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Title: Regarding the construction of Mahatma Gandhi Smriti Museum at the Old British Police Station at Payynur on his 150th Birth Anniversary.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Lord Mountbatten rightly observed: “Mahatma Gandhi will go down in history on par with Buddha and Jesus Christ”. Each iota of India has cherished the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, so also Payyanur in Kerala’s Kannur district.

Payyanur in Kannur district is one of the rare places in Kerala associated with the blessed life of Gandhi ji. Gandhi ji visited the Ashram of Swami Ananda Theertha at Payyanur on 11th January, 1934. Swami Ananda Theertha was the last disciple of Sree Narayana Guru and was known for his ardent fight against the social injustices and caste discrimination in Kerala. Gandhi ji spent the whole day in Ashram and planted a mango tree which is still thriving. The ashes from the funeral pyre of Gandhi ji are also preserved there.

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, had constituted a Gandhi Heritage Sites Panel in 2006 whose Report identified 39 core sites and created a Master List of 2000 sites visited by Mahatma Gandhi to be preserved for posterity. The Panel recommended the setting up of a Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission and accordingly the Mission was set up in 2013.

The Government of Kerala has proposed a Mahatma Gandhi Smriti Museum at the Old British Police Station, a protected monument

at Payynur, at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.45 crore. On this 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of India may be pleased to given financial assistance from the Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission to set up the proposed museum at Payyanur. It would be a fitting tribute to both Gandhi Ji's legacy and to Payyanur.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को श्री राजमोहन उन्नीथन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।