



THE EDICTS



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History should be construed only by credible historians: CM

Asif Abdul Khalam
Ralph Robert

Thiruvananthapuram: As a curtain raiser to the 77th Indian History Congress, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the public seminar on 'Making of Modern India and Secularism' at the University senate hall. The seminar was chaired by eminent historian, Professor Romila Thapar.

Celebrated musician and Ramon Magsaysay award winner, T.M. Krishna, Dr N Veeramanikandan, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Kerala and Prof. G Mohan Gopal (Director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi) were also present at the occasion.

In his inaugural speech against the saffronisation of history and the educational sector of India, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that history should be construed only by professional and credible historians. He



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan addressing the curtain raiser public function of the 77th Indian History Congress

accused the Sangh Parivar of trying to establish a malformed form of history called "Vasthavic Ithihasa" which vaguely translates to "Real History"; claiming the history as we know it to be entirely wrong.

'They call the medieval period of India a "Dark Age". They

even demand the legislations of India be re-written according to the moral ethics as said in Hindu epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana. Children are being purposefully taught distorted history at schools from a very young age. This is a silent attack against the secular nature

of our country. Such immature misinterpretation of history is at its peak in India, added Pinarayi Vijayan.

Romila Thapar began her speech with a notion of change. 'We only give little importance to history. Newer traditions always demand a break from

older traditions. Hindutva is a reaction to modernization. In ancient times, India was a multi-cultural country; this is because secularism is a mindset that existed in India even then. Secularism safeguards democracy and democracy requires secularism. A democracy cannot function if some citizens are 'more equal' than others', she observed.

T.M Krishna said that our society is in a mess of a situation right now. He also stated that, irrespective of society or caste, we are all capable of absorbing our beliefs. Allah, Jesus and Rama, have become feelings that all of us can imbibe. The secular cannot say that it is in loggerheads with faith.

'Secularism is not a fight against the idea of equality or brotherhood. It is a necessity in a time where rational thought and science are considered a threat', said Prof. G. Mohan Gopal.

Syndicate members Advocate A.A Rahim and Shri. K.S Gopakumar also spoke on the occasion.

Exhibitions Inaugurated

Asif Abdul Khalam
Akhila A.L.

Kariavattom: The Indian History Congress befalls upon Kerala's educational sector as a blessing as it is being hosted by the University of Kerala, said the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the varsity, DR.N.Veeramanikandan while delivering the inaugural address of the exhibitions organised

by various departments. The Inaugural session held at the University's department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries came as a prelude to the 77th edition of the Indian History Congress, where the signature video and an exclusive mobile app were also launched in the event.

At the event presided by the University syndicate member, Adv. Johnson Abraham, Dr.

Z.A Samitha, the principal of Kerala University College of Engineering and other syndicate members, Dr. P.M. Radhamani, Advocate K.H. Bahujan, Dr. Shaji, Shri Abdul Rahim, Shri Gopakumar K.S., and advocate A.A. Rahim, spoke felicitating the expo.

Exhibition

Kariavattom Campus hosts a remarkable exhibition on Kerala's history and culture

in 8 different galleries across the campus as part of the 77th Indian History Congress. The exhibition is organized as a joint initiative from the departments of Archaeology, Arabic, Geology, Aquatic Biology, and Oriental Research Institute and Manuscript Library, as well as Kerala State Department of Archaeology and State Archives, Government of Kerala. Each department has given distinct names to attract delegates such as 'Earth Revealed' (Geology), 'History and Heritage Exhibition' (State department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala), 'Charithra Rekha' (State Archive, Government of Kerala), 'A'thuras-Paithrukam' (Department of Arabic), 'Oceans: Past and Future' (Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries), 'Signatures of Past Populace' (Department of Archaeology), 'Thalakshara' (Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts library) and Ms. Somayye Keighobadi Lemjiri will also curate the exhibition named 'Colors of Iran'.

Exhibition will be open for all without any entry fee from 9 AM to 7 PM every day until the closing ceremony of the History Congress. Each and

every exhibition showcases rarest of documents and many other historical remnants from around the state.

Mobile Application and Signature Video

For the first time ever, a mobile application has been developed for History Congress which can be used on both Android and Apple iOS platforms, to help delegates stay informed about the schedule of the events, travel arrangements and accommodation facilities. They will receive live notifications through their smartphones about the proceedings and changes in the event as push notifications after the installation of the app from PlayStore or AppCentre

A forty seconds long signature video created by Abhilash Sudheesh, student of the Department of Communication and Journalism and his team was also launched by the Pro Vice Chancellor in the presence of Dr. M.S. Harikumar, Head of the Communication and Journalism Department. This signature video will be shown at all 13 venues of the History Congress before the beginning of each session.



Photo: Vivek R Rajan

The Gate to History: The arch at the Kariavattom Campus which has been modelled after the Indian Gate for the Indian History Congress



The Spectacular Seven

Geethu V Nair
Nandana U S
Dhanya S nair

The 77th Indian History Congress will augment the delegates from all over India by the presence of prominent historians of international repute. Eminent historians and scholars like Romila Thapar, Suchetha Mahajan, Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Prabhat Patnaik, Rajan Gurukkal, Irfan Habib and Satish Chandra will also grab the attention of history loving people to the event. The three day congress will give a different experience to the delegates where they can interact with top historians.

Romila Thapar, famous Indian historian who focuses on ancient India, is a Professor Emerita from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. She wrote a volume that is the cohesion of Indian history from the early times known until the arrival of the European settlers in the 16th century B.C. Ancient Indian Social History is a historic compilation in which she has drawn parallels between Hinduism and Buddhism and their social systems.

Suchetha Mahajan, is a professor at Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) who focuses on Modern Indian History, Contemporary Indian History, with an added emphasis on the themes of colonialism, nationalism and communalism. RSS, School Texts and the Murder of Mahatma Gandhi- the Hindu Communal Project (with Aditya and Mridula

Mukherjee), Education for Social Change: MVF and Child Labour, Independence



Amiya Kumar Vagchi



Prabhat Patnaik



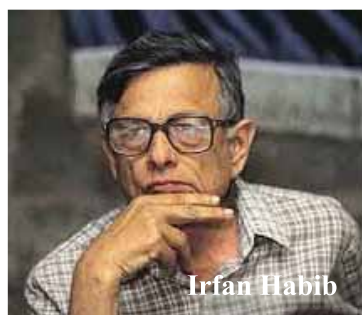
Romila Thapar



Suchetha Mahajan

and Partition: The Erosion of Colonial Power in India are some of her notable works.

Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Indian political economist, who interprets history from an overall Marxist perspective. He is renowned for his



Irfan Habib



Satish Chandra



Rajan Gurukkal

extensive contributions to theories of imperialism and underdevelopment. Bagchi has specialised in the history of Indian banking and finance.

Prabhat Patnaik is an Indian economist and political

commentator. He served as the vice-chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board from June 2006 to May 2011. He taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, from 1974 until his retirement in 2010.

Rajan Gurukkal is an Indian historian, social scientist, professor and writer. He is also the former Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India. Social Formations of Early South India, Aryanisation of South India, Dravidian Encyclopaedia, Rethinking Classical Indo-Roman Trade are some of his famed works.

Irfan Habib is an Indian historian of ancient and medieval India. He was Coordinator/Chairman of the Centre for Advanced Studies, AMU from 1975-77 and 1984-94. He was Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research during 1986-90. Habib was also the general secretary, Sectional President, and then the General President of the Indian History Congress (1981). He considers Vedas as a good source of historical knowledge and has written books about Vedas and Vedic age.

Satish Chandra is an Indian historian, whose focal area is medieval Indian history. He was a professor of History at JNU and served as the vice chairman and chairman of the University Grants Commission of India. He was also the secretary and president of the Indian History Congress. Essays in Medieval Indian Economic History, Medieval India: From Sultanat to the Mughals are two of the prominent books related to his specialised area.

IHC to go Green

Gokul J B

History will go green keeping up the pace with contemporary world. The 77th session of Indian History Congress is planned to fall in line with the Green Protocol Concept to prevent sources of waste production. The KSM decided to replace disposable plates and glasses with stainless steel plates and glasses. As a joint initiative, KSM and Thiruvananthapuram Corporation will provide 4000 stainless steel glasses for serving tea and water. Shri Pazhayidam Nampoothiri, who is in charge of food committee, has agreed to use reusable plates for serving food.

As the part of preventing the waste from its source, KSM will run a campaign against food wastage and will place hoardings for awareness at all the food counters. Thereby we can ensure less food wastage, said R.S. Ameerasha, the KSM Program Officer.

The food waste disposal will be done through a Scientific Pit-compost Method, under which, the degradable wastes along with cow-dung will be deposited into the pit that is made at campus for decomposition. This compost manure will be used for the vegetable cultivation in the campus.

The Kerala Suchitwa Mission will place bamboo baskets in the campus premises to collect the plastic wastes such as soft drink bottles and snack covers. This waste will further undergo for recycling. In this congress, the KSM strictly ordered to use real flowers and bouquets instead of artificial plastic flowers.

Around 150 specially trained NSS volunteers, called Green Volunteers, are deployed on duty for implementing the initiatives and to maintain a plastic free atmosphere in order to make the Indian History Congress eco friendly.

The Dawn of The History Congress

Rameez K.
Deepthi Renjith
Arunchith D S

“India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition”. With the need of conducting scientific and detailed study on all aspects of Indian history, The Indian History Congress was constituted in 1935. IHC is the largest professional and academic body of Indian historians with over 10,000 members.

The first session of the Indian History Congress was held at Pune in 1935 under the name Modern History Congress. The founding session was addressed by Professor Shafaat Ahmad Khan, who was the President of first edition of the History

Congress. The Congress was renamed as Indian History Congress in its second edition in 1938. The organization has been holding its sessions each year, except for certain years of exceptional national crises ever since. The Congress is being organized by the Kerala University after 58 years.

The 77th annual session of Indian History Congress is going to be held from 28-30 December 2016 at the University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus. Around 3000 delegates from various parts of the country are expected to take part in the 77th IHC. The events include sessions on Ancient India, Medieval India, Modern India, Contemporary India and Archeology. The major objectives of Indian History Congress are: Promotion and encouragement of the scientific study of Indian

history and co-operation with other organizations in India and abroad which holds similar objectives. IHC has broadened the scope of history by inviting papers at the annual session under different categories. Usually the papers are submitted at the six sections and those selected are published in the Indian History Congress annual proceedings. IHC also has an active publication programme. The major resolutions generally deal with matters of interest to historians as teachers and researchers, to ensure due protection to our monuments and to create easier access to archives and sources and in general to defend the scientific method and secular approach to history. The three-day congress will be formally inaugurated by the President of India, Sri. Pranab Mukherjee on December 29.

Cartoon Corner

Shahana A R



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History Congress to Dwell on Humanism

The Indian History Congress comes to the mother University of Kerala after a hiatus of fifty eight years. The redeeming feature of this disconnect is the sublime fact that the Kerala University publishes the Journal of Indian History, perhaps the only one of its genre, founded by the first General President of the Indian History Congress, Sir Shafaat Ahamed Khan (1893-1947), Professor of Modern History, University of Allahabad. Sir C P Ramaswami Iyer's farsightedness and vision in inviting Sir Albert Einstein to be the first Vice-Chancellor of Travancore University also motivated him to bring the Journal of Indian History to Kerala. The History Congress comes to Kerala at a juncture of sociological and political flux when myriad forces of reaction and communalism

have made inroads into the bastion of secular culture and progressive thought across the country negating the quintessence of Indian history and heritage. Dalits are being marginalized and persecuted as never before; social division among religious groups have reached an inflammable point of no return driving the aggrieved underground only to be hunted and annihilated. Spaces of liberal democratic thought and humaneness in political negotiations have shrunk dangerously. Callous acts of secrecy and surprise have brought the masses into economic discomfort reminiscent of warfare. The affluent as in all ages of history are tranquil and jubilant but the misery of the penurious has quadrupled. As a vanguard of scientific methodology, the Indian History Congress has a seminal role to play in the



Professor Suresh Jnanasawaran

scripting of the country's past and preserving the traditions of scientific modernity in the practice of history.

The 77th session of Indian History Congress hosted by the University of Kerala has meticulously ensured a comprehensive address of contemporary problems through historical negotiations. The study of Dalits, their Problems and

Politics has been given special attention in a Panel discussion by eminent scholars from all over the country. The problems confronting the country especially its rural and remote spaces has been given due importance in a panel of eminent scholars dealing with India and its parts. Influences that moulded the country and its history like the Dutch intervention, has been given due cognizance in a panel of eminent Dutch historians. Heritage and history that evolves into the present have found attention in the Pattanam panel of eminent archaeologists. Scholars from abroad and neighbouring countries will be participating ensembling the universal nature of scientific history and thought in a spectrum of sections from archaeology and ancient India to contemporary India.

The President of India, will inaugurate the Congress on 29 December 2016 with a special address in the presence of Governor and Chief Minister of Kerala. Cabinet colleagues will also be present adding great significance to this historic event. The conference will be adorned with the presence of eminent historians and scholars like Irfan Habib, Romila Thapar, K N Panikkar, Aditya Mukherjee, K Paddayya, Prabhat Patnaik and Mridula Mukherjee. Prof Shireen Moosvi the President and Prof Ishrat Alam the secretary of IHC would give leadership to the historic deliberations for a secular, scientific and modern India.

Prof. Suresh Jnanasawaran, the faculty dean of social sciences (University of Kerala) is the local secretary of Indian History Congress

'Thalakshara' to Lighten the Legacy



The picture exhibition at the 'Thalakshara' screening venue

Thasneem Muhammed M S
Aswathy Nair MA

Kariavattom: Thalakhshara, a documentary depicting the history of the manuscript library, situated inside the campus was screened at the Department of Oriental Research Institute and Manuscript Library of the Kerala University, as part of the 77th session of Indian History Congress. The 20 minute long film visualizes the glorious legacy of the largest manuscript collection in the country which has also acquired international acclaim.

The documentary portraits rare collections of scripts written in Vattezhuthu, Kolezhuthu, Malayantma, Devanagari, Grandha etc. in which the languages used are English, Burmese, Malayalam, Tamil, Indonesian, Kannada, Assamese, Oriya, Gujarati and Marathi. The

visual treat revisits the ancient times illustrating the golden days of literature. Works such as Sivalinga Sasanam, Chitra Ramayana, Aswalakshana, Yoga Vasishtam, Swathithirunal rare musical collections, Panchangam, hand written works of Ulloor S Parmeshwara Iyer, Kuttikrishna Marar, Kerala Varma Valya Koyi Thampuran are well preserved and treasured here. Pictorial representations which are carved in the scripts are made of golden powder, natural colors and leaf extract. The video will be screened every 20 minutes.

Realizing the necessity of preserving Indian heritage the then Maharaja of Travancore, Sreemoolam Thirunal entrusted Dr. T Ganapathy Sastri with the publication of rare and valuable manuscripts in the year 1903. Accordingly, Sanskrit curated office and Malayalam curated

office was constituted to add collection and preservation. It was due to the initiative by the former union minister Dr. Karan Singh, that the manuscript library was moved to the current building.

'The students and scholars from around the world visit the department for various purposes. Since the Indian History Congress is being held at the campus, we are expecting more delegates to explore the traditional yet exclusive platform' says Dr. Sainaba M, head of the department.

Parallel to the documentary screening, an exhibition is also being arranged by the department under the same title 'Thalakshara', means letters engraved in palm leaves. In addition to the exhibition, a private coin-currency collection of department staff has also been organized.

Venues all set for IHC

Parvathy R S Nair

Kariavattom: The 77th Indian History Congress is all set to roll at the thirteen venues set up within the Kariavattom campus. The main venue arranged for the inaugural session is the Golden jubilee auditorium of the campus. Sessions and cultural programs will be hosted simultaneously in all the thirteen venues.

The sessions will be conducted at the seminar halls of various departments. The session on Ancient India will be conducted at the seminar hall of the engineering college. And the part one of the session on Medieval India will be held at the department of economics. The second part of the session will be hosted by the department of political science. The academic staff college rooms 1,2 and 3 are arranged for Modern India part I, II and III respectively. 'History of countries other than India' is scheduled to be held at the History department. Panel I (Dutch sources of Indian History) Panel II (Indian and its parts) Panel III (Dalit history past and present) will be conducted at of departments of Physics, Law, Aquatic Biology and Fisheries respectively. The panel which will discuss the situation of contemporary India will be hosted by the department of Physics. Archaeology and Panel IV (Pattanam) will be organized at seminar hall Department of Botany.



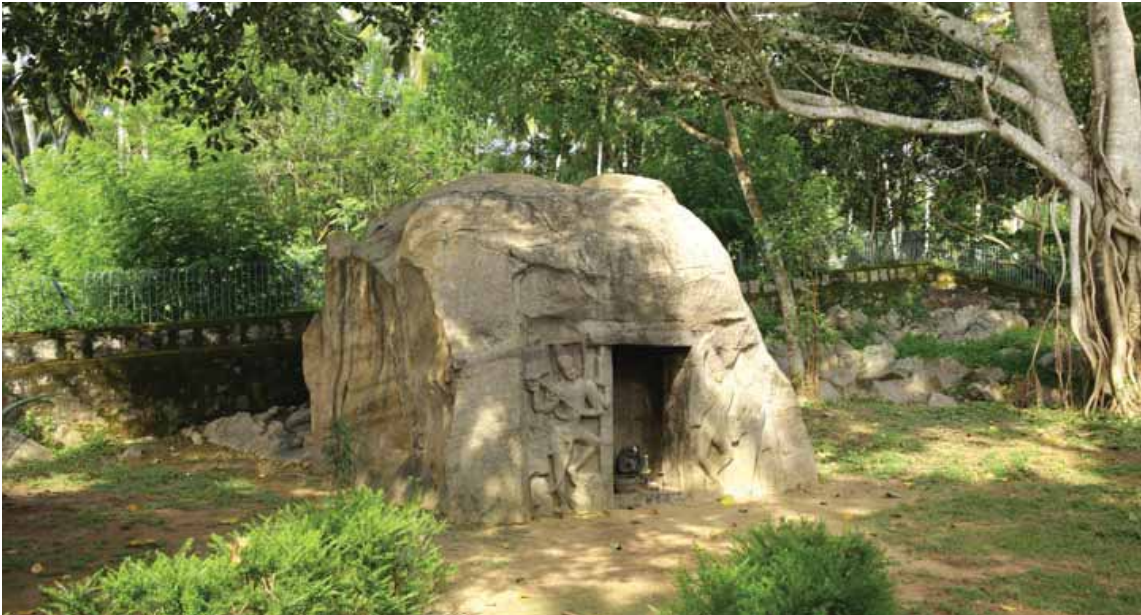
The officials inspecting the main venue prior to the event

Kanthaloorshala – The Ancient University in Thiruvananthapuram

The city of Thiru-anantha-puram was arguably the site of an ancient University. Kanthalloor Shala or Sarva Chattanamadam, in the vicinity of Valiyasala in the city, is the oldest ducational institution in the city. It is described by some as Nalanda of the South.

The Chola invasion of Southern Kerala, a 1,000 years ago, led by Raja Raja I, seemed to have taken place around the Kanthalloor Shala. The inscriptions of this king extol him as ‘Kanthalloor Chalai Kalamarutta Raja Raja Tevan’, an epithet that has bogged down scholars in unending scholarly arguments. A commonly accepted explanation of ‘Kalamarutta’ is that the Chola King made an endowment and fixed the number of ‘Kalams’ or dinner plates (fellowships in modern terminology). If ‘Kalam’ is read as ships, then the King’s title refers to destroying warships. The argument in favour of the later interpretation is that Kanthalloor Shala, towards the last century of its existence, gradually transformed into a military training centre.

The location of Kanthalloor Sala has also been a matter of hot debate. Vizhinjam (which was once Rajendra Chola Pattanam) has a compound known as Valiya Chola Sala Purayidam. Could it be another short lived University that the Cholas established? Some scholars also locate the Kanthalloor Shala in Neyyattinkara. However,



An 8th century rock cut cave in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram

the evidence in favour of Thiruvananthapuram is very strong. The ninth century Anandapura Varnanam also explicitly refers to Kanthalloor Shala in the location of Valiyasala. Kanthalloor Shala had four halls – Pazaya Sala, Arya Sala, Valiya Sala and Chinna Sala, and three of them remain even today as names of places in and around Valiyasala. Defaced inscriptions of Rajendra Chola (AD 1013-1045) found in the Valiyasala Mahadevar Temple bear testimony to its antiquity. Taking all this into account, the works of Gopinatha Rao, K. Neelakanta Sasthri, S. Desivinayagam Pillai and K. Maheswaran Nair do not leave much doubt that Kanthalloor Shala was in Thiruvananthapuram.

Local Nugget

Graphic details of the oldest educational institution in the city are available to us through the Prakrit work titled Kuvalayamala by Jain saint Udyodana Suri in the eighth century. This work was brought to light by Dr. Maheswaran Nair, former Director of Archaeology, through his doctoral dissertation at Kerala University a few decades ago. The protagonist of Kuvalayamala, Prince Kuvalaya Chandra, came in search of the princess of his dreams and reached Thiruvananthapuram, possibly through Kottoor-Ambasamudram pass, where he noticed that the ‘country’

was rich in cardamom, sandal wood, jackfruit trees and areca nut palms. He crossed a river (Karamana/Killi river, both of which have changed routes even in the last century) and saw a large building. He secured entry into it and stayed there and observed the educational process which he recorded in exquisite detail. Kuvalayachandra’s descriptions tell us that Kanthalloor Shala was really a massive University which had students from Lata, Karnata, Malavya, Kanyakubja, Gollaya, Maharastra, Saurastra, Thakka, Andhra and Saidhava countries or races.

The work quotes some fragments from the original dialect spoken by the persons of each group. “The Colla spoke “ada de” while the

Matsyadesiya whispered “tere mere au”. The Barbara spoke “kitto kimmo”. The Pratihara spoke “sari pari”. The Thakka spoke “eham teham”, the Marutaspoke “appamtupam”, the Lata spoke “aurham kaum tumham”, the Kannada spoke “adi pandi mare” and the Andhra “ate pute ratim”. The whispers, cries, vociferous utterances, naughty assertions, petty quarrels, and so on that betray the general calibre, character, taste and habit of the students are mentioned. One asked in good Sanskrit “Oh Varsni! How was the food there?” To which another responded “Oh! Bhatta! You touched my food. Behold, I am a veritable Taksaka, and not a mere Vasuki!”

Discipline seems to have been an issue then as it is now. The system of fine practised in Kanthalloor Shala tells us that the headache of college administrators is nothing new. Use of filthy language attracted a fine of a half a Kazanch of gold. Assaulting others would end up in a fine of one gold kash and the assaulted also had to pay half a kazhanch gold! Use of weapons to wound others resulted in dismissal. Wearing arms in class rooms was banned. We get to know of these details from inscriptions at Parthivasekharapuram Vedic College which says it is modelled after Kanthalloor Shala. This also tells us that Kanthalloor Shala was the Nalanda of the south.

(Courtesy: Article from The Hindu)

Pazhayidam: Tastes that will go down in history



A Celebration of Flavours

Pavithra D J
Veena Vijayan

Kariavattom: The Kerala University campus is all set to host the 77th Indian History Congress. The food court serving more than three thousand people three times a day is led by none other than Sri. Pazhayidam Mohanan Namboothiri, the famous

culinary expert who has an enormous experience being part of massive events like Indian Science Congress and Kerala state youth festivals for over a decade.

“Be it vegetarians, non-vegetarians, Keralites, North Indians or foreigners, the menu will definitely satisfy them” says Pazhayidam, the Master Chef of Kerala. Behind the curtains, there is a team of 50 members including

Highlights of the Menu



Kappa
Mushroom Masala
Sweet corn veg soup
Navarathna Khorma
Mutton Chaps
Chicken Tikka
Pal Payasam
Palada Pradhaman
Dal Makhini

20 expert cooks and the rest as assistants. Hundreds of student volunteers will also be a part of the team to help them at the eight food counters.

The day at the food court starts with breakfast at 7.30 am with Indian and International cuisines. Namboothiri has promised the best quality food



to satisfy all the delegates. Along with different variety of dishes, there is a separate counter devoted to juice items. Delegates from foreign countries will get a chance to experience the traditional Indian desserts like Burfi, Kesari, Laddu, Gulab Jamun and Carrot Halwa.

A food court which completely reflects the diversity of Indian’s food culture is ready to serve the

delegates. The huge food court on the university ground could occupy around thousand people at a time. The whole food court and kitchen is managed by Pazhayidam. “The only thing which we demanded was the sufficient supply of water and electricity, and the authorities made all the arrangements for the proper functioning of the kitchen” says Pazhayidam.

Hurry Up!!! The food court is waiting for you.

