

Report on Merit Day 2026

MERIT DAY 2026: Celebrating Academic Excellence and Recognising Achievement

Date: 28 September 2026

Time: 11:20 a.m.

Venue: Seminar Hall, School of Pedagogical Sciences

Organising Institution: School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala.



The poster for Mahatma Gandhi University's Merit Day 2026 is set against a light beige background with a subtle floral pattern. At the top center is the university's circular emblem. Below it, the text 'Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam' and 'School of Pedagogical Sciences' is displayed in a serif font. The main title 'MERIT DAY 2026' is in large, bold, blue capital letters, followed by the subtitle 'Celebrating Academic Excellence and Recognising Achievement of Our students.' in a smaller font. The date '28-09-2026' is prominently featured in the center. To the left of the date, it says 'Distinguished Presence:'. To the right, there is a circular portrait of Adv. Mons Joseph, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources & Housing, Government of Kerala. Below this, there are two rows of four circular portraits each, each accompanied by the name and title of a dignitary. The bottom of the poster includes the location 'SEMINAR HALL, SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES' and the time '09:30 AM 28/09/26'.

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
School of Pedagogical Sciences
MERIT DAY 2026
Celebrating Academic Excellence and Recognising Achievement of Our students.
28-09-2026
Distinguished Presence:

Adv. Mons Joseph,
Hon'ble Minister for Water
Resources & Housing,
Government of Kerala

Prof. (Dr.) D. Mavoothu,
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,
Mahatma Gandhi University

Dr. Mathew Kuzhalnadan, MLA
Syndicate Member,
Mahatma Gandhi University

Shri Nattakom Suresh, MLA

Prof. (Dr.) Binu George Varghese,
Registrar,
Mahatma Gandhi University

Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Komath,
Syndicate Member,
Convener,
Staff Committee,
Mahatma Gandhi University

Dr. Jobin Jose,
Syndicate Member,
Convener,
Approval Committee,
Mahatma Gandhi University

Ms. Ann Sebastian,
Syndicate Member,
Convener,
Students Welfare &
Grievance Committee,
Mahatma Gandhi University

Dr. Ison V. Vanchipurackal,
Syndicate Member,
Convener,
Academic Affairs Committee,
Mahatma Gandhi University

SEMINAR HALL,
SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES

09:30 AM
28/09/26

The Merit Day programme was attended by university authorities by members of Mahatma Gandhi University Syndicate and various committees. The dignitaries associated with the programme included:

Distinguished Presence:

- **Advocate Mons Joseph**, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources and Housing.
- **Prof. (Dr.) D. Mavoothu**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University.
- **Dr. Mathew Kuzhalsadan, MLA**, Syndicate Member, Mahatma Gandhi University.
- **Shri Nattakom Suresh, MLA**.
- **Prof. (Dr.) Binu George Varghese**, Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi University.
- **Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Komath**, Syndicate Member and Convener, Staff Committee, Mahatma Gandhi University.
- **Dr. Jobin Jose**, Syndicate Member and Convener, Approval Committee, Mahatma Gandhi University.
- **Ms. Ann Sebastian**, Syndicate Member and Convener, Students Welfare and Grievance Committee, Mahatma Gandhi University.
- **Dr. Ison V. Vanchipurackal**, Syndicate Member and Convener, Academic Affairs Committee, Mahatma Gandhi University.

Objectives of the Programme

Merit Day 2026 was organised with the following objectives:

1. To recognise and appreciate the academic achievements of students.
2. To motivate students to continue striving for excellence.
3. To promote a culture of academic commitment and achievement within the institution.
4. To provide students with encouragement and support from university authorities and public representatives.
5. To highlight the importance of education in personal, social, and professional development.

Key Highlights of the Programme

Inaugural Session

The event commenced with a formal inaugural session featuring:

- **Welcome Address** by **Prof. (Dr.) Sajna Jaleel**, Head of the Department, School of Pedagogical Sciences.
- **Presidential Address** by **Prof. (Dr.) D. Mavoothu**, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University
- **Inaugural Address** by **Adv. Mons Joseph**, Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Housing
- **Lighting of the Lamp**, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment, performed by the dignitaries.

Merit Day Ceremony



Merit Day is significant because it places students and their achievements at the centre of institutional celebration. Such programmes contribute to a positive academic environment by:

- Encouraging healthy motivation among students.
- Strengthening students' sense of belonging to the institution.
- Reinforcing the importance of consistent academic effort.
- Inspiring other students to set and pursue meaningful goals.
- Promoting collaboration between students, teachers, university authorities, and the wider community.

For a school concerned with pedagogical sciences, the event also underlined the broader role of education in nurturing capable, responsible, and socially committed individuals.

Programme Highlights

MERIT DAY 2026, organised by the School of Pedagogical Sciences at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, was held on 28 September 2026 to celebrate and honour the academic and co-curricular achievements of students, research scholars, and faculty members. The event brought together dignitaries, award recipients, assistant professors, guest faculty, M.Ed. students, and research scholars in a ceremony that underscored the institution's commitment to recognising dedication, perseverance, and excellence in education. The event also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of students and to encourage them to pursue higher standards in their academic and professional lives.

Programme Inauguration and Welcome



The programme commenced at 11:20 a.m. with the arrival of dignitaries, who were warmly welcomed by the Reception Committee at the HOD Room before being escorted to the venue. The ceremony opened with a prayer song rendered by Keerthana. K. V. (Second year M.Ed.) invoking divine blessings for the occasion. This was followed by a unique Yogic Invocation presented by Joel Jose, first-year M.Ed.

student and silver medallist at the 2025 Asian Yoga Championship, whose calming session helped centre the audience mentally and physically for the proceedings ahead.

Prof. (Dr.) Sajna Jaleel, Head of the Department and Controller of Examinations at Mahatma Gandhi University, delivered the Welcome Speech, setting the tone for a day of recognition and inspiration.

Remembering Founder Director of School of Pedagogical Sciences Dr. P. M. Jaleel, Dr Sajna Jaleel reminded to continue the legacy of profound educators who continued the co-ordination of students, scholars and alumni for the better

development of the department. Dr. Sajna Jaleel explained the message of Merit Day: “Our goal was to recognise the achievements of the students of the two batches, 2023–25 and 2024–26, both academic and otherwise, and this programme is a channel to do so in the best possible way.” She also mentioned that the ultimate aim of the University is to help the student community achieve advanced educational progress. Dr Sajna also reminded the magnificent personalities who were present for the ceremony especially Adv. Mons Joseph, as a representative of the Government and the PTA member of School of Pedagogical Sciences, in fact as a parent of Miss Merena Mons, second year M.Ed. student of School of Pedagogical Sciences.

Dr Sajna also reminded the students reaching the goal and achieving success means attaining learning excellence and high learning standards, which is indeed a great accomplishment. Honouring students who achieve great success on a public stage is the greatest compliment that can be paid to them. It is also the prayer of their parents, and the outcome of the students’ efforts makes the parents happiest. She congratulated the students with the utmost love, from the bottom of her heart. Finally, she concluded: “Everyone is a good child, and all of you have good talents. Strive sincerely to reach your goals without losing sight of them.”

Presidential Address and Inauguration



The Presidential Address was delivered by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) D. Mavoothu, an esteemed academician, administrator, and research supervisor with expertise in Human Resource Management, Indian Ethos, and Business Ethics. His address highlighted the importance of academic rigour, ethical leadership, and institutional support in nurturing excellence.

The Honourable Vice-Chancellor spoke about the importance of Merit Day and, with great enthusiasm, expressed his immense pleasure in welcoming the winners

and congratulating them on their dedication and achievements. He said that behind every achievement, students should learn more about learning itself, and that it is the duty of teachers to understand the requirements of learners. True education develops knowledge, direction, creativity, critical thinking and a sense of social responsibility. Meaningful transformation of society is brought about through teachers, so the School of Pedagogical Sciences has a responsibility in this regard. Education has the privilege of shaping future generations; the future of teachers in India lies in the hands of those who are going to become teachers.

A good teacher inspires, nurtures values and helps others to develop their potential. He extended heartfelt congratulations to the students and urged them to treat these achievements as milestones, not destinations, and to hold on to their values until they reach success. He also extended his wishes to those who did not receive awards, concluding that “real life is out of the syllabus.” Each person has different thoughts and skills, and everyone has a unique talent. Everyone should recognise their unique talent and commit to keep trying, improving and changing. He concluded his speech with the saying, “Learning is for living, and today it can be changed to Living is for Learning.” student should know more about learning. It is the duty of teachers to know more about the requirements of the learners. True education develops knowledge, directions, creativity, critical thinking and some sort of social responsibility. Meaningful transformation through society is done through teachers. So that School of Pedagogical Sciences has the responsibility in this regard.

Education has the privilege of shaping future generations, A teacher on India lives in the hands of people who are going to be teachers. A Good teacher inspires, nurtures values, and helps others to develop others potential. Also extended heartfelt congratulations and to the students take these achievements as their milestones not a destination, and to continue the values, remain util to the success. Extended wishes for those who did not achieve the achievements by concluding that the real life is out of the syllabus. Each person has different thought, skill and everyone has unique talent also. Everyone should recognise their unique talent and also the commitment to keep trying, improving and to change, finally concluded the speech with the saying “Learning is for living and today it can be changed as Living is for Learning”.

The Merit Day 2026 ceremony was officially inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Housing, Advocate Mons Joseph. **Adv. Mons Joseph** is a senior Kerala politician, advocate, and legislator representing the

Kaduthuruthy constituency. A member of the Kerala Congress, he entered public life through student and youth movements and has served as a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly on several occasions. He previously served as Kerala's Minister for Public Works and has contributed to legislative, infrastructure, and public-welfare initiatives. With a strong political background dating back to his student days, the Minister has been a prominent figure in Kerala's political landscape.



In his inaugural address, Advocate Mons Joseph began with the quotation cited by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor. The Minister said that it is essential to think about students who have not received awards, and very important to nurture those who are far behind so that they can reach their destinations. For this, he said, we need to follow international practices, such as those in countries like Japan. In Japan, if a student fails in his learning, it is the responsibility of all the children in that class to raise him out of failure. Education is a socially committed system, so raising everyone through learning is a social responsibility. The Minister also added that there are many scriptures about education, but hardly anyone to put them into practice. It is an urgent task to study the problems of the education system and to welcome international ideas for better education. It is better to receive such ideas and implement them in our own country than to go to various

other countries for better study options education system and we should welcome the international thoughts for better education and it is better to receive the thoughts and implement it in our country rather than going for better study options to the various countries.

Our country faces the problem that so many people go abroad for higher studies. It is therefore the responsibility of the Government to implement new higher education strategies and create job opportunities, and the State Government is searching for ways to do so. The Minister said the School of Pedagogical Sciences was holding a remarkable event, since appreciating the hard work and dedication of students increases their motivation, and, as a member of the Kerala Government, he congratulated the Department on organising it. The Minister also appreciated the Honourable Vice-Chancellor for undertaking good programmes within and outside the University, and said that the Government and the University must work hand in hand to bring about tremendous changes in the higher education system. Finally, the Minister officially inaugurated the ceremony.



Honouring the Head of the Department

It was an auspicious occasion to honour Dr. Sajna Jaleel on her appointment as Controller of Examinations, Mahatma Gandhi University, acknowledging her sustained contributions to education and academic administration.

With 27 years of teaching experience, Prof. Sajna has served as a member of various Boards of Studies at the University. She has authored three books and several articles. She is also an assessor for the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and an advisor to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She has also served as the Director of the College Development Council.



Prof. Sajna holds a PhD in Education, an M.Ed. in Mathematics Education and Educational Technology, and a postgraduate degree in Mathematics. She has guided around 20 research scholars. She is an expert in outcome-based evaluation, mathematics education and instructional design. She is

also the University Coordinator for SWAYAM courses.

The Honourable Minister appreciated and honoured Prof. (Dr.) Sajna Jaleel for her many years of teaching experience and excellence, and for her hard journey to becoming the Controller of Examinations at Mahatma Gandhi University.

Award Distribution and Felicitation

The highlight of the event was the distribution of awards to students and scholars who excelled in UGC NET examinations, academic performance, and non-academic (co-curricular and extracurricular) achievements. The awards were

presented by Minister Mons Joseph, marking a proud moment for the School of Pedagogical Sciences.

Several distinguished guests delivered felicitations, enriching the ceremony with their insights:



- **Ms. Ann Sebastian**, Syndicate Member and member of the Students' Welfare and Grievance Committee at Assumption College, Changanassery, and a Research Scholar in History.
- **Dr. Ison V. Vanchipurakal**, Syndicate Member, Academic Affairs Committee Convenor, and Principal K E College, Mannanam.
- **Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Komath**, Academician, Staff Committee Convenor, and Syndicate Member of Mahatma Gandhi University.

Each speaker emphasised the role of perseverance, institutional mentorship, and holistic development in achieving academic distinction.

Closing Remarks



The ceremony concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Smitha S., who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, award winners, faculty, students and support staff whose efforts made MERIT DAY 2026 a resounding success. The programme was a

great success because of the effort and contribution of everyone who participated, and the blessings of the parents helped the students achieve such success. It is a reminder that students are not heading toward failure but toward success. It was a great success for the two batches that so many students achieved such success together. support of effort and outcome of everyone who participated and also the blessings of the parents made the students to achieve the great success. It is a reminder that students are not going failure but towards the success. It was a great success of the two batches that so many students achieved the great success together.

The event not only celebrated individual achievements but also reinforced the School of Pedagogical Sciences' vision of fostering a culture of excellence, ethical scholarship, and inclusive recognition.

School of Pedagogical Sciences has a long-standing tradition of celebrating Merit Day as part of its commitment to **academic excellence, research orientation, and value-based teacher education**. Previous Merit Day events (e.g., 2025, 2024, 2023) have similarly honoured rank holders and featured cultural programmes, reinforcing the school's dedication to recognising achievement and inspiring future educators.

This event also aligns with the broader vision of Mahatma Gandhi University to promote **quality education, research, and innovation** in teacher training and pedagogical sciences.

Conclusion

Merit Day 2026, organised by the School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, was a meaningful celebration of student

achievement and academic excellence. The programme recognised the efforts of meritorious students and provided them with encouragement from distinguished guests and university authorities.



The event reaffirmed the institution's commitment to promoting quality education, appreciating student accomplishments, and motivating learners to pursue excellence. It was an inspiring occasion that celebrated achievement while encouraging students to contribute positively to society through knowledge, dedication, and responsible action.



Based on the information available from the School of Pedagogical Sciences (SPS), Mahatma Gandhi University website and related sources, here is a comprehensive report on the Merit Day 2026 event. Since specific detailed reports of the 28 September 2026 event are not yet published online, this report is structured based on the standard format of previous Merit Day celebrations at SPS, MGU, and the context you've provided.

Key Highlights at a Glance

Date & Time 28 September 2026, 11:20 a.m. onwards

Venue Seminar Hall, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Chief Guest Advocate Mons Joseph, Minister of Water Resources & Housing

Presidential Address Prof. (Dr.) D. Mavoothu, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Welcome Speech Prof. (Dr.) Sajna Jaleel, HOD & Controller of Examinations, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Special Presentation Yogic Invocation by Joel Jose (Asian Yoga Championship Silver Medallist, 2025), 1st Year M.Ed. Student, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Awards Categories UGC NET Qualifiers, Academic Excellence, Non-Academic Excellence

Felicitation Speakers Ms. Ann Sebastian, Dr. Ison V. Vanchipurakal, Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Komath

Vote of Thanks Dr. Smitha S.