



NICHE Chronicle

**VIZHINJAM OPENS
THE WORLD;
WE PREPARE YOU FOR IT**

M. S. Faizal Khan
Chancellor



**BEYOND THE
CAMERA**

Srikanth Murali
Inspire the
Filmmakers of
Tomorrow



**A NEW ERA OF SPACE
INNOVATION BEGINS**

Dr. Donald Alan Thomas,
former NASA astronaut and
Materials Scientist.



HONOURING GLOBAL EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE

**Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Receives the APJ Award from
the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala**



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Principal Advisor to India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, was honoured with the 8th APJ Award for her outstanding contributions to scientific research, global healthcare and public health. Instituted by NICHE Kanyakumari and NIMS Medicity, the award recognises individuals whose work has made a transformative impact on society through excellence, innovation and dedicated service. The award was presented by Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan on 1 August 2026.

Dr. Swaminathan's distinguished career includes her historic role as the first Chief Scientist of the WHO, where she led global

scientific initiatives and played a pivotal role in vaccine research and public health responses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony was attended by several distinguished guests, including Prof. Mohan Kunnummal, Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University of Health Sciences; renowned writer Shri George Onakkoor; Shri M. S. Faizal Khan, Chancellor of NICHE Kanyakumari; Dr. Tessy Thomas, Vice-Chancellor of NICHE; Dr. Radhakrishnan, Chairman of Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi; Shri Kottukal Krishnakumar, Abhijith Foundation; Mrs. Fathima Misaj, CEO of NIMS Micro Hospitals; and Dr. K. S. Saju, GM of NIMS Medicity.





FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S DESK

M. S. Faizal Khan | Chancellor

August 2026 has been a month of significant milestones for NICHE, marked by academic achievements, innovation, research and vibrant campus life. We were honoured to confer the 8th APJ Award on Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, presented by the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to global healthcare.

Ascend 2026 provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the dedication and achievements of our faculty and staff. Meanwhile, initiatives such as NICHE Silicon Valley and the AI and Biomedical Robotics Research Centre reflected our commitment to innovation, advancing research and fostering future-ready learning.

A major milestone in NICHE's journey was the laying of the foundation stone for India's first 3D-printed observatory by former NASA astronaut Dr. Donald Alan Thomas. The month also brought moments of joy and celebration as our students came together to celebrate Kerala's rich cultural heritage through THAKAJAM 2K26, our vibrant Onam celebration.

As we move forward, I am confident that the collective efforts of our faculty, staff and students will continue to strengthen NICHE's journey towards achieving its vision for 2030.

ASCEND 2026

▶ CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND SHAPING VISION 2030



Dr. Tessy Thomas | Vice-Chancellor



Ascend 2026, a major event at NICHE, celebrated the dedication, commitment and contributions of faculty and staff across various departments. The event recognised their vital role in advancing education, research and institutional development, while providing an opportunity to reflect on the milestones achieved through collective effort.

Beyond celebrating past accomplishments, Ascend 2026 served as a platform to inspire the NICHE family to embrace new opportunities, pursue greater goals and contribute meaningfully towards the realisation of NICHE's Vision 2030.

We are also proud to celebrate Dr. T. K. Sreeja from the Department of Nanotechnology, who received the prestigious NICHE Ascend 2026 Award. Her passion for innovation, academic excellence and student development reflects the true spirit of an inspiring educator and exemplifies NICHE's commitment to recognising and nurturing excellence.

The programme was graced by eminent educationists, including Dr. Cyriac Thomas, former Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, and Prof. E. Balagurusamy, former Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, along with our Chancellor, Shri M. S. Faizal Khan, and other distinguished members of the NICHE family.

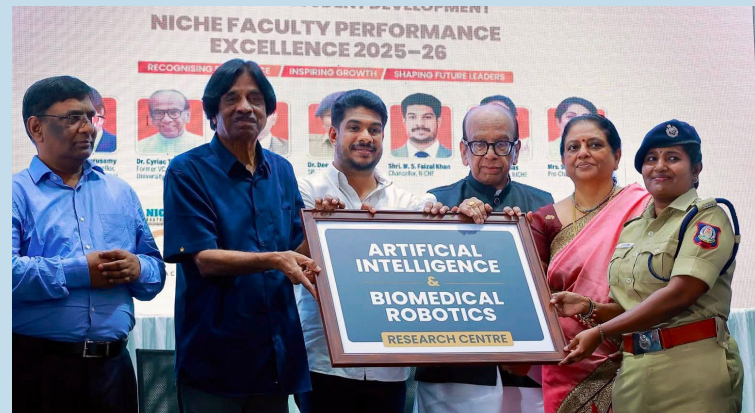
A NEW ERA OF EXCELLENCE IN AI & ROBOTICS

Dr. A. Shajin Nargunam | Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)



Dr. Cyriac Thomas, former Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, inaugurated Ascend 2026 and, in his inaugural address, emphasised the importance of dedication, excellence and continuous learning in building a strong and progressive academic institution.

On the occasion, he also inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence & Biomedical Robotics Research Centre, marking a significant



step in NICHE's commitment to emerging technologies and advanced research.

Dr. Thomas appreciated the collective efforts of the NICHE management and staff in strengthening academic and research initiatives, particularly in the era of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. He also congratulated the award-winning faculty members for their outstanding achievements and contributions.



STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our Chancellor, Shri M. S. Faizal Khan, met with the honourable Mr. Erik af Hallstrom, the Consul General of Finland during his visit to Trivandrum. The discussions focused on strengthening academic and cultural ties while exploring opportunities for collaboration in higher education, research, and student exchange. The interaction reaffirmed a shared commitment to fostering global engagement and building enduring partnerships that will create new avenues





VIZHINJAM OPENS THE WORLD; WE PREPARE YOU FOR IT

M. S. Faizal Khan | Chancellor



The Vizhinjam International Seaport commenced EXIM operations on 18 August 2026, marking a significant milestone for Kerala. and opening new opportunities in the maritime sector. This is expected to increase demand for skilled professionals in marine engineering, logistics, supply chain management, port operations and allied fields.

NICHE is preparing students for this emerging maritime economy through industry-oriented programmes in Marine Engineering, Logistics Management and allied disciplines, combining academic excellence, practical training and strong industry partnerships to develop job-ready professionals.

We are closely aligned with the Kerala Government's 'Mission Samudra 2026', which seeks to unlock the potential of the Blue Economy through sustainable maritime development, marine technology, coastal innovation, renewable ocean



energy and port-led industrial growth.

NICHE was honoured to serve as the Knowledge Partner for the Vizhinjam Logistics & Investment Summit 2026, bringing together industry leaders, experts, entrepreneurs and key stakeholders to explore opportunities in logistics, investment and maritime development.

YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHANNEL.

The Sukumari School of Multimedia & Film Technology has launched its own IPTV, a dynamic student-driven digital media platform designed to empower students to create, collaborate, and communicate through innovative digital storytelling. To mark the initiative, a number of orientation programme was successfully conducted at our various departments.

From Tea Talk to TV Talk, NICHE IPTV transforms creative ideas into compelling visual content. The platform offers aspiring anchors, filmmakers, content creators,



cinematographers, editors, scriptwriters, and production enthusiasts an opportunity to showcase their talents while gaining valuable hands-on experience in digital media production.

The logo of the Distance Learning under Sukumari School of Multimedia &

Film Technology was unveiled by Padma Shri Dr. Omanakutty Teacher, who presented the logo to Mr. M. S. Faizal Khan. Dr. Pramod Payyannur, Dr. Manjusha, Prof. Josephine Vinitha, and Mr. Sivakumar Raj were also present on the occasion.

▶ CELEBRATING THE RICH HERITAGE OF MUSIC AND DANCE



NICHE organised an interactive lecture on "Genres in Music and Dance", featuring Dr. R. Sreelekha, a distinguished academician and renowned exponent of Indian performing arts. The session offered students and faculty an engaging exploration of the evolution, diversity, and cultural significance of India's rich musical and dance traditions.

The ICT Academy-MEITY Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Cybersecurity has commenced on campus, bringing together faculty members for an enriching learning experience focused on cybersecurity, digital safety, emerging cyber threats, and secure technology practices.

The FDP provides a valuable platform for enhancing professional knowledge, sharing expertise, and keeping pace with the rapidly evolving cybersecurity landscape.

▶ BUILDING CYBER-READY EDUCATORS FOR A SECURE DIGITAL FUTURE



▶ CAPTURING THE PULSE OF EXCELLENCE

Shri V. D. Satheesan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, is seen reading NICHE Chronicle, with renowned writer Dr. George Onakkoor also seen in the frame. The newsletter serves as a vibrant platform for showcasing the University's achievements, academic innovations, research highlights, student accomplishments, faculty achievements, industry collaborations, campus events, and community outreach initiatives. Each edition reflects the University's commitment to fostering a culture of learning, creativity, and excellence while strengthening engagement with students, faculty, alumni, industry partners, and the wider community.



▶ CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS AND CHERISHED FAREWELLS

Noorul Islam Centre
for Higher Education



AURORA 2026 marked the transition of first year students into their respective academic departments, while Farewell 2026, celebrated the graduating class of 2026. These events showed the University's commitment to supporting students throughout their academic journey and encourage them to move forward with confidence.

Farewell 2026 was hosted by the department of Allied Health Sciences to honour the graduating batch of 2026. The event included vibrant cultural performances, interactive activities and heartfelt speeches. Faculty members and students came together to congratulate the graduates, and wishing them every success in their future careers and personal endeavours.

STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

NICHE has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra. The partnerships will facilitate specialised training programmes, skill development initiatives, workshops, internships, knowledge exchange, and innovation-driven activities. As part of the collaboration, Shri



M. S. Faizal Khan, Chancellor held discussions with Dr. Febi Varghese, Director, Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra.

An MoU has also been signed with Ananth Technologies Ltd., KINFRA Park, Thiruvananthapuram; Vallath Education Pvt. Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram; and MatRICS Solutions, Nagercoil, reaffirming the University's commitment to strengthening industry-academia collaboration and equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and exposure needed to meet the evolving demands of the professional world.



HONOUR FOR AN OUTSTANDING NCC CADET

We are proud to celebrate our NCC Cadet CPL Dakshin Subesh, who was honoured in the the 80th Independence Day Celebrations in Kanyakumari District. He received the 'Yuva Aapda Mitra' – Best Performance Volunteers Award from Mr. Pratap IAS, the District Collector, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and exemplary



performance during the Disaster Management Camp held from 3-9 July 2026, organised by the Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Department, Chennai.



Editorial Team

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Dr. S. S. Kumar
Dr. S. Jebin Bose

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Associate Editor
Associate Editor

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Ms. Nimya Joseph
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Editorial Board Member
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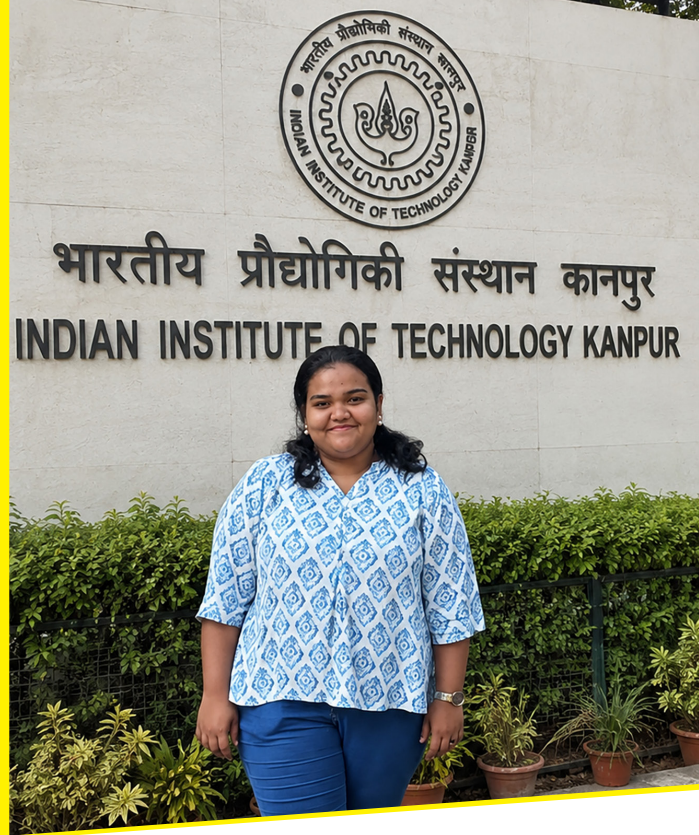
► PROUD ALUMNI

Ms. B. Jincy Bassilia Achieves Remarkable Success at the IITs

The university is immensely proud to celebrate the outstanding academic achievement of Ms. Jincy Bassilia, a former BE student and a beneficiary of the Steve Jobs Scholarship Programme, who has successfully secured Research Fellowship at both IIT Bombay and IIT Kanpur. Currently pursuing her M.Tech in Biomedical Engineering at IIT Kanpur, Ms Bassilia continues to excel in her academic journey reflecting her dedication, perseverance, and passion for research.

Sharing her experience, Ms. Jincy Bassilia said:

"I used the techniques and tips that were taught to us during the Steve Jobs Scholarship Programme at NICHE, and they were incredibly helpful. I will always be indebted to NICHE Kanyakumari."



► OUR STUDENTS SHINE AT YUVA FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

Our students showcased their talent, creativity, and team spirit by actively participating in the Yuva for Viksit Bharat programme held at Scott Christian College. The intercollegiate event provided a fun and engaging platform for young minds to demonstrate their skills, exchange ideas, and celebrate the spirit of youth empowerment.

Adding to the University's achievements, our Mime Act Team delivered an exceptional performance, captivating the audience with their powerful presentation earning them the Second Prize, bringing pride and recognition to the institution.



► NURTURING INNOVATION THROUGH THE STEVE JOBS SCHOLARSHIP



The Steve Jobs Scholarship Programme 2026 was inaugurated, marking a significant step towards recognising and nurturing innovation, creativity and academic excellence among students. The scholarship programme aims to encourage talented students to think differently, pursue innovative ideas, excel academically and realise their aspirations with confidence, drawing inspiration from the visionary spirit and ideals of Steve Jobs.

▶ BEYOND THE CAMERA

Srikanth Murali Inspire the Filmmakers of Tomorrow

The Sukumari School of Multimedia & Film Technology, recently welcomed an acclaimed actor, director, and storyteller, Mr. Srikanth Murali for an inspiring masterclass titled "Beyond the Camera: The Craft and Career of Screen Acting." The session offered students a rare opportunity to learn from an accomplished professional whose journey reflects passion, perseverance, and artistic excellence. Sharing experiences from his career in cinema, Mr. Murali explored the finer



aspects of screen acting, storytelling, character interpretation, and the evolving opportunities within the film and media industry.

▶ NICHE SILICON VALLEY

Moulding Tomorrow's Professionals



NICHE Silicon Valley emerged as a vibrant platform celebrating innovation, creativity, technology and experiential learning. Featuring Grandmaster Shri G. S. Pradeep, of Aswamedham fame, the initiative brought together students, ideas and opportunities in an inspiring environment.

Designed to take learning beyond the conventional classroom, NICHE Silicon Valley encourages students to think creatively, explore new technologies and develop practical, future-ready skills. Through interactive experiences and exposure to new possibilities, the initiative aims to foster innovation, confidence and a spirit of curiosity among young minds.

▶ STUDENTS SHINE IN GLOBAL PLACEMENTS

NICHE has successfully placed 54 students with Hon Hai Technologies Pvt. Ltd and BYD India Pvt. Ltd. This achievement demonstrates the combined efforts of our students, faculty and placement team in creating outstanding career opportunities. It also reinforces our vision of preparing students with industry-oriented education, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel in the global workforce.



▶ LEARNING POLITICAL SCIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

As part of BA Political Science Foundation Week 2026, students visited the Kerala Legislative Assembly, gaining firsthand insight into the functioning of a democratic legislature and the processes of governance. During the visit, they also had valuable interactions with Shri Roji M. John, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Kerala, and senior officials, gaining practical perspectives on governance, policymaking, legislative affairs, and the functioning of democratic institutions.



▶ A PROUD SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT REFLECTING DEDICATION

Our Volleyball Team delivered a commendable performance at the District-Level Invited 8-Team Volleyball Tournament 2026. Competing alongside leading college and club teams from across the district, the NICHE squad showcased excellent teamwork, determination, stamina and an inspiring competitive spirit throughout the tournament.

Their performance reflects the dedication, discipline and sporting excellence, demonstrating the importance of perseverance and teamwork both on and off the court.

▶ SKYORA 2.0

A CELEBRATION OF TALENT, CREATIVITY & THE SPIRIT OF FLIGHT

The Department of Aviation proudly presented SKYORA 2.0 – Talent Fest, bringing together talent, creativity, and youthful enthusiasm on one vibrant platform. The event provided students with an exciting opportunity to showcase their talents, express their creativity, and celebrate the vibrant spirit of campus life.

Featuring inspiring addresses, enthusiastic student participation, and recognition of outstanding talents, SKYORA 2.0 was a memorable celebration of creativity, confidence, and camaraderie, reflecting the dynamic spirit of the student community at NICHE.



▶ CODE ODYSSEY: Turning Ideas into Innovation



The Code Odyssey continues at the Coding & Google Development Club, where students are strengthening their coding skills through hands-on learning, problem-solving and collaborative challenges. The session encourages students to think logically, code confidently and develop creative solutions, transforming ideas into practical and innovative applications.



THAKAJAM 2K26

Where Colours and Culture Come Alive!

The Onam celebrations of 'THAKAJAM 2K26' reached a vibrant crescendo, bringing together the colours, traditions, creativity, music and festive spirit of Kerala.

The spirit of Onam came alive across the various departments, as students and faculty joined hands to celebrate the

festival with enthusiasm, creativity and joyful participation.

From beautifully crafted Pookalams and traditional attire to cultural activities and engaging competitions,

the celebrations showcased Kerala's rich heritage while fostering a strong sense of community. THAKAJAM 2K26 transformed the campus into a lively celebration of culture, friendship and togetherness, capturing the true essence of Onam.



REACHING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

The National Space Day Celebrations 2026 celebrated at NICHE with an exciting blend of learning, exploration and inspiration. Students and participants from various institutions engaged in meaningful experiences centred around space science, astronomy, space exploration, technology and innovation,

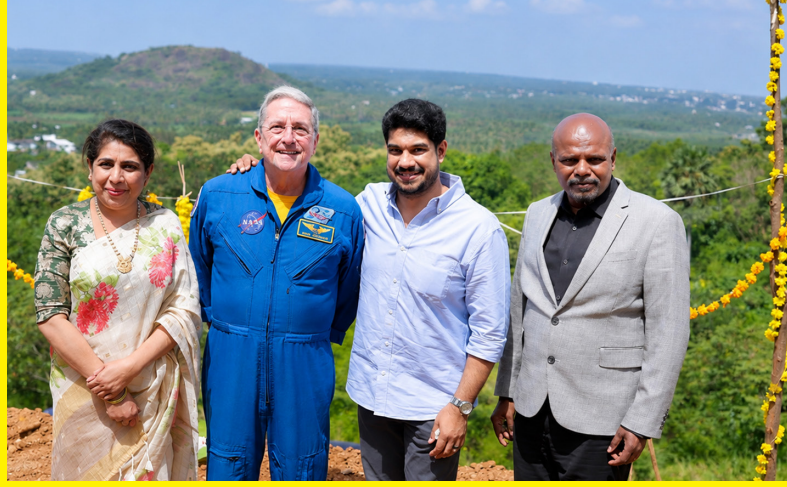


gaining fresh perspectives and expanding their understanding of the world beyond Earth. The event encouraged young minds to remain curious, think creatively and explore the possibilities that science and technology can offer for the future.



A NEW ERA OF SPACE INNOVATION BEGINS

India's First 3D-Printed Observatory to Come Up at NICHE



creating new opportunities for experiential learning, research and exploration.

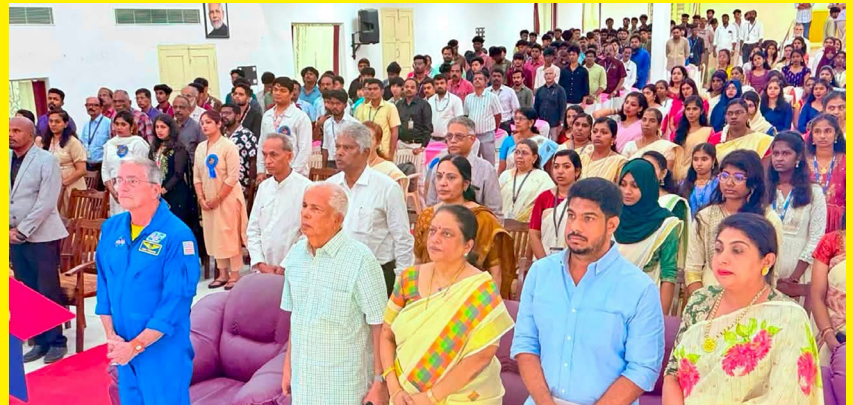
He emphasised the importance of providing students with hands-on exposure to space science and emerging technologies, encouraging them to look beyond conventional boundaries and develop a spirit of curiosity, creativity and innovation.

The landmark occasion was graced by Shri G. Madhavan Nair, former Chairman of ISRO, and Shri M. R. Gandhi, former MLA, Nagercoil, along with members of the NICHE family.



A visionary step towards the future of space science took shape at NICHE with the laying of the foundation stone for India's first 3D-printed observatory by Dr. Donald Alan Thomas, former NASA astronaut and Materials Scientist.

Congratulating the Chancellor of NICHE on this pioneering initiative, Dr. Thomas highlighted its potential to bring together 3D-printing technology, astronomy and scientific innovation,



Our Support Center Phone: (+91) 4651-250 566, Mob: (+91) 8943352456 **Website:** www.niuniv.com, **Email:** info@niuniv.com
Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education (NICHE), Kumaracoil, Kanniyakumari, Tamil Nadu 629 180.