His Excellency the Hon. Governor of Kerala launches

Conservation of the Historical Heritage of Kerala

on 6th January 2014 at 12 pm at the Conference Hall of the Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram

Towards Conserving the Historical Heritage of Kerala

Unearthing Research Skills for Creative Engagement with the Past
www.keralahistory.ac.in

The Kerala Council for Historical Research [KCHR] is offering opportunities as Principal Investigators in its various ongoing multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary projects. The ideal candidate would be expected to combine deep interest in the social sciences, with competence and skills in the appropriate methodology/technology. The broad direction of the projects would be to explore, survey, record, conserve and study the historical heritage of Kerala.

Rationale
Most of Kerala's tangible resources such as archaeological sites, monuments, artifacts, and textual sources are in ruins today. The intangible treasures like memories, traditional knowledge, time-honored skills, oral traditions etc are also being neglected. The objective of this KCHR initiative is to engage in multi-disciplinary explorations to ensure scientific protection of our cultural remains from pre-history to the present. It aims to promote excellence and innovation by advancing the public awareness and appreciation of the historical heritage of the region.

Qualification
Masters Degree or Professional Graduate Degree (any discipline) with an aptitude for social science research. Preference will be given to those with PhD / M. Phil and field experience. A fundamental requirement however is your science perspective to prepare thorough proposals and the ability to generate measurable outputs. *(Science perspective means the effective use of scientific methods and skills. It implies how best one organizes or conceives the investigation and its outcome. It demands the investigator to look into all aspects of the proposal in great detail and employ multi- and inter-disciplinary methods).*

How to Apply
The applications should include a detailed proposal on any of the ongoing KCHR projects listed below or even a related theme (Heritage Conservation proposals other than the ongoing KCHR projects will also be considered) your CV, a referee panel and relevant testimonials if any. The brief descriptions of the KCHR projects will help you to prepare the proposals. The proposals should be comprehensive and mention clearly and specifically the objectives, methodology, time frame, action plan, quantum and schedule of output generation and budget. The budget should be detailed, cost effective, and realistic. The maximum remuneration for a principal investigator will be Rs. 15000/- per month. The proposal should set attainable weekly and monthly targets and your remuneration would be *pro rata* to the output.

The panel of referees shall include experts or persons with experience from different disciplinary backgrounds. If required, this panel can involve in the designing and implementation of the project. While drafting the proposal, it is mandatory that at least one/two of the referee panel members are consulted and their names mentioned in the proposal.

For the projects that involve fieldwork, the Principal Investigators can work from their field locations. In such cases, the KCHR would appreciate institutional affiliation and the signing of MOUs with LSGs,

Schools, Colleges, University departments etc. in the locality. A Principal Investigator would be required to report at the KCHR on a monthly basis to submit the research output or meet the coordinators.

Duration
The proposal can be for a period ranging from 2 months to 12 months and extendable to a maximum period of six months.

When to apply
There is no deadline for submission of applications. However an early submission would enhance your chances since the opportunities are limited.
The applications are to be sent to The Director, KCHR, PB No 839, Vyloppilly Samskrithi Bhavan, Nalanda, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003 with an advance email copy. Hard copies need to be sent only if you are requested by the KCHR office. For clarifications if any, please contact *kchrtvm@gmail.com* Tel : *0471 2310409 / 6574988*

Voluntary Participation
The KCHR also welcomes voluntary participation as Principal Investigators from motivated persons who can spare quality time and resources for this project. Such persons also will have to submit proposals as detailed above. The KCHR in the past had rewarding experiences with senior citizens and non-resident Keralites as voluntary participants across the world in Charithranweshana Yathrakal, Malayalam proverb collection and the study of Malayali migration and migrant communities. We look forward to similar support from all who care for the wellbeing of the future generations.

KCHR Projects

Digitizing Kerala's Past: This project aims at the electronic archiving of rare documents and pre -1960 photographs relating to the social, cultural, historical and scientific heritage of Kerala, and uploading them to the KCHR website. *Visit KCHR website for the details of an earlier effort.*
Diaries and correspondence of Mrs. C P Matthen, donated to the KCHR library by her family have been digitized and will shortly be made available for reference.

One sub-project is to digitize historical records, images and documents in personal/family/institutional custody, through a village to village campaign employing mobile digitizing units in selected Panchayaths. This people's archives campaign would culminate in the Kerala Digital Archives of documents, images etc.

Contemporary History Archives: This archive aims at the documentation of facets of contemporary life that normally escape direct or indirect efforts of documentation. The Kamala Surayya Archive by the KCHR for example, attempted to archive the lesser known aspects of Kamala's life, contacts, visits, friendships, meetings, interviews, memories, casual acquaintances etc. *You may visit the home page of the KCHR website to learn more about it.*

The Oral History Project: A campaign to document the life and experiences of marginalized groups like women, dalits and adivasis was launched in 2004 by the KCHR. *See the archive link in the KCHR website.*

A campaign to collect the political slogans of Kerala was launched in the year 2005.

Another effort was a documentation exercise to record 'A day in the life of a Malayali'. *See the archive link in the KCHR website.*

Keralathile Pazhamchollukal (Proverbs of Kerala) was an effort to collect, edit and publish the oral traditions of Kerala and it was successfully completed. The volume carrying 20345 proverbs and their annotations is on sale.

The History walk project (*Charithranweshana Yathrakal*) for the school children was a guided tour to reclaim history from the reminiscences of the elderly. *See the archive link in the KCHR website.*

History of Malayali Migrations and Migrant Communities: The "History of Malayali Migrations and Migrant Communities" proposes to collect, compile, comprehend and publish the oral articulations, lived experiences, narratives, photographs etc of the Malayali Diaspora. KCHR proposes to build a resource center on the theme with online facilities for submission and dissemination. KCHR will provide academic support to individuals and institutions interested in such studies. Under this project, the lived experience of the first generation Malayali migrants to Germany in the 1960s and '70s will be published soon.

Archives on Family Histories and Biographies: The Archives of Malayali Family Histories and Biographies is an ongoing local history research initiative. KCHR has a unique collection of Malayali family histories, biographies, *grantavaris* and *nalvazhis*. KCHR provides academic assistance for family history research and biography writing. *See the website link for a list of the collection.*

Writing of Local History: Academic and organizational support is being offered to Local Self Government institutions and cultural organizations in Kerala for writing and mapping the local history and cultural heritage of a village/Panchayath/institution. This includes activities like survey, data collection, analysis, compilation, editing, and publication.

Historical Atlas for Kerala: The project envisages documentation and data base creation of the archaeological/historical sites, artifacts and monuments of Kerala. The effort is to locate/ update existing information on such sites, artifacts and monuments and create a comprehensive database, publish monographs etc.

Archaeological Explorations and Surveys: Under this project, systematic explorations (through surface survey and scientific documentation) inside and outside Kerala are planned to link the Pattanam archaeological record with its contemporary archaeological sites. The exploration will be multi-disciplinary taking into account the geological, ecological, archaeological and historical aspects of the region. A project to survey the Cheraman Perumal tomb (Al Samri Tomb) area, close to the Al Baleed site in Salalah (Oman) has been proposed to the archaeology authorities in Oman.

Documentation of the Buddhist and Jain vestiges of Kerala: This project aims to locate, document and help conserve the archaeological, archival, oral and other sources relevant to the pre-9th century Kerala history and society. The multi-disciplinary explorations and advanced methods of documentation aim the publication of the data on Buddhist and Jain vestiges of Kerala in digital and print modes.

Project Supervisors
The KCHR appeals enlightened public with experience, expertise and sensitivity to the cultural legacy of Kerala to associate with this initiative as project supervisors. They may help the initiative by monitoring the work of the principal investigators. Facilities for field visits and an honorarium would be provided by the KCHR. Please join this collective by sending your CV to *kchrtvm@gmail.com*.

Internship facilities

KCHR offers internships to graduate, post-graduate and M.Phil students in the above mentioned KCHR projects and in the Pattanam Archaeological Research. Students from India and abroad can avail this facility. The internship will be designed considering the potential, inclination and aspiration of the applicants. Students can also utilize their internships to prepare dissertations/assignments as part of their graduate or post graduate courses. Duration of the internship may vary from three weeks to six months and the minimum fee for an Indian student will be Rs. 2000 and $ 300 for a non-Indian.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you mean by a Principal Investigator (PI)?

The PI designation indicates that she/he has to perceive, design and take the lead role in implementing a PROPOSAL. This is not the same as the usual Research Assistant positions in research projects. The PI has to work out a detailed proposal based on the ongoing KCHR projects or independent of them. The KCHR projects need to be treated as broad guidelines or ideas to draft your own proposals. In short, PI is the leader of the proposal she/he designs and executes. Among other things, she/he should consult experts from different disciplinary and experiential backgrounds and decide whether she/he alone can carry out or whether co-investigators are needed for the timely and successful implementation of the proposal.

As a PI you also have the responsibility of meticulously maintaining the accounts to the satisfaction of the KCHR Finance Section' the Statutory Auditors of the KCHR and as well as the Accountant General of India (Kerala). This would be a new experience, but you are likely to enjoy this as a training to create good models in public life.

Do you mean my proposal can have others involved on a remunerative basis?

Yes, it all depends on how you design your proposal. If you feel it absolutely necessary to have additional human resource for optimum outcome from the project, you can propose remuneration up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/ per month to such persons. Remember, it is imperative that the proposals clearly designate their duties and responsibilities, and fix the targets of physical output. The proposal should be cost-effective and framed as a cultural mission. The task you take up should be treated as a rare opportunity to learn about your historical heritage. This should be done with great integrity and social commitment.

Would you explain the 'multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary' methods?

The multi-inter- and trans-disciplinary methods mean involvement of other related disciplines that may add value to the outcome of a research project. Such approaches to knowledge generation demand re-defining of existing uni-disciplinary methods or even unlearning some. The KCHR expects the projects to be as comprehensive as possible, and to make proper use of insights, methods and skills from other disciplines.

What is a measurable physical target?

This may vary from project to project. Your proposal is an attempt to help document, conserve and study the historical heritage of Kerala. If you accept this as a commitment and objective, it follows that the physical output should be clearly targeted on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. You will be required to work hard in a sustained manner. You should expect to work for 12-16 hours a day.

For instance, let us assume that your proposal is to digitize historically relevant documents, out of print books or photographs of a Panchayath Ward, within a period of five months. You should have a proposal

which indicates the volume of digitized material on a daily/weekly basis. To prepare a proper proposal you may require considerable research, fieldwork, surveys, and discussion with technical experts. This will need rigorous charting on a time scale. The digital repository, may have to be supplemented with physical outputs in the form of publications —both print and digital --, visual/audio recordings, art works, museums, conservation etc.

Does KCHR provide funds to purchase equipments?
Yes. Provided you justify the requirement logically and scientifically and the experts who scrutinize the proposal accept the spending of precious public funds as worthy expenditure.

You should also have solutions or suggestions regarding the disposal/reuse of the equipment after the completion of your proposal -- like offering it to a needy public institution like a village library, or school on a secondhand price, or identifying other responsible options. Once the expenses and related solutions are approved you will have to execute a bond with the KCHR.

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For details visit www.keralahistory.ac.in

past for a positive future

Kerala Council for Historical Research

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