Press Release

Mahatma Gandhi University bags Chancellor's Trophy

The Honourable Governor, Shri Justice (Retd) P. Sathasivam has accepted the recommendation of the Selection Committee to confer the second Chancellor’s Award (2015-16) on Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. The prestigious award, which is the brainchild of the Honourable Governor, carries an amount of Rs. Five crores, a citation and Gold Plated Trophy. The prize money, provided by the State Government in its Budget, is meant for capital expenditure for any major project in the University. The award ceremony will be conducted shortly.

The Selection Committee’s recommendation to institute another award for the best Emerging University will be forwarded to the Government for appropriate consideration.

The selection was based on the marks, out of a total of 600, scored by the varsity for its performance in broad components such as Academics (225), Teaching & Pedagogy methods (60), Students Profile & Achievements (110), Academic Governance (80) and other achievements (125).
Marks were awarded on the basis of a list of 37 criteria related to the performance in these areas. The quality of performance of the Vice Chancellors before the Selection Committee also played a role in the awarding of final marks.

The five member Selection Committee constituted by the Honourable Governor, had Shri B. Srinivas, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, as Chairman. Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Director, Kerala State Council of Science, Technology and Environment, Thiruvananthapuram, Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, Director (i/c), Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, Prof. V. Ramakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram, Prof. (Dr.) Rose Varghese, Vice Chancellor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi were members and Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat, Secretary to Governor was Convener.

The Process

The Committee had first met on 26th August, 2016 at Kerala Raj Bhavan and discussed the components, methodology for evaluation, the relative weights to each component etc. It also considered the suggestions received from all the Vice Chancellors before firming up the application form for the Award, with the honorable Governor’s approval. The Universities submitted the data regarding their achievement of the criteria fixed for the award. The application for the Chancellor’s Award was hosted on the web site set up by the National Informatics Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.
The period of assessment for this year’s award was from 1st April, 2015 to 30th June, 2016.

**Eleven Varsitys participated**

Eleven out of thirteen Universities submitted the applications on line. Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University for Art & Culture and the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University did not participate.

**Inspection Process**

As approved by the Selection Committee and the Honourable Governor, a five member inspection team visited all the eleven Universities and verified the original documents / data in support of the claims made in the application form, in the presence of the University officials and prepared a tabulated statement.

The Selection Committee again met on 26th November and reviewed the tabulation statement and records and viewed the videos in respect of specific components. The Vice Chancellors were also given 15 minutes each for presentation on the achievements of the University before the Honorable Chancellor and the Committee.

The Committee evaluated the performance of all Universities and assigned marks according to the criteria fixed for the purpose. It is after taking all the matters mentioned above that the Committee unanimously recommended on 7th December 2016, the Mahatma Gandhi University, which got an overall score of **370.31 points**, for the Chancellor’s Award for the year 2015-16.
Background

It was the Vice Chancellors’ Conference, chaired by the Honorable Governor, held on 27th October, 2014 at Cochin University of Science and Technology that had decided to institute “Chancellor’s Award” to nurture the spirit of healthy competition among the Universities in becoming vibrant centers of learning.

2. Subsequently, the Chancellor’s Council comprising the Chancellor, the Pro Chancellor (Minister for Education), the Vice Chairman, State Higher Education Council and all Vice Chancellors of the Universities in Kerala headed by the Chancellor, the Secretary, Higher Education and the Secretary to Governor as the Convener, was formed.

[S.D. Prins]
Public Relations Officer

Immediate Release

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