

## इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय विश्वविद्यालय

## Indira Gandhi National Tribal University

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## Message

Greetings on the occasion of Onam, the pious festival of Kerala. It is celebrated to welcome the King Mahabali on his visit to earth.

Onam celebration also marks the start of Malayalam New Year, which falls in the month of Chingam, the first month of Malayalam Calendar. It is a ten-days festival and each day is given a unique name. Atham is the first day of the festival followed by 'Chithira', 'Chodhi', 'Vishakham', 'Anizham', 'Thriketa', 'Moolam', 'Pooradam', 'Uthradam' and 'Thiruvonam'. First and last day of this festival are very important for the people of Kerala.

The festival starts with the visit to Varnamoorthy, Thrikkakaa Temple at Kochi, a temple of God Vishnu, believed to be the abode of King Mahabali. It is the focal centre of this festival. The people of Kerala lay floral carpet (Rangoli of Flowers) to welcome God Vishnu and the King Mahabali and organize diverse range of activities, which include sports activities, cultural activities, dance events and many more for ten days. Important one among them to mention is 'Boat racing'.

Best wishes for all our Kerala family members. I wish everyone the good health, happiness, prosperous and joyful life ahead.

Prof. S.P.M. Tripathi