AGASTHYAM LEAF

Agasthyam: IKS Centre for Kalaripayattu
October Edition



A month of milestones. A legacy in motion.

What does it look like when centuries of tradition make history in the present? At Agasthyam, October offered a remarkable answer. From 750+ practitioners coming together for a record-breaking Kalaripayattu performance and 100 warriors demonstrating the formidable Urumi in unison, to international recognition, prestigious honours, distinguished visitors and vibrant celebrations of Kerala's cultural heritage, the month was filled with moments worth remembering. Each milestone reflected a larger mission: to preserve India's ancient warrior wisdom, inspire a new generation and carry its legacy far beyond the Kalari.

Here's a look at the moments that made October extraordinary.

Agasthyam Bags Two World Records with Mass Kalaripayattu Showcase



Agasthyam Kalari has etched its name in history, bagging two world records at the Agasthyam Kalari Fest -2026 held at the Jimmy George Indoor Stadium.

The records have been recognised by the Universal Record Book.

The fest, organised by the IKS Centre at Agasthyam, witnessed two spectacular record-breaking feats:
Largest Mass Kalaripayattu Performance:
Over 750 practitioners performed Kalaripayattu in perfect unison, creating a powerful and mesmerising display of Kerala's ancient martial art.

Largest Simultaneous Urumi Wielding Display:
In a breathtaking second feat, 100 practitioners simultaneously wielded the Urumi - the flexible, razor-sharp sword considered one of the most difficult weapons to master.



More than 3,000 people attended the fest to witness history being made.

The festival was inaugurated by Prince Adithya Varma. ADGP P. Vijayan inaugurated the new courses introduced by Agasthyam Kalari, including Advanced Kalari TTC, Shakti TTC exclusively for women, traditional classical archery, Warrior Yoga and horse riding.

Major General Kapil Rana and Kerala Governor's Secretary K. Vasuki IAS were among the dignitaries who extended greetings to the fest.

The event also featured a Kalaripayattu championship, weapons demonstrations and a Silambam performance. Visitors also got a hands-on opportunity to try traditional archery and Silambam.

The fest was organised under the leadership of S. Mahesh, the fifth-generation Gurukkal of Agasthya.

With these two world records, Agasthyam aims to take the heritage and excellence of Indian martial arts to the new generation and introduce it to the world.



Kerala's Ancient Martial Art Takes Centre Stage at International Conference in Jaipur

Kerala's indigenous knowledge system received international recognition at the 8th World Conference on Life Sciences, Agriculture, Environment & Climate Solutions (LAECS-2026), held at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur from 24 to 26 October 2026.

A research paper titled "Kalaripayattu: A Science of Life, Healing and Nature" was presented at the conference by Aranya K Sashi, member of the IKS Centre at Agasthyam. The paper explored Kalaripayattu not merely as a martial art form, but as a holistic science rooted in life, healing, and harmony with nature. It highlighted the deep connections between Kalaripayattu, Ayurveda, traditional healing practices, breath, body discipline, and ecological wisdom passed down through generations in Kerala.

Presenting Kerala's ancient tradition on an international academic platform, the paper drew attention to how indigenous systems like Kalaripayattu offer valuable insights for contemporary discussions on health, sustainability, environment, and climate solutions. The presentation was noted as a proud moment for Kerala, bringing its living heritage into dialogue with global researchers, scientists, and scholars from the fields of life sciences, agriculture, and environment.

LAECS-2026 brought together academics and experts from across the world to discuss innovative and traditional approaches to building sustainable futures


Certificate No: CP/LAECS/2026/ 381

SANDIP UNIVERSITY

CAU ENGINEERING SCHOOL

8th World Conference on

Life Sciences, Agriculture, Environment & Climate Solutions (LAECS-2026)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Dr. Aranya K. Sasi, Assistant Professor of History, S. N College, Sivagiri, Varkala & Kalari Trainer of Agasthyam Kalari, Centre of IKS, Nemom, TVM, Kerala** ; actively participated/presented a paper (**Oral Presentation**) entitled "**Kalaripayattu: A Science of Life, Healing and Nature**"; as a Delegate in the **World Conference** on "**LAECS-2026**" jointly organized by University of Rajasthan, Department of Botany, Jaipur, India; School of Engineering, Central Asian University, Uzbekistan; Mid-West University, Surkhet, Nepal; Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad, Karnataka, India; Andhra Pradesh Fisheries University (APFU) Vijayawada, India; Mewar University, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, India; Sandip University, Madhubani, Bihar; Krishi Evam Paryavaran Takneeki Vikas Sanstha (KPTVS), U.S. Nagar, India; ECH-Incubation Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India and Agricultural & Environmental Technology Development Society (AETDS), U.S. Nagar, India at **UGC-MMTTC Hall, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India on 24–26 October 2026.**

The Pioneer Features Gurukkal Mahesh on Front Page

The Pioneer has featured Gurukkal Dr. S. Mahesh in a special front-page article, "Shakthi of Self-Defence: Gurukkal Mahesh Empowers 16,000 Women."


The Pioneer

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SHAKTHI OF SELF-DEFENCE

Gurukkal Mahesh empowers 16,000 Women

The feature highlights his journey and mission behind Shakthi, which has empowered over 16,000 girls and women across India through self-defence training rooted in Kalarippayattu.

Carrying forward a five-generation family legacy dating back to 1896, Mahesh is presented as making tradition a powerful tool for transformation, inspiring a new generation to embrace self-confidence, discipline and physical empowerment through Shakthi.

At the heart of the mission, the article says, is the belief that self-defence should be accessible to everyone. Drawing on the principles of Kalarippayattu, Shakthi promotes physical preparedness, situational awareness and confidence.

Kshetra Darshan Devi Vaibhav - 2026

Ekalavya Award for Kalaripayattu Guru Dr. S. Mahesh

The prestigious Ekalavya Award - 2026, instituted in connection with the Kshetra Darshan Devi Vaibhav 2026 festival to be held from October 26 to 30 at the Kollur Sri Mookambika Devi Temple, was presented to renowned Kalaripayattu guru Dr. S. Mahesh.

The organisers said that Dr. S. Mahesh, who has carved a distinct identity for himself in diverse fields such as Kalaripayattu and Yoga,honoured with the Kshetra Darshan Devi Vaibhav Ekalavya Award in recognition of his dedicated service to society.

His contributions to the promotion and research of Kalaripayattu, the ancient Indian martial art form, are noteworthy at the national and international levels, the organisers observed.



Session on Kalaripayattu Held at SN College Sivagiri

Aranya K Sashi of Agasthyam led a special session on “Kalaripayattu: An Indigenous Knowledge System of Kerala - Culture, Commerce, Entrepreneurship and Opportunities” at Sree Narayana College, Sivagiri.

The session was organised by the Department of Commerce and Hotel Management, in association with the Centre for IKS and IQAC.

Dr. Aranya K Sashi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sree Narayana College, Sivagiri, and member of the IKS Centre at Agasthyam, highlighted Kalaripayattu as a living indigenous knowledge system encompassing martial art, healing, spirituality and performance.

She also spoke on its growing potential in entrepreneurship and sustainable development, including training centres, cultural tourism, wellness, film and media, and research and documentation.



Kalari Vidyarambham at Agasthyam

The traditional Vidyarambham ceremony marking initiation into Kalaripayattu was held at Agasthyam Kalari in Nemom, Thiruvananthapuram, under the leadership of Gurukkal Dr. S. Mahesh.

Several children took their first steps into the traditional art of Kalaripayattu, symbolically beginning their journey in the ancient martial discipline on the auspicious occasion.

Alongside Kalaripayattu, new batches of other traditional disciplines also commenced training on Vijayadashami day. These include Bharata's traditional classical archery (Dhanurvidya) and Shakti, the exclusive self-defence-oriented Teachers Training Course designed for women.

Agasthyam Kalari offers Kalaripayattu training opportunities for people of all age groups. Upholding the message of "Kalari for a healthy life and self-confidence," Agasthyam continues its mission of preserving and promoting India's ancient warrior wisdom through structured, inclusive training.



Australian Defence Delegation Visits Agasthyam Kalari

In a rare meeting of military tradition and martial heritage, Brigadier Daniel Bushell of the Australian Defence Force visited Agasthyam Kalari , accompanied by senior leaders of the Indian Army.

The delegation was welcomed by Gurukkal Dr.S Mahesh at the kalari for an interaction focused on international knowledge exchange. The visit explored Kalarippayattu, Kerala's centuries-old martial art, along with the warrior heritage and indigenous wisdom embedded in India's traditional martial traditions.

The visit highlighted how ancient practices like Kalarippayattu continue to find relevance in contemporary conversations on leadership, fitness, and strategic culture.

The delegation spent time observing demonstrations and interacting with practitioners at Agasthyam Kalari before concluding the visit.



Nagakali Theyyam Steals the Show at Agasthyam Navratri Finale

As part of the concluding celebrations of Navratri, the Nagakali Theyyam performed at Agastya drew wide attention.

Nagakali, a powerful synthesis of Naga and Kali worship, holds a special place in the Theyyam tradition of North Malabar. Worshipped as a goddess embodying both fierce and maternal forms, the deity is closely linked to serpent worship in sacred groves and the Pulluvan Pattu tradition, with special poojas and offerings performed to seek her blessings.

Symbolising the inseparable bond between nature, man and divine power, the Nagakali Theyyam is a unique expression of Kerala's ancient serpent worship and rich ritual art heritage.

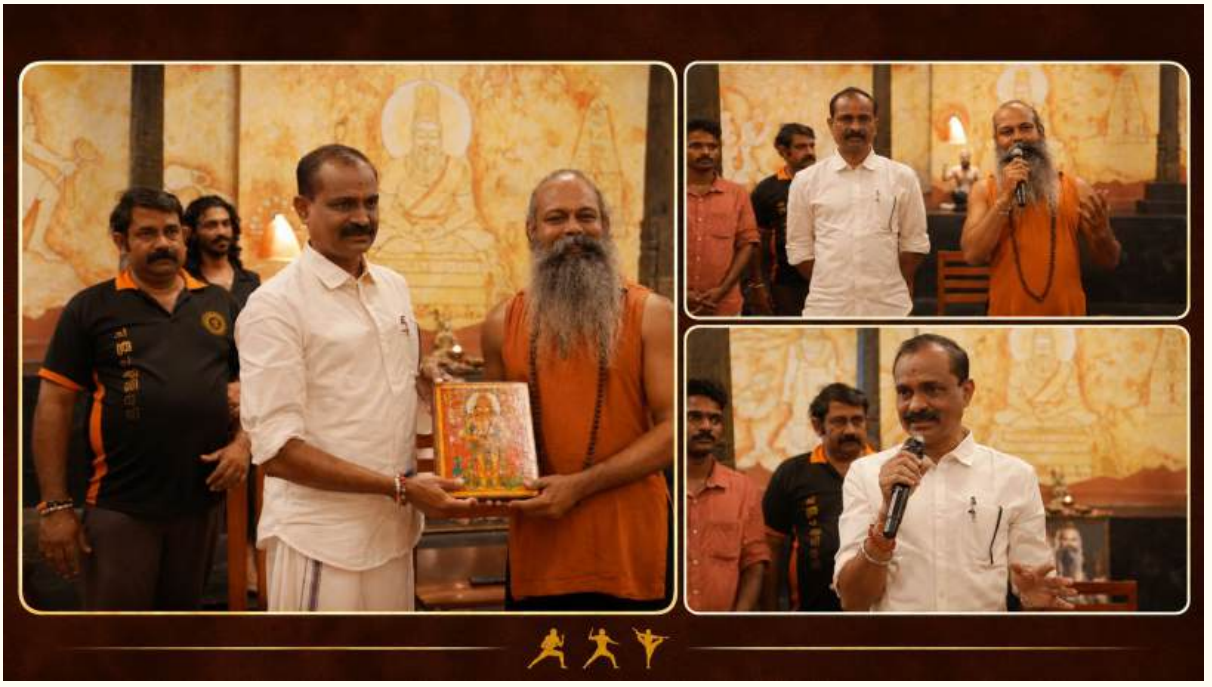
The performance was also part of the study and research programmes organised by the IKS Centre at Agastyam on the influence of Kalaripayattu on Kerala's art forms.

The event also featured Sakthi performance by the Future Warriors of Agasthyam.



Agasthyam Welcomes Thiruvananthapuram Mayor V. V. Rajesh

The visit marked a special occasion at Agasthyam, bringing attention to Kerala’s rich martial arts heritage and the importance of preserving its traditions for future generations.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Upcoming events:

Annual Warrior Festival (December)
Student grading, demonstrations, awards, alumni gathering



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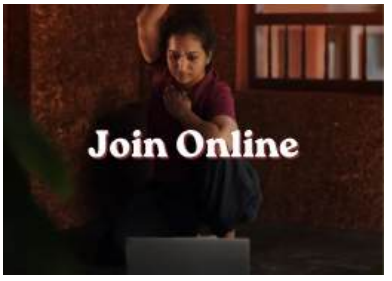

Learn Kalaripayattu from anywhere with expert guidance.

agasthyamenquiries@gmail.com
+91 8848482913
+91 73063 94382

Agasthyam Kalaripayattu, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, South India

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