**Short Bio of the Speaker**

Dr. Ginu Zacharia Oommen is a Member of the Kerala Public Service Commission( Constitutional Functionary) , a body created by the Constitution of India to select applicants for civil service jobs in the state, based out of Thiruvananthapuram.

He was a Visiting Professor at the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’homme (FMSH), Paris. He has held various fellowships and been a visiting faculty at many illustrious universities and think-tanks of repute across the world.

He had been a Hermes Post Doctoral Fellow at MIGRINTER (the Centre for International Migration), University of Poitiers, France, a fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Gulf Studies Programme, JNU, Indian Council for World Affairs, New Delhi, Centre for South Asia–West China Cooperation, Sichuan University, China, and India Centre for Migration, New Delhi.

He had been a Visiting Graduate Fellow at the Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. He had been awarded two prestigious fellowships namely the Swedish Institute Guest Post Doctoral Fellowship at Uppsala University, Sweden and the Visiting Senior Fellowship at MACIMIDE, University of Maastricht University, Netherlands-- both he had to decline since he was preoccupied with other fellowships.

He had completed Masters in Political Science from Madras Christian College (MCC) and PhD from the Centre of West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi on the Jews of Cochin in Israel.

His major publications include: Ethnicity, Marginality and Identity: The Jews of Cochin in Israel (Manak, 2011), South Asian Migration to Gulf Countries: History, Policies, Development (Routledge, London 2015), Asianization of Migrant Workers in the Gulf Countries (Springer, London 2019).

He had been an active participant in the students’ movement during the university and was the General Secretary of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) in 2001-2002. He had served both as the National Vice President and National President of the All India Students Federation (AISF).He was also the Chairman of Political Science Association of Madras Christian College .

India Today Magazine selected him as one of the 50 Young Leaders of India in their special survey, ‘Mobilise and Empower’ (Special Issue, India Today April 10, 2009)

He had been the Group Leader of the Government of India’s Indian Youth Delegation to China (2006) headed by then Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Shri.Mani Shankar Aiyar. He was also a delegate at the World Festival of Youth and Students South Africa (2011).

His research is focused on migration and international development, with a special focus on Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and South Asia. His areas of specialization include South Asia- Gulf Migration, Indian Jewish History, Global Migration and Refugee Studies, Social Remittances and Identity, Transnational Religious Organisations. He has conducted extensive field research in Israel, Palestine, France, Kuwait, and Kerala. He has published extensively in academic journals and leading newspapers in India.