



TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
**THE ENIGMATIC PALAKKAD GAP: UNDERSTANDING
THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL DYNAMICS FOR A
SUSTAINABLE SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT**

Venue: Government College Chittur
Date: 18th - 19th February 2026



Organised By
Government College Chittur
Palakkad



Sponsored By
Directorate of Collegiate Education
Government of Kerala



Kerala State Council for
Science Technology and Environment

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It is with great pleasure and profound respect that we extend this invitation to request your gracious presence at the forthcoming seminar on the Palakkad Gap. The seminar is exclusively devoted to highlighting the uniqueness of the Palakkad Gap in terms of its geological history, geomorphology, climate, soil characteristics, floral diversity, agricultural diversity, Ayurvedic potential, and tourism. Through focused sessions on the Geological Evolution of the Palakkad Gap, Geomorphological Framework, Regional Climate Dynamics, Soil Resources, Floral and Agricultural Diversity, and Climate-Tourism Linkages, the seminar aims to foster a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of this distinctive landscape. In view of your eminent scholarly contributions and in-depth studies on the Palakkad Gap, your participation would greatly enrich the academic deliberations and provide invaluable insights for scholars, researchers, and students. The seminar further seeks to promote interactive discourse on its geological and geomorphological significance, with the broader objective of contributing towards its recognition as a Geological Heritage Site, Green Industrial Belt, Horticulture Zone, and Green Economic Corridor. Therefore, we cordially invite you to be a part of the visionary preparation of the development plan for the Palakkad Gap.

Patron

Prof. (Dr.) Reji T. Principal, Government College Chittur

For Communication

palakkadgap@gmail.com



DAY – 1 (February 18th, 2026)

Stage 1 : MG Hall

Inaugural Session (10:00am-11:00am)

Inauguration

Mr. K. Krishnankutty

Minister for
Electricity of Kerala



Chief Guest

Mr. A. Prabhakaran

Member of Legislative Assembly
Malampuzha, Palakkad



Keynote Address

Prof. (Dr.) A. Sabu

Member Secretary, Kerala State Council for Science
Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), Thiruvananthapuram



Presidential Address

Prof. (Dr.) Reji T.

Principal, Government College Chittur,
Palakkad



Stage 1 : MG Hall

Session 1 : Ayurvedic Potential of Palakkad Gap (11:30am-1:00pm)

Mr. C. Devidas Varier

Managing Director
Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore)
Palakkad





Dr. A.V. Raghu

Principal Scientist
Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
Thrissur



Prof. (Dr.) Deepa K.K.

Head, Department of Dravyaguna,
Ahalia Ayurveda Medical College Hospital
Palakkad



Dr. T.K. Hrideek

Principal Scientist
Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
Thrissur & Managing Director, Oushadhi



Dr. Vishwanath N. Subramanian

Managing Director
Athachi Sons Private Limited
Palakkad (Moderator)

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Session 2 : MG Hall

Soil Characteristics of Palakkad Gap (2:00pm – 3:30pm)



Mr. Dathan C.S.

Additional Director
Directorate of Soil Survey & Soil Conservation
Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. Dhanya Vijayan

Research Associate at Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
Müncheberg, Germany
Marie Curie Fellowship Awardee



Dr. S. Sandeep

Principal Scientist
Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
Thrissur



Mr. Harikrishnan T. Menon

Retired Assistant Field Officer
Soil and Land Use Survey of India
New Delhi



Dr. Thomas Anish Johnson

Assistant Director
Department of Soil Survey & Soil Conservation
Palakkad



Dr. Jincy P.P.

Assistant Professor of Geography
Government Arts & Science College Tholanur
Palakkad (Moderator)



Stage; IVIQAC, Hall

Research Paper Presentation (4:00pm – 5:00pm)

Stage 2 : Music Concert Hall

**Session 1 : Geological History of Palakkad Gap
(11:30am – 1:00pm)**

Dr. V. Ambili

Deputy Director General
Geological Survey of India (GSI)
Kerala and Lakshadweep





Prof. (Dr.) Thara K.G.

Retired Professor of Geology & Former Head
Institute of Land and Disaster Management
Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. C. Sreejith

Assistant Professor of Geology
MES Ponnani College
Malappuram



Dr. Joji V.S.

Associate Professor of Geology
Department of Marine Geology and Geophysics
Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Ernakulam



Dr. C. Ramachandran

Research Associate
Department of Geology
Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu



Mr. Pankajakshan P.

Assistant Professor of Geography
Government College Chittur
Palakkad (Moderator)

Stage 2 : Music Concert Hall

Session 2 : Geomorphic Wonders of Palakkad Gap (2:00pm – 3:30pm)



Dr. P. Harinarayanan

Senior Principal Scientist
Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)
Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. V. Thirukumar

Associate Professor of Geology
Periyar University
Salem, Tamil Nadu



Dr. V.K. Brijesh

Assistant Professor of Geology
MES Ponnani College
Malappuram



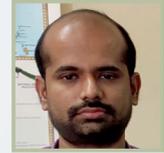
Dr. Vandana M.

Research Associate at National Centre for
Earth Science Studies (NCESS)
Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. Satheesh Chothodi

Assistant Professor of Geography
Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya
Sagar, Madhya Pradesh (Moderator)



Stage 3 : Vanajam Open Auditorium

**Photo Exhibition and Panel Discussion :
Biodiversity and Cultural History of Palakkad Gap
(11:30am - 3:00pm)**

Dr. V. Sanalkumar

Best Teacher State & National Awardee
Principal, Sneha College of Teacher Education
Palakkad





Mr. Krishnamoorthy

Naturalist Photographer and Headmaster
GUPS, Nallepilly
Palakkad (Naturalist)



Mr. Susmith Krishnan K.

Naturalist, Travel Photographer and Geography Teacher
KPSMMVHSS, Varode
Palakkad

DAY – 2 (February 19th, 2026)

Stage 1 : MG Hall

Inaugural Session (10:00am – 11:00am)



Inauguration

Mr. P. Rajeev

Minister for
Law and Industry of Kerala



Keynote Address

Prof. (Dr.) Jiju P. Alex

Member of Kerala State Planning Board &
Director of Extension
Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)

“Agriculture As a Livelihood & Climate Change Control at Palakkad Gap”



Presidential Address

Prof. (Dr.) Reji T.

Principal, Government College Chittur
Palakkad



Stage 1 : MG Hall
Session 1 : Floral Diversity of Palakkad Gap
(11:30am – 1:00pm)

Dr. N.S. Pradeep

Director
Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences (MBGIPS)
Kozhikode



Dr. V.B. Sreekumar

Principal Scientist
Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
Thrissur



Dr. Anoop P. Balan

Senior Scientist
Hortus Malabaricus Botanical Garden and Research Institute and
SciGenom Research Foundation (SGRF), Thrissur



Dr. Suresh V.

Associate Professor of Botany
Government Victoria College
Palakkad (Moderator)



Stage 1 : MG Hall
Session 2 : Agricultural Diversity of Palakkad Gap
(2:00pm – 3:00pm)

Prof. (Dr.) C. George Thomas (Retd)

Former Chairman
Kerala State Biodiversity Board
Thiruvananthapuram





Dr. Saju T.S.

Associate Professor of Geography
Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Kalady
Ernakulam



Dr. Sojan Jose

Assistant Professor of Botany
Government Victoria College
Palakkad



Mr. Gnana Saravanan

Founder
Deesan Farms
Palakkad



Dr. Suresh Kumar K.A.

Associate Professor of Botany
Government College Chittur
Palakkad (Moderator)

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Stage 2 : Music Concert Hall

Session 1: Rain shadow Mechanism of Palakkad Gap (11:30am – 1:00pm)



Prof. (Dr.) S. Abhilash

Director Sdvanced Centre for Atmospheric Radar Reserch
Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)
Ernakulam



Dr. Gopakumar Cholayil

Agroclimatologist and Climate Columnist
Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU)
Wayanad



Dr. Sajeesh V.

ICSSR Post Doctoral Researcher &
Research Associate, Zayed University
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Alfred Johny

Assistant Professor of Climate Science
College of Climate Change and Environmental Science
Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Thrissur



Dr. Suresh P.

Assistant Professor of Geography
Government College Chittur
Palakkad (Moderator)



Stage 2 : Music Concert Hall

**Session 2: Village and Heritage Tourism Potential of Palakkad Gap
(2:00pm – 3:30pm)**

Dr. Jayaraj Sundaresan

Visiting Fellow
London School of Economics and Political Science
United Kingdom



Prof. (Dr.) Rajeev N.

Dean of Academics
Ahalia School Engineering and Technology
Palakkad



Dr. Silbert Jose S.V.

Secretary
District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC)
Palakkad





Mr. Reejo R.J.

Assistant Professor of Geography
University College
Thiruvananthapuram (Moderator)



Mr. Arun Narayanan

Co-Convenor
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH),
Kerala

Stage 3 : Vanajam Open Auditorium

**Documentary Screening and Debate Sessions : Ecological Wonders of Kerala
(11:30am - 3:00pm)**

Stage 1 : MG Hall

Valedictory Function (4:00pm - 5:00pm)



Inauguration

Mr. M.B. Rajesh

Minister for
Local Self Governments and Excise of Kerala



Chief Guest

Mr. K. Babu

Member of Legislative Assembly
Nemmara, Palakkad



Chief Guest

Mr. T.M. Sasi

President of
the Palakkad District Panchayat



Presidential Address
Prof. (Dr.) Reji T.

Principal

Government College Chittur, Palakkad



Key Note Address

Prof. Dr. R. Ramakumar

School of Development Studies

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, Maharashtra

Member of Kerala State Planning Board

**“Eco-Restoration and Sustainable Development
Pathways for Palakkad Gap”**





THE PALAKKAD GAP



Thanks For Partnering with us

