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Thiruvananthapuram

25.04.2018

Shri. Prakash Javadekar
Hon'ble Minister of HRD
Govt. of India
302-C, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Sir,

Sub: Request to give priority to the starting of Library and Information Department at the Central University of Kerala

Kerala Library Association (KLA), established in 1971, is the premier professional Association representing all categories library and information professionals in the State. We have been championing the cause of professional librarians at the state level and national level for the last 47 years. We wish to invite your kind attention to the significance of starting a new Department of Library and Information Science (LIS) at the Central University of Kerala.

The State of Kerala is woefully inadequate in terms of providing LIS education at the Masters Degree level. There are only two universities in the State viz. University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and the University of Calicut, Kozhikode offering regular two year Integrated Master's Degree in Library and Information Science (MLISc) with an intake of less than 25

students each which provide quality education in the field. Being state universities, they suffer from handicaps like inadequate infrastructural facilities, inadequacy of teaching faculty etc. The worst affected area is research in Library and Information Science due to paucity of research guides.

The Central University of Kerala (CUK) which is one of the prestigious universities in the State of Kerala has shortlisted the Library and Information Science subject under its new departments *to be launched list*. Out of 32 departments proposed as per CUK ordinance, 22 departments have been already started their programs and now CUK proposes to start 3 new departments from the remaining list every year.

The establishment of a new Department of Library and Information Science at the CUK not only will expand the provision of education to the LIS aspirants in the State but also will serve as a model for other universities to emulate. Hence we earnestly urge the Honourable Minister of HRD, Govt. of India to take necessary steps to prioritise the starting of LIS department at CUK so that the teaching programmes can be started during the coming academic year itself.

We look forward to your active consideration and favorable decision in this matter.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully

Dr. P.K Suresh Kumar
General Secretary, KLA

