tertiary Education, World Bank

Topic: Pathways to Global Competencies: The role of Policy Makers and Institutions

Professor Ada Yonath, Nobel Laureate (Online message)

Professor M. Junaid Bushiri, Vice-chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology

Professor. P. G. Sankaran, Former Vice Chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology & (Coordinator, Organising Committee)

Plenary Sessions

Integrating Global Perspectives in Kerala's Higher Education

Moderator: Professor N. V. Varghese, IIT Bombay

Speakers:

- Professor Seeram Ramakrishna, National University of Singapore
- Professor Sabu Padmadas, University of Southampton
- Dr. Zachariah Mathew, University of Michigan
- Dr. Shakila T Shamsu, Former OSD (Ministry of Education GOI)
- Dr. Mahmood Kooria, University of Edinburgh

Generative AI and Emerging Technologies in Higher Education

Moderator: Professor Saji Gopinath, Former Vice Chancellor, Digital University of Kerala & Professor IIM-K

Speakers:

- Professor Don Passey, Lancaster University
- Dr. Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, Oecd, Paris
- Dr. Rajasree M.S., CEO, Trestresearch Park, Former Vice-Chancellor, Apjaktu
- Professor Neeta Inamdar – Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Fostering Research Excellence and Innovation

Moderator: Professor Suresh Das, ISER, Thiruvananthapuram, Former Executive Vice President, KSCSTE, Former Director, NIST

Speakers:

- Thalappil Pradeep Institute Professor, LITMadras
- Professor Sabu Thomas (Trest Research Park, Former Vice Chancellor, MGU)
- Professor Pankaj Jalote, LIIT-Delhi
- Professor Gin Jose, University of Leeds

Cultural Programme

(Bhavayami)

Presented by

RLV College of Music and Fine Arts, Thripunithura

Day 2

15 January 2025: Parallel Sessions

Strategies for Financial Sustainability

Moderator: Professor Jiju P Alex, Kerala State Planning Board

Vice Chancellor's Remark: Professor Jagathy Raj V. P., Vice Chancellor, Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SNGOU)

Speakers:

- Dr. Denis Nikolaev, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank
- Dr. K J Joseph, Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)
- Professor Philip G. Altbach, Boston College

Academic Libraries: Preparing for Tomorrow's Challenges

Moderator: *Professor Rajan Gurukkal, Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council*
Vice Chancellor's Remark: Prof. K. K. Geethakumary, Vice Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady

Speakers:

- Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi, Chief Librarian, India International Centre, New Delhi
- Dr. Rama Patnaik, IIM-Bangaluru
- Dr. Gopakumar V, Digital University of Kerala (DUK)

Leveraging Research Outcomes from Kerala's Universities for Effective Policy Formulation

Moderator: Professor Sabu Thomas (Trest Research Park, Former Vice Chancellor, MGU)

Vice Chancellor's Remark: Dr. P. Raveendran, Vice Chancellor, University of Calicut

Speakers:

- Professor Gangan Prathap, Former Director, CSIR
- Professor U.K. Anandavardhanan, Department of Mathematics, IIT, Bombay
- Prof. Raghavan B Sunoj, Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Bombay
- Dr. Jeemon P, Additional Professor of Epidemiology, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, India
- Dr. Franklin J, Associate Professor & Vice Principal, Department of Chemistry, Sacred Heart College Thevara, Kochi.

Transforming Scientific Discoveries into Practical Solutions

Moderator: Dr. A. Sabu, Member Secretary, Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)

Vice Chancellor's Remark: Professor Mohanan Kunnummal, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Health Sciences

Speakers:

- Dr. Baby Chakrapani P.S., Director (i/c), Centre of Excellence in Neurodegeneration and Brain Health
Cochin University of Science and Technology
- Dr. Radhakrishnan E.K., Associate Professor, School of Biosciences (SBS)
Mahatma Gandhi University
- Professor Manoj N., Department of Chemistry
Cochin University of Science and Technology
- UCA Jaleel, Principal Scientist, OSPF -NIAS
- Dr. S. Anoop, Professor, Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology,
College of Veterinary and Animal sciences, Mannuthy

Benefits of Graduate Tracking System in Kerala's Higher Education

Moderator : Professor N.V.Varghese, IIT, Bombay

Speakers:

- Professor Santosh K. Mehrotra, Former Professor, JNU and Visiting Professor
University of Bath, UK
- Mr. Ambarish Ambuj, Consultant, Education, South Asia Region, World Bank
- Professor Sabu Padmadas, University of Southampton

Reforming Teacher Education: Addressing Challenges, Seizing Opportunities

Moderator: Professor Mohan B. Menon, Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic-Wawasan Open University, Malaysia.

Vice Chancellor's Remark: Professor L. Sushama, Vice Chancellor, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University

Speakers:

- Professor Sapna V Thwaite, University of Michigan (Online)

- Professor Don Passey, Lancaster University
- Professor T. Mohamed Saleem, Principal, Farook Training College

Preparing Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow

Moderator: Professor K. Ravi Raman, Member, Kerala State Planning Board

Vice Chancellor's Remark : Professor. K. K. Saju, Vice Chancellor, Kannur University

Speakers:

- Professor Seeram Ramakrishna, NUS
- Dr. Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, OECD
- Dr. Rajesh Pankaj, FICCI
- Mr. Ritin Malhotra, Times Higher Education, London
- Mr. Ravin Nair, QS I-GAUGE, India
- Dr. Arunkumar V A. , Director, IHRD
- Dr. M. Abdul Rahiman, Director, LBS Centre for Science & Technology

Navigating the Future of Historical Inquiry

Moderator : Professor Rajan Gurukkal, Vice Chairman, KSHEC

Speakers:

- Professor Kesavan Veluthatt, Formerly Professor of History, University of Delhi.
- Professor K.N. Ganesh, Chairperson, Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR).
- Professor Michael Tharakan, Former Vice Chancellor, Kannur University & Chairperson, KCHR.
- Professor K.M. Sheeba, Professor, Department of History, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala.
- Professor P.P. Abdul Razak, Asso. Professor of History, PSMO College. Tirurangadi.
- Professor Dinesan V. Director, Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR).

Session Title: Art Education for the Future

Moderator: Prof. M.V. Narayanan, Former Vice-Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady

Speakers

- Prof. Deepan Sivaraman School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University
- Dr. Kavitha Balakrishnan Department of Art History, Government College of Fine Arts, Thrissur
- T. G. Jyothilal, Associate Professor in Sculpture, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady
- Jithinlal N R, Dept of Painting, RLV. Govt. College of Music and Fine Arts
- Shri Jijoy P R, Director, K.R. Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts

Industry-Academia Partnerships (STEM Subjects)

Moderator : Mr. Balagopal Chandrasekhar, Chairman, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, (KSIDC)

Special Lecture: Dr. Sanjay Behari, Director, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology (SCTIMST)

Vice Chancellor's Remark: Prof. K. SivaPrasad, Vice Chancellor, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University

Panelists:

- Dr. Shalij PR, Director of Technical Education, Govt. of Kerala
- Ms. Nazneen Jahangir, CEO, NeST Digital
- Mr. Muraleedharan Mannungal, CEO, ICT Academy Kerala,
- Dr. S Vijayan Pillai, Technical Director, Keltron

- Dr. Geemon Korah, Executive Director and CEO, Mane Kancor Ingredients Private Ltd, Ernakulam
- Dr. Prince Joseph, *SFO Technologies*, India.
- Mr. Vishal Menon, Chief Development Officer · Synthite Industries Ltd.

Industry-Academia Partnerships (Non- STEM Subjects)

Moderator : Mr. C. Padmakumar, Special Officer, Kerala Medical Technology Consortium (KMTTC)

Panelists:

- Sri. Sudhir K. IAS, Director of Collegiate Education
- Dr. Usha Titus IAS (Retd.), CMD, ASAP Kerala
- Ms. Usha Nair, Head, Distribution, DSP Mutual Fund, Mumbai
- Mr. Girish Krishnan, Head, Project Management, ICICI Prudential Insurance, Mumbai
- Mr. Kamal Mampally, Chief HR, Geojit Financial Services Ltd.
- Mr. Raj Narayan, Head, HR Division, Federal Bank, Aluva

Special Session:

Kerala's Higher Education Transformations: Bridging Reforms and Global Aspirations

Moderator: Prof. C. T. Aravindakumar, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University

Speakers

- Prof. K. S. Anil Kumar, Registrar, Kerala University
- Prof. Joby K Jose, Registrar, Kannur University
- Prof. Godwin Samraj, Controller of Examinations, University of Calicut
- Dr. Suja T. V., Member Syndicate, Mahatma Gandhi University
- Ms. Anusree K, Member Syndicate, SNGOU

Modernizing University Governance: Paving the Way for a Global Education Hub

Moderator: Prof. Gopinath Raveendran, Former Vice Chancellor, Kannur University & Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia University

Speakers:

- Prof. Shyam B. Menon, Chairman, Reforms Commission
- Dr. K. K. Damodaran, Member, Executive Body, KSHEC
- Dr. Kavumbai Balakrishnan, Member Syndicate, University of Calicut
- Dr. Nazeeb S., Member Syndicate, University of Kerala
- Prof. Beena Mathew, Member Syndicate, Mahatma Gandhi University
- Dr. Pramod Kumar K. V., Member Syndicate, University of Kannur

Discussion:

Future Directions of Change in Higher Education

Discussion on key insights and outcomes of the conference.

Moderator: Prof. Shyam B, Menon

Speakers:

- Professor N. V. Varghese, IIT, Bombay
- Professor Sabu Padmadas, Professor of Demography and Global Science
- Professor Seeram Ramakrishna, Professor, College of Design and Engineering
- Dr. Nina Arnhold, World Bank

Valedictory Session

Chair:

Dr. R. Bindu, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education

Valedictory Address

Shri. P. Rajeev, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Industries and Coir

Speakers

Prof. Rajan Gurukkal, Vice Chairman, KSHEC

Prof. M. Junaid Bushiri, Vice-chancellor, CUSAT

Dr. Jiju P. Alex, Kerala State Planning Board

B. Meetings held in connection with the Higher Education Conclave

December 22 - Meeting of Sub Committee Chairpersons and Conveners to Review arrangements related to the Higher Education Conclave.

December 18:- Discussion on Higher Education Conclave- 18 December 2024

December 17:-Higher Education Conclave-Online Meeting

November 29- Online meeting of the Steering Committee constituted by the Government in connection with the conduct of the International Conclave on Next-Gen Higher Education

November 28- Online meeting - INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

November 24- KSHEC: Meeting Regarding International Conclave.

Online meeting with Principals of colleges in Ernakulam district , librarians and Publishers were also held.

C. Budget Estimates

Sl.No	Item	Amount
1	Food (Two days)	7.5 lakhs
2	Accommodation	8 lakhs
3	Travel (Air)	16 lakhs
4	Travel (local)	4 lakhs
5	Conference Kit	7.5 lakhs
6	Miscellaneous	7 lakhs
Total		50 lakhs

It was resolved to release an advance amount of Rs. 10 lakhs to CUSAT as requested by the university.

Item No. 3 - Recommendations of ITEP – Letter to NCTE

The KSHEC-ITEP Curriculum Committee was established to facilitate the implementation of the 4-Year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) in Kerala. This initiative represents a transformative step in India's higher education landscape, aligning with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). The committee's primary objective was to identify the challenges and opportunities within Kerala's teacher education and higher education systems and to develop a curriculum implementation strategy that adheres to the NCTE-ITEP Curriculum Framework and Regulations, while addressing the unique needs and realities of Kerala's education system.

Through extensive discussions with a diverse range of stakeholders, the Committee developed its perspectives on the concerns, challenges, and potential solutions for implementing ITEP in Kerala. These stakeholders included representatives from teacher education institutions, systems, and programs spanning various levels of teacher education as well and the multi-disciplinary colleges in the state.

Currently, pre-service teacher education programs in Kerala include 2-year Pre-Primary programs, 2-year D.El.Ed. programs, 2-year B.Ed. programs, and 2-year M.Ed. programs. The 2-year D.El.Ed. programs are available across 14 districts, with a total of 201 institutions comprising 37 government, 64 aided, and 100 self-financing institutions. Additionally, the state hosts several pre-primary teacher training centers, including four government institutes."

The 2-year B.Ed. programs are offered under four universities in the state: Kannur University, University of Calicut, Mahatma Gandhi University, and the University of Kerala. These programs are delivered through a total of 187 institutions, including 4 government, 17 aided, and 166 self-financing institutions. Additionally, M.Ed. programs are conducted alongside the B.Ed. program in select institutions. Some of the Government and Government Aided colleges also have a strong doctoral research program.

The KSHEC-ITEP Curriculum Committee conducted consultative meetings with stakeholders, inviting representatives from all teacher education and multi disciplinary institutions across all the major universities in Kerala. A detailed presentation was made during these meetings to sensitise stakeholders on the structure and significance of Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) as formulated by NCTE. Suggestions and discussion points were formally documented, while inputs from various teacher education organizations, experts, and other individuals were consolidated and analyzed. Based on these insights, the committee drafted the following apprehensions, suggestions and recommendations in respect to the implementation of ITEP in Kerala. The committee strongly recommends that these apprehensions, suggestions and recommendations be submitted to the NCTE through the KSHEC and the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala.

Specific Apprehensions

Stakeholders from Teacher Education sector have unanimously expressed their concerns over the potential loss of identity for existing Stand alone Teacher Education Institutions (STEIs) and emphasised the need to preserve the identity of these institutions, rather than shifting ITEP entirely to multidisciplinary institutions.

NCTE has stipulated that government institutions offering teacher education programs on the same premises as their multidisciplinary counterparts can implement ITEP through twinning arrangements. However, stakeholders are concerned that NCTE may not extend to Government Aided and self-financed institutions. This apprehension needs to be addressed.

The situation is even more critical for elementary teacher education institutions, which currently operate within the school education sector under SCERT. With the introduction of ITEP, certificate and diploma programs will be phased out, and most of these institutions may struggle to transition into a multidisciplinary environment within the higher education sector.

The introduction of the 4-year ITEP program in the state potentially jeopardises the current status of institutions offering the 2-year Pre-Primary Teacher programs, D.El.Ed., and B.Ed. programs, as well as the teacher educators employed in these institutions.

The teacher educator community has unanimously expressed concern regarding the qualification structure of ITEP for subject teachers. They strongly advocate that an M.Ed. should be a mandatory qualification for all educators teaching in the ITEP program. Present structure of PG with B Ed should be replaced with M.Ed.

Kerala has implemented the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) across all universities starting from June 2024, and multidisciplinary institutions are currently undergoing a transformational phase in their graduate programs. Representatives from these institutions have expressed concerns about the operational challenges of running two distinct programs on the same campus. Given that ITEP is an exclusive professional teacher preparation program, maintaining an operational and functional balance between teacher education and liberal arts and science programs may pose significant difficulties.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

The implementation of ITEP should complement, rather than completely replace, the existing teacher education systems and programs. It is crucial to integrate, accommodate and strengthen the current structures and institutions wherever possible, ensuring alignment with the NCTE Curriculum Framework and Regulations.

NCTE has sanctioned ITEP for Regional Institutes of Education (RIE) by recognising them as multidisciplinary Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). However, while RIEs lack traditional liberal arts and science courses, they do have subject departments across various disciplines. This RIE model should, therefore, be extended to those teacher education institutions with adequate infrastructure and faculty. They could then be allowed to run ITEP program and also B.Ed., M.Ed., and Ph.D programs

Many multidisciplinary Higher Education Institutions (MHEIs) have expressed their willingness to support the implementation of the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) through twinning arrangements with nearby Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs), provided the TEIs take the initiative in applying for ITEP. A twinning arrangement between a standalone TEI and a nearby MHEI affiliated with the same university can create a mutually beneficial partnership, enabling programs and activities that benefit the local community. This arrangement is easier to implement when both institutions are under the same management with an appropriate governance structure. However, even if managed separately—such as one being government-run and the other government-aided or self-financed—a formal governance and monitoring framework, as outlined in the UGC Guidelines (2022), can make such collaborations feasible and effective. These cooperative efforts can significantly accelerate the adoption of ITEP across various HEIs.

Institutional clusters can be created by allowing more than two single-stream institutions, including Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) and multidisciplinary institutions with low enrolment and limited financial resources, to come together as a cluster. This collaborative arrangement enables institutions to offer innovative, employment-oriented multidisciplinary programs, including the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), leveraging shared resources and expertise.

Teacher Education Clusters can be established by bringing together more than two institutions involved in teacher training at various stages. These clusters would promote

strong collaboration with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, enabling a more cohesive and efficient approach to teacher education and training through integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP).

In situations where merging a multidisciplinary institution with a teacher education institution becomes necessary due to factors such as low student enrollment or other challenges, institutions operating under a single management and affiliated with the same university could consider merging. Such a merger would enable the optimal utilization of academic and physical resources, foster a multidisciplinary environment, and facilitate the implementation of programs like ITEP.

Kerala boasts a well-structured educational network encompassing general education, higher education, and technical education. As a result, all the aforementioned suggestions can be effectively implemented with the support of an established monitoring mechanism under the Department of Education of the affiliating universities, Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASes), the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).

Hence it is requested that the NCTE may carefully consider the apprehensions and suggestions arising from the reflections of stakeholders in the areas of teacher education and multidisciplinary institutions. While ITEP holds the potential to transform the teacher education landscape across the country, its implementation must be approached with utmost care to ensure the survival and sustainability of existing Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) in our state.

It was resolved to forward the above matter to the government to be communicated to the NCTE, New Delhi.

Item No. 4 - Appointing Statutory Auditor for auditing Council's Account 2024-25

It was resolved to appoint Ms. Mohan & Mohan Associates, Thiruvananthapuram as Statutory Auditor for Auditing the Council's Account for the Financial Year 2024 – 25 as they have quoted the lowest amount of Rs. Rs.1,20,000/- + GST (One Lakh Twenty Thousand only + GST)

The Minutes were read and confirmed

The Meeting which started at 11.00 am concluded by 12.30 pm.



Vice Chairman



Member Secretary