



SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL SCIENCES
Mahatma Gandhi University
Kottayam

In **Memoriam**

Dr. K. PIUS
MEMORIAL LECTURE
(1963 - 2021)

By
Dr. Sooraj Kunnikuruvaan

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry,
Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai

06 February 2026 | 10:00 am

MARIE CURIE AUDITORIUM,
School of Chemical Sciences

JOIN US

Dr. K. Pius, born on May 25, 1963, in Pala, Kottayam District, was a renowned scientist who specialized in theoretical organic chemistry. His academic career culminated with a Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, under the supervision of **Dr. J. Chandrasekhar**. He has supervised the completion of six doctoral degrees. **Dr. K. Pius** was an outstanding educator who was committed to promoting educational excellence in addition to his scientific accomplishments. His position as an Associate Professor at Mahatma Gandhi University's

School of Chemical Sciences demonstrated not only his technical expertise, but also his dedication to educating future generations. Dr. K. Pius was a person who exemplified generosity, friendliness, and courtesy, and you grew to admire and appreciate him. **Dr. K. Pius** passed away on January 28, 2021. Despite his death, his legacy lives on through the information he provided and the impact he had on the lives of both his students and colleagues.



Dear Sir/Madam,

We are deeply honoured to invite you to a Memorial Meeting & Lecture dedicated to the late Dr. K. Pius on 6 January 2026. This event aims to pay tribute to the indelible contributions made by Dr. K. Pius in the field of theoretical chemistry and his impactful presence in the academic realm of the School of Chemical Sciences. We believe that your esteemed presence will add value to the occasion and contribute to the respectful remembrance of a distinguished individual who has greatly influenced our academic community.

Sincerely,

Prof.(Dr.) Anitha C. Kumar
(Director, SCS)

Dr. Noufal Kandoth
(Convenor)



About Speaker

Dr. Sooraj Kunnikuruvaan received his B.Sc. degree in 2007 from Payyannur College (affiliated with Kannur University, Kerala) and completed his M.Sc. in Physical Chemistry in 2009 from the School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University. He earned his Ph.D. in Theoretical Chemistry from IIT Kanpur in 2017, followed by his postdoctoral research at Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

After completing an INSPIRE Faculty tenure at IISER Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Sooraj joined the Department of Chemistry at IIT Madras as an Assistant Professor in 2022. His research group focuses on a broad range of topics, including catalyst design for cellulose-based biofuels, electrode materials for battery applications, electrocatalytic reactions and small-molecule activation, as well as AI/ML-driven approaches for materials discovery.

PROGRAMME

10:00 AM	:	Memorial Meeting
Welcome	:	Dr. Noufal Kandoth (Associate Professor, SCS, Convenor)
Presidential address	:	Prof.(Dr.) Anitha C. Kumar (Director, SCS)
Inauguration	:	Prof. (Dr.) C. T. Aravindakumar (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MGU)
Remembering Dr. K. Pius	:	by colleagues and Students
	:	Tea
	:	Lecture
		“Molecular Simulations: Fundamentals and Applications”
		Dr. Sooraj Kunnikuruvaan (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, IIT Madras)
Vote of Thanks	:	Prof. Ditty Dixon (Assoc. Professor, School of Chemical Sciences, M. G. University)



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