No. KTDS/1247/2026-D

DIRECTORATE OF KIRTADS
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DATED:07-10-2026

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Last date of receipt of Expression of Interest at Office	23/10/2026 - 5 PM
Date of opening of Expression of Interest	24/10/2026 - 3 PM

Kerala Tribal Congress - Academic Conference Series

Expression of Interest for Organising Academic Seminars/Conferences on Tribal Knowledge Systems and Tribal Cultural Heritage

KIRTADS invites Expressions of Interest (EoI) from eligible Universities, Colleges and Academic/Research Institutions in Kerala for collaborating with the Institute in organising programmes under the Kerala Tribal Congress - Academic Conference Series.

The Kerala Tribal Congress is envisaged as an academic and knowledge platform for identifying, documenting and analysing diverse tribal knowledge domains, encouraging new researchers, promoting freedom of expression, and providing scientific, skill-based and artistic representation to tribal communities and their cultural traditions. The initiative seeks to establish a meaningful confluence between tribal knowledge systems and the academic world, while facilitating the transmission of the rich and diverse knowledge possessed by tribal communities to younger generations.

Through conferences, seminars, discussions, colloquia and related academic programmes organised in collaboration with educational and research institutions, the Kerala Tribal Congress seeks to expand the scope of tribal research and encourage students, researchers and faculty to engage with tribal communities and their knowledge systems through scientific, ethical and community-centered approaches.

The proposed programme also seeks to develop a broader people-centred science movement by bringing together tribal knowledge holders, social scientists, researchers, teachers, students and other scholars interested in tribal and social sciences.

KIRTADS proposes to collaborate with Universities, Colleges and other academic institutions to organise seminars/conferences focusing exclusively on the tribal knowledge spectrum and its interface with contemporary academic disciplines.

Suggested Themes

Institutions may propose programmes on one or more of the following broad themes:

1. Tribal Myths, Stories and Oral Literature
2. Tribal Ornaments, Dress, Paraphernalia and Body Adornments & Arts - Tattooing, *Nettichotta, Pallkothal* (Tooth Carving), religious body arts, *Mughathezhuth* , *udalezhuthth* etc.
3. Tribal Construction and Architectural Techniques - Houses, worship centres, dormitories, temporary constructions, geographical divisions and mapping
4. Tribal Art Forms - Songs, dance, drama and traditional games
5. Social Organisation of Tribes - Phratry, moiety, lineage, tribal names and kinship terminology
6. Tribal Diaspora and Migration
7. Indigenous Climate Resilience and Disaster Management
8. Tribal Medicine and Healing Practices
9. Tribal Cuisine and Culinary Practices
10. Tribal History and Ethno-Archaeology
11. Ethno zoology & Ethno botany

Institutions may also propose any other themes, provided that they fall substantially within the spectrum of tribal knowledge, culture, society, heritage, development and lived experience.

CONDITIONS FOR COLLABORATION

The following conditions shall be applicable to programmes organised under the Kerala Tribal Congress:

1. Focus on Tribal Knowledge

The proposed seminar/conference shall focus exclusively or substantially on tribal knowledge systems, tribal society, culture, heritage, practices and lived experiences. General academic themes that have no substantive connection with tribal knowledge shall not be considered.

2. Interface between Tribal Knowledge and Academia

The programme shall establish a meaningful knowledge interface between tribal communities and the academic world. The programme should not merely discuss tribal communities from an external academic perspective, but should provide space for tribal knowledge systems and community emic perspectives to engage directly with academic discourse.

3. Participation of Tribal Knowledge Holders

Tribal community experts/knowledge holders shall be included as

speakers/resource persons in the programme. Their participation should constitute an integral component of the academic programme and not merely a ceremonial or cultural presence.

4. Academic Participation

The programme should facilitate interaction among tribal knowledge holders, researchers, academicians, students and practitioners from relevant disciplines. Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged wherever appropriate.

5. Documentation and Publication

The academic papers/presentations and proceedings of the programme shall be compiled and published as an ISBN-bearing book.

6.Submission of Draft Proceedings

The collaborating institution shall submit the complete draft manuscript/proceedings to KIRTADS before undertaking final printing and publication. The draft shall include all papers, abstracts, programme details and other contents proposed for inclusion in the publication.

7. Scrutiny, Editing and Academic Review

The draft proceedings and other publication materials shall be scrutinised, proofread, script-doctored and edited in consultation with KIRTADS .Both editors from your side and KIRTADS side is responsible for the final editing. Necessary corrections, modifications and revisions suggested during this process shall be incorporated by the collaborating institution before final publication.Name of KIRTADS and KTC must be in the Cover itself along with your institution

8. Final Approval by KIRTADS

The final version of the publication shall be submitted to KIRTADS for approval. The publication shall be taken up for final printing only after obtaining the formal approval of the Director, KIRTADS.

9.Time Limit for Publication

The proceedings/publication shall be completed within 45 days of the conclusion of the programme.

10. Submission of Published Copies

The collaborating institution shall submit 8 copies of the published ISBN book containing the proceedings to KIRTADS for institutional documentation and archival purposes.

11. Quality of Publication

The publication should maintain appropriate academic standards, including proper documentation of papers, authorship, references and relevant programme details

12. Community-Centred Approach

The programme should recognise tribal communities as knowledge holders, practitioners and contributors to knowledge production, rather than merely as subjects of academic study.

13. Role of the Collaborating Institution

The collaborating College/University shall be responsible for the academic coordination and conduct of the programme, including identification of appropriate speakers, preparation of the academic programme, documentation of proceedings and publication of the ISBN volume within the stipulated period.

Financial and Academic Support from KIRTADS

1. Financial Assistance

KIRTADS shall provide financial assistance up to maximum **₹2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only)** for the approved Kerala Tribal Congress programme, subject to the applicable rules and procedures.

Institutions may submit proposals **with a total estimated budget exceeding ₹2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only), if required for the effective conduct of the proposed programme. However, the financial assistance that can be provided by KIRTADS shall be restricted to a maximum of ₹2,00,000/- per selected proposal.** Any expenditure incurred over and above the maximum assistance of ₹2,00,000/- shall be met by the concerned institution from its own resources or other permissible sources, and shall not be claimed from KIRTADS.

2. Reimbursement-Based Release of Funds

The financial assistance shall be released only on a reimbursement basis. No advance payment shall be made to the collaborating institution.

The reimbursement shall be processed only after the successful completion of the programme and submission of the following documents:

- Utilisation Certificate (UC) in the prescribed format;
- Internal Audit Certificate and/or External Audit Certificate, as applicable;
- Original/verified bills and vouchers supporting the expenditure;
- Statement of expenditure duly certified by the competent authority of the institution; and
- Any other documents required by KIRTADS in accordance with applicable financial rules.

The reimbursement shall be restricted to the actual eligible expenditure incurred, subject to the sanctioned amount of maximum ₹2,00,000/- and the applicable financial norms of KIRTADS.

3. Research Support

KIRTADS shall extend research support for the programme by facilitating interaction with tribal researchers, knowledge holders and relevant research resources,Editing of publication wherever feasible.

4. Academic Support

KIRTADS shall provide academic support and guidance in the conceptualisation and implementation of the programme. This may include assistance in identifying relevant themes, tribal knowledge holders, researchers and academic resource persons, and in ensuring that the programme remains aligned with the objectives and academic framework of the Kerala Tribal Congress.

5. KIRTADS Review and Approval

The financial and academic support provided by KIRTADS shall be subject to the prior approval of the Institute. The programme, academic content, proceedings and publication shall be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines and directions issued by KIRTADS.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Interested Colleges ,Departments Universities and Institutions may submit an Expression of Interest to KIRTADS containing:

1. Name of the Institution
2. Department/Centre proposing the programme
3. Proposed title/theme of the seminar/conference
4. Brief concept note
5. Objectives of the programme
6. Proposed date and duration
7. Proposed list of academic speakers/resource persons
8. Details of proposed tribal community experts/knowledge holders
9. Proposed academic sessions
10. Expected number of participants
11. Proposed publication plan for the ISBN proceedings
12. Name, designation, contact number, CV and email of the coordinating faculty
13. Institutional details of the HoDs/ Head of the Institution/Principal/Vice-Chancellor, as applicable

The proposals received from the institutions will be **scrutinised by KIRTADS** with reference to their academic relevance, thematic alignment, participation of tribal knowledge holders, academic quality, feasibility, expected outcomes and proposed publication plan. Only proposals approved by KIRTADS shall be considered for financial assistance.

Conceptual Framework

The Kerala Tribal Congress seeks to establish a continuum:

TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE → DOCUMENTATION → ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT → KNOWLEDGE CREATION → DISSEMINATION → INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION-COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS CO-AUTHORS

The initiative therefore envisages the College/University not merely as a venue for a seminar, but as a partner in creating a sustained academic interface between tribal knowledge systems and contemporary scholarship.

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Date: 07-10-2026
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DIRECTOR

Copy to,

1 The Director,
Public Relation Department,
Thiruvananthapuram (with C.L)

2. The District Information Office, Kozhikode

3. The Computer Operator, KIRTADS (For publishing Website)

4. Notice Board

5. Office Copy